

**Newsletter from the Alvarados
August 22, 2010**



The Alvarado family - Isaac's farewell

Greetings from Panama!

We always thank God for giving us the opportunity to spread His Word in our country and to share the fruits of our mission effort with you.



Main Lecture: "Para Dios no hay fronteras"

Since 1996 I've participated in the Lecture "***Para Dios no hay fronteras***" ("***For God there are no boundaries***") as a guest speaker. Members from the churches of Christ of the Texan Valley and from northern Mexico assist to these lectures, which takes place every year during the summer. This year the Lecture was held in McAllen, Texas (July 27th- 30th). The

average attendance was 350. I presented the main topics for the 4 nights. Although the main purpose of this lecture is to edify the members, non-Christians are encouraged to participate. Out of the 30 visitors who attended the 4 days, 7 of them were baptized!!!



7 visitors responded to the Lord's invitation – [Valeria Santillana](#) was one of them

When I returned to Panama, I received the good news that **Ruben Natal** had been baptized on August 1st by **Norberto Lasso** who has become our collaborator in the ministry of evangelism. Ruben was deeply moved by the word during a Bible class led by Norberto. Ruben and his wife Gisella have been attending our Sunday worship since July. Gisella also expressed her desire to be baptized but wants to study the Bible more before she makes this decision.



Baptism of Ruben & his wife Gisella

Another man was added to God's family recently: **Enrique Salazar** had several Bible discussions with Norberto Lasso. As a result of these studies, Enrique responded to the invitation of Brother Jim Richardson who is charged of preaching the second Sunday of each month. On August 8th Jim's message (***Transparency in our relationship with God and with one another***) edified the church greatly and moved Enrique's heart deeply to surrender his live to Christ into the waters of baptism!!!



Lourdes Avila's baptism- August 16th

Ana Gabriela Ávila has been involved in the *Let's Start Taking* program for 2 years, participating Bible discussions in English with several LST groups. She invited her mom, **Lourdes Ávila**, to the last special dinner we had with a group who came from Tescoolosa, Alabama, to have fellowship with members of our local church and to honor the L.S.T.'s readers of ***the Instituto***

America High School. Encouraged by God's message and by our fellowship in Christ, Lourdes has been participating of our Sunday worships and church activities recently. Last Monday (August 16th), Norberto and I went to establish "a formal Bible study" with Lourdes. Amazingly, she expressed her decision to be baptized that same day!!! I have the great joy of baptizing this godly woman.

Lourdes' decision motivated her daughter **Ana Gabriela** to also obey the gospel of Christ. Ana Gabriela responded to the powerful message that Norberto Lasso preached today (August 22nd). After our Sunday worship, a group of members went together to the condo of a faithful Christian couple (Alis & Adofo Rios) to witness Ana Gabriela's baptism. "Gaby" is an influential leader at ***Instituto America High***

School. She has been inviting her classmates and friends from school to visit our congregation and to participate of the LST program. Now, as a new born Christian, she'll be more dynamic in doing this ministry.



Ana Gabriela's baptism – Aug. 22nd



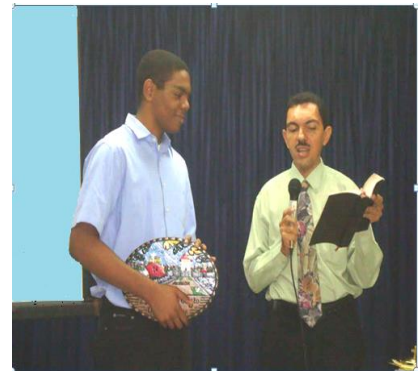
Breakfast & fellowship for seniors- Aug. 21

The second Saturday of each month the seniors of our local congregation meet together to have breakfast and Bible studies at different homes. Last Saturday (August 21st), they invited the seniors from the congregations of Pedregal and

San Miguelito which are located in the suburb of Panama City. 27 elderly people enjoyed this family fellowship at Maxine Wilson's house, who is a member of our local church. Betty and I have been conducting these activities for seniors for several years, but now other leaders are involved in this great ministry. Our goal for next year is to invite the seniors of all the congregations of the Metropolitan area to participate in this fellowship and to reach elderly non-Christian individuals with the gospel through this activity.



Besides these wonderful experiences we've had these last weeks, on August 15th the Metropolitan church of Christ in Panama City had an



Isaac's farewell message- Aug. 15

unforgettable moment.

Isaac receiving recognition

Instead of having the traditional "one Sunday sermon" - which we always enjoy - the church listened to 3 short messages: **our youngest son Isaac presented his farewell word of exhortation! He announced his departure from Panama to Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Isaac encouraged the church to keep the faith in Christ and to continue the communion of love with one another. He expressed his gratitude to each member for the opportunity he had to serve the Lord among us all these years (Isaac was 7 when we moved from California to Panama in September of 1999; on August 7th he turned 18). It was a very emotional moment!!!**



Raul Jr. message – August 15th

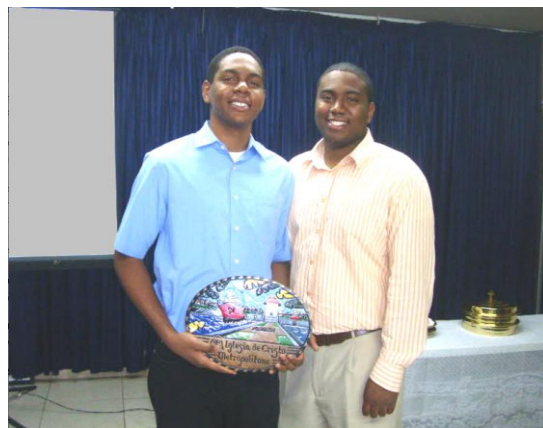
After Isaac's exhortation we sang one song and then Raul Jr. also spoke to the church for 10 minutes. He motivated each member to be aware of the presence of



Raul Sr. Message- August 15th

Christ in our lives and to be grateful for the blessings we receive from Him each day. He narrated some personal experiences he had in Panama, as the oldest son in our family, to emphasize that the Lord keep blessing us even in difficult moments. Following Raul's message, I encouraged the church to educate their kids in God's word to begin a new generation of children and grand children that will enjoy the fullness of Christ in their lives.

Isaac left Panama on August 17th to begin his college education at Harding University. He traveled to Searcy, Arkansas with Betty and Raul Jr. Next week Raul Jr. will start his Masters degree at Harding in Counseling & Marriage Therapy. Betty will return to Panama next Wednesday. It's so comfortable for Betty and I to know that Isaac will receive full support from his older brother at Harding.



Raul and Isaac are now together at Harding University

We're greatly thankful for your support which allows us to do the mission work in our country and also provides for the needs of our family. With your support you've been contributing with the Christian education of our children which will impact many generations with the gospel. Thank you so much for collaborating with us in this great mission.

In Christ love,

Raul Alvarado