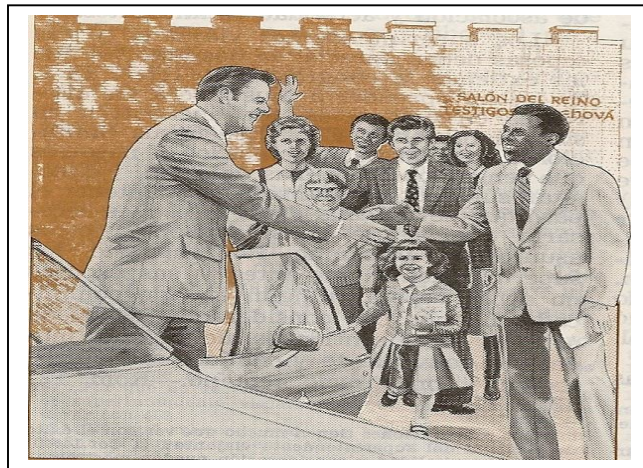


THE ROAD TO THE TRAVEL WORK



AS TRAVELING OVERSEER



PART OF MY HISTORY
AS A
CHRISTIAN TRAVELING
OVERSEER

FROM 1978-2003

By Paul Diaz Jr.
One of Jehovah's Witnesses





INTRODUCTION

I can truly say that my siblings and I were very blessed to have had parents that learned the truth and taught us Jehovah's ways and passed on to us a spiritual heritage. (De 11:19; Ps 71:17, 18).

Proverbs 2:1-9 has always been an encouragement to me to never leave Jehovah and his organization. It says there: *"My son, if you will receive my sayings and treasure up my own commandments with yourself, ² so as to pay attention to wisdom with your ear, that you may incline your heart to discernment; ³ if, moreover, you call out for understanding itself and you give forth your voice for discernment itself, ⁴ if you keep seeking for it as for silver, and as for hid treasures you keep searching for it, ⁵ in that case you will understand the fear of Jehovah, and you will find the very knowledge of God. ⁶ For Jehovah himself gives wisdom; out of his mouth there are knowledge and discernment. ⁷ And for the upright ones he will treasure up practical wisdom; for those walking in integrity he is a shield, ⁸ by observing the paths of judgment, and he will guard the very way of his loyal ones. ⁹ In that case you will understand righteousness and judgment and uprightness, the entire course of what is good"*.

As long as I can remember I always had the desire to do more than what I was doing in the congregation. I looked for ways to auxiliary pioneer with the longing to be a regular pioneer. After adjusting my affairs the circumstances finally opened to where I could regular pioneer. Mary was already in the Pioneer work.

During a visit from a traveling overseer, brother Al Wickman, who saw the potential in my wife and I, recommended us for the travel work back in the spring of 1978. While pioneering I worked for the Postal Service earning \$16,895.00 a year.

The best and the most favored correspondence I have ever received was my letter of appointment. It said in part; "Dear Brother Diaz: The Society is pleased to advise that you have been appointed to serve as a circuit overseer. Enclosed is you appointment letter assigning you to serve as you first assignment Spanish Circuit #S-16, in the Florida area of the country." The last paragraph in this letter said: "We will look forward to working with you in the circuit work. You and Sister Diaz have commendably put the interests in Jehovah's Service and are in position to be a source of joy and blessing to the ones you are privileged to serve. Be assured of our love and prayers. Your brothers, **Watchtower B & T, Society** OF NEW YORK, INC."

When we received the invitation for the travel work our allowance dropped to \$10 dollars a month each or to \$240.00 a year. We accepted the privilege and traveled to our first assignment in Orlando, FL.

When my wife and I dedicated ourselves to Jehovah through Jesus Christ, God set before us, figuratively speaking, a race. At the end of the race, a prize will be bestowed upon all those who finish successfully. What prize? Everlasting life! To win this magnificent prize, the Christian runner needs to be prepared, not for just a short, fast sprint, but for a long-distance run. So he will need endurance. He will have to endure both the long toil of the race itself and the obstacles that present themselves during the race. Hebrews 12:1 says: "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." We endured in the travel work for 25 years and continue to endure as Special Pioneers.

We've had our trials, changing beds often and at times having to stay in places that one was not accustomed to, but it was the best that our brothers could give and with much love. We also were

blessed to have a travel trailer, which was allowed during our privilege of service, and this was a big help.

To help my wife and I persist in the race, Jehovah provided power beyond what is normal. (2 Corinthians 4:7-9) Anything undergone for the sake of honoring God's name and upholding his sovereignty is a reason for a joy that no one can take away from us.

The joy that Mary and I had while in the circuit/travel work is beyond words. It was a wonderful privilege of service that few have the opportunity to enjoy. There are many qualified brothers and sisters that could serve but because of certain circumstances they can't. But support those who are serving as traveling overseers through the congregation visits.

One of our greatest privileges was meeting so many faithful brothers and sisters and being able to work with them in field service and being invited to their many homes for meals. In the travel work you will never go hungry, believe me. If you are not careful you could get very fat!

We learned a lot from the Pioneers and publishers. Mary and I had many opportunities to start Bible studies and many of these students were baptized before we moved on to another assignment. And because of the hard work of the pioneers and publishers the opportunity and privilege of recommending 87 new congregations opened up to me. And by working with many spiritual pioneers and elders I also had the privilege of recommending 8 couples into the circuit work. I signed many Bethel applications which some of them are still serving at Brooklyn, Wallkill or Patterson, NY.

Teaching the many schools the slave class provides like the *Pioneer Service*, and *Kingdom Ministry* schools is a marvelous privilege. Mary, had the privilege of attending three Pioneer Service Schools because of the three revisions of the "*Shining as Illuminators in the World*", book. In some of these pioneer schools there were some talented brothers and sisters that would make up poems or songs with the pioneer school and pioneers being the main focus of the song or poem.

My many co-instructors were very qualified and spiritual. Excellent examples. The refreshing and encouraging visits of the District overseers and their wives were very much appreciated. We always looked forward to their visits.

