

CORDERO DE DIOS
The History of the Spanish Mission in Miami, Florida

by

Daniel R. Voigt

Church History 373
Professor Martin O. Westerhaus
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After his resurrection from the dead, Jesus spent forty days on earth with his disciples before he returned to his Father in heaven. During that time, he taught them, reviewed the Scriptures with them, and proved to them that he had risen from the dead just as he had promised. But that was not his only purpose. He also told them what he wanted them to do. He gave them some specific orders and a promise. This is called the "Great Commission." He told them:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Mt 28:18-20).

It is interesting to note that the other three Gospels as well as the book of Acts mention this command in one way or the other:

He (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mk 16:15).

He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" (Lk 24:46-48).

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (Jn 20:21).

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Ac 1:8).

Jesus' disciples were "witnesses" of some incredible news--the long-awaited Messiah had finally come, taken away the sins of the world, crushed the power of the devil on the cross, and rose triumphantly three days later to prove his victory. But the disciples were not to keep this message for themselves nor were they to share it only with their fellow Jews. It was meant for "all nations." Gentiles could also be members of God's kingdom.

This meant that the disciples would have to begin a program of cross-cultural evangelism. And we can see from the New Testament that they carried out the Lord's command and the church grew.

The message of salvation is still meant for "all nations." Jesus died for all and rose again for all. It does not matter what a person's social or economic standing is, or what kind of education he has had. Nor does it matter what a person's skin color is, what his culture is like, or from what family he comes. God looks at everyone in the same way. He sees us all as his dear children. Paul tells us that God "wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Ti 2:4).

As Jesus' disciples, we, the members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, now have the responsibility, privilege, and opportunity to share the good news not only with the people of our culture, but also with other cultures and other ethnic groups. We too are to be involved in cross-cultural evangelism. We do this by sending men overseas to do mission work. But we can also share the good news of a risen Savior with members of other cultures here in the United States. One group of Christians is doing just that among the Hispanics in Miami, Florida. The WELS mission there is *Cordero de Dios Iglesia Evangelica Luterana* (Lamb of God Evangelical Lutheran Church) and we will trace its brief history.

I. Beginnings--Pastor Herb Huhnerkoch--1977-1984

Cordero de Dios had its beginnings in 1977 when the Council of Presidents assigned the Rev. Herb Huhnerkoch to Cutler Ridge Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Cutler Ridge, Florida.¹ Since Pastor Huhnerkoch had served as the Latin American vicar in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod mission in Columbia, he had a working knowledge of the Spanish language. The Assignment Committee hoped that he would be able to work among the Hispanic population in Dade County.² The thought was good, but as it turned out there were not many Hispanics in the immediate area around the church. One summer Pastor Huhnerkoch tried to conduct a Spanish Vacation Bible School at Cutler Ridge, but no children came.

In the early 1980's, Kathleen Saracione, one of the members of Cutler Ridge Church, told Pastor Huhnerkoch about all the Hispanics with whom she worked at Sun Gas Company in Little Havana. She shared her faith with many of them. A fellow employee by the name of Armando Hernandez began adult instruction classes.³ Pastor also did some canvassing in Little Havana and got some help from a group of students from Wisconsin Lutheran College. As a result of this canvass, three Honduran girls, Gloria, Blanca, Maria Camacho started to take classes.

In 1982, the Mission Board approached Pastor Huhnerkoch to look into the possibility of doing full-time work among the Hispanics at some location

¹ Cutler Ridge is located about 20 miles south of downtown Miami.

² Dade County, Florida, includes the cities of Miami, Hialeah, Coral Gables, and Miami Beach. In the decade of the 1970's, the total Hispanic population of Dade County increased from 299,217 to 752,097 in 1980, increasing from 23.6% to 41.3% of the total Dade population.

³ At this time, Pastor Huhnerkoch began to translate *The Wonders of God* by Paul Eickmann into Spanish--*Las Maravillas de Dios*.

in Dade County. His initial research uncovered four different types of areas [see Appendix 1]. His report to the South Atlantic District Mission Board (5/06/82) began:

It is with a great deal of joy and anxious enthusiasm that I submit this report on the prospects of work among the Spanish-speaking people of Dade County.

Here are the results of his work:

Area 1

Location

Little Havana--bounded by 27th Ave on the west, 836 on the south, 17th Ave on the east and the Airport Expressway 116 on the north.

General Description of the Area

This is an older part of the city which has become inhabited by 80-90% Spanish speaking people from various parts of Latin America, but predominantly Cuba. This area absorbed a large number of the 100,000 refugees who came here 2 years ago. This is definitely "inner city" in nature. Small storefronts are available on any of the commercial streets which are 17th Ave, 22nd Ave, 27th Ave, 20th St., 28th St., or 36th St.

Possible Location For Work

Here we have what may be a real God-send. A church of the LCA called St. John's Lutheran is located right in the middle of this area. At first I thought this might be a factor we would have to work around. It turns out that we may be able to use this church. The pastor there told me that his congregation consists of 15 older white ladies, that he speaks no Spanish, that his ministry is almost purely social, and that he would welcome our work if we desired to rent the building. A Pentecostal Church just finished renting it for \$450/month, using it Sundays and three nights a week.

Method of Work in This Area

A combination street and home ministry would be great here. The streets are usually alive with people during the week. The church (St. John's) is well located (should we choose that location) so that many will be driving or walking past it.

Prospects for Success

As in the other areas, the people will predominately claim Catholicism. However, since this area has a large number of new arrivals from Cuba, there is every possibility that many will not be established in churches. Since the young were for all intents and purposes kept from church attendance in Cuba, their liberty restricted, they many choose to use their liberty to attend other churches besides Roman Catholic. This has been mentioned by people whom Kathleen Saracione works with in this area.

My Rating of this Area

All factors considered, I believe this area has the most promise of any of getting to know and being able to work with large numbers of latins. I rate this area number 1 if we are not considering a bilingual congregation, attractive to both latins and whites.

Area 2

Location

East Hialeah--bounded by Hialeah Park on the west, LeJuene Rd. on the east, 49th (103rd) St. on the north and 79th St. on the south

General Description of the Area

This area of Hialeah looks like it was developed in the late 50's and has become home to many Cubans who first came to Miami in the early 60's. They are well established, industrious, and very Catholic. There is no new development in this area and since the Latins tend to be very stable, I would think that we will see little change in the population over the years. This area is more middle class than Area 1.

