



Puerto Rico Report

“The Lord is king, let the earth have joy; let all the islands be glad.” Psalm 97:1

The Milk of the Word

2010 could not have started out any better than it did for us at Caparra Terrace. As most all of you know by now, Luis Gonzales (pictured on back page, front row) was baptized Tuesday, January 26, and he is excited about his new life in Christ. He is continuing the weekly studies that Tol is teaching, and is eager to learn everything he can. He has told his mother that she needs to talk to us about the truth, and of course there is no way of knowing if she will or not at this point, but Luis has certainly begun to work on his family members, trying to get them to see the truth also (and he has an enormous family, so there are many potential opportunities).

Studies continue with Guillermo and Leticia. Things have slowed down with them a bit this month as school has started for her, and he has been swamped with work in his video business (he shoots weddings and other events). We have studied with them a couple of times, though, and they are always full of questions. In our last study, Leticia brought her cousin who is visiting from the States, and she had several questions herself, so perhaps there is an additional opportunity there. Be praying that their interest remains high as there are now a lot more distractions in their life than there were during the holidays when school was out, and be praying that they will continue to accept the truth as it is being taught.

Guillermo’s friend, Wilkins Reyes, that visited a few times with him in the early going, is now regularly attending with us, and we have begun studying with him. He is an extremely smart, genuine guy, but he has not been exposed to studying the Bible much in his life, so while he knows several of the major stories and doctrines, he is not familiar with even basic concepts like what the Old and

New Testaments are, or what a “gentile” is. He is not strongly connected with any false religious group, and considers Caparra Terrace “his church,” so it has been a joy teaching him. He evaluates everything carefully, but it is not hard to convince him of what the Bible obviously says because he has very few biases against it.



Left to Right: Guillermo Sanchez, Anna Holt, Wilkins Reyes, Leticia Padilla

I’m sure you can see why this month’s front page is titled

“The Milk of the Word.” We have been very busy teaching basics of late, and it is exciting to see every-one progress as the Word takes its effect.

A couple of quick notes to finish up. The Spanish-speaking group is going to begin meeting on Thursday nights. Previously there had been no mid-week service, but so many of those we are studying with asked about them that the members thought it would be good to start them. That is a very positive step. Also, the Spanish-speaking group will be having a gospel meeting later this month, February 23-25, with Valente Rodriguez.

February 9, 2009

In this month's installment of "Getting to Know Your Brethren," I'll introduce you to Raul Marquez, another one of the members of the Spanish-speaking group.

Raul has been a Christian for many years, and is quite knowledgeable in the Scriptures. Like many here, his earliest experiences in the church were among liberal brethren, but he has seen the truth on those issues for several years. His knowledge of world history as it relates to Bible events makes him a very enjoyable person to talk to about the Scriptures. I get that opportunity weekly as Tol and I meet with him nearly every week to study and spend time together over his lunch break. He is a capable teacher, and is concerned about reaching the lost. He regularly makes attempts to reach out to those who do not know the truth.



Back Row, Right: Raul Marquez

As zealous as he is, however, he has a difficult life, and there are many things pulling at him from all directions. His wife is not a Christian, which makes it difficult as he has little support from her in his spiritual efforts, and friction from her at times as he tries to make good spiritual decisions regarding their family. To support his family he has to work two jobs, and at times he has worked three. On top of all of this, to eventually try to get out of the job situation, he is working on his doctorate, two courses at a time, which drains more time and energy from him. He is a kind, knowledgeable man, who loves the Lord deeply, but he could certainly use your prayers that he can get to the point where pressure is taken off of him and he can dedicate more energy to helping the church, which is where he wants it to go. Pray also that his wife will obey the truth.

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