



Nourished by God's Grace:

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2026



LATINO CHRISTIAN
NATIONAL NETWORK





ABOUT US



Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

The Latino Christian National Network (LCNN) is a vibrant community of Latino Christian leaders representing Evangelical, Pentecostal, Historic Protestant and Catholic traditions across the U.S. United by our faith, we create a space for respectful dialogue and mutual support, embracing our diverse perspectives to deepen our understanding of God.

Through prayer, meaningful conversation and professional growth, LCNN tackles critical social and political issues such as immigration, health, climate change, racism and poverty. LCNN recognizes that the different expressions of faith can contribute to our ever-growing understanding of God. And with that, it aims to amplify our voices and fosters action that makes a tangible difference.



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NOURISHED BY GOD'S GRACE

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

Proverbs 13:12



Bread for the World is pleased to continue our commitment to celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. As in previous years, we are offering a set of reflections and prayers that together form a devotional titled **Nourished by God's Grace: Hispanic Heritage 2026**.

We are especially happy to partner with the Latino Christian National Network (LCNN) to write and produce this year's devotional. This devotional offers the views and concerns of diverse ecumenical leaders about many of the greatest challenges of the day. We also try to honor the great contributions made by Latino/Hispanic people.

As Christians we begin by acknowledging that we are nourished by God's grace and it is our trust in God that brings us hope. As a boy I was fortunate to have known my maternal great grandparents. They immigrated from northern Mexico to the United States in 1912, just two years into the Mexican revolution. It is hard to imagine the challenges they faced both in Mexico and in the U.S. as both jobs and food were scarce.

Every day in the U.S. and around the world, immigrants cross borders however they can in hope of a better life for themselves and their families. They often travel with little or no food or money and some even lose their lives in the process. Many Latinos in the United States, alongside people of Hispanic descent from other parts of the Americas and the Caribbean, share an immigrant experience.

The immigrant experience unites us and, in many ways, strengthens us. Immigrants are hard workers and at times risk takers, and so we are entrepreneurs and business builders. We put our faith in God and so we are trustworthy and true to our word. We cherish our families and we are often trusted with caring for the families of others.

Latinos and people of Hispanic descent are often indigenous to the Americas and the Caribbean. We also carry with us our African and European ancestry. Together we confront hunger and poverty in our communities and our world, and we welcome you to join us in prayer through this weekly devotional.



PRAYER:

Great and gracious God we put our trust in you and so we have hope. During Hispanic Heritage Month we come to you in prayer.

We pray with thanksgiving for all persons of Latino Hispanic descent that contribute to the strength and wellbeing of this country we share.

We pray for Latino/Hispanic families that struggle for a better life.

We pray for the strength of Latino risk-takers and entrepreneurs that continue to benefit all our communities.

We pray for our tías, our mamas, and abuelas who have always been the backbone of Latinidad (being Latino).

We pray for frijoles, habichuelas, alubias, and rice for anyone experiencing hunger and need. We give thanks for your grace and forgiveness and dedicate all these things to your glory.

In Jesus name,
Amen.



Marco A. Grimaldo

is the Strategist for National Church Partners and Latino Communities at Bread for the World. He is also an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church, USA and serves as Vice Moderator for National Capital Presbytery in Washington, D.C.





HUNGER AND POVERTY IN LATINO COMMUNITIES: A LACK OF LOVE

*If anyone has the world's goods and sees a brother in need,
yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?*

1 John 3:17



Hunger and poverty in Latino communities are the result of a lack of love. No other country in the history of the world has reached the economic level the United States has reached. The average American's income is about 5–6 times the world average, roughly 2 times that of countries like Spain or Italy, about 6–7 times Mexico's, and 30–40 times that of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

At the same time, the U.S. has much higher income inequality than most other wealthy countries, and Americans pay out of pocket for things that are publicly provided elsewhere, like healthcare and college.

These two realities fall hardest on communities of color, who too often cannot afford the very means by which people get ahead in life.

The riches of our country are concentrated primarily in the white middle class and the affluent.

Why is hunger and poverty so prevalent in communities of color? Why do children of color go hungry at higher rates than others? We could answer this question in many ways, and most of those answers would probably be true. But I believe the Bible is clear when the apostle John writes, "If anyone has the world's goods and sees a brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:17).