Possible Location for Work

Here I simply checked out a storefront on 4th Ave. It is small and would cost \$450/month. I would guess that that is about as little as we could anticipate spending in this area, unless some home were available to rent instead.

Method of Work in This Area

There are shopping areas where pamphlets could be distributed and homes could be canvassed quite easily.

Prospects for Success

In an area of Hialeah similar to this, I found strong roots in Catholicism as well as regular worship habits, at least expressed so. One Baptist man simply said: "Good luck!", meaning that he saw work for any protestant body as difficult in Hialeah. The reason is that Hialeah is fairly well established.

My Rating of This Area

As far as I am concerned, this area has dropped out of the running. If we choose an area of Hialeah, I believe Area 3 would be the one because it has the advantage of an area still growing until 1985. There is a possibility that some of the younger Latins will move into Area 3, more so than Area 2. This is only a feeling. I have no way of proving this.

Area 3

Location

West Hialeah--Bounded by 103rd St. on the north and 79th St. on the south, Palmetto Expressway on the west and Hialeah Park on the east

General Description of the Area

Like Area 2, this is 80-90% Spanish. Unlike Area 2, it has pockets undeveloped which are being developed right now. I did a spot survey in the developing areas and discovered 99% latin, a couple unchurched.

QUICKIE SURVEY--13 randomly selected homes
5 not home
5 very firmly entrenched in Catholicism
1 Baptist, regular worshiper
2 Catholic background, but currently unchurched

Possible Location for Work

Rental storefronts in shopping centers are available here for \$700/month. Since it is a new area, I doubt that we could pay much less than that and still have something.

Method of Work in This Area

Like all the areas except Area 1, mobility in the form of a car is almost a necessity here. Therefore, aside from regular canvass-witness method, we should be able to reach many of the people in the most traveled shopping areas. Should we locate in a shopping mall, we will be quite visible.

Prospects for Success

I don't know. This area has me puzzled. I have not made enough survey calls to confirm what the prospects for success would be. I believe that among the older Cubans there is not much hope for success. It would depend, therefore, on the age. According to 1980 census figures, the largest numbers of males are between 45 and 54 indicating many families already established. (Cutler Ridge area, for example, has by far the largest number of males between 25 and 34.) However, the unseen factor in this area is the age of those moving into the new housing.

My Rating of This Area

To my way of thinking, this area rates above Area 2 because of the potential for growth, but below Area 1 because Area 1 seems to have more of the recent refugees.

Area 4

Location

West Tamiami Trail--bounded by 836 on the north and SW 24th St. on the south, 97th Ave on the east and as far west as you want to go

General Description of the Area

This area is in a class by itself. It is the suburban area which to my knowledge is being populated by the heaviest concentrations of Latins. According to recent census figures somewhere from 50-60% of the population is Latin and I would guess that higher percentages will be in store for the future. This is upper middle class stuff out here. One has to wonder whether many of the people in this area will live rather closed lives when compared to the openness of Area 1 for example. I would guess that our work here would be almost totally house to house work.

QUICKIE SURVEY--14 randomly selected homes
6 not home
4 firm Catholics (all were Latin, 1 was English speaking too)
1 Moslem
1 Pentecostal (Latin, English speaking)
1 Lutheran (Bilingual)
1 unchurched young man

Possible Location for the Work

Here I haven't searched too much. There are several new shopping areas which would provide excellent location, but I'm sure that \$700/month or more would not be unusual out here.

Method of Work in This Area

If we locate in a shopping mall, we could do some outdoor street work depending on the mall's rules. Otherwise it would seem that we are confined to standard means of publicity and canvassing in this car-orientated area.

Prospects for Success

I guess that I must wonder about the possibilities of this area. Granted, being a newly developing suburbia, it will be young and that is in our favor. Census figures show that there is a predominance of the 25-44 age range among the males. Unfavorable may be the attitudes of people who with nice houses, cars, and perhaps boats are not easily convinced that they are lacking anything. If we are interested in an area which has the greatest potential as a bilingual church right from the beginning, I would guess that this is it.

My Rating of This Area

If we want an area which will double as an exploratory for another English-speaking congregation, then we could do no better than this area which is buzzing with growth. However, if we want to launch a Spanish ministry period, I would opt for any of the other areas first.

II. Pastor Thomas Behnke--1984-1986

The Lord blessed the work of Pastor Huhnerkoch and by 1983, the Board for Home Missions granted permission to the district to call a

resident pastor/missionary. *Cordero de Dios* received their first full-time worker in May of 1984 when the Conference of Presidents assigned the Rev. Thomas Behnke to serve as missionary to the small nucleus in Miami.⁴ Pastor Behnke served in Puerto Rico as a vicar so he did not need any language training. As it was explained to him, the purpose of the exploratory work among the Hispanics in Miami was:

- 1) Bring the gospel to as many people as possible in following with Christ's command.
- 2) Assess the religious needs of the community.
- 3) Explore the possibilities of beginning a Christ-centered Lutheran congregation somewhere in the Miami area among the Hispanic population.

Miami has been called "The Gateway to Latin America" and is located in Dade County. When Pastor Behnke arrived in Miami in 1984, Dade County had a population of 1.7 million inhabitants. Over 800,000 of these were of Hispanic origin--75% Cuban-Americans and 25% Puerto Rican, Central or South American. In that same year, there were an estimated 26,339 births. Almost 10,000 were to Hispanic parents, 8000 were to black parents, and about 8000 were to "anglo" couples (as non-Latin whites were called).

There was a large Cuban population in Dade county because many Cubans fled to Miami during the 50's and early 60's when Fidel Castro seized power from Batista. Those who got out before the revolution brought moderate wealth with them. Another group of about 100,000 new Cuban refugees moved to Miami in 1980 during the Mariel boat lifts. Most of these "boat people" settled in Dade County because they already had relatives

⁴ Pastor Behnke's November 1984 report to the District Mission Board indicated ten souls under his care with seven adults in confirmation classes in three different homes.

there to help them get started and the climate resembled the one they came from.

When Pastor Behnke got to Miami, the Nicaraguan population was also growing because of the Sandanista takeover. Some of the other Latin-Americans with whom Pastor Behnke came into contact were from Columbia, Venezuela, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Puerto Rico.

