

SOME HISPANIC CHURCHES ARE FINDING NEW GROWTH AND FAITH ROOTS

By Bob Young

Late in 2019, I wrote an article designed to inform those interested in Hispanic ministry. The article surveyed the state of the Hispanic community. While specific population numbers have changed, the basic description of the Hispanic community is little changed – multiple generations with an increasing use of English, with many in the younger generations unable to communicate in Spanish.

Read the article here → [steps-toward-holistic-hispanic-ministry.pdf \(bobyoungrsources.com\)](https://bobyoungrsources.com/steps-toward-holistic-hispanic-ministry.pdf)

In this article, I provide an update to the previous article and share information from a recent Lifeway research study of Hispanic Protestant (non-Catholic) churches. (Local churches interested in Hispanic ministry in their own communities should seek demographic information specific to their community or region.)

According to the Lifeway report, most Hispanic churches in America have been around for less than 23 years. The majority of those attending the Hispanic churches in the survey were born outside of the United States. Integrating this information with my previous article, the Hispanic churches included in the survey were largely immigrant churches, attracting those with strong Spanish skills and less-developed English skills. A majority of attenders were first-generation. Perhaps due to the recent influx of immigrants, over one-third of the attendees were under 30.

As is usually the case in immigrant churches, newness and change are major themes in these churches. Their recent immigrant status also explains their strong commitment to beliefs and hopes rooted in Scripture. The congregations have a strong commitment to the Great Commission.

The Lifeway report quoted Gabriel Salguero, president and founder of National Latino Evangelical Coalition and pastor of a multiethnic Orlando church. He described the Hispanic church as “passionate about mission. It has a deep commitment to evangelism. Hispanics often come from places where there is a lot of need, and they come with a passion for the gospel.”

The report reports success in Hispanic ministries that are Spanish-based and serve primarily first- and second-generation immigrants. The report did not address Hispanic ministry that is effectively reaching the larger Hispanic community of which almost three-fourths speak fluent English, including subsequent generations with limited or no Spanish skills.