

REPORT FOR GARDNER HALL

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During a break in recording. Left to right: The "Profe," Roger Polanco, Me, German Ortiz

TV Show

An open door for teaching has dropped in our lap to teach on TV. Through the recommendation of an old contact, a Dominican celebrity who calls himself the "Profe" (for Professor), offered to sell us 15 minutes of time to teach on his show at a price we can afford, at least for now. He is popular among Dominicans in New York and the Caribbean (he has almost a quarter of million "likes" on his Facebook page) and his show is on several cable systems.

The good news: Though the "Profe" sold us only 15 minutes a week, he has given us his entire hour at 10 PM on Tuesdays to teach our first four programs and it looks like he may do that for the foreseeable future. Roger Polanco is giving a series of messages on the book of Mark. When Roger was travelling, I gave a lesson on Luke 2 and Beto Guerrero presented one on Genesis 1-3. Though we haven't had a large number of new contacts yet, we know that thousands are watching. While on a break from recording, our host broadcast a live one-minute message to his fans on Facebook. Ten minutes later, that message had over 5000 views and 500 likes. We have to determine how best to use this opportunity.

The tough decisions: Our host, like many American celebrities, is sometimes crude in his humor, although he is always respectful towards us. Thankfully, he agreed to remove the most offensive commercial when we are broadcasting. Also, he and the other host can get us off topic and inject some weird comments into the conversation. In spite of these problems, I'm inclined to keep on sharing the whole hour with him. I think often in these situations about the importance of being as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves. Also, I think of Jesus eating with the tax collectors and sinners to seek opportunities to teach them.

The summer is the most hectic time of the year for us. We spend much time preparing to have almost 200 young people for our weeklong teaching opportunity at camp the first week of July.

Young disciples

A blessing of growing older is seeing children grow into spiritually minded adults. I've known Gabriel Romero since he was a child. He was always serious and inclined to Bible study. Now, he has decided to be baptized. His father immersed him into Christ last Saturday. (Gabriel is in the bright blue shirt in the photo.)

Another young man who has been a joy to watch is Gilberto Guerrero. Beto (as we call him) graduated last month from New Jersey Institute of Technology, but I am more proud of him for his spiritual growth. He has become quite advanced in his Bible knowledge and presented an excellent lesson on our television show last Monday night.

Scott Smelser's Series

Scott Smelser gave a series of lessons at West Harlem from 1 Corinthians on rising above the spiritual corruption of our age. The Corinthians' problems came from the fact that they did not get away from the corrupting influence of Corinth. Our own spiritual problems also come from a refusal to rise above our own corrupt culture, at least in some areas.