When Pastor Behnke arrived, he decided to concentrate his efforts in Area 1 (Little Havana) and Area 4 (West Tamiami Trail) of Pastor Huhnerkoch's proposals [see Appendix 1]. The reasoning behind this was because Pastor and his wife lived in Area 4 and the most of the core group lived in Area 1. His plan of attack was to do basic canvass work. That did not always prove to be that fruitful because even though Hispanics are friendly, before they will trust an "anglo," he needs to have an "in" with the family. One of the things that also made canvassing difficult was the fact that Miami was a major pipeline for cocaine and other illegal drugs. Because of this, people were reluctant to open doors to strangers.

At the same time that he was doing his canvassing, Pastor Behnke finished up the adult instruction classes that Pastor Huhnerkoch started with Armando Hernandez and the three Honduran girls, as well as starting new classes with prospects. Usually these classes were in the peoples' homes so that those who had little exposure to formal Bible study or church services would feel more comfortable.⁵ By June of 1985, the mission counted twenty-five souls, ten people in adult Bible study, and five in

⁵ While teaching these people, Pastor Behnke finished the translation of *Las Maravillas de Dios*.

instruction classes.

Within a few months of his arrival, the young core of Christians began meeting on Saturday afternoons in the home of Frank and Rosa Garcia for a "Sunday School" type Bible study. Rosa Garcia was a secretary at Sun Gas Company and a friend of Kathleen Saracione. Kathleen had introduced the Garcias to Pastor Behnke and he instructed and confirmed them.

After several months of work in Miami, still in the Garcia house, Pastor Behnke had "Sunday School" for children on Saturday afternoons at 1:00 PM. On Sunday at 11:00 AM, he met with the adults for the Sunday morning "Bible Study Services." This was a very informal worship service with parts of the liturgy and a Scripture reading, followed by a short devotion. But the greater emphasis of these services was the study of a portion of Scripture. When Pastor Behnke left in April of 1986, the group had grown to fifteen communicant members (still twenty-five souls), but there was only an average attendance of about eight people on Sunday. Pastor Behnke described the group as "very loving, warm, and helpful." He also said that they "were dedicated to their Lord, to his teachings, and eager to learn more." Family and friends of members also attended frequently. About this method of evangelism, Pastor Behnke remarked: "Of course, the best method of all was to have those who were already studying with us pass the Word of God on to other family members and friends. That is the number one evangelism method in the world!"

During his time there, Pastor also developed the *Bible Story Coloring Book*. If a family was not at home when Pastor stopped by on a canvass, he would leave a flyer at the house. It invited the family to write to him for a

free copy of the coloring book for the children. Pastor Behnke then delivered it by hand to the family. This gave him a chance to meet the family and witness to them.

One of the obstacles of mission work that Pastor Behnke found in Miami was religion. Many of the Hispanics had a Catholic background and claimed to be Catholic, but often they were Catholic in name only. There was also spiritism and witchcraft. Many Cubans brought with them a Catholicism mixed with black and white magic from Africa. This is called *Santería*. It involved saint worship, animal sacrifices, and incantations. Most Latins were also superstitious. Mothers would often pin *la manita de hasabache* (a little black hand) on their children to ward off the "evil eye." And many erected grottos or shrines in their yards to house their favorite saint who would protect their house. In general there was a lack of biblical knowledge and true faith in Jesus. Even though Catholicism was the major religion, other church bodies were gaining footholds, such as Baptists, Pentecostals, and Jehovah Witnesses.

While in Miami, Pastor Behnke had some success in Little Havana (Area 1), which is older downtown Miami. When he took his call to North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, there were seven confirmed members in this area, a number of prospects, and other children. He found that mission work was a little easier in Area 1 because the people were a bit more open to strangers, or maybe just more used to them. Pastor thought that this was unusual because this was the part of town hit more by crime. He commented: "Perhaps the people didn't have as much to lose, so they had less to fear."

But there were difficulties too. Parts of Little Havana were like a

port of entry. Many people stayed long enough to earn sufficient money to move to the suburbs and scatter throughout the city. This area could also be considered Miami's "inner city." But "inner city" did not mean slum in this case. The average income was about \$12,000.

Pastor Behnke found out that Pastor Huhnerkoch's evaluation of Area 4 (western suburbs on the edge of the Everglades) was correct. It was mostly middle class with some upper middle. Many people in these neighborhoods were second generation Cuban-Americans who had been successful in the business world. This area was more bilingual than Area 1. Most of the children played in English, but their parents required them to speak Spanish at home.

Pastor Behnke learned that mission work was a little more difficult in Area 4 compared with Area 1. The Cubans were hard working, but materialism ran high. One of the difficulties that he faced was to convince people whose material dreams have come true in the United States that something else was necessary in their lives. He also found it hard to find people at home. Usually both spouses worked in order to pay the mortgage. There was also greater fear of crime in Area 4. Because of all break-ins in the neighborhood, especially by men dressed like police officers, people were more reluctant to talk or even answer the door, and never after dark. In general there was a reluctance to open up to strangers. Cubans also had their cliques and preferred to be introduced to outsiders by friends or relatives.

While there were frustrating days for Pastor Behnke, he also spoke of the rewards of his Latin-American ministry. He said:

What a joy to hear twin eighteen year old sisters from Honduras named Gloria and Blanca say eagerly: "Pastor, we want to be baptized soon!" What pleasure in hearing a recently widowed woman named Rosa respond to a Gospel presentation with: "I wish everyone could know how simple salvation is for them!" What excitement to hear Armando Hernandez, a refugee who could not easily confess his faith in communist Cuba, exclaim: "*¡Yo sé que Jesús lo hizo todo!*" ("I know that Jesus did it all!").

III. Pastor Bruce Janisch--1986-1991

When Pastor Behnke took the call to St. Paul's in North Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, the Conference of Presidents once again went to the graduates of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to fill the vacancy in Miami. In May of 1986, they extended the call to the Rev. Bruce Janisch. Before heading to his assignment in Miami, Pastor Janisch and his wife attended language school for six months in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Pastor Janisch got to Miami in December of 1986 and picked up where Pastor Behnke left off. The group of Christians continued to meet in the small home of Frank and Rosa Garcia on Saturdays for the Saturday afternoon "Sunday School." The Garcia home also was the meeting place for the Sunday morning service, which Pastor Janisch called a "glorified Bible class." They sang a couple of hymns, had a Scripture reading, prayed, and then had an extended Bible study. By the end of February, 1987, the average worship attendance was eighteen. During this time, the members helped in canvass work and shared their faith with family, friends, and neighbors. Many of Pastor's contacts were through friendship evangelism.