The main reason there are people living in poverty in the richest country in the world is this: we don't love people enough. Those of us who follow Jesus need to ask ourselves a hard question: what are we actually doing to change the lives of the millions of Americans living in poverty?

The answer is not charity. Charity gives someone a meal today. Justice asks why they had no food in the first place — and works to fix it. Justice is love in action.

The church cannot sit on the sidelines. We must lead the way in freeing people from the weight of poverty. This is not optional for us. It is a command at the heart of the gospel of Jesus.



PRAYER:

God of the poor, change the hearts of those of us who confess Christ as Lord and Savior.

Make our hearts tender and receptive to your love.

Open our eyes to the truth that poverty exists in the world because we love our own status and stability more than we love our neighbor, and because we believe in the lie that there is not enough to share abundantly.

In the name of Jesus,
Amen.



Rev. Carlos Malave

is the founder and president of the Latino Christian National Network, an organization that aims to provide a space for respectful dialogue among Latino Christian leaders of different traditions and theological perspectives.





LATINOS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE U.S. ECONOMY

Seek the welfare of the city... for in its welfare you will find your own.

Jeremiah 29:7



During Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate our cultures, our languages, and our histories. But we must also acknowledge a truth that is often overlooked: the Latino community is an indispensable force for the economic well-being of the United States.

The Latino GDP Project, developed by researchers at UCLA and other institutions, estimates that the economic output of Latinos in the United States reached \$4.4 trillion in 2024. If viewed as a separate economy, it would be the fourth largest in the world. Furthermore, its real growth rate was 6.4%, compared to 2.4% for the non-Latino economy.¹

Our contribution is also evident in the business sector. According to the Census Bureau, Hispanic-owned businesses with employees generated \$572.9 billion in revenue in 2021.²

And this story includes our undocumented brothers and sisters. Although they are often portrayed as a burden, a national study estimates that undocumented immigrants paid \$96.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2022.³

These numbers have faces: farmworkers, construction workers, nurses, teachers, entrepreneurs, pastors, mothers, and fathers who get up every morning to serve, work, and support their families—and who are an indispensable part of our nation's well-being.

The prophet Jeremiah said, "*Seek the welfare of the city... for in its welfare you will find your own.*"

We Latinos have worked hard for the well-being of this nation. Therefore, celebrating our contribution also means defending our dignity. We cannot responsibly accept the fruits of Latino labor while rejecting, degrading, or persecuting those who perform it.

¹ UCLA Latino GDP Project. "Latino GDP Hits Fourth Largest in the World." May 5, 2026.

² U.S. Census Bureau. "Construction Sector Had Highest Number of Hispanic-Owned Businesses." Oct. 10, 2024.

³ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. "Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants." July 30, 2024.

Before God, every worker deserves respect, every family deserves protection, and every person possesses the same dignity—whether they have citizenship, residency, a temporary permit, or lack documentation.

Let us pray.



PRAYER:

Lord God of justice and mercy:

We thank You for the Latino community in the United States: for those who work, study, start businesses, serve, and support their families with sacrifice and hope.

Thank you for every mother and father who leaves early for work, for our young people who are striving for a better future, and for those who strengthen this nation with their hands, knowledge, and creativity.

Forgive us when we reap the fruits of Latino labor but ignore the dignity of those who perform it. Teach us not to measure a person's worth by their immigration status, but to recognize Your image in every life.

Protect our families: citizens, residents, those with temporary permits, asylum seekers, and our undocumented brothers and sisters. Comfort the children who worry about their parents, and be with those who have suffered detention, separation, or deportation.

Raise up courageous churches that serve as a refuge, a bridge, and a voice of hope. Bless the work of our hands, and may our prosperity serve the good of all.

In Jesus' name.
Amen.



Rev. Carlos Rincon

is the CEO and president of Instituto de Avance Integral Latino Community Development Corporation. He is also the pastor of Centro de Vida Victoriosa church in Los Angeles.





HUNGER AND IMMIGRATION

*In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land,
and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab,
he and his wife and his two sons.*

Ruth 1:1



Knowing that food insecurity is a contributing factor to persons being forced to migrate and that women and girls comprise approximately 146,000 million or 48% of those on the migrant journey around the world, I was reminded of the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.