How precious is this spiritual heritage? We prize it very much to make the doing of God's will the most important thing in our lives. As evidence of that, we are heeding the counsel of his Word and his organization to be regular in attendance at all meetings of the Christian congregation and supporting the circuit overseer's visits to the fullest that our circumstances permit. (Hebrews 10:24, 25) That heritage is of such value to us that we continue to serve God in spite of any hardship. Our appreciation is strong enough to fortify us to resist any temptation or course that might lead to forfeiting it.

May all of you cherish the spiritual heritage that God has given us. While we keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Paradise ahead, let us share fully in the spiritual privileges that Jehovah is granting us now. By truly building our lives around our relationship with Jehovah, we give convincing evidence of just how precious to us our God-given heritage really is. May we be among those who declare: "I will exalt you, O my God the King, and I will bless your name to time indefinite, even forever."—Psalm 145:1.

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SOME EXPERIENCES AND HISTORY AS A CHRISTIAN TRAVELING OVERSEER

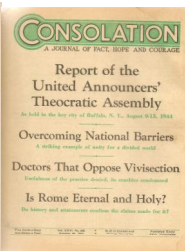
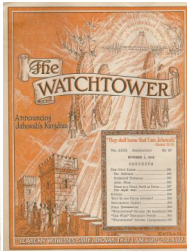
BY: Paul Díaz Jr.

I was born on July 23, 1935 in the county of Pueblo at Vineland, Colorado. I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

At the age of 6 ½ on or about April of 1942 a Sister (one of Jehovah's Witnesses) visited my parents and presented the Bible truths through a recorded message by brother Rutherford, using a portable phonograph player which later, I carried for my father I would wind it up and play a recorded message or talk of the Bible either in Spanish or English to the householder. (Phonograph on the left)



It is very interesting of how my parents became Jehovah's Witnesses. The day that a sister visited my parents, I believe it was on a Wednesday morning on or about 11:00 a.m. When she was about to leave, she invited my dad and mom to attend the meeting on Friday at 7:00 p.m., which my parents did. What ever was said at that meeting I do not remember, but it must have been pretty persuasive because the very next day my father had all of us out doing street work with the Watchtower and the Consolation. That is, we would stand on street corners with the magazines against our chests offering the magazines to those passing by. By having them against our chest the people could see them clearly and as they passed by we would say: "*Watchtower, Consolation, ten cents*". Later the Consolation was replaced with the Awake! Magazine. Below is my father, my brother and I doing street work in Pueblo, Colorado on a nice summer day. On the right side of the *Watchtower & Consolation*. My two aunts are also getting ready to go out on street work too. Notice that aunt Lala has her *Watchtower* bag in plain sight! On the extreme right are others getting ready to also do some street work at an assembly city.



The very first Kingdom Hall my parents took me to in Pueblo was the one pictured below. Notice the old car on the far right. This building is still standing, located on Adams and Michigan St. in Pueblo, CO. The 1942 Ford pictured below was what brothers used to announce the Kingdom and where we would have our next public meeting or assembly. No doubt that those were the days of much excitement as we saw Jehovah's organization grow. We as individuals grew too, in knowledge and changing our life styles and adjusting to new instructions. With some people it was difficult to change and adjust but the

struggle was worth it. One of the books that I remember well was the “Let God Be True”. In Spanish, “Sea Dios Veraz”. That book was used for many years and many learned the truth through that book.



KH in Pueblo



Undoubtedly the sound cars did a wonderful work in those days, covering all parts of the country and reaching many people with their powerful loudspeakers.

April 16, 1943 my father and mother symbolized their dedication by water baptism at a small circuit assembly that took place in Pueblo, CO. Four years later, on January 5, 1947, my younger brother Bill and I were also baptized at a circuit assembly held at Pueblo.

(Below is a picture of my parents. This picture was taken the year of 1947.) .

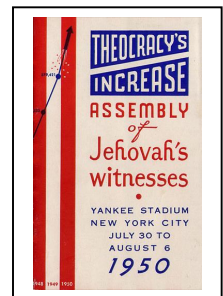


We can appreciate that a father who is presiding in a fine manner exerts himself to guide and care for his children. Much time and attention are involved in properly instructing them, aiding them both to love and fear Jehovah and to conduct themselves in an upright way. (Ps. 78:5-7; 34:11; Eph. 6:4) He cannot be neglecting them because he is more interested in working with or helping other people, or because he feels that his children will automatically “come out all right.” Our dad was very attentive to the needs of my siblings and myself.

The following years we attended meetings preached the good news of the Kingdom, attended many circuit assemblies. My brother Bill always volunteered to work in the cafeteria at the assemblies. (*Bill left and me in the background. 1947*) Due to the efforts of my parents in conducting bible studies, my father’s three sisters and two brothers also came into the truth, their children and their children’s children. We now have up to five generations in the truth or about 500 persons or better. Of course my parents studied with many others and within ten years of my parents sharing the truth and concentrating on the Spanish community, the first Spanish congregation in the state of Colorado was formed in Pueblo, in the year 1951 or 52 with most of my parents bible studies. It is believed that this congregation, in Pueblo was either the 3rd or 4th Spanish congregation formed in the entire United States.



One of my most wonderful memorable times is when we traveled to New York City, in 1950 to attend the first International Convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses. I was only 15 years of age. I remember that we stayed with a family who were not witnesses but rented to our family some rooms for our stay at 153rd Amsterdam, which was right in the Bronx. The convention was held at the New York Yankees baseball stadium. My brother and I were very excited about that because, this is where Babe Ruth had hit his home runs.



While we were in New York City we did visit Bethel at Brooklyn, NY. I remember the brothers working in making books and bibles and so forth. What is impressive to me, now that I am older, is finding out what my father did to get us to the International convention. He sold the house, our home! I do not know how much he sold it for but he was able to buy a 1946, Chevrolet Sedan



like this one. so that we could get to our destination and back safe and sound.

During the following years we kept busy attending meetings, circuit assemblies and preaching and learning many new things and making changes in our personalities. Another book that we studied in the congregation was: “Let Your Will Be Done On Earth” in Spanish: “Hagase Tu Voluntad en la Tierra”. Published in English in 1958 and in Spanish in 1961. With this book we learned about the Image in the book of Daniel and who the World Powers had been in which one was. We also learned about the King of the North and the King of the South and what it meant. Wow! These are things we talked about when brothers got together in social gatherings or when we invited each other for a meal. Very exciting times, for sure.

