

October 2008



▶ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
- Isaiah 52:7

Redeeming Recife

Speaking the truth in love



Here's a bug's eye (panoramic) view from the coffee table in our living room of the Bible study group meeting in our home.

The Word of God is eternal and more powerful than we can begin to imagine. However, for it to realize its purpose it needs our help — we must speak it in love.

God's plan for saving those we know is for us to sow His Word into their hearts, then water it with our loving service, and He will give the growth. [He doesn't have a plan 'B' for this.]

The challenge for many of us comes from not knowing just what to say, how to say it and when it needs to be said. After all, God hasn't equipped everyone to be an evangelist. God wants us to realize we need one another. So He has formed us into communities of believers (congregations) with diverse talents. There we'll find everything we need.

An excellent way of bringing this all together is a weekly small home Bible study group. It is 'small' (usually 6 to 12 people) so it fits in anyone's living room. It is in a 'home' so it has a warm and cozy feel. And the Bible is discussed giving the opportunity for

the Word to be sown into the hearts of those present.

Starting one of these is a relatively small sacrifice. With the blessing of the church's leadership, find someone who can open their home for a couple of hours every week. Then find someone (maybe your preacher or Bible school teacher) who can lead the study. Finally, find two or three fellow Christians who can commit to coming every week for the duration (you can all meet together beforehand to determine how many weeks this should be). Besides committing to coming, every member needs to commit to inviting their friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

In the one pictured above we have (from left to right) Manuela (visitor), Ana (member with the 'gift' to effectively invite people), Jonathan (our youngest), Pedro (member), Justin (our middle one), Aureni (hostess), me (teacher), Luis (new member), Gabriela (visitor), and Alda (visitor). ○

Entertaining angels

For Aureni and I, the high point since my last report was the visit of Lee and Sandy Mallett from the Hermosa Drive church of Christ in Artesia, NM. This was Sandy's first missionary journey but Lee was here once before five years ago.

It was too quick a visit but packed full of memorable activities. Among these were Lee teaching a group of sixty at the downtown congregation's mid-week prayer meeting on "How to pray more efficiently". He also taught, with Sandy's help, Joshua's advanced English Bible

course at the School of the Bible, with two dozen students, most of whom are visitors from the community.

However, the most meaningful moment for my family was when he spoke at a thanksgiving assembly where over a hundred came to express their gratitude to God for Joshua's graduation and safe return from Africa.

Besides all of this, Lee and Sandy were able to visit several congregations in the area and get acquainted with many of their brothers and sisters in the Family of God. ○



Lee (with Sandy) was shocked with how much Juliana, 16, (left) and Debra, 12, (right) had changed in 'only' five years (someone's getting old).