

REPORT

# Training for Latino Diaspora Church Planting

Advancing the Gospel among Latino Diaspora in Central and South America



*ESLA Latino Participants*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Multiply and the Brazilian MB Conference, thank you for your investments towards **seeing the next generation of disciple-makers equipped and strengthened to share the Gospel** in their Latin American communities. Your financial resources and prayers have allowed for the ongoing training of those exploring long-term mission service, whether locally or globally.

Emerson Cardoso, Multiply's Regional Team Leader for Central and South America, shared: "We give thanks to God because He continues to bring together peoples, stories, and callings around His purpose. **Even amid migration, crises, and cultural transitions, the Lord is raising leaders and reshaping paths so that the Gospel advances with intentionality.** This work requires discernment, courage, and faithful partners who are committed to long-term investment in the training of leaders across cultures."

Emerson highlighted several strategic changes implemented within the ESLA Latino project, Multiply's missiological training initiative for long-term service among those in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking contexts. These adjustments include: relocating the main training base from São Paulo to Curitiba, focusing on receiving leaders from the Latin diaspora already living in Brazil—particularly Venezuelans and Cubans—and directing efforts toward planting Spanish-speaking churches in the region.

Emerson shared: “These changes were not merely logistical, but deeply strategic, as we have recognized that **many immigrants already established in Brazil carry a calling, ministry experience, and a willingness to serve.** With contextualized training and consistent support, they are being equipped to step into meaningful leadership and mission.”



Over the past few years, ESLA Latinos have received and trained leaders from Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, Costa Rica, and Chile. This investment is already bearing fruit. **Some trained leaders are now pastoring churches, others are serving with mission organizations, and still others are leading church-planting initiatives among local communities** and Latin

diaspora. These outcomes demonstrate that the training provided goes beyond theory, translating into active ministry, leadership, and missionary responsibility across diverse cultural contexts. Emerson noted:

“We are grateful for the visible fruit—renewed vision, strengthened commitment, and a growing readiness among leaders to serve where God calls them. Walking alongside immigrant and refugee communities carries special significance. **The Anabaptist tradition itself is marked by stories of displacement, persecution, and welcome across nations. There was a time when our communities were received, and today there is an opportunity to extend that same welcome and investment to others.** Training diaspora leaders is both a missional strategy and a faithful response to this shared history.”

Looking ahead, the next steps for the ESLA Latino project include: consolidating Spanish-speaking church planting initiatives in southern Brazil; expanding the reception and training of leaders from the Latin diaspora; strengthening post-training follow-up; and building greater financial sustainability for the program. Emerson expressed his thanks:

“We are grateful to God for every resource invested in this project. We have witnessed renewal, commitment, and a missional willingness among the students. We continue to count on your prayers and support so that we can keep training and sending Latin American leaders committed to proclaiming the Gospel in the Americas and beyond.”

Once again, **thank you for every prayer and every resource invested in this work.** Through your partnership, leaders are being equipped, churches are being strengthened, and **the Gospel is advancing across cultures and borders.**