

# MISSION



In Hialeah, Florida, a city of 135,000 whose population has rapidly become 60% Spanish, the Episcopal congregation had decided to move to a church location closer to where the parishioners were currently living. Their building was put up for sale. Bishop James Duncan, recognizing that the future of the diocese depended on further developing a ministry among the many new Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the diocese, began plans to purchase the building for a Spanish mission. A very carefully developed loan and grant package made La Providencia a reality. Partners in the project include the Diocese of Southeast Florida, The Episcopal Church Foundation, The Episcopal Building Fund, the Loan Fund of the Executive Council, The United Thank Offering, and the small mission congregation itself.

The building is shared with a Presbyterian congregation. Contributions for use of space and the increasing support of the Spanish congregation are beginning to repay the loans.



The congregation is growing rapidly, as more and more of the Cuban exiles in the city turn to the church for the spiritual, emotional and

practical support so necessary for people trying to establish new lives in a new country.

The Spanish Mission in the Diocese of Washington is led by the Rev. Samuel Pinzón. The congregation is made up of people from 18 different Latin American countries. In addition to regular services at All Soul's Church, the mission operates a Social Action Office that assists Spanish-speaking people in adjusting to a new lifestyle. The mission conducts classes in English, typing, and basic office skills to provide pre-job training. Several parishes in the diocese have joined the "partnership," sending volunteers to help carry out the various programs. A small two-year U.T.O. grant has helped to underwrite the cost of these education programs.

A big event in the life of the mission in the early summer of 1979 was the five-day Interdiocesan Family Christian Education Conference with members of the Spanish congregation of St. George's, Arlington, VA. This was the first time the two congregations had participated in a joint program; it represents a new form of "partnership" in mission outreach.



Bishop John Walker received 16 adults as new members to the Spanish Mission in Washington, D.C. on June 24th, 1979.

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# PARTNERSHIP



# The Means of MISSION



United Thank Offering

# PARTNERSHIP

*"... there is but one mission in all the world, and this one mission is shared by the worldwide Christian community. The responsibility for mission in any place belongs primarily to the church in that place. However, the universality of the gospel and the oneness of God's mission mean also that this mission must be shared in each and every place with fellow Christians from each and every part of the world with their distinctive insights and contributions."*

PARTNERS IN MISSION  
Anglican Consultative Council  
Dublin, 1973

The United Thank Offering Committee accepted the above statement as a basis for its policy and granting. Grants are directed toward helping the church wherever she may be by providing seed money for situation changing projects around the world. Some are as near as next door, others on the other side of the globe; all are directed to help the church fulfill her role—providing worship, education, evangelism and a significant servant ministry in the local community.

*"Without trained clergy and lay leadership we cannot even begin to talk meaningfully of the mission of the church. How are we likely to respond to the challenges of our context and to communicate the gospel message with ill-equipped persons? It is because we think these are priority concerns for any church that we believe they will be for U.T.O."*

Bishop of Lesotho  
March, 1976

The Episcopal Church, through a United Thank Offering grant, joined in partnership with the Diocese of Lesotho to implement a training program equipping lay and ordained leaders for their ministry. Included in this training program are the



Bishop Philip S. Mokuku and clergy of the Diocese of Lesotho in 1978. Six of these men are self-supporting clergy, others are receiving instruction under the program to be trainer/coordinators.

Theological Education by Extension (TEE) courses for self-supporting clergy. The coordinator, Fr. John Thompson of the Anglican Church of Canada, brings the participation of another Partner church. (Using materials prepared by the ecumenical Theological Education by Extension College in Johannesburg, S.A., seventeen men are studying for the self-supporting ministry, six clergy are taking a refresher course, and four lay people are receiving theological training.

Father John Andrews is typical of the men enrolled in the program. A Mosotho farmer, he lives high on the eastern half of the mountain parish of Mantsonyane. He has his own sheep and cattle, and runs a small trading store. One of the first men to be ordained as a self-supporting priest, he is well known to his congregations as he has lived in the area for many years. He is studying for his "award" under the TEE program. Once every two months he flies down to Maseru for TEE conferences, covering in less than an hour a distance that would take several days to travel by horse and

bus. The United Thank Offering grant supplements diocesan funds to make such travel possible.

Father Thompson writes: "In ten years' time, the pattern of ordained ministry in our diocese may look quite different from today's. The scattered congregations of the diocese, with self-supporting clergy within easy reach of each and directed by coordinating full-time clergy, may then possess a renewed vitality. The sacramental pattern of life, so treasured by Anglicans, may be available to all for whom our church is responsible."

The response of parishes and dioceses across the United States to improving and developing a ministry among the growing Spanish-speaking population is encouraging and an important area of new mission work. A real commitment to "partnership" between the sponsoring parishes, the diocese and the local leaders of the Hispanic communities is the key to the success of these new ministries. United Thank Offering participants have been "partners" in three such mission outreach endeavors in the past few years.

In Chester, Pennsylvania, the 277-year-old St. Paul's parish took a bold step in 1975 when the rector and vestry decided to commit a substantial part of their shrinking budget to explore expansion of their ministry to the Puerto Rican people who had moved into the neighborhood. Careful research and close communication with local Hispanic leaders was the first step; involving the diocese as a "partner" came next. When the resources of both the diocese and parish needed supplementing to firmly establish the work, St. Paul's asked the U.T.O. to join in the partnership. Father Warren Shaw wrote in his 1978 U.T.O. request: "When we took the first steps in this venture, we did not know exactly what subsequent steps would be required. We responded to our duty and the opportunity that presented

itself at the time, confident that God would guide each succeeding step and that our course would be made clear as we proceeded. In acting this way we believe we are acting in faith according to the biblical model of Abraham, Moses and the first disciples of Jesus."

Today there is a growing congregation—predominantly young people—who worship every Sunday at San Pablo mission. Twenty baptisms and seven marriages have been performed this year. Counseling in everything from the deeply spiritual to the very practical is an ongoing part of the daily schedule of Father Elias Peñalosa, a Peruvian with ten years of ministry experience in Puerto Rico, who came to lead the ministry.



Further, the parishioners of St. Paul's are making a strong impact on the community; there are now Spanish-speaking staff members on every social service agency in the city; the school district has hired a bilingual home and school visitor; two Spanish radio programs are offered each week on the local college station. Also, a Spanish Civic Club has been organized by the Hispanic community leaders to unite grass roots Hispanic groups and expand their leadership base in the community.