

Newsletter from the Alvarados
(April, 2010)



The Metropolitan Church of Christ Youth Group

Greetings from Panama!

We are glad to inform you that our new sponsoring congregation is the Park Plaza Church of Church of Christ in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This is their address:

Park Plaza Church of Christ
4930 South Sheridan
Tulsa, OK 74146
Tel. 918- 627-3201
Fax 918- 627- 9713

It's always pleasant to keep you informed about the progress of our mission effort in Panama.



The J.O.S.I.A.S. GROUP



National Youth Convention
8 youth were baptized

On April 4th, the **JOSIAS group** (*“Jóvenes sirviendo al Señor”= “Youth serving the Lord”*) met with Betty and I and with our co-workers Elio and Serafina Vergara to give us an official report of the results of the National Youth Convention which took place on February 13-16 of this year. J.O.S.I.A.S is a group formed by 14 young adults who are members of several churches of Christ in the metropolitan area of Panama City. 3 of them are members of our local church. They're working under the supervision of our congregation (**La Iglesia de Cristo Metropolitana, “The Metropolitan Church of Christ**). Their mayor activity each year is the National Youth Convention. According to their report, **the attendance this year was 194**. It was a great joy to see **8 youth being baptized into Christ (two of them are worshipping with us)** during this activity. Betty, Serafina, Elio and I participated as gess teachers.

Training leaders is one of the most important projects we're developing this year as a means to reach the people in the city and our country with the gospel. Therefore, men and women are trained in our ***Christian School of Biblical Studies ("Escuela Cristiana de Estudios Bíblicos"- E.C.E.B.)***. On January 15th we began our second semester which will end on May 29th. Presently, **9 students** are participating in this training program which includes 6 semesters. This semester we are studying ***The Old Testament***. All the classes are derived from this topic.



Wade and Emma Bedwell



Wade Bedwell from Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, Oklahoma, taught several lessons about **The Torah** to our Bible school students (March 10th -18th). **Wade and his wife Emma** has been coming to Panama 4 times a year to collaborate with us in the mission work in Panama City. The Bedwells have been strongly involved in the ministry of teaching in **the Metropolitan church** and hosting our married couples at their home.

The Bedwells worshipping with our congregation

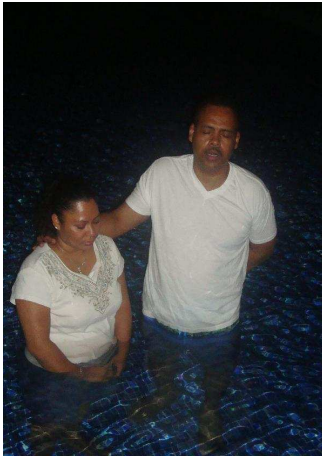


Jose&Ariel, Miguel&Kira at the Bedwell's home

Jim Richardson is also one of our teachers at our Bible school. Presently, he's teaching the **Historical Books of the Old Testament**. He was one of the elders at the church of Davis Park in Modesto, California. **Jim, Lynn and their daughter Libby Richardson** came from Modesto to live in Panama City on January 6th. Since then, they've been faithful members at our congregation. Jim is coordinating the ministry of visitation at the Children's Hospital and Lynn is teaching a series of Bible lessons at our ladies meetings. It's a great blessing for the Metropolitan church to have the Richardson family collaborating with us in the Lord's mission in Panama City.



Jim, Lynn and Libby Richardson



Leticia's baptism

Jennifer Mendoza is a Panamanian who graduated in Bible and Psychology at Harding University. Our son Raul Jr. shared the gospel of Christ with her when they were both in their undergraduate program. Even though Jennifer belonged to a strong Baptist family, she decided to be baptized during her last semester at Harding (spring of 2009). Jennifer returned to Panama in 2009 and became a faithful member and is teaching the children's Bible class on Sundays in our congregation. Now she's sharing the gospel of Christ with her family and friends. Jennifer gave us the wonderful news that one of her co-worker, **Leticia Gomez**, decided to be baptized into Christ! On April 9th, Leticia was submerged in the waters of baptism.



Jennifer and Leticia

2010 is a promising year for the Metropolitan Church. There are many activities we are developing, some of them are:

- **Organizing a gospel meeting at the University of Panama in unity with other congregations in Panama City for April 23- 25th.**
- **Giving with a cheerful heart to purchase a building to worship, start a school ministry, and a clinic.**
- **Developing a benevolence program to provide food for the needy.**
- **Improving our local and international communication by setting up a new web page.**
- **Encouraging our members to praise the Lord and to know him by studying and meditating in the word, and praying without ceasing.**
- **Sharing the word with the lost and being a living sacrifice for him in our daily lives.**



Betty and Raul enjoying the summer season in Panama

Our winter season officially began in April. This past summer season (Jan.-March) was full with blessings for the Metropolitan church. We know that the Lord will continue to bless our work in Panama as we strive to do his will, and we ask you to join us in prayer for these and many other congregational projects to be accomplished.

In Christ,

Raul and Betty Alvarado