Below, dad close to NY.

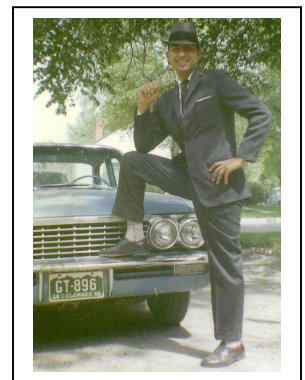


The class below is my fathers KM School in South Lansing NY



My father attended his first Kingdom Ministry School in the year 1963. My father is in the 3rd row from the bottom and 3rd one in from the right. I got to attend my first KM school in the year of 1966.

This is me just back from field service. This picture was taken while we lived in Pueblo before we left to Utah. I was a skinny guy.



Taking Up Service Where the Need Is Greater

WATCHTOWER articles on Pursuing My Purpose in Life have always been a source of great stimulation and encouragement to me. As I read of the advancement of these brothers and sisters in the truth, their courage in facing obstacles and their perseverance in pursuing their purpose in life, I found enjoyment in sharing their experiences. Yet it was not until I personally took up serving where the need is great that I fully appreciated the heart filling joy that could be had in this work. The years go by and we keep busy in the Kingdom work and by 1965 brother, Nash Chavéz and I

decide to travel to Salt Lake City, UT to visit a Spanish group that our circuit overseer, (Ted Ruíz) had mentioned that needed help. Later on another circuit overseer, John Gonzalez also encouraged us to make the move.

His family and ours moved to Salt Lake City Utah to where the need was greater and helped start the first Spanish congregation there. (Rom. 12:16)

We left in the month of January and found the group very enthusiastic and so we decided to make the move. Problem is that we had not let our wives know, but they were very enthusiastic also about the move so we did it in that same month of January 1965.

(Nash and Rose Chavez on the right).

We had some trials that first year. Although I could have returned to the Postal Service right away, I tried to see if I could do part time work so as to regular pioneer with the group. And by June 1965 the group was appointed as the Salt Lake City, Spanish cong.



My wife and children have many nice memories of our life in Salt Lake City and serving in the congregation. Later our circuit overseer Ábel Tarín, informed us that the Spanish Ogden, UT congregation needed help. They had dwindled down to 16 publishers. My wife and I went to Jehovah in prayer and made the decision to move to Layton, UT a small town about 12 miles south of Ogden. We decided on this place because I needed to commute to Salt Lake City for my job. By this time I was back working with the Postal Service.

Salt Lake City and its surrounding areas now have 12 Spanish congregations and Ogden has two, Roy, UT one and Layton one. There is also one in Logan, UT and one Wendover. So as we can see, our work was not in vein but blessed by Jehovah.

Another marvelous memory my Wife and I have, is when our daughter Marianne, reached the age of 12 when she symbolized her dedication by water baptism in 1968 at a district convention at Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the year 1973, at the age of 15 our son Dale also symbolized his dedication and was baptized at another district convention *also held* at Albuquerque. For me it was an honor and a privilege that our children to get baptized on these two occasions. Why? ***I had been assigned the privilege of giving the Baptism talk at both of these conventions. All though five years had passed between the time Marianne and Dale got baptized. How often does that happen?***

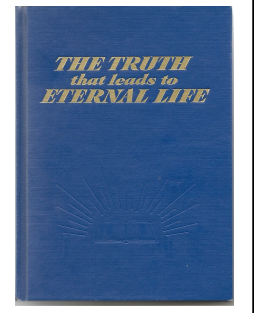
Years later Marianne and Dale were able to Regular Pioneer. **(Dale's pioneer picture right. Marianne's pioneer pictures below. Marianne is 2nd row from the top extreme right.)** ↓





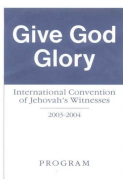
Another nice experience is that Mary (my wife) witnessed to a Movie Star from the Mexican Cinema. It was Flor Sylvestre or Antonio Aguilar's wife. Mary was able to place the "Truth" book in Spanish. **(La Verdad que Lleva a Vida Eterna)** This was sometime in the year 1971. On the left is a picture of Mary between Antonio Aguilar and Flor.

Along with the Bible under "Highest Printings" in the 1982 Guinness Book of Records is included this statement: "The total disposal through non-commercial channels by Jehovah's Witnesses of the 192 page hard bound book *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life* published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Brooklyn, New York, on 8 May 1968, reached 100 million in 115 languages by 1 Apr 1981." By the first part of 1982, the printing of this Bible study aid had reached 102 million in 116 languages.

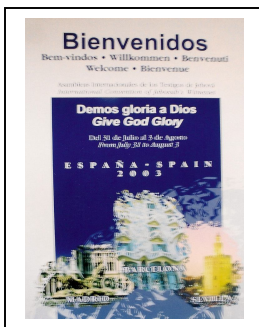


In the fall of 1978 Mary and I was accepted into the travel work known as the Circuit work. I worked for the Postal Service at this time earning \$16,895 a year. By accepting the circuit work I would be receiving an allowance of \$20 a month, or \$240 a year. A very big decision. We went for the \$240. (Rom. 12:16)

Before we went to our assignment we attended a District convention with my son, his wife and my brother Jerry and my one sister, Lillian, each with their mates at Seattle Washington. My parents were on this trip with us but when we arrived at Boise, Idaho my father had a slight cardiac arrest and he and mom were not able to continue to the convention sight. My younger brother Ron and his wife Susan, stayed with our parents at the Hospital in Boise and after it was safe for my dad, Ron drove our parents back home to Layton, Utah.



The last international convention while in the travel work we attended was the "GIVE GOD GLORY" in Spain just before we needed to get off of the road due to some health issues. One of the reasons is that our daughter Marianne was diagnosed on December 1, 2000 with leukemia and only lasted till December 26th of 2000. This took a toll on us and affected our health.



←Here is a picture of the huge sign welcoming us to España.

