

Hi everyone,

Thank you first of all for your patience in waiting for this report. My computer problems are not all fixed yet, but I am able to email all of you again. However, for this month, I'm not able to use the program I typically use to design the report, so it will be all reading with no pictures for this month.

Things continue to get busier and busier here. We still have all of our personal studies with Guillermo, Leticia, and Wilkins, but we have added one more since I last wrote. A man named Prince who is from one of the other islands, but has moved here, has been studying with us. He is a new contact for me, but Tol has studied with him before. He has had some marital trouble, and due to a vengeful wife has been accused of some things that landed him in jail for a while. He recently was released and is now under house arrest while waiting on the courts to settle the case. We expect that he will be fully cleared of the charges against him, and the judge has already cleared him of the severest of the charges, but until that time from the time he gets home from work in the afternoon until the next morning, he is under house arrest. All of this has caused him to seriously reconsider his life and to seek the Lord. He has studied well, and understands authority and the nature of the Lord's church on a general level. He needs to see how it applies to him specifically, however, and that often takes time to sink in. He hasn't yet seen, for example, that his baptism, which occurred six months after he was "saved" was not the baptism taught in the Bible. We will obviously continue to study these things with him in the coming weeks. He has some obstacles that he needs to overcome in his personal life as well. He is currently living with a woman, while still married to his current spouse. As should be clear to all of you by now, however, it does not look like reconciliation between him and his wife will happen for a long time, if ever. In our last study he admitted the fact that he is living in adultery, and suggested that if his wife divorced him that he would marry the woman he is currently with.. We explained that his only two options were to be reconciled to his spouse, or remain unmarried (in the case that his wife divorced him), but that under no circumstances could he be with his current girlfriend and be pleasing to God. This is also going to take time to sink in, and it will mean he will have a great sacrifice to make if his wife refuses to reconcile. It appears he has a long way to go yet before obeying, and no matter when he obeys, he has some great challenges in front of him.

The study with Guillermo and Leticia is continuing. It seems they have come to the realization that if the things we are teaching them about the authority of the Bible are true, then many of the people they love and are related to are lost. This is obviously very difficult for them to admit, and they are resisting it. However, they obviously see the truth of what we are teaching, and have trouble fighting against it. The fact that they have no desire to quit studying is encouraging to us, though, and the longer they study the more likely they will be to obey.

The study we're having with Wilkins Reyes is probably the most promising of all the studies. He knows what he needs to do to be saved, and is intent on doing it, but only when he thinks he's ready. He feels that there is a lot more he needs to know about the Bible before he obeys, and there are likely personal challenges for him that he hasn't yet admitted to us holding him back as well. Despite his delay, though, he admits that he needs to find God, and he is intently seeking Him. He is excited with every study, and has been bringing his 13 year old brother Carlos with him to several of the studies.

There have been a couple of visitors to the groups meeting at Caparra lately. One, named Teresita Vera, is a Christian who has moved to our area and is looking to worship with us. She was a Catholic just a few years ago, and was converted first by the Baptists and then by institutional brethren. She seems to be a dedicated Bible student, and she has agreed to study with Anna and Tol's wife, Dana. There was a

visitor just this past Sunday who has only been a Christian four months, and she is also going to be studying with the ladies. I do not know her name because I had preaching obligations at another congregation on the island this past Sunday, so my wife and I have only heard briefly that the studies will happen, but by April I should have more details.

Tol and I are going to be traveling on March 27-29 to St. Croix, a nearby island, to preach for a group there that currently has no full time evangelist. As many of you know, Tol used to preach there, and has close ties to the group, and we have agreed that one of us will go every month (alternating months) for one Sunday and preach for them and give them a boost and some aid in their work. While one of us goes, the other one will stay here and do the needed work at Caparra.

As I said before, we are getting busier and busier, which is a great blessing for us! We are grateful for your participation in our work through your prayers and communication with us. All of those that I have mentioned need your specific prayers for them, and I know that you are praying. Thank you very much for all you are doing.

Finally, Anna's mom continues to do well with her treatment. Orietta will have surgery to remove several more lymph nodes as a precautionary measure soon, but the doctors say that the carcinoma is well contained at this point, and she is still in remission from her leukemia. She will have a stem cell transplant at some point in the near future. They will be using her own stem cells, which will drastically cut down the possibility that her body will reject the transplant, and if the treatment works, she will be in very good shape on the leukemia end of things. They are still planning to radiate the carcinoma after the leukemia is taken care of. Her treatment could not be going much better at this point, and we thank God continuously for that and for all of your prayers for her.

Again, thank you for your patience in waiting for this, and hopefully by next month I'll be back up and running technology wise.

In Christ,

Joel