The members of *Cordero de Dios* worshipped at the Garcias' home until they received a great offer. Rosa Garcia's office supervisor, Angel Hernandez, owned a strip mall and offered free use of a 1000 square foot,

three room store front to the congregation. All they had to do was pay for the utilities. Mr. Hernandez promised them that they would be able to stay there until he found a new tenant. Pastor Janisch commented: "Needless to say, everyone in the group was thrilled, and thankful to the Lord for his blessings." But this arrangement only lasted four and a half months. The FBI closed down and took possession of the mall because a pharmacy in the strip mall was part of a major drug operation.

The young church then moved to the parsonage for their study of God's Word. It was at this time that Pastor began to hold more formal worship services. The order of service was not "page 5," but included the basic elements of a worship service. The congregation also moved everything to Sunday morning. They met on Sundays for two hours; one hour was Sunday School/Adult Bible class and one hour was for worship. Pastor Janisch still did not have a full sermon, but as he explained it, the format was more or less still question and answer. He and the congregation had a type of dialogue.

After a year of meeting in the parsonage, Pastor Janisch decided that the church needed a public facility for higher visibility in the community. He checked into all the schools, funeral homes, and hotels in the area, but was unable to find a location. They finally petitioned the Mission Board and funding became available to rent a store front in another strip mall. In November of 1988, *Cordero de Dios* became the first tenants in the Palm Plaza Shopping center.⁶ With some volunteer work and help from

⁶ The address of this storefront facility is 7945 NW 2 Street. The members of *Cordero de Dios* still worship at this location.

neighboring congregations, they were able to turn the 2000 square foot space into a worship facility. They built two Sunday School rooms, one office, a worship area, and fellowship area. As part of the lease, the church was required to put up a large neon sign. Pastor attributed the increase in Sunday morning attendance (about 20/Sunday) to the move to the mall.

Throughout 1989, the congregation and missionary worked to establish rapport in the new neighborhood by passing out flyers, conducting surveys, and inviting friends and neighbors. By 1990, some visible fruits began to appear. One family was confirmed. The church also grew because another family transferred from our mission in Puerto Rico.

In December of 1990, Pastor Janisch accepted a call to Plymouth, Minnesota. Before he left, he wrote to his successor:

There is potential for growth at *Cordero de Dios*. The members are willing and able to participate. The facilities are appealing. The atmosphere is friendly. The Lord has much work for us to do in Miami.

It is easy to see the truth in that last statement when we consider some recent statistics. The 1990 United States census figures for Dade County revealed a 71% increase in the Hispanic population. That means that there are now a little over one million Hispanics in the Miami area. Even more striking than the population growth was the diversity of nationalities that moved into the city. Cubans still account for 60% of Dade County's Latin community, but during the last decade the number of Hispanics from countries other than Cuba, Mexico, and Puerto Rico rose more than 150%. The area around *Cordero de Dios'* worship facility is 85-90% Hispanic (31,566). Of that number, 15,500 are Cuban. The rest of the community is

made up of people from Peru, Venezuela, Argentina, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic.

IV. Pastor Ralph Martens--1991-

In August of 1991, the Rev. Ralph Martens filled the vacancy at *Cordero de Dios*. Before accepting the call to Miami, Pastor Martens had served almost nineteen years as a missionary in Puerto Rico. In fact, Pastor Martens ministered to some of the present-day members of *Cordero de Dios* when they were members of the mission in Puerto Rico. It is interesting to note that the eight month vacancy did not hurt the congregation. The lay leaders conducted the regular weekly worship services using printed sermons and taped music. They continued to encourage and support one another and even had six adult prospects for Pastor Martens when he arrived. He now shepherds the 45 souls (24 communicants) [see Appendix 2 and 3 (Graph #1)]. Appendix 4 (Graph #2) shows the age breakdown of the congregation. Pastor Martens says that the absence of any young men or women age 15-24 indicates the church's need to strengthen its program in this area. But he also adds that the men who are members are active in leadership roles, worship and Bible study, and reaching out to others with the Word. Appendix 5 (Graph #7) demonstrates the family make-up of the congregation. Appendix 6 gives the approximate location where the members live in relation to the worship facility in Palm Plaza as well as shows where there are some possible prospects.

These are exciting times for *Cordero de Dios* Lutheran Church. In September of 1991, the WELS Board for Home Missions granted mission status

to the congregation and indicated support for a team ministry in Miami. On Easter Sunday, sixty-three people attended the special Easter service [see Appendix 7]. As Pastor Martens says in the "Comments" section of Appendix 7: "There is an audience 'out there' to be evangelized." And *Cordero de Dios* expects continued growth. In 1992, Pastor plans to confirm four young people (7-9th grade). Six adults are presently enrolled in adult information classes and five are ready to join by a profession of faith. The Church is in a good location to reach out to the community. As Appendix 8 (map #3) demonstrates, the church is located in an area of mixed housing. The houses range from \$60,000 to over \$150,000, from apartment complexes to single family homes, townhouses and even a few mobile homes. This area also has the reputation to be the most densely populated part of Dade County. The population of the parish area is over 36,000. May God continue to bless the work of Pastor Martens and the mission of *Cordero de Dios* as they spread the good news of a risen Savior to the Hispanics of Miami, Florida--a message that is meant for "all nations."