When we arrived at New York from Spain, the Branch permitted us to stay overnight at the Sands building in Brooklyn. We came to find out that Victor (DO) and Rachel Lira were at the top floor for a going away gathering where we got to see brother Sydlik of the Governing Body. I said to brother Sydlik, "it is nice to see you" and he said, "it's nice to be seen". **(Victor and Rachel at the extreme right.....)**



On the way to Spain we traveled with Steve Lett and his wife, another member of the governing body. Here is a picture of Steve and I.



“Everyone to whom much was given, much will be demanded of him; and the one whom people put in charge of much, they will demand more than usual of him.” (Luke 12:48) In addition to appointing Branch Committee members, the Governing Body appoints traveling overseers.

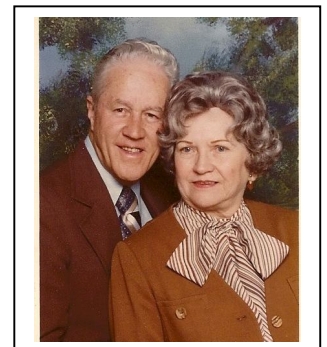
1978-2003

OUR APPOINTMENT TO THE TRAVEL WORK THE BEGINNING OF THE ROAD

The best and the most favored correspondence I have ever received was my letter of appointment. It said in part; “Dear Brother Diaz: The Society is pleased to advise that you have been appointed to serve as a circuit overseer. Enclosed is you appointment letter assigning you to serve as you first assignment Spanish Circuit #S-16, in the Florida area of the country.” The last paragraph in this letter said: “We will look forward to working with you in the circuit work. You and Sister Diaz have commendably put the interests in Jehovah’s Service and are in position to be a source of joy and blessing to the ones you are privileged to serve. Be assured of our love and prayers, Your brothers, *Watchtower B & T, Society* OF NEW YORK, INC.”

Our first assignment in the circuit work was in Florida. It was circuit number S-16. The Spanish circuits were numbered according to how many there were in the entire United States. There were a total of 32 Spanish circuits at that time. The first congregation we visited was in Orlando, FL. We also visited congregations in Kissimee, West Palm Beach, Lakeworth, Boynton Beach, Pompano Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Hollywood, Naples, Immokalee, Ft. Myers, Sarasota, Bradenton, St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Lakeland. We also visited a congregations in Atlanta, GA.

However, we were trained for two weeks before we headed out to our new assignment. The letter from the branch directed me to meet with a circuit overseer in Utah, brother Harry Snow. He trained me for two weeks. In those years the need to be a substitute circuit overseer was not a requirement, therefore, I never had the privilege of serving as a substitute. Brother & Sister Snow on the right.



On our way to our assignment in Florida we traveled from Utah through New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and into Florida. Whoa!

What a beautiful sight we came into when we drove into the state of Florida and saw all those Orange Orchids off of the roadway.

On our way through some of the cities we would stop late evenings and call a Kingdom Hall phone number and ask if they had a place to park a trailer. It was permitted to have a trailer then. Most Kingdom Halls did have a place and they would permit us to park there overnight. We met some very nice and loving brothers in each town we stopped. Some of these brothers knew brothers we knew from California and other states. Small world when you are a Witness.

On one occasion It appeared that we were having some car problems. We decided to pull into a small Mississippi town, which I do not remember, the name of that place. Anyway, it was about 7 p.m. when we spotted the Kingdom Hall; it was like seeing our home. We pulled in, parked on the driveway, I walked into the Hall, asked permission to park overnight while we looked into what might be wrong with our vehicle. After the responsible brother asked the right questions and convinced that we were brothers, they said to go ahead and park our trailer in their trailer spot.

At about 9:30 p.m. there was a knock at our door and behold...there were many of our brothers from the congregation to greet us and to offer their help to get us back on the road. The next day a couple invited us to breakfast while four other brothers took our car to repair. Because of the generosity of our brothers in that congregation we were able to leave to our destination by noon that day. We took their address to let them know that we arrived safely in Orlando. ***What a wonderful brotherhood we have.***

At the beginning of the year of 1979 I wrote to the branch asking if they could assign Sister Diaz, to a Pioneer Service school while I continued my visits to the congregations. Well, to my wonderful surprise, the branch assigned us both to an English Pioneer Service School that took place April 1979.



(This is our first Pioneer Service School. Mary is 4th from left 2nd row, I am 3rd row 3rd one on left) Of course I enjoyed very much serving the congregations. Below a picture of me giving a talk at one of the congregations. Notice how young and thin I was. Black hair too!



Lifeless objects as well as people can have a Creator, but only *living people* can have a God, One who is their object of devotion and worship. If Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were simply dead and buried, with no further life prospects, Jehovah might have said to Moses, 'I was their God.' But that is not what he said. After hearing how Jesus reasoned from the Scriptures on this matter, is it any wonder that some of the scribes responded: "Teacher, you spoke well"?

In November, 1979 the Governing body made arrangements for all traveling overseers be trained as instructors of the Pioneer Service School and starting in 1980 the circuit overseers taught the schools. My first two schools were in Florida one in Orlando and the other in Miami.



I am top left and Humberto Hernandez is top right.
(This school is in Miami in December 1980)



Humberto extreme left and I at the extreme right.

We have so many wonderful memories of all our brothers from Florida. At the end of this report you can see pictures of many of our brothers from Florida.

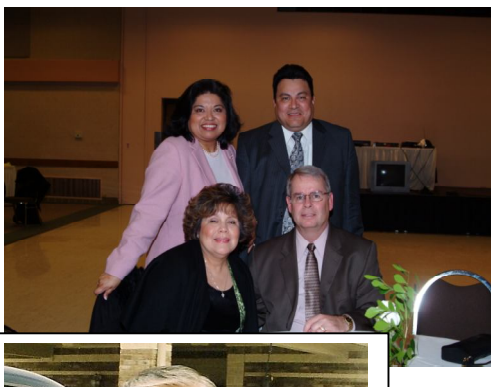
March 1981 we received our monthly letter from the branch and our new Circuit assignment was listed. TX-23, **Houston, TX.**

We were excited because a new adventure was to begin. That is what it really is each time one is changed from one circuit to another, a new adventure, and new brothers to know!

