



ST. GALL - ST. SIMON MISSION

REPORT AUGUST **2024**

Over the past three months, the St. Gall - St. Simon Mission in Gage Park, South Chicago, has been energized by the efforts of Iskali missionaries Sebastián Durán and Israel Carranza. These dedicated missionaries, working alongside the St. Gall - St. Simon Family, have been leading the young adult Latino ministry, helping young people embark on a transformative journey to encounter Jesus and grow in their faith.

Community Engagement



One-on-one meetings:

Over the past three months, the missionaries have conducted one-on-one meetings with **37 young adults**, and have held a total of 50 such sessions. These personalized interactions are central to the mission's approach, allowing for deeper connections and intentional relationship-building within the community.

The primary goal of these one-on-ones is to truly understand each young person, fostering trust and spiritual growth. By getting to know them on a deeper level, the missionaries can better discern their potential as leaders and identify the best ways to support them—whether through mentorship, scholarships, formation programs, or retreats. These meetings are essential for the development of discipleship.

Weekly community meetings:

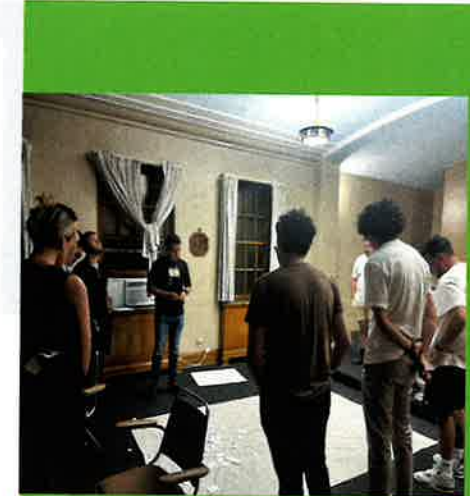
Since May 22nd, the mission has held **13 community meetings** every Wednesday at 7 PM. Led by Israel and Sebastián, these gatherings cover a range of topics designed to nurture the spiritual and leadership growth of the young adults. Guest speakers, including a leader from Iskali, have also contributed, and the community has engaged in social activities like bowling on two occasions to strengthen bonds through shared experiences.



Community Engagement

Participation:

The mission currently has **14 young adults who are actively involved** in these weekly gatherings, consistently participating and contributing to the community's growth.



Outreach:

In addition to the weekly meetings, the mission hosts a Thursday evening sports night, primarily centered around **volleyball**.

This activity has successfully attracted between **24-30 young adults** each week, providing another avenue for **engagement and community building** through sports.



Gage Park and near neighborhoods data:

Gage Park:

- **Hispanic or Latino population from 2018-2022 - 92.3%**
 - Age Cohorts 20-34 in Gage Park 2018-2022 - 23.8%
- **Educational Attainment 2018-2022**
 - Less than high school diploma - 29.9%
 - High school diploma or equivalent - 38.5%
 - Some college, no degree - 15.3%
 - Associates degree - 5%
 - Bachelor's degree - 9%
 - Graduate or professional degree - 2.3%

West Elsdon:

- **Hispanic or Latino population from 2018-2022 - 81.2%**
 - Age Cohorts 20-34 in Gage Park 2018-2022 - 21.2%
- **Educational Attainment 2018-2022**
 - Less than high school diploma - 26.7%
 - High school diploma or equivalent - 32%
 - Some college, no degree - 17.2%
 - Associates degree - 6.6%
 - Bachelor's degree - 11%
 - Graduate or professional degree - 6.6%

Crime Grade:

- **Englewood Area**
 - Overall crime grade: F
 - A crime occurs every 4 hours and 52 minutes
- **Gage Park**
 - Overall crime grade: F
 - A crime occurs every 4 hours and 33 minutes (on average) in Gage Park
- **West Englewood**
 - Overall crime rate 9,551 per 100,000 people making it twice the Chicago average.
- **Englewood**
 - In 2022 the south side of Englewood the crime rate in Englewood was 125% higher than the Chicago average.

Sources:

[Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning \(Gage park\)](#)
[Crimegrade.org](#)
[Fox 32 News](#)