Appendix I

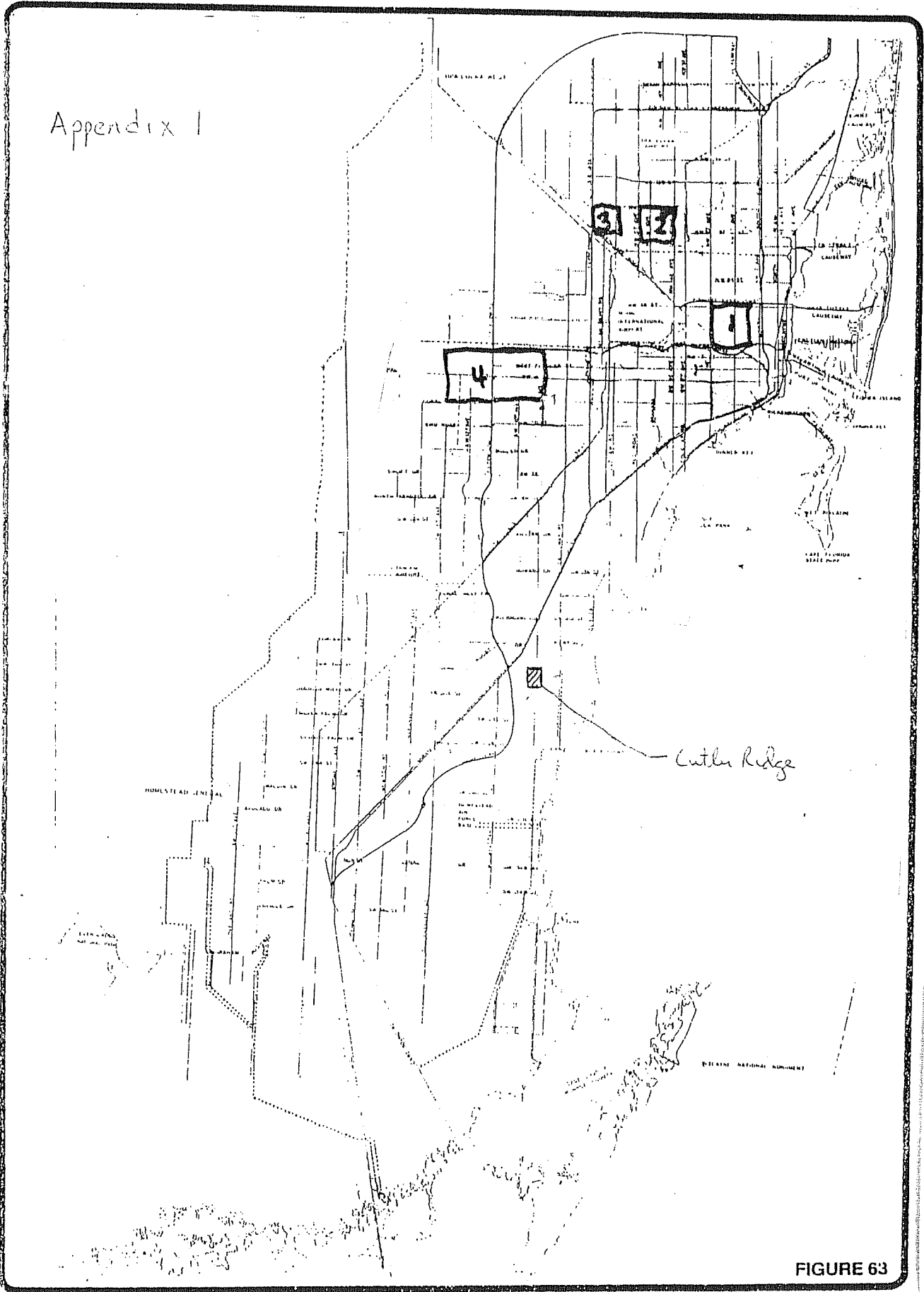


FIGURE 63

BASIC INFORMATION AND REQUEST FORM

MINISTRY/MANPOWER/LAND/FACILITIES

WELS BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

DATE: _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Congregation or location making request: CORDERO DE DIOS-Hispanic
 2. City: MIAMI
 3. State/Province: FLORIDA
 4. Pastor presently serving this field: Ralph W. Martens

TYPE OF REQUEST (check all that apply):

| MINISTRY | MANPOWER | LAND/FACILITIES |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Preaching Station | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident Pastor (second) | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Purchase of Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Begin Exploratory | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Pastor | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase of Church Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continue Exploratory | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Authority for: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Status | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> W/E/F _____ |
| Other: _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ size Chapel |
| _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 2 Chapel |
| _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> E/F _____ |
| _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Approval for: _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

5. Date survey work begun: 1/82 7. Date of first worship service: 8/85
 6. Date expl. work begun: 9/82 8. Date of mission status: 9/91