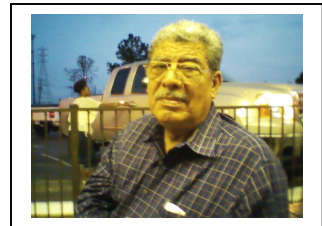
Houston was a huge metropolis with 12 Spanish congregations in the city itself. However, this circuit extended into other surrounding communities. It also extended to Louisiana the city of New Orleans, and Greta. The three years there were very exciting. We had many pioneers in the congregations and our circuit assemblies were large. I needed to recommend four parts of the circuit, sections A, B, C and D, because of the congregations growing so well. I was able to recommend 12 new congregations in Houston besides two others which were recommended in neighboring towns. By the time I was moved to another circuit in 1983, Houston had grown to a total of 22 congregations. I arrived there when there were just 12. Ahhhh, but we had some good times. So good of time that the first two years serving there we did not even take a vacation. The congregations recommended were: *Parque Central, River Oaks, Alamo, Rama Primavera, Plaza Norte, Airport, Villa Jardin, Centro, Encino, Fresno, Aldine, Conroe.*

During our tenure there my father became ill and in July of 1982 Mary and I flew to Salt Lake City to see my dad but never got to talk to him due to he being in a coma. He died while we were there. Our wonderful brothers from Houston sent their solace and a big beautiful arrangement of flowers. Something that all these years our family remembers and appreciates.

Another beautiful jester from our **brotherhood**, during that sad time. Brothers from the Spanish and English congregations in Layton, Clearfield and Ogden, UT provided food and lodging for us and other family members.



When we got back to Houston and got off of the Plane, several brothers were there to greet us. Brothers **Andy Rodriguez**, right, **Jimmy Almandarez** and **Tim Brown**. After a big hug to each



other, they handed me a check reimbursing us for the Airline tickets to Salt Lake City. What a beautiful act of love. ***There is nothing like our BROTHERHOOD!***

(Above brothers from Houston. Virginia & Roland González, Cecilia and **Tim Brown**.)

Jimmy Almandarez on the left, from Houston, TX Parque Central congregation.



While in Houston I had the privilege of teaching many more schools. In one of the schools my co-instructor was Orestes Ibañez. This brother is from Cuba and he went through some very heavy trials being incarcerated just for being one of Jehovah's Witnesses. During the

school he related his experience of his incarceration. It touched many of the students hearts, including mine.

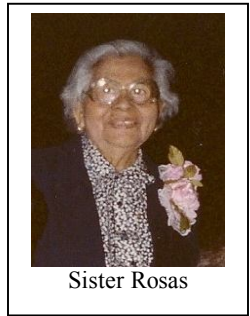


(Orestes Ibañes above and Marta his wife.)

(Mary and I in front of the class)

In the back you can see a brother on the top left, this brother, Alexander, elder in one of the Greta, LA congregations was learning Spanish at the time and his brother another Alexander, was in one of the traveling overseers school in Jacksonville, FL with me. He served in an English circuit.

As a traveling overseer every month we needed to turn in our “field service” report, one area of the report called for how many studies we had started. I had the privilege of starting an average of 2 studies a week. One outstanding study I started was when I was serving the Bay Spanish Congregation in Houston. The coordinator at that time was Santiago Mélendez. It was Wednesday morning when we worked the territory right around the Kingdom Hall. About 11 a.m. **Sister Rosas**, who was working with me in service, came to a house where the householder was home. We talked to him and he appeared to like what he was hearing. He then asked if I could come back on Saturday morning because his wife and daughter who weren’t home were also interested in what the Bible had to say. I made arrangements to return. Saturday morning we met for field service at the KH and I asked brother **Mélendez** to accompany me to a “return visit”. He agreed, so we went to visit this family by the name of Lopez. When we arrived they were waiting for us. So we went into answering many of the questions they had. While we were reviewing biblical points I notice behind the lady of the house a blue book. I asked her to take it out. It was the “Truth That Leads to Eternal Life. I took my study copy out of my bag as well as Santiago and explained to them how this book could answer all of their questions to their



satisfaction. We started the Bible study right there and then. I depended on Santiago to attend to the bible study, which he did. *(Santiago Méendez on the right of the picture & his wife in front & brother in-law, brother Sánchez on his right.)*

During my time there in Houston I had the privilege of seeing this family get baptized and today brother Lopez serves as an elder in the congregation and his wife Cristina is a regular pioneer and has been for 15 years. Picture below.



Lopez Family

In March of 1981 I received my monthly letter from the Branch and another assignment to a new circuit. **Dallas, TX.** Excited again, another new adventure. Dallas of course is another large city with eight Spanish Congregations; with other congregations in surrounding communities including Ft. Worth, TX. From here I also served congregations in Oklahoma. One in Tulsa, and Oklahoma City moving on to Wichita, Topeka, Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, MO and from there to Omaha, NE. Whew! From Omaha we would travel to Ulysses, KS, Wichita Falls, TX and back to Dallas.

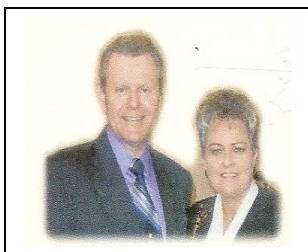
Now there are separate Spanish circuits in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. No doubt that Jehovah blesses his organization due to the very hard work of all the publishers in these congregations.

In this Dallas Spanish circuit I was able to recommend 14 new congregations also. Of course the privilege in teaching schools continues. One school I have in mind is where Sister Delia Villarreal was one of the students. Her husband Simón and I became very close friends and I had the privilege of recommending them for the circuit work. He lasted a good 18 years before he got a stroke and had to leave the travel work. He and Delia are living in a Kingdom Hall apartment in Arlington, TX. Simón and I taught many schools together.

(Mary & I in front with the Cavazos)



The brother at left top is George Jenkins his wife at his side. I had the privilege of recommending them for the circuit work. Notice the two sisters together above the sign in the middle, the one on the left is Delia. See the sister to the right of Delia? On this sisters left is Delia's daughter, Velma Villarreal. She was pioneering in Omaha, NE and later she met a Bethelite, Michael Salazar. To be able to marry him she had to apply for Bethel. I approved her application. She was invited then married Mike.



While serving the Omaha congregation there was a very special sister pioneer there besides Velma. Mary Pilarski. She longed to be able to serve in the

traveling work and later married Michael Brooks and now both are in the traveling work. We had some good times with Velma and Mary when we visited Omaha. Michael is a good friend. When in Colorado they stay with us.

