

Visit an ethnic church Attend a church service at one of the ethnic churches in your area, but not your own church. An ethnic church is a church where the leadership and membership come from outside USA and/or Canada and/or where serves are conducted in another language besides English. Having words like “international assembly” or “world center” does not necessarily make a church ethnic. For this assignment, you must visit a Christian church, not an Islamic Mosque or a Buddhist Temple etc After attending the church service, post a 500-word report describing the service from a communication perspective: How did this service differ from a service in their local church. A word of caution: if there is absolutely no difference between the language, style of worship in this church and your own, you may want to look for a different church to visit. If you live in the metro Atlanta area, my suggestions are:

Greetings Dr. Reddy,

I had the honor of attending service at The Albany Hispanic Church located at 611 6th Avenue, Albany, GA. 31701. Tel: 229-291-5750.

I appreciate you, Dr Reddy for letting me know that this Church worships on Saturday. That is the first thing that made this service different from mine. I was pleased, even though this is a busy day for the Thrift store business that I have that this

assignment would not conflict with my Church attendance on Sunday. I left the thrift store with plenty of time to get to Sixth Avenue, only to find out as I approached to make my turn, the street was blocked and there were runners with the right of way. As I went to Fifth Avenue to turn, a Police car blocked me. So the officer told me to follow him, as he was not familiar with the Church, but he led me to 6th Avenue to avoid the runners. The runners at the end of the street directed me in. The Service had started; the congregation was watching a film. I was greeted at the door by this nice gentleman. As he escorted me to sit on the bench in the back, his wife turned around and shook my hand and welcomed me. I observed families with children sitting together. Then I also noted the couples were hugging each other when the congregation stood.

How did this service differ from a service in their local church?

Although they meet on Saturdays at 11 am for worship service, it is not a different religion; it is a main stream Christian Church. I am so glad you made it clear that It is a Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they believe the same as you and me—that the Trinity of three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—make up one God. From a communication perspective, this service was quite different from my regular service, in that the total service was in Spanish. Actually there was a lot of difficulty communicating

verbally. But this very small congregation of less than 30 people including children was a pleasant and welcoming experience.

I picked up on the fact that the Church Service I experienced is quite different from ours. They were at church as a family. First of all the décor was a simple layout of the communion table that has the inscription of in remembrance of me, Then there was an old rugged cross with crown of thorn on top and a purple curtain draped over the cross. As they finished watching the film, I would hear them make a statement and I would hear everyone say amen in unisons. The person played the music that was recorded as the congregation stood and sang. The words were on the screen, but still not in English. The people sang the hymn with a bit of enthusiasm. But overall, the speaker did not capture their attention. There was not an amen to anything that he said, but more like talking to each other and trying to keep the children disciplined. One little 3 or 4 year old was crawling up the steps to the pulpit.

One young lady was just fascinated with the pretty long black hair of the lady sitting next to her, for she got her practice in to become a cosmetologist by fixing her hair in a ball. Pastor Briones was not there and the man that filled in for him came with a sermon in Spanish of course. He spoke in a monotone voice and he did not command the attention of the congregation. There was a lot of commotion and the man sitting next to me was holding a small baby

while he (the man) not the baby slept. Everybody was concerned with the one little boy who cried and ranted and was out of control. These things I mention show that we are somewhat the same. They love family as we do. But I must say the Ushers at my Church would not let the children go un- attended like that.

After service, I talked to one gentleman who had on a suit, he was very friendly and tried to explain that they were having a festival that afternoon which was why not many people were there. He had difficulty with English so he called his wife and she was nice and invited me to come back for the festival. I asked her if she knew where most of the people were born?. And do most of them speak English? She said some were born in America and some from Mexico, El Salvador and other places.

I did learn a lot about Latinx culture. I learned that the name refers to people of Latin American origin or descent... the word is used as a gender neutral or non binary alternative to Latino or Latina.

Submitted by: Marie Mahan