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

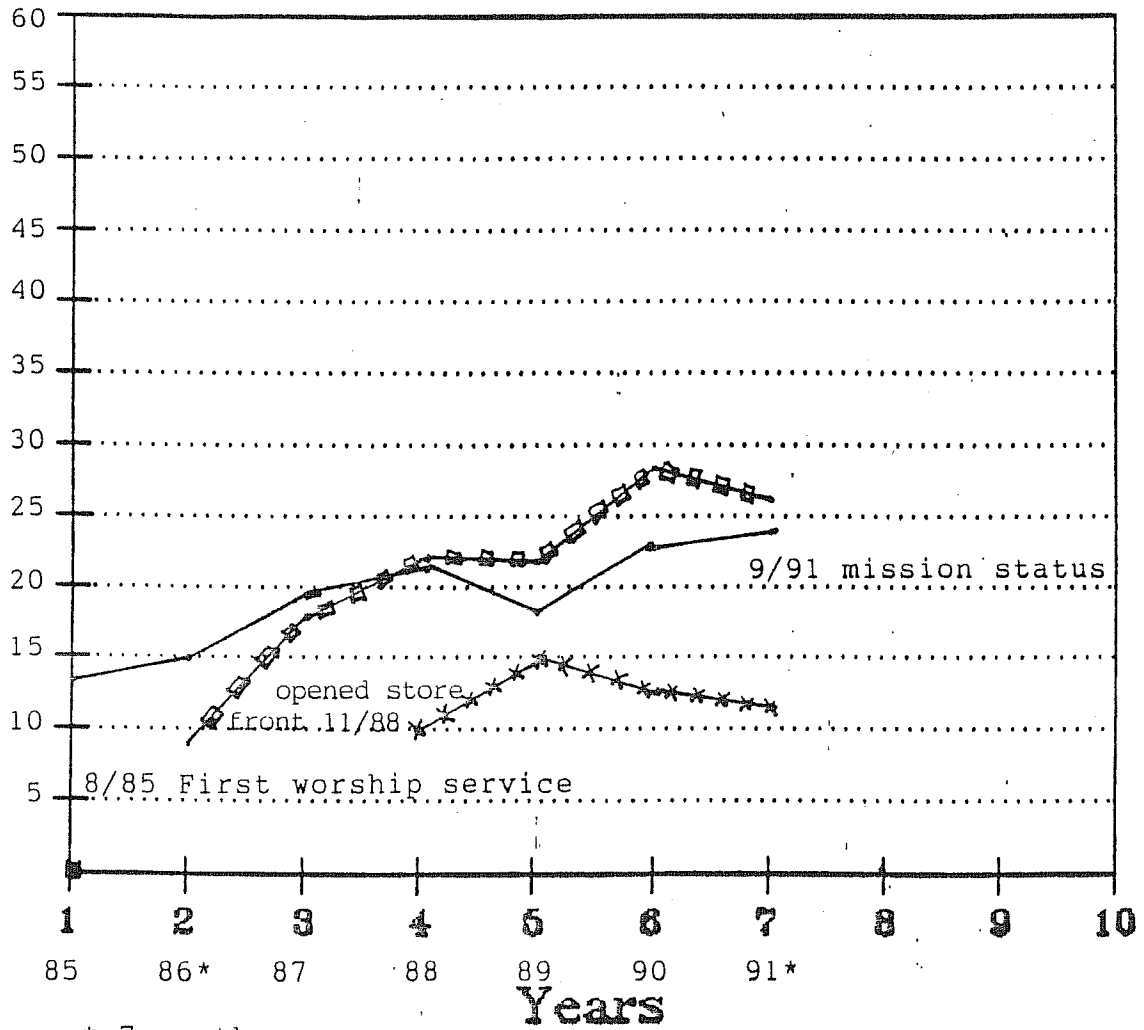
| (List the month & Year): | 3 Years ago (12/89) | 2 years ago (12/90) | Last Year (12/91) | This Yr. to Date 2/92 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 9. Number of souls: | 31 | 38 | 45 | 45 |
| 10. Number of Communicants: | 18 | 23 | 24 | 24 |
| 11. Number of Families: | 12 | 15 | 14 | 14 |
| 12. Adult Confirmations: | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. Ave. Worship Attendance: | 22 | 28 | 26 | 25 |
| 14. Ave. Bible Class Attendance: | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 |
| 15. Ave. Sunday School Attendance: | 16 | 11 | 8 | 7 |
| 16. Outreach calls by Pastor: | 76 | 64 | 14 | 10 |
| 17. Outreach calls by Lally: | 66 | 48 | — | 2 |
| 18. Inreach/nurture calls by Pastor: | 96 | 99 | 14 | 7 |
| 19. Inreach/nurture calls by Lally: | — | — | — | 3 |
| 20. Total Offerings/comm./year: | 389. | 593. | 500. | 66. |
| 21. Synod Offerings/comm./year: | 0. | 50. | 49. | 8. |

If this is a MINISTRY or MANPOWER request then include Page 2 and the required attachments.

If this is a LAND or FACILITIES request then include Page 3 and the required attachments.

