

Monday, September 12, 2011

Dear Family and Friends,

“...I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10) And, there is joy in our hearts as well as three precious souls have repented of their sins and have put Christ on in the watery grave of baptism. Please allow us to share this great news with you; we will start with the most recent conversion. After reading about these events, we are assured that you, too, will be rejoicing with us.

The most recent baptism happened yesterday morning, Sunday, September 11. His name is **Gilmar Ruben Barrios Pulex** and he came to us as a result of the World English Institute (WEI) classes that have been hosted here in Guatemala. Gilmar is a CPA and it is his third year to study English with WEI. However, it is his first year to express so much interest in God’s word and in his own spiritual welfare. We believe this interest was sparked due to Gilmar’s wife and children leaving the family’s denomination and going to another denomination. Since the family’s denomination had different beliefs from the one where his wife presently worships, Gilmar wanted to study more to “prove” his wife wrong. The WEI teachers and we gently told Gilmar that it is not simply about proving someone wrong but about searching the Scriptures to see how



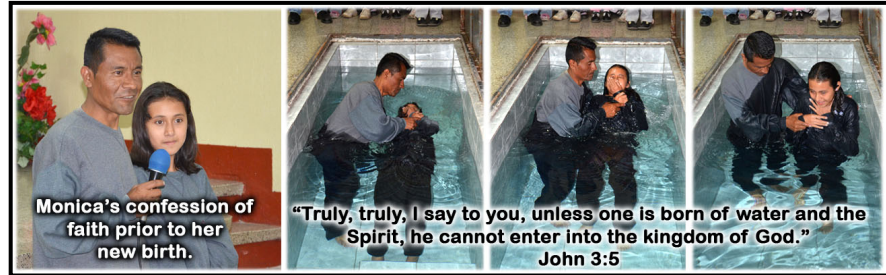
we can be pleasing to God. As a result, Gilmar not only found the truth, but he obeyed it. What a joy it is now to have him not only as a friend, but also as a brother.

Please keep Gilmar’s new walk with God in your prayers. Also, please keep his wife, **Miriam**, and their children in your prayers. We had our first Bible study with Gilmar and Miriam this past Saturday with the second one scheduled for this coming Saturday. Please pray that Miriam’s heart will be open to what God has to say in His word. Gilmar says his goal is to see himself and his family united once again in one church. Please pray that this will be her goal as well.

The second person, at least in this message, that has come to an obedient belief is **Monica Tovar**. Monica, who is 12 years of age, responded a few Sundays ago to the invitation after the morning sermon. Her response came as a surprise to everyone, even to her family. Not only was her response a surprise, but the response of her mother, **Isabel**, added a different dimension of surprise; she objected to Monica’s baptism. She remembers that one of Monica’s brothers was baptized at that age and had been “hit and miss” in his commitment to the Lord. She did not want that to happen to Monica.

After worship was over, we spoke with Isabel concerning her objection to her daughter’s baptism. We expressed that we definitely understood her concerns and that we and others in the Linda Vista family did not want Monica to enter this most important phase of her life without giving it the utmost thought. Thankfully, we had another brother of Monica’s to whom we could make reference. Her older brother was baptized at the same age and today he is still faithful to

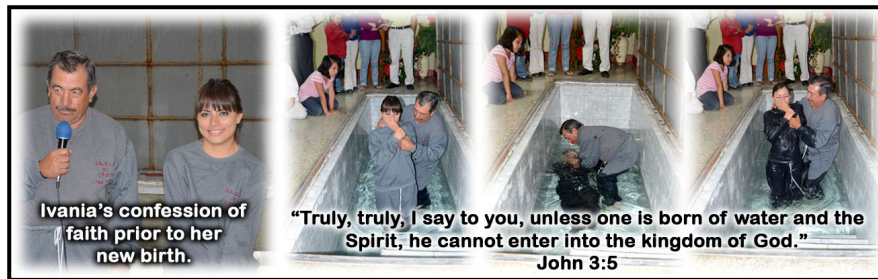
his commitment. Isabel and Monica had the entire afternoon to talk about the importance of becoming a child of God and the commitment that this means. Monica was immersed that evening.



Please keep her in your prayers. She is attending the new convert's class and we can see her knowledge of the Word increasing class by class. It may interest you to know that the other brother has since repented and recommitted his life to the Lord because of Monica's decision.

The good news does not stop here because there was another young lady converted before Monica about whom we have not written. Her name is **Ivania Arias**. She is a young lady that began coming to worship with one of the members of Linda Vista named **Dinora Aguilar**. Dinora had been sharing God's word with her. It is interesting that our relationship with Ivania goes back several years, when she was a little girl. We did not even recognize her after not seeing her for quite a long while. At that time, when we first met Ivania, we were studying the Bible with her mother, Sonya. Sadly, Sonya never made the decision to become a Christian. But,

some years later we are grateful to God to see her daughter obey.



It is noteworthy that in Ivania's situation her mother, too, was not eager for her to be baptized.

However, her reason was not the same as Isabel Tovar's. Sonya's objection had more to do with Ivania's change in lifestyle that could possibly affect her. Please pray that Ivania will have an effect on Sonya's life for the good. Pray that God will protect Ivania in her new life as a Christian. Also, please ask God to give her new family at Linda Vista the wisdom and knowledge to help her grow and mature in the faith.

Well, this concludes this report. We pray that you are rejoicing as we have already been rejoicing. It is always a joy to share such GREAT news with our family and friends. May God bless each one of you!!!

Con amor en Cristo,

Hawatthia  
Byron

“Teaching the CENTRAL MESSAGE in CENTRAL AMERICA!”