

# Report for Gardner Hall

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*Eating with brethren from Flower Mound, Texas*



*Nathan & Jennifer Combs, their girls and Ernie and Jariel*

## Travels

It's always hard to determine how much time should be given to travel. I occasionally sense when returning from a trip that it's difficult to get some projects back on track. And yet, visits with brethren in other areas provide a boost to me and I hope to them. The past two months I have enjoyed visits with brethren in Alabama, Texas and Massachusetts.

### Market Street, Athens, Alabama

This is the oldest known congregation in the town where I was raised. I believe that I have grown closer to the brethren on each of my three visits.

The elders asked me to preach Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Spanish. A large number attended, not only from Athens, but also from the Calera congregation, south of Birmingham and the congregation in Russellville. I believe there were over 80 people present for Spanish services on Saturday night. There are some tough challenges in these works, but also much potential, especially among the large number of children.

It is always a pleasure to work with David Cox and Jordan Lovell. Jordan is a young evangelist who is a grandson of Billy Lovell, who hired me to work as a bricklayer helper when I was a teenager.

### Flower Mound, Texas

This was a meeting in Spanish arranged by Alberto Barrera, a respected evangelist who was also a friend of an admired uncle, Lynn Headrick. The congregation has about 60-75 in attendance, with a good balance of ages. These brethren are lovable and I found myself drawing close to them. A number of good friends from Midland and Odessa Texas made the five-hour drive to encourage the brethren in the meeting.

### Tyngsboro, Massachusetts

The congregation in Tyngsboro has been a rock in New England for decades. It has three good elders and has an impressive young evangelist, Nathan Combs. The elders here also helped organize a Spanish service on Sunday afternoon and we were thrilled to have around 50-60 in attendance, thanks especially to brethren from Lawrence, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island. I enjoyed taking two young men, Ernie Vasquez and Jariel Trinidad, with me to Tyngsboro.

## Local News

I feel a little better about missing services in West Harlem because they have three effective evangelists, Roger Polanco, Tim Bunting and Caleb Churchill working when I'm gone. However, they have had their share of travel. Tim spent the last month in Guatemala working on his Spanish.

Lately, I've had more personal projects in New Jersey. In addition to several mentioned in the last report, German Ortiz and I have made contact with Carlos Aybar from Jersey City, who has been in a Pentecostal congregation. He sees the contrast between truth and error and has told his "pastor" that he will not be returning. He has several challenges that he must face in giving himself completely to Christ, including the fact that he must change his job.

I presented a four lesson series at Fair Lawn on preparation for marriage for about 30 young people.



*Family picture from family reunion at St. Simon's Island, Georgia for my parents' 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*