A Moabite, Ruth's life became intertwined with that of Naomi, an Israelite, when Naomi and her family migrated to Moab from Bethlehem because of famine in the land of Judah. Naomi, her husband and two sons survived hunger and established their lives in Moab. The sons found wives, Oprah and Ruth. Unfortunately, years later the three men died in Moab for reasons we do not know leading Naomi to decide to migrate back to the land of Judah where she thought that among family, she would be better able to survive. Naomi encourages her daughters-in-law to return to their families of birth, advice that Oprah accepts but Ruth rejects. Ruth had grown to deeply love Naomi and decides to become a migrant herself to protect Naomi.

In Bethlehem Ruth supports Naomi and herself by gathering the barley left behind in the fields of a wealthy man named Boaz who is moved to compassion, ordering his workers to leave behind a bit more barley in the fields for Ruth and Naomi. Eventually, Boaz marries Ruth and they have a son named Obed, the grandfather of King David, ancestors of Jesus.

Ruth's story is the story of many immigrant women today. A story of life-threatening hunger, of cruel forced migration, of living in a strange land, of human loss, of insecurity and instability. It is a story of human courage and resilience, welcome, and compassion, of the strength and transformative love of women. It is also a sign of how God accompanies the immigrant and is present in our lives as well, blessing us when we welcome and care for the migrant. God has a long-term vision for all of us including the migrant. Who would have thought that Ruth, a Moabite, would become a mother in the family lineage of Jesus the Christ who came that all might be fed, bread for the body and bread for the soul.

PRAYER:

Oh God, be with our immigrant siblings on this day.

Help us to be strong advocates for their well-being and those who welcome them as family and native-born.

In the name of the Christ Child who himself was a refugee in Egypt, we pray.

Amen.



Bishop Minerva Garza Carcaño

was elected in 2004 to the episcopacy by the Western Jurisdictional Conference and continues to serve the church in many ways including as the leader of the United Methodist Church's Immigration Task Force.





CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

*Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them,
"Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"*

*The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women;
they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."*

*So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.
And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.*

*Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people:
"Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile but let every girl live."*

Exodus 1:18-22



All injustice begins before it becomes law. Injustice begins in the human heart, when fear causes us to stop seeing others as people created in God's image and start seeing them as threats.

That is what happened in Egypt. A new king arose who knew neither the story of Joseph nor the contribution of the Hebrew people to Egypt. Before taking away their freedom, Pharaoh stopped seeing the Hebrews as people and began to see them as a threat to Egypt's security and future. The oppression of God's people did not begin with slavery. It began with dehumanization.

The Hebrew midwives, skilled and accustomed to holding life in their hands, feared God more than Pharaoh. They refused to participate in a system that despised life because they recognized the dignity of every person.

Pharaoh's temptation did not end in Egypt. Even today, communities that have contributed to a nation's well-being for generations may come to be viewed with suspicion or fear. Every society reveals whom it considers part of the community. When fear reigns, new ways of excluding some and benefiting others always emerge. That exclusion affects not only how we view people but also how they participate in community life. Throughout history, the right to vote and civic participation have been ways of affirming that every person counts and belongs.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to resist any fear that leads us to deny the dignity of our neighbors. Defending others' participation in the life of our communities is not merely a political act; it is an expression of our faith in a God whose image is present in every person.

In the end, the real question is not who belongs, but what is shaping our hearts: fear or the love of God.



PRAYER:

God of all life, you created us in your image and call each person by name.

Reveal the fear, prejudice, and dehumanization that still dwell in my heart.

Forgive me when I allow fear, indifference, or the ideas of this world to prevent me from recognizing your image in other people.

Give me eyes to see my neighbors as you see them—with dignity, worth, and love.

Shape within me a heart that reflects yours, willing to listen, serve, and defend the lives of those who are ignored, rejected, or excluded.

May I never contribute, through my words, my actions, or my silence, to denying another person's humanity.

Guide me to love as you have loved me and to extend to others the grace, dignity, welcome, and hope that you have poured out upon my life.

Make me an instrument of your justice, your compassion, and your peace.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.



Elket Rodriguez

is Global Migration Advocate for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and Fellowship Southwest. He is part of the Faith Works team of advocates who support a range of advocacy and ministry areas.





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