Graph #1

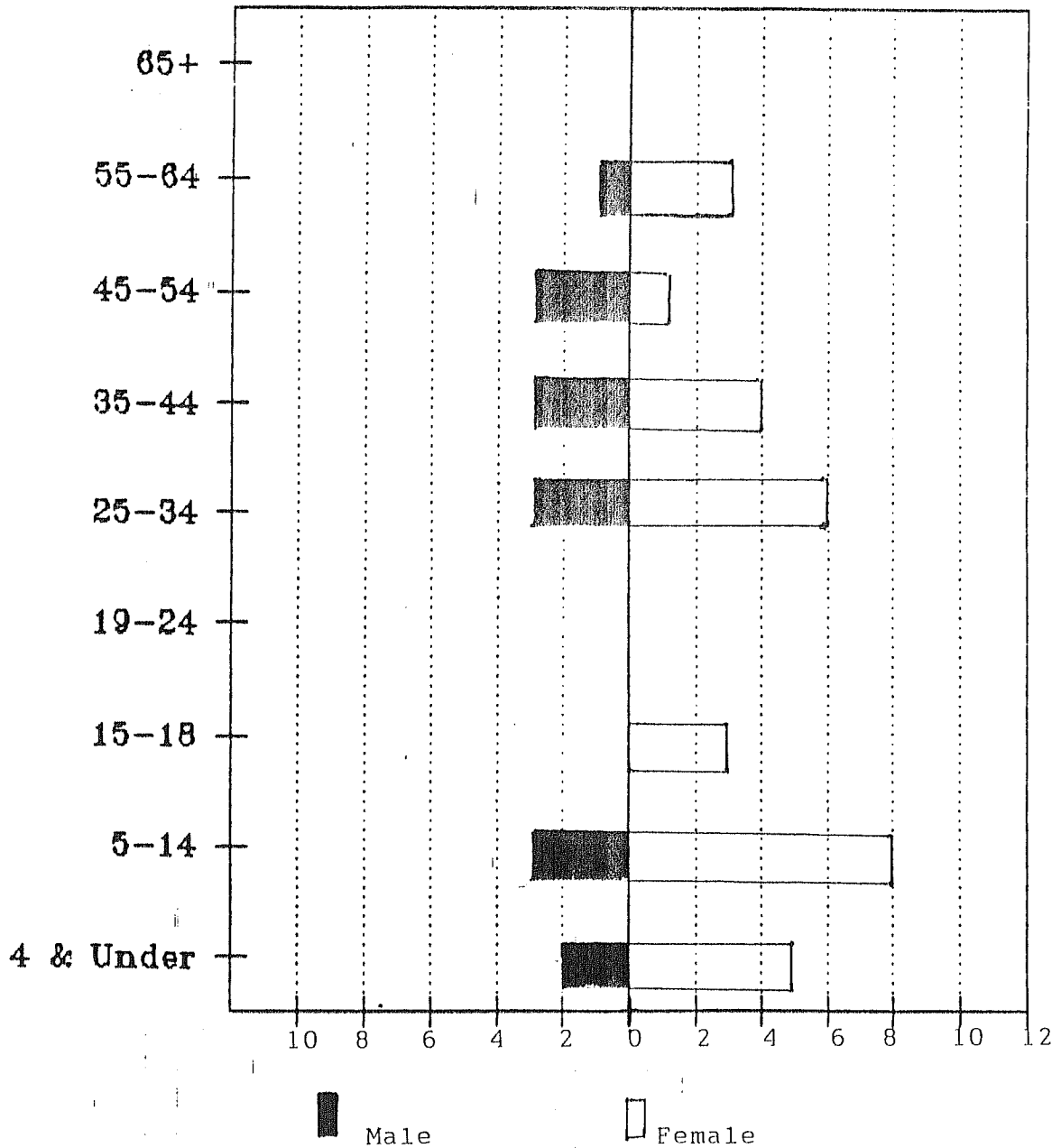
10 Yr Growth



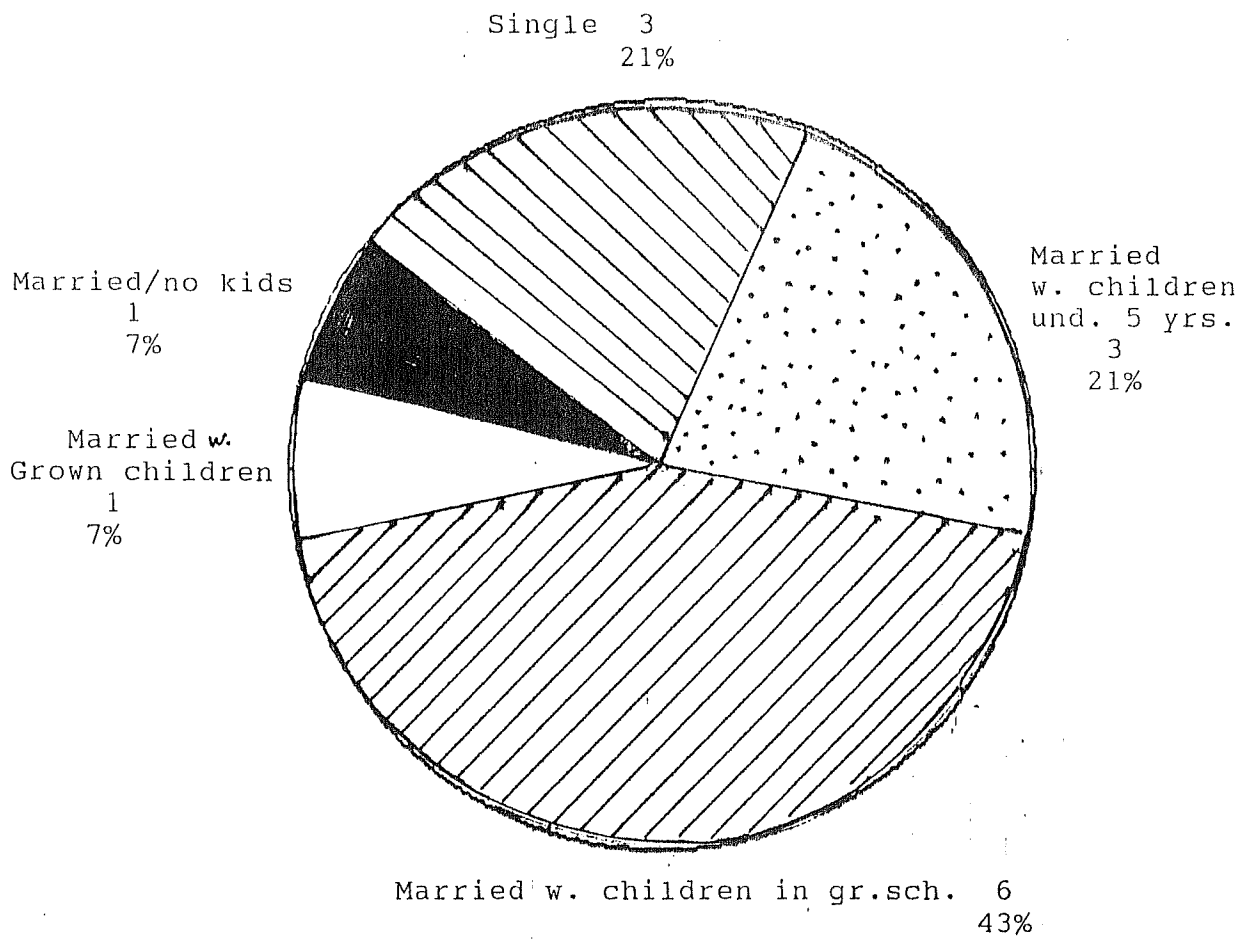
* 7-month vacancy

- Adult Comm Members
- Av. Sunday Worship
- *— # in Group Bible St.

