



# Teamwork—PASSING THE BATON

by Joe Hernandez, Church Planting Consultant, North Region

According to a 2008 study, the Greater Washington, DC area, which includes the Virginia and Maryland counties near DC, holds the 12<sup>th</sup> largest concentration of Hispanics in the US. Iglesia Bautista Roca Eterna (Eternal Rock Baptist Church) in Dale City is conveniently situated to reach with the Gospel the two Virginia counties with the greatest Hispanic populations—Fairfax and Prince William.

Their reach, however, doesn't stop there! The Lord gave Pastor Manuel Chacon and the leadership of Roca Eterna a vision to be a multiplying, church-planting church, and there is no doubt they are actively fulfilling that vision. Roca Eterna has expanded its ministry by planting Hispanic churches in Woodbridge, Stafford, Manassas, and Alexandria.

Pastor Manuel and Marjorie Chacon



North Carolina church plant

Plans are in the works to partner with Pillar Church in Dumfries and another SBCV church in Fairfax to plant Hispanic congregations in those locales. Outside of Virginia, Pastor Manuel has started a church in North Carolina, one in Peru, and has plans for another in southern Florida.

The key to Roca Eterna's effectiveness is multiplication—multiplying disciples, leaders, and congregations for the glory of God. The Lord raises up lay leaders from within the congregation, and Pastor Manuel organizes them into teams. These teams are assigned to conduct prayerwalks and ministry activities in focus areas and to start Bible studies that will

become congregations. Pastor Manuel wears multiple ministry hats—pastor, planter, church planting missionary, and mentor. Through the intentional encouragement, equipping, and mentoring of lay leader teams, new pastoral leaders are called out. As Pastor Manuel multiplies himself in the lives of others, Roca Eterna's ministry is multiplied.

The fields are ripe for harvest, and more SBCV churches are needed like Roca Eterna—both Hispanic and non-Hispanic—to reach the Hispanics of Greater DC with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Perhaps one day, a study will reveal

## RESOURCE

**Website:**  
[www.iglesiabautistarocaeterna.org](http://www.iglesiabautistarocaeterna.org)

**SBCV Contact:**  
Call 888-234-7716 for details from the missionary in your region.

**Consider:**  
Is God calling you or your church to reach Hispanics in Greater DC?



that there are more born-again believers among Hispanics in DC than anywhere else in the US! Alabado sea Dios (Praise God)!