DESTINO LA

cultivating a generation of empowered Latin@s mobilized to bring transformation in Christ wherever they go

May 25, 2012

YEAR TWO

It's hard to believe that our second school year with Destino is wrapping up. So much has happened, and so much keeps changing. Things haven't necessarily been easy, but God continues to bless the ministry with more staff, students, and volunteers involved. We are even beginning a national partnership with the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference to find teams of volunteers in Hispanic churches to launch new Destino movements. Pray for this partnership to be fruitful in seeing more young Latinos begin to walk with Jesus.

The movement at Cal State Fullerton more than doubled this year, with many of them stepping up to take on significant leadership responsibilities. 3 new staff members just arrived last month in Los Angeles to be a part of a second LA Destino team starting in the fall. This is a huge blessing to be able to split up the enormous LA area and be more effective at really trying to reach more campuses. We have 6 new interns and part-time staff joining with us across the country…and all of them are Latina/o! Pray for them this summer as they raise the financial support they need. 2 of them are students that just graduated from Cal State Long Beach and we are very excited that they will be continuing to labor alongside us here on the South LA team.

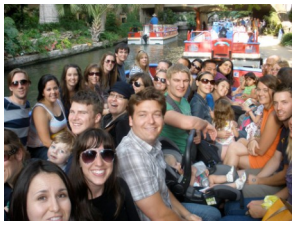
We are also sending approximately 80 students on summer projects this year! (More on this below.) Pray with us for these students and those they will encounter with the good news this summer!

LA TREK

More changes have been happening with our summer opportunities as well. Last summer we had 3 summer projects for Destino: Mediterranean Summer Project, Dominican Republic Summer Project, and Destino Trek. Trek was a one week leadership project in Texas. We decided this year that we wanted to change that up a bit to make it accessible to more of our students. What we ended up with was adding 2 more Destino Trek projects: one in New York City and one in Los Angeles. We also decided to make it about half the price and have it primarily led by Latino students. This has brought some challenges, but it has also allowed us to think more creatively and involve more of the community.

Paul is the staff leader for the LA Trek, and I am helping run operations for all 3 Treks. One of the ways God has blessed us during the planning process is by providing generous people in the community to help us keep the cost low. Paul was able to find a church here in Long Beach that is willing to house all of our students for the whole week…for free! This should allow us much more flexibility in our program activities and meal options. We have 3 students leading the LA Trek: Janet Hernandez (whom we've written about a few times before), Alice Cordova (who will be interning with us part-time next year), and Marcos Ortiz. There is still plenty of planning to take place before Trek starts on June 17, so please join us in asking for the Spirit's guidance in this process. The hope of this Trek is to empower and equip more students to be Christ-centered leaders, increase their vision for being a part of God's plan for reaching the world with the gospel, and to help them grow in confidence in their identity in Christ as a Latino.







[top to bottom] Paul gets a special Spanish birthday serenade at our staff conference; our staff enjoy a boat tour along the San Antonio River at conference in April; hanging out with students in the cafeteria at Cal State Fullerton

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