

Report for Gardner Hall

July 6, 2015

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Meetings at Eastside in Athens

Jerry Falk and I conducted a special meeting with the Eastside congregation in Athens, Alabama in late June. We arrived in Athens the Friday before the meeting began on Sunday to give lessons in Spanish as part of a special weekend Bible study session for young Christians. Well over 100 teens and college age students attended, studying lessons on avoiding Satan's illusions. Members of the church at Eastside, primarily the deacons, wrote the material. Jerry and his wife Maria Elena translated all of it into Spanish. Jerry, Oscar Muñoz, Benjamin Muñoz and I presented the lessons in Spanish. Though the attendance in the classroom for the Spanish classes was small, the lessons were broadcast on Eastside's web TV and placed on Youtube.

Eastside has invested much into presenting sermons and material not only audibly on their web page, but also with video. Check out their website, www.eastside-church.org. You can not only see the lessons given at the youth studies, but also those presented in our meeting there, as well as the good preaching of Steve Klein and others.

It is always a joy to attend Eastside, the congregation where I was raised in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Many older members there were extremely kind to a sometimes-rambunctious boy. Many of their generation are passing on. However, there is a strong group of middle-aged and young adults, whose children form an impressive group of teens and children. The teens sit on the front rows, listening closely and taking notes. What a joy it is to see a larger thriving congregation with good leadership and Bible teaching!

Meeting with Antoine Holloway

Antoine Holloway gave a series of lessons on evangelism in a meeting at the West Harlem congregation. He has an effective way of getting his points across and gave us a number of ideas and Biblical principles that will help us

One young lady who I have known for a number of years, Delimar Diaz has been baptized into Christ. We hope that she and her husband, Misael, will grow in their faith along with their two little boys.

Beverly's Mother

Beverly's mother's passed away on July 2 at 90 years of age. She always encouraged Beverly and me in our efforts and will be missed. Beverly is taking the loss as well as could be expected. We are thankful for the excellent care she received during her last months on earth and happy that she didn't suffer too much with her brain cancer.



Enjoyed a day-long series of studies with men in Lawrence, Massachusetts

Camp

Our yearly camp is over and I feel a mixture of relief, joy and concern. The joy comes from seeing the spurt in enthusiasm and zeal among a large number of teens. The time spent praying, studying and confiding in spiritually minded peers has a visible effect upon many. The concern comes from finding out about deep emotional wounds in some because of family problems and sin in general. I find myself in a kind of "mini-ptsd" mode for a while after camp, waking up early in the morning worried about a few who are in deep trouble and hoping and praying that we have applied the best spiritual medicine we can to their problems. Certainly we are at war with Satan and with evil, and perhaps nowhere am I more aware of that than at camp, where young people are often more comfortable to reach out to others for help with the demons they must face.