

# JULY/AUGUST 2009 REPORT

August 28, 2009

Dear brethren,

Trust you are well and enjoying the nice HOT weather—I don't want to hear how cool it is there, I'm jealous enough as it is. So far the 4 tropical systems this year have missed us, but the height of hurricane season here is Sept. 10-17. In the meantime it's hot and humid.

The work here has really picked up during the last week of July and August. I now have 2 scheduled classes with non-Christians as well as 2 studies with brethren. I continue to study with Luis Gonzalez, the grandson of Sister Carmen Cruz, a member of the Spanish speaking church. We lack on lesson to finish our series and he has grasped everything so far. He and his Pentecostal girlfriend broke up in July—don't know why, but suspect "religion" had something to do with it. He also changed jobs the 1st of August, not his choice, and his salary is about half what it was so the 1st couple of Sundays he took side work and missed services. He's been there the last 2 Sundays and had a friend there last Sunday. Please pray for Luis, that he may continue to grow and become a Christian soon. Dana and I also studied with Emmanuel & Nachie the first lesson. She was very interested but he was very resistant, so we'll see how this goes in the future.

I also study at least once a week with Prince, a guy from Dominica who's lived here for some years. He's under house arrest at this time—everyone sees it as a false accusation, but I literally have a captive audience. He's visited before in Spanish, but understands English much better. His father is a Christian in Dominica—in fact the church met in his house until they got their own building, but this must have been after Prince left home. So far he's very interested—we talked about elders/pastors/bishops on Tues. so he asked about the Catholic priests and celibacy, then about the women "pastors", etc. We continually pray for the truth to come out about the charge and that he may grow in his faith. He was a member of the Gospel Mission, a Calvinistic church I see only in Dominica. Each congregation is autonomous, so I'm told one of them doesn't use instruments of music.

I continue to lunch with Raul Marquez once a week and we began to study during that time a couple of weeks ago. I also resumed studying with Nicanor Ayala on Sat. morning. Nicky changed jobs—he was only working half a day but now is working full time. The only problem is that it's in Juncos, which takes him about an hour to get to work in the morning, then 1 ½ hours to get home. But at least he is off on Sat. & Sunday.

We had several visitors during July and August—our daughter Kristi was here for 10 days, then Nick Alejo was here for 2 weeks. Nick is a young man from Elgin, IL whom we first met when we worked together in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, a couple of years ago. He preached at Caparra, Dorado (Wed. night), and Moca. He and I passed out the advertising fans 3 or 4 times—a total of 1500 fans in all, with NO response. We were glad to have Nick here.

Our attendance has been up and down, with some traveling, a little sickness, etc. In English we averaged 10 on Sunday and in Spanish we have had as few as 8 and as many as 18. Please pray for Nicole Buitrago, a young sister whose family are not Christians. Mid-July they decided to hinder her coming every way they could. They went out of town 2 Sundays, promising she would have a way to services, but that morning there was nothing. The last 2 Wed. nights she's had to accompany family to the Dr. and has missed—Doctors here don't work by appointment, so going to the Dr. is usually an all day (and part of the night) affair. You can imagine what going to the ER is like. We plan to pick her up tomorrow afternoon to avoid this on Sunday.

Nellie, a sister in the Spanish speaking church, was in Santo Domingo for a couple of weeks at the sudden death of her brother. They were able to worship with one of the churches in San Pedro de Macoris, so now know where to go in future visits. Carmen Burgos' grandson was born the end of July and at 16 days old had heart surgery in TN. All went well and the prognosis is that he should never be bothered by this again. She spent 2 weeks in Franklin, TN. Brother Cesar Fernandez, of the Spanish speaking church, is feeling much better—he has regained 15 pounds, so actually looks healthy again. He'll be 92 in Nov.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Joel and Anna Holt, to work with us at Caparra. They are scheduled to move around the end of September and will stay with us until they find a house/apartment.

My level of support remains the same, for which we are very thankful to God and to you. May the Lord continue to bless you in all things.

Your brother,  
Tol Burk