Here is a picture with Simon Villarreal and I teaching a school in Grand Prairie, TX a part of the Dallas circuit.

↓Mary Pilarski

Ernestina Estrada↓



(I and Mary on the left of 2nd row and Delia and Simon right the 2nd row).

On the top row 2nd from the right is Ernestine Estrada from Houston. She wanted for Simon and I instruct her Pioneer school. On top row 3 from left is Mary Pilarski from Omaha. On the bottom row 3rd from the right, is Victor Peña from Cuba who was a detainee at Atlanta, GA prison in 1981 but was sponsored by the Spanish brothers from Atlanta. He received a refugee status. Moved to Omaha and started pioneering and as you can see he is at the Pioneer Service School.

Time flies while serving in Dallas area and in March 1987 I receive my monthly letter and behold my new assignment. **San Antonio, TX.** Another new adventure.

San Antonio is another large city with 22 congregations. San Antonio, however is divided into two circuits. TX 19-S and TX 31-S. I was assigned TX-19 with 11 congregations and the other 9 out of San Antonio right up to the boarder of Mexico, Eagle Pass, TX. (I recommended 5 new congregations in this circuit) On the other side is Piedras Negras, Mexico, another very large city. Guess who got assigned to TX 31-S? Simón Villarreal, his first circuit...my neighboring circuit overseer. While serving in the Dallas, Ft. Worth circuit I recommended Simón to serve as fulltime circuit overseer. This guy was always around, even when we were assigned to California circuits. So we got to be able to teach several Pioneer Service schools together. What a treat!

While serving in this San Antonio circuit at one of our district conventions the privilege was extended to me to serve as Program Chairman in 1990 the **Pure Language** assembly.

The Israelites assembled regularly to worship Jehovah and to listen to the reading of his Law. Certain days of their festivals were called holy conventions or solemn assemblies, indicating the sacred nature of these gatherings. (Leviticus 23:2, 3, 36, 37) At a public assembly in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, the Levites “were explaining the law to the people.” Since “all the people were weeping as they were hearing the words of the law,” the Levites “were ordering all the people to be silent, saying: ‘keep quiet! for this day is holy.’”

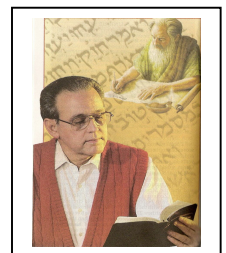
Below platform at the Pure Language Assembly



The three brothers on the right served with me in the chairman's office. The above picture includes Me. They are brothers Jimmy Guajardo, Lalo Sánchez, and Gasper García.



On the second row left, Simón, I, on the right same row. The brother in the middle of the 2nd row is Luís Garza. In 1990 he was invited to attend the MTS School and later assigned to serve in Bethel as a Medical Doctor. His picture is in the publication "Knowledge" That Leads to Everlasting Life on page 20. Brother Garza has been serving in Bethel for 20 years. He is presently serving at Wallkill. The two weeks of Pioneer School with brother Garza and the other students was very pleasurable and a fun time. After the school sessions we would meet at another place and brother Garza and another brother would play the piano while we would all sing. The young brother standing to Simon's right attended the MTS a few years later and two others from this group were invited to



bethel.

While serving in TX-S19 circuit I met another brother by the name of Oscar Garza and his wife Reina. Both were pioneering at the time. They had attended the pioneer school before we arrived to this circuit. Oscar had some fine abilities so I encouraged him to reach out for circuit work. I recommended them in 1990 and he and Reina are still serving in the traveling work.

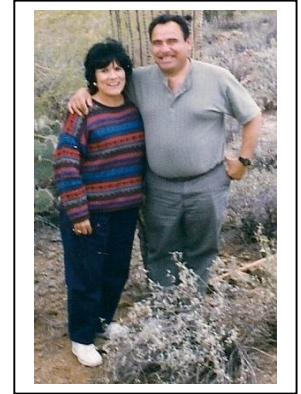
Presently they have a circuit in Atlanta, GA. (*Oscar & Reina on the right*)

March 1990 and I receive my monthly letter. Inside my new assignment. California circuit S-68. This circuit included Las Vegas, Nevada with three Spanish congregations. Within my tenure there I recommended 4 more Congregations and by August 1993 there were 7 congregations in La Vegas. There are now 32 Spanish congregations in Las Vegas...all within 17 years.

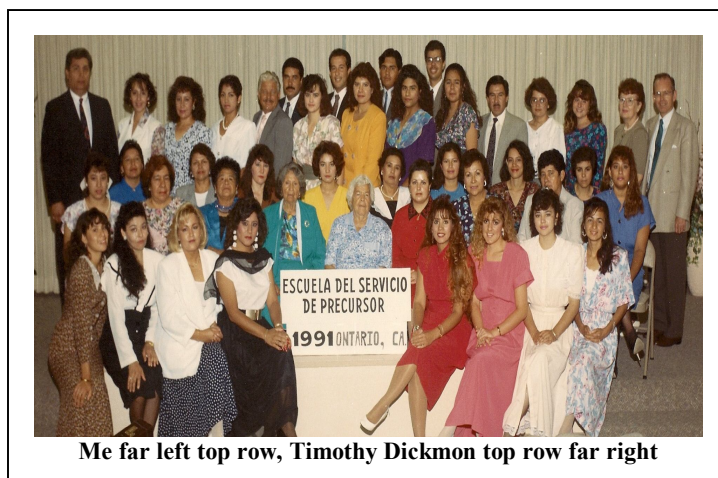
In California I visited congregations in: Pomona, Ontario, Chino, Cucamonga, Fontana, Rialto, Colton, Hesperia, Victorville, Apple Valley, Barstow and Ridgecrest. I was visiting 31 congregations in this circuit and visited each congregation every 11 months. They multiplied that circuit into three.

Talk about being busy and traveling. That is why they call us "Traveling Overseers". I had the privilege of teaching many schools here. One year we had four schools to teach. Normally it would be two.

