

## Director of EFC Hispanic Ministries

**T**he Evangelical Free Church of America is proud to announce that Alejandro (Alex) Mandes is now the movement's first director of Hispanic Ministries. This new position places him on the growing leadership and vision team for the Urban & Intercultural Mission, alongside Dan Reeve (director of Urban Ministries), Dante Upshaw (director of African American Ministries) and Amy Long (executive administrative assistant). UIM is still in a search process for a new executive director.

Alex's background gives him extensive experience for this role. In 1997 he helped develop the EFCA Hispanic Pastors Association (known as MHIEL—*Ministerios Hispanos de la Iglesia Evangelica Libre*). He was MHIEL's first president and has served on the leadership team for many years.

Even before MHIEL, Alex had been immersed in ministry to Hispanics. While in college, he and his wife, Julie Ann, worked with migrant ministries in both North Dakota and Minnesota.

Alex graduated from the University of Texas with bachelor's and master's degrees in social work and counseling. He then received his Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. In spring 2007, he will receive his Doctor of Ministry from DTS as well—his area of study being "Ministry to Hispanics in North America."

Alex planted Communion Chapel EFC in San Antonio, Texas, in 1989—a multiethnic congregation consisting primarily of second- and third-generation Hispanics. During his years there, he developed many leaders who have gone on to plant and pastor other churches. As he leaves the pastorate of Communion Chapel, he will take with him that same passion for identifying and equipping leaders—now as a catalyst for multiplying healthy Hispanic churches all across the movement.

"My mission is to make disciples—period," Alex says. "And my passion is to have the EFCA reflect the demographic diversity of America. Even that is not enough: That diversity must be healthy and natural, something we relish.

"We have 30 years to lay the groundwork of Hispanic leadership, for a future in which Hispanics will be part of the ethnic majority in America. So we must prepare today for our stewardship of the Evangelical Free Church of tomorrow. We must prepare with a sense of urgency."

Alex and Julie have five adult daughters and currently live in San Antonio, where Alex also serves as president of the San Antonio Bible Institute. He will continue to live in San Antonio but will spend multiple days each month at the national office in Minneapolis. ■



## Promotion to Brigadier General

**A**n EFCA pastor and chaplain was recently promoted to the top chaplaincy position in the Army National Guard. Bryan Hult, pastor of Grace EFC in Indianapolis, was promoted October 1, 2006, to serve as Army National Guard Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains for the United States Army. Reports Roy L. Bebee, director of EFCA Chaplain Ministries, "This is the first known chaplain to have reached general rank in our history."

Major General R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant General of Indiana, said, "I have served with Chaplain Hult at several levels of command in the Indiana National Guard. He is truly a soldier's chaplain."

Bryan's experience includes service as an infantryman, as well as hospital chaplain, artillery chaplain and brigade chaplain. He currently serves as the chaplain for Joint Forces Headquarters-Indiana and will continue to pastor Grace EFC. ■