

REPORT FOR GARDNER HALL

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Brethren from Odessa, Texas working on sending out Spanish materials to different parts of the Spanish-speaking world.



Kids at the bilingual church going up the elevator to their "classroom" in a sister's apartment.

Midland Texas

I'm enjoying a meeting this week with the Woodcrest Drive congregation in Midland, Texas. I came to know some of these brethren through previous meetings with the Hispanic congregations here and in Odessa. The English speaking work in Midland has had its ups and downs through the years, but this group of about 60 seems in a very good position to grow. There is a good mixture of older and middle aged "Anglo" brethren who have formed close bonds with a growing number of second generation Hispanics and their children. One perceptive brother stated that this congregation is a microcosm of

Texas—older "Anglos" and younger Hispanics and that the key for future growth in the kingdom here will involve the blending of those cultures in Christ.

Since services at Woodcrest Drive are early on Sunday afternoons (4PM), I was able to meet at 6 PM with the Hispanic brethren in Odessa, a thriving group of loving brethren where Wayne Partain used to work before going to South Carolina. I was especially thrilled to see how the congregation has organized itself to mail out Spanish material all over Latin America. This is an invaluable work and the brethren are diligent in fulfilling it.

In Depth Studies in Exodus

Jeff Smelser arranged this series of lessons that was very encouraging and edifying. (Picture below) Speakers analyzed some tough issues in the book.



Fair Lawn

I've mentioned the growing closeness among many of the Hispanic brethren in Fair Lawn. **Marcela Seel**, a relatively new Christian, has organized a monthly ladies Bible study and prayer gathering. I notice that the sisters and the brethren in general are doing more things together away from the building and are spending so much time together after services that we're in the parking lot for almost 45 minutes after services.

New York City

Our new bilingual congregation that meets on 139th Street is maturing. It is a joy to see the growing closeness of the brethren and their devotion to the word and to prayer. Members are primarily in their teens and twenties. Usually we hear cries that congregations need more young people. We need more old folks!

The congregation in Upper Manhattan is doing well enough after the establishment of the bilingual work. About a dozen of us from the bilingual work continue to worship on Sunday mornings at Sherman Avenue before we go to the new congregation, which meets at 1:30. Attendance has dropped only slightly which is a blessing in a way, because before the bilingual group started meeting, they were busting at the seams, a fire marshal's nightmare.