It was a privilege teaching with some *fine* traveling overseers. Again with Orestes Ibañez, Simón Villarreal. They were assigned to neighboring circuits in California also. Timothy Dickmon was one of my co-instructors. Notice the pioneer school here in August of 1991. We had 40 in this class. Normally it is only 25 to 30.



Mary & I with Luis Garza at Patterson dining room



Me far left top row, Timothy Dickmon top row far right



Far left Br Muñiz, far right Br Díaz

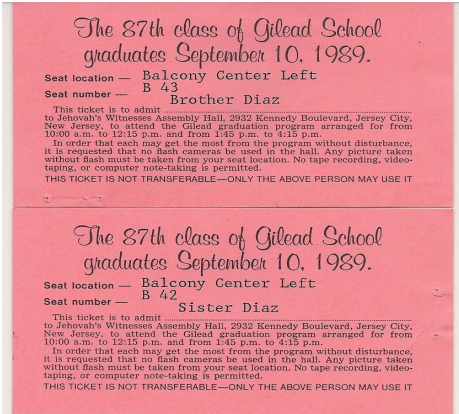
Getting back to my travels in circuit CA-68 I have many wonderful memories. After I left this circuit brothers from Victorville invited us to their Memorial and asked me to give the talk. I appreciated very much the privilege.

We had a one-day Assembly for the circuit in Las Vegas, NV and below is a picture of myself, Bill and Sandy Melenfant from the Service department in Brooklyn at that time.



Antonia Martín, (cuz Pauline) Leo, Luz, & Elena Macías. Antonia & the Macías are from Victorville, CA

CA 68-S circuit grew to 31 congregations. Many Cuban's were moved to Las Vegas and because of this many bible studies were started and the work there grew and I as mentioned earlier there are now 32 or more congregations in Las Vegas.



In 1989 Mary & I had the opportunity to attend the 87th class of Gilead Graduation

We became very close to many of the friends in the circuit. A brother, Angel Beltrán del Rio a coordinator in one of the Pomona congregations



invited us twice for the memorial. Of course the body of elders was involved in the invitation. On the left it Angel Beltán del Rio and his wife Mariam. We have had some good times with this couple. They came from Chino Hills, CA to our 50th wedding anniversary.

In March of 1993, I received my monthly letter advising me of my new change to a new circuit, to CA 56-S. This is in Santa Ana and south to San Clemente, Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos.



Don Van Ike taught this school with me.

San Clemente had a coordinator who was a regular pioneer and a Gilead graduate. Brother Genis. I do not know how he did it but he had the ability to encourage pioneering. The first visit to San Clemente we encountered 25 regular pioneers and 50 auxiliary pioneers. The whole congregation was almost all pioneers.

Another nice experience was when a brother and I went to do “Street Work” right in the heart of Santa Ana. It was like being in Mexico...everything is Spanish, signs, people and the language. Besides approaching persons on the street we also walked into stores to place

magazines. One day...not a Saturday, I placed 180 magazines. Talk about good results. That was the most magazine’s I ever placed in *one hour* in my life.

After serving in this circuit CA 56-S for three years and recommending 12 new congregations, in March we received our monthly letter. This time it was to **TUCSON, AZ.**

This was a nice change. Hot state but less traffic. The privilege I had here was to teach a Pioneer Service School with another brother I had recommended to the circuit work. This was José Gil. He was also from Cuba and was ousted by Castro’s regime for being one of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

José and Lourdes Gil were assigned as special pioneers in Eagle Pass, TX where I served as Circuit overseer. This town was part of the TX 19-S or San Antonio circuit. These two individuals were very zealous in the ministry and did a lot of good in Eagle Pass. The brothers there hold brother’s Gil very dearly in their hearts. Brother Gil is now in Jehovah’s memory. Lourdes is back in California.



(Mary & I far left, Lourdes and José Gil far right)

(I am at the far left and Wesley Leeder 2nd row far left)



(Above Mary and I with Lourdes & José Gil)



This Pioneer school is also in José Gil's and my part of the circuit. Brother Gil took sick and Wesley Leeder substituted for him at this School. Brother Leeder is known in Colorado and he married a sister from La Junta, CO. For me it was an honor and privilege to teach with Wesley.

While we serving in Arizona my wife's mother's illness got worse and it looked like we were going to have to leave the circuit work in the fall of 1997. The branch asked me to write a letter explaining our needs. We did and with much love and consideration from the Branch, they assigned us to an **English Speaking** circuit in Colorado. CO 4 in the fall of 1997. The majority of this circuit was in Colorado Springs and this is where my wife's mother lived.

This circuit was very different. Not only in the language but having many relatives attending the congregations here. Imagine, a circuit overseer **cousin** overseeing other cousins.

(First school in English . Br Cua far left me far right)



While serving in Spanish circuits we met brothers from every Spanish speaking country in the world and ate their delicious typical foods. With English, as well. I do not think we met every person of English speaking countries, but we met many from Europe and other areas. Especially you can meet them from all over at Bethel.

March 2000 received our monthly letter and we knew it was time for another change of circuits. I had notified the Branch that my mother-in-law had passed and I was now ready to return to the Spanish field. Well to my surprise, we were assigned to a neighboring **English** circuit, CO 5...Pueblo, CO my hometown.

This is where my life experiences began. Pueblo, Colorado. What came to mind now that I would be serving in my hometown? Of how many would still be in the congregations since I was last here, which was in December 1964. But here we are, 37 years later.

We certainly had some good times here. However, this was one of the most traveled circuits. I visited consecutively 17 different congregations each week. That meant a different bed each week. We did have an apartment at the Kingdom Hall on 525 W Pitkin where the first Kingdom Hall was purchased and later remodeled.

The very first Kingdom Hall my parents took me to in Pueblo was the one pictured below. Notice the old car on the far right.



(This building is still standing but looks a little different. It is located on Adams and Michigan St.)
While serving here in the Pueblo circuit or CO-5 we experienced a very sad situation. Our Marianne took sick with leukemia and this took a toll on us as I mentioned earlier in my story. So due to this tragedy we decided that perhaps it would be better to leave the travel work. After much prayer and talks with a very mature brother in Bethel we decided to stay until August of 2003. And before we got off we traveled to Spain to an International Convention, which I also mentioned earlier.

