

Partners in Mission

From Your Door Steps...

2015 Easter Offering » Received in most congregations on
March 29 and **April 5, 2015.**



Disciples Home Missions

Sara and Sam Ortiz* have the same concerns as thousands of other Disciples pastors: discerning God's leading for their congregation, counseling families in distress, administering a budget, maintaining a building, but they have the added worry of not being able to get legal immigration papers.

Sara and Sam have lived in the U.S. for fifteen years, raising their children and growing the church they planted. They don't think about it most days, but every time they get in the car to pick up the kids from school or visit a church member in the hospital, they risk deportation. The reality of our broken immigration system inevitably encroaches on almost every aspect of their ministry.

It also lets them relate to the many members of their congregation who find themselves in the same situation. They have counseled families dealing with the loss of deported loved ones. They have helped a church leader stand up to a corrupt salesperson who threatened to call Immigration if she did not hand over more money. They have prayed and wept and hoped with families living with so much uncertainty.

Sara and Sam contacted Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel through Disciples Home Missions in 2012 to find out if there was any way to fix their papers. At that time, their only option was to leave the U.S. for ten years and then apply to come back. Leaving their children, their ministry, and their lives here was not a real option for them. We discussed emergency plans for their worst nightmare: if one of them were detained or deported. And together we waited and hoped for a change to the laws that gave them no real options.

With the President's November 20 announcement, Sam and Sara have a new hope of living without the cloud of deportation threatening overhead. With the help of Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel, they will apply for temporary relief from deportation and work permits in the Spring of 2015. They will be freed to focus on the ministry to which God has called them. Through gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Disciples Home Missions supports the ministries of Sara and Sam and many other Disciples who need legal help.

**Names and identifying details changed to protect confidentiality.*