

Report for Gardner Hall

June 13, 2014

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Miguel Rosario



Left to right: Erika, Marina, Lidia, Yaime

I must get this report out early, and will write about some special people from this area who have been on my mind in the past few months.

Miguel Rosario

I met Miguel, originally from Puerto Rico, soon after moving here in 1982. He worked with a small congregation on Beach Avenue in the Bronx. He eventually became a member of the congregation at Sherman Avenue where he worked hard to teach the brethren, especially trying to help them distance themselves from some of the sectarian concepts and lackadaisical attitudes about marriage that are prominent in Caribbean culture. He then became a member of the new English-speaking congregation that Tom Beeler started, which began to meet on Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan. If Miguel had a weakness, it was his impatience with those who didn't study themselves out of error as quickly as he did. Miguel and his wife, Margo, were great helps to me when we started our summer camp in 1999. He passed away last week from complications after an operation for a brain tumor.

Marina Guzman

Marina heard the gospel first when a friend, Rosa Martinez, introduced her to several of us after the death of her sister. Emily Hall did the bulk of teaching at first with Marina. She realized after hearing a sermon by Buddy Payne that her baptism in a Pentecostal church was not Christ's baptism and was baptized according to His teaching. She invites everyone she knows to study the Bible or visit the bilingual church in Manhattan. Someone observed after visiting the office where she works, that every person in the office had either been at services or had a personal Bible study through Marina's invitations. One of her friends, Erika, was recently baptized into Christ by Caleb Churchill and is growing in Christ.

Francisco Sanchez

Beverly and I visited the Hispanic congregation in Flushing last Sunday and saw Francisco Sanchez, his wife Glenda and baby girl. Someone asked me one time what was the best thing about this type of work, and people like Francisco would be it. He came to us as a very insecure but sincere teenager. He was practically abandoned by his parents and lived with various family members until he joined the Navy where he almost completely lost his faith. However, through it all, he remembered the teachings of Jesus Christ and when he left the Navy, he came back to New York, reestablished himself spiritually in the congregation in Flushing, married Glenda and is now finishing up his studies to be an X-ray technician at St. John's University. To see him a mature seeker of God after such a tough background, and rough experience in the Navy is a testimony to the power of the gospel.

Melvin

Melvin is a gentle and intelligent young man who is a youth leader in his Pentecostal church. He met Sarash Sarante in a class at college and she invited him to visit the West Harlem congregation. He was immediately struck with the emphasis on scripture and other contrasts with his Pentecostal church. He has been studying with Tim Bunting and seen the difference between Christ's way and the system of which he's been a part. He says that he has always had doubts about some of the things he's observed. But now, Melvin's family and old friends are criticizing him because of his association with us. He's just texted me that his father is very upset at him. Melvin hates the conflict that he knows is coming and we are trying to gently teach him that such is inevitable when following Christ. Please pray for him that God's word may give him courage.



Nelly Alarcón, Francisco, Glenda and baby Camilia