

Newsletter from the Alvarados

October 2009

Greetings from Panama!

It's always a joy for us to share with you the fruits of our mission effort in Panama.

Our local congregation in Panama City, which is "Iglesia de Cristo Metropolitana", is working through 8 ministries which are evangelism, education, benevolence, worship, communication, youth, children and finance. Each ministry is led by a coordinator and an assistant. Hopefully, elders and deacons can be developed from among these leaders. This is in accordance with our goal of having an organized church by the end of 2012.



Coordinators and assistants- Iglesia de Cristo Metropolitana

The homes of Freddy and Aida Mojica, and Sonia Ketcherson have become the center of Biblical training for new converts. We alternate our Thursday Bible classes using the homes of these two faithful families. The discipleship of these new converters not only consists in teaching them Bible lessons, but also in sharing our own lives with them. Therefore, we're committed to be an example for them.



Bible class for new converters at Sonia's house

The conversion of Erica Guerrero (Sep. 29th) is the result of the Sovereign Grace of God. Two years ago, her 6 years old daughter, Melanie Guerrero, fell from a 2nd floor building on to one of our main avenues. She was unconscious on the street when Karen Jones, a former member of our local church, was passing by in a taxi and saw the incident. Karen asked the taxi driver to stop and then ran toward the little girl and took her to the hospital. Karen called me to visit Melanie at the hospital, to pray for her and to comfort her parents. Then, I started visiting Melanie's parents to pray and to study the Bible with them. After two years of this accident, Melanie's mother decided to be baptized. Melanie's father, Antonio, was a member of an evangelical church, but now he's faithfully participating in the Bible study which is conducted in their home every Friday evening.



Antonio, Erica & Melanie Guerrero

It's a great joy to announce to you the beginning of our Bible training school, which took place on October 3rd. Our guest teacher for the inauguration of the school was Dr. Wade Bedwell who is a member and teacher at Park Plaza church of Christ. During three days (Oct. 3^r, 9th & 17th) Brother Wade taught 5 lessons based on the letter of James. 12 students are enrolled in this training program of 6 semesters. The purpose of this program is to train

faithful men and women to become leaders in the congregations of the metropolitan area and to establish churches in strategic cities of Panama.

Wade and Emma Bedwell were also the guest speakers during our Marriage retreat, which took place on October 10 & 11 in a beautiful town called “El Valle de Anton”. 14 couples participated in this activity. The lessons taught by the Bedwells encouraged us to strengthen and enrich our marriage and family.



Marriage Retreat-Valle de Anton -----Emma, Betty, Raul & Wade

The main focus of our mission effort is the metropolitan area of Panama City. However, occasionally we participate in some of the activities of other congregations in the country. On September 27th, I was invited to preach at a gospel meeting which took place in a Kuna Indian village called “Ipeti” which is located in the western area of the province of Panama. Brother Alvariño, the Kuna preacher of this village, translated my messages into the Kuna language. 9 people from this village were baptized into Christ during this campaign.



Alvariño's family – Preacher at the Kuna village in Ipeti

Betty has been working as Principal at Curundu Christian Bilingual School since 2001. I've been collaborating with her as the Bible and Computer teacher. It's so rewarding to see the academic and spiritual improvement of our students. To witness their growth in the knowledge of God and the Word encourages us to continue with this good ministry. We're thankful to the Lord because he helped us achieve our goal of having 75 students for this year. The graduation of our second promotion of 6 grade students will take place on December 9th.



Bible class at CCBS- III & IV grade



Bible class at CCBS-V & VI grade

October 31st is the last day of the “work season” in Panama. We call November “the month of the country” (Nov. 3rd of 1903 was our separation from Colombia; Nov. 28th of 1821 was our independence from Spain). On the Panamanian calendar November and December are full of holidays. For most of the Panamanians work is not the priority during these 2 months. However, in the mist of this atmosphere of celebration, we will keep sharing the gospel in our nation “in season and out of season”. Thank you so much for collaborating with us in this great mission.

In Christ,

Raul and Betty Alvarado