

Report for Gardner Hall

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P.O. Box 123
Port Murray, NJ 07865
GardnerHall3@gmail.com
www.gardnerhall.com



Altagracia is on the front in gray blouse



Luisaura is on the left with her friend, Soranny

Baptisms and Studies in New Jersey

* Altagracia has been the home attendant for German Ortiz's mother, Eulogia. German asked her for a home Bible study and she accepted. We've read through portions of Luke with Altagracia to teach her the fundamentals about Christ, His teaching and death. When Altagracia asked about baptism we read about the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8 and the Philippian jailor in Acts 16. I then told her that whenever she was ready, we would be happy to baptize her into Christ just like the eunuch and the Philippian jailor. I said, "we'll even do it right now if you want."

"Why not?" she said. "I want to obey Christ right now."

So, we called German Ortiz who was on an outing at the lake with a group of family friends and we all met at the Fair Lawn building and baptized Altagracia.

Altagracia just lost the father of her children and now has had to go to the Dominican Republic because her brother is in critical condition. Please pray for her

* For the past several years I have read the Bible on Saturdays in the home of Raquel Tejada. Though progress has been slow in some ways, the large family always receives me with open arms. From the very beginning I've always been impressed with shy little Luisaura, Raquel's youngest daughter. She has always soaked in the message of the books we've read, which now includes a large portion of the New Testament. I've tried to encourage Luisaura to go to our camps, but she's been too shy. This year, however, she got up the courage to go and immediately became friends with some of our best campers and counselors. Last week Luisaura was baptized at Cami Bunting's "FAR" camp (Far Above Rubies). The association with fervent young disciples has helped bring her out of her shyness and show her fun loving and happy personality.

These baptisms for the Spanish-speaking congregation at Fair Lawn will help the already improving atmosphere. Better communications has helped with some of the misunderstandings we have had in the past few months.

Hectic times

Thanks to the influence of God's word and His people, we have been able to get through the last frantic months. Immediately after our New Jersey Camp, I went to LaFayette, Georgia for the funeral of my mother-in-law. Then after several weeks we returned to LaFayette to finish cleaning out her house and bringing some of the furniture to New Jersey in a Penske truck. This was an emotional time for Beverly and me for several reasons, but the work had to be done. Through it all it was necessary to try to keep up with the projects that have become part of our routine: the recorded daily Bible messages, the publication of our paper, *Creced*, sermon and class preparation and trips into New York City and Northeast New Jersey for Bible studies.

Preaching Trips, Etc.

We enjoyed brief trips to the Wildercroft congregation in Riverdale, Maryland and to the new Haymarket, Virginia congregation. We had the pleasure of spending the night in Haymarket with Jeffrey and Jean Smith and several of their children. The visit with them gave us a boost!

I'm looking forward to a meeting at the Market Street congregation in Athens, Alabama in Spanish September 10-12 and in English from September 13-17. Then I hope to be with the Spanish-speaking congregation in Lewisville, Texas, October 7-11.

The congregation at West Harlem continues to do well. We had an excellent meeting with Scott Smelser who spoke about reasons for belief.

I spent last week at Joe Work's "Sons of Light" camp, teaching about 60 young men and counselors about preparing for marriage. What a blessing it is to have Joe and his family in New Jersey!



Rebecca and David came over to visit with his parents. He took this shot of the four of us.