

Report for Gardner Hall

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Congregation in Presidente Derqui with visitors



Bill and Alejandro Correa, overlooking Comodoro

Trip to Argentina

Bill Sanchez and I enjoyed a little over two weeks with brethren in Argentina. Beverly and I lived in Argentina in the early 1980's and have maintained contact with many brethren there.

The churches I knew in the 1980's have enjoyed moderate growth and there are a number of new, small congregations. Many of the children of the Christians I knew in the 1980's are in their 30's, have stayed faithful to the Lord, and now form the nucleus of the congregations around Buenos Aires. They are better off financially than their parents. Almost no known Christians had automobiles in the 1980's. Now most have them. Unfortunately, with the growth in prosperity, worldliness is affecting dress and entertainment choices just as in many places in the States. However, most of the brethren are very loving and close to each other.

Mendoza –Bill and I first visited this congregation in the western part of Argentina at the foot of the Andes Mountains. This is where Tom Holley worked for many years. A number of brethren have moved from here to other parts of Argentina. Fernando Venegas does most of the preaching.

Boulogne Sur Mer – This congregation of about 30 is the closest known group to downtown Buenos Aires. They rented a hall several kilometers from their meeting place to be able to hold the large number of visitors for two evenings. I would estimate that we had 60 or 70 present for the services at the rented hall. On Tuesday, March 24, a national holiday in Argentina, about 75 brethren gathered in a recreational center for a several lessons on the Christian home.

Comodoro Rivadavia, Rawson –Alejandro Correa started the congregation in Comodoro. He was a leader in a Pentecostal Church. However, he found biblical truths on the Internet that shook his faith in Pentecostalism. He and his companion, Christian Alvarez, baptized each other and began preaching the gospel as found in the New Testament. There are currently about a dozen brethren meeting in Comodoro Rivadavia. I double-checked and believe that the congregation in Comodoro is the southernmost known congregation in the world. It is as far south as Montreal, Canada is north. Alejandro and Christian are active in evangelism and have contacts throughout Southern Argentina. They drove us six hours to Rawson where they had baptized about a dozen people out of a Pentecostal church. All but one lady and her teenage children have fallen away. However, since returning to the States, I have seen that another young man has been baptized in Rawson.

Presidente Derqui – When returning to Buenos Aires we spent two days with this congregation, one of the oldest in the country. My good friend, Jorge Trolla, has done good work here.

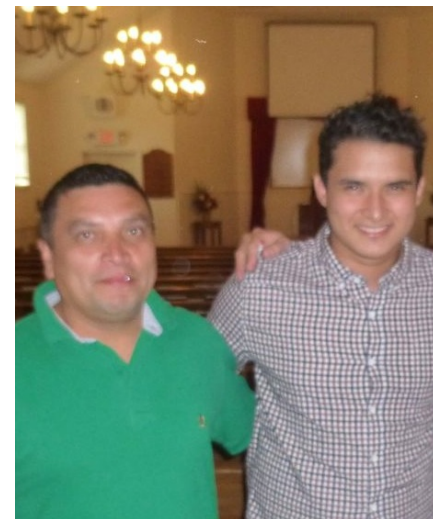
Singing camp in Escobar– Individuals in Chile have had singing camps for a number of years, motivated by Philip Morgan, a pioneer in the work there and one of my heroes. Brethren in Argentina have starting having them each year with the help of Chilean brethren. Bill and I spent almost three days at this camp in Escobar before returning to the States.

Beverly's mother

Beverly's mother has declined in her health since the first of the year. For that reason, Beverly and I decided to bring her to New Jersey to live with us. After spending a few days in Jersey, she became so ill we took her to the emergency room where doctors discovered a large inoperable tumor in her brain. So, we have taken her back to Georgia and placed her in a nursing home. Beverly is still with her.

Misc.

Though I have managed to avoid missing many Sundays, my many trips to Georgia plus the trip to Argentina have taken me away from this area more than I would like. We have lost three weak members at West Harlem, but have a number of new contacts. One kind man, Concepcion, in green shirt below and who has visited with us at Fair Lawn for a number of months, was baptized and is growing.



Concepción and Bruno