Graph #2 Age Breakdown



Graph #7 Family Make-Up



45 total in 14 households

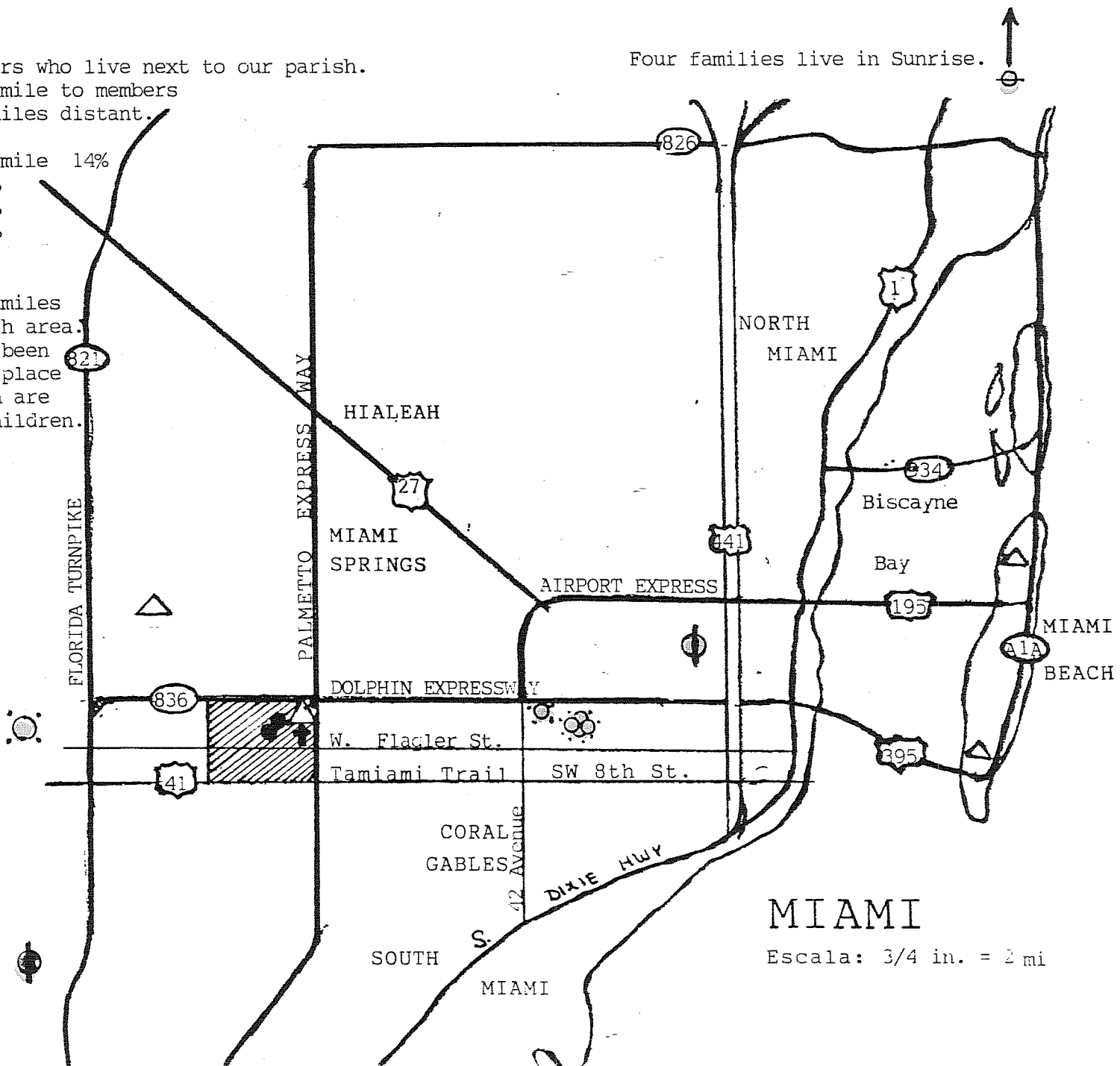
Percentage of members who live next to our parish.
 From less than one mile to members
 who live several miles distant.

- less than one mile 14%
- ⊙ 2-6 miles 42%
- ⊖ 7-15 miles 14%
- ⊕ 15-35 mi. 28%

We have only two families
 living in the parish area.
 Both families have been
 living in the same place
 about 4 years; both are
 young renters w. children.

- ▨ parish area
- △ prospects

Four families live in Sunrise.



MIAMI

Escala: 3/4 in. = 2 mi

Appendix 6

Monthly Report

Date Filed 5/07/92

Pastor MARTENS

For Month of APRIL, 1992

Congregation CORDERO DE DIOS

City MIAMI

Church Attendance

Offerings

Sunday School/Bible Class Attendance

| Date | Members | Guests | Total | Unified | Total | Child | Adult | Mid-Week |
|----------|---------|--------|-------|---------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| 4/05 | 20 | 19 | 39 | 236.50 | 251.65 | 13 | 12 | 4 |
| 4/12 | 22 | 8 | 30 | 200.00 | 227.00 | 10 | 0* | 7 |
| 4/17 | 20 | 18 | 38 | 135.00 | 147.10 | GOOD | FRIDAY | - |
| 4/19 | 29 | 34 | 63 | 223.00 | 285.48 | 16 | 28 | 6 |
| 4/26 | 22 | 3 | 25 | 168.65 | 181.40 | 10 | 12 | 4 |
| Totals | 113 | 82 | 195 | 963.15 | 1,092.63 | 49 | 52 | 21 |
| Averages | | | 39 | | 218.53 | 12 | 17 | 5 |

| Special Services CORAL SPRINGS | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Date | Attendance | Offerings |
| 4/04 | 12 | 70.- |
| 1 | | |
| 1 | | |
| 1 | | |
| 1 | | |
| Totals | | |

* mission statement discussed 4/12

| Confirmation Class Enrollment | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Adult | 6 |
| Child | 4 |
| Baptisms | |
| Adult | 0 |
| Child | 0 |

| Statistics - Month End | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Souls under care | 60 |
| Communicants | 25 |
| Gains: | |
| Transfers In | - |
| Prof. of Faith | 1 |
| Adult Confirmations | - |
| Child Confirmations | - |
| Losses: | |
| Transfers Out | - |
| Releases | - |
| Removals | - |
| Deaths | - |
| Evangelism Calls: Pastor | 4 |
| Lay | ? |
| Member Calls: Pastor | 9 |
| (Non-Social) Lay | - |
| All Communions | 14 |

Was full remittance made this month for: PBS YES? Loan Repayment NA?
(If answer is no to either, please explain under comments -include number of months behind)

COMMENTS: (i.e. Evangelism, Stewardship, Education, General, Personal, Etc.)

Easter Sun. att. indicates that there is an audience "out there" to be evangelized. The congregation is more aware that they really do not know their parish area. The interview used in MC2/Milw. appears useable in our situation. Our flight back from Milw. was delayed 90 minutes and forced cancellation of planned evening service 5/03.

The members are encouraged by God's perceived response to our more regular and specific prayers. The prayer list is incorporated into meetings and Sun. worship. We are still weak on action/visits, follow-up on visitors, but I think there is a good spirit of love for both members and non-members and will blossom into action as soon as specific direction is given.
















My family is in S. Dakota/Nebraska until the 31st. Johanna finished her chicken pox just in time to fly out this past Tues. with Roxanne and Jon (who has not yet had the pox). I plan to take a week of vacation May 25-31 to attend Natalie's high school grad. at Waco, NE on 5/30. All the family is planning to be home for summer. Natalie has a job; Tim not yet.

Youth instruction class met only twice in April due to chicken pox (3 of 4 got

CORDERO DE DIOS LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR PARISH AREA

scale: 1 inch = 1/4 mile

-  lakes, canals, man-made boundaries
-  golf course
-  commercial sector
-  CORDERO DE DIOS
-  other churches
-  single family homes
-  high cost townhouses
-  mid to high cost home
-  town houses
-  apt. rental complex
-  elem/middle school
-  elementary school
-  park commercial use
-  bank/service agency
-  members