MORE EXPERIENCES WHILE IN THE TRAVEL WORK

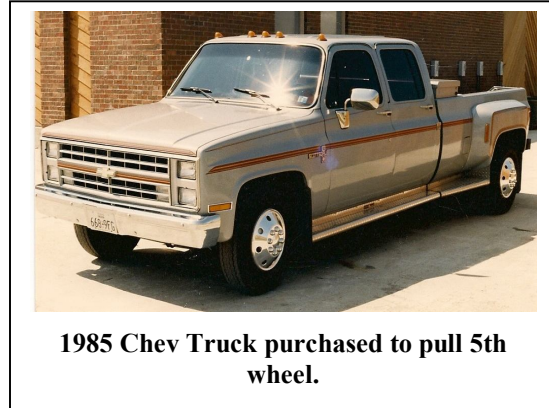
Marianne & Mary singing with Miguel Díaz from Houston, playing guitar. He was a Mariachi before he learned the truth.



Below three very beautiful persons: David and Ernestina Estrada and Rachel Treviño, all from Houston, TX



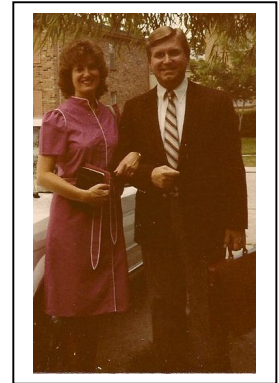
Trailer we lived in for 12 yrs. while in travel work. Brothers customized this truck.
Lived in this trailer since 1977 and went into the travel work with it in 1978.



1985 Chev Truck purchased to pull 5th wheel.

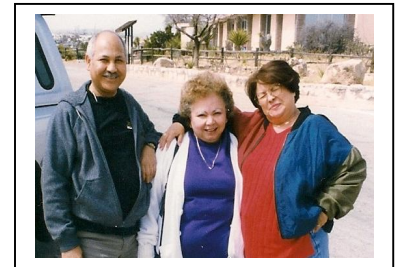


To the Right... Brother Fred & Sister Siegel from New Orleans. When we did not take the trailer we would stay with them, up to two weeks at a time. Both were very hospitable. We enjoyed very much their love and friendship. He



served as elder in the Spanish.
In 1985 we bought the above 5th Wheel Trailer. We had 20 yrs of small trailer living.

Right: Brother Max sister & Carmen Olivo from Tucson Arizona. Recommended them to the circuit work. They are assigned in Oregon at this time.



Left is brother & sister Arroyo's from Atlanta. When this picture was taken (1981) they were accompanying us while we trained them for the circuit work. I had the privilege in recommending them. Brother Arroyo is in Jehovah's memory now.

Don & Betty Van Ike



Charles & Mary Rieger



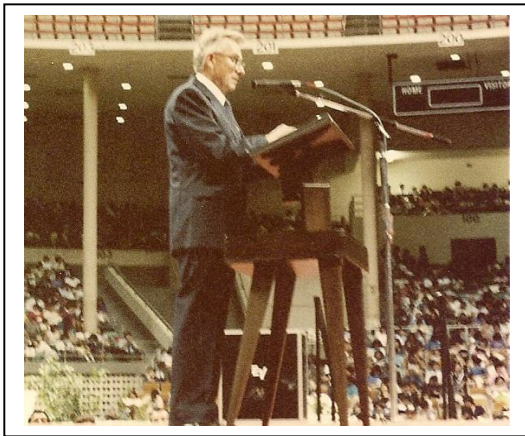
Don served for forty yrs in the travel work. Served me as my District Overseer.

Charles Rieger also had forty or better years in fulltime service. Charlie also served me as my District Overseer.

His wife Mary and Charlie are both in Jehovah's memory as well as Betty Van Ike. Charlie & Mary served as missionaries in Ireland and later were assigned to serve In Chile and later in the USA.

Don and Betty served in Honduras many years ago and then assigned in the travel work. Don was one of the first ones to serve in the Spanish Service Desk

at Brooklyn way back in the 1960's. After several years at Bethel he was assigned out into the travel work again.



Gaylord Augustine on the left at a circuit assembly in Houston 1984. This was the last circuit assembly I had in the Houston circuit. I combined all four sections at this particular assembly. We had over 5000 in attendance. Houston is now comprised of over 50 congregations with three Spanish circuits. ***(Isaiah 60:22) The little one himself will become a thousand, and the small one a mighty nation. I myself, Jehovah, shall speed it up in its own time.*** Just think, when I started in the circuit work there were only 32 circuits in the entire United States. There are over 172 circuits now...all with in 30 years.

ONE OF OUR GREATEST EXPERIENCES

In the year, 1999 we were invited to attend the **FIRST** traveling overseers school at Patterson, NY. When we received this letter it was a wonderful surprise and exciting to know we were one of the first to attend this marvelous Theocratic School.

My dear wife felt sad because she immediately thought she would not be able to go because of her mom. I told her that this is a once in a lifetime privilege to be invited to a school like this. With the letter in hand we bowed our heads and prayed for guidance. Just as soon as I ended the prayer there was a knock at our door. A sister from the Spanish congregation was there and said she knew our daughter. *(Marianne and her husband were attending the Spanish congregation at that time)*. She proceeded to tell us that she knew Mary was caring for her mom so she expressed her desire to help with her care. We thanked her very much and told her we would talk to her again about this offer.

The next day, which was a Tuesday we attended the meeting of the congregation, were we were serving that week. Without anyone knowing of our invitation to the school some pioneer sisters approached us and explained that they were sorry Mary's mother was sick and said: "we are willing to help Mary in anyway".

My wife talked to our daughter of how these sisters had offered to help so Marianne and my wife contacted the sisters, explained to them our need to attend the Traveling overseer's school and immediately accepted the task of caring for my mother-in-law for the entire three months we would be at Patterson, NY.

My wife and Marianne invited six sisters to a meal at Marianne's home to introduce them to Mary's mom and to come up with a schedule where each sister including the sister that first knocked on our door could be able to alternate in the care of Marianne's grandmother. Regretfully, for some reason or another we never took a picture of those loving and wonderful sisters. No doubt that Jehovah will continue to bless them. *We definitely do have a marvelous BROTHER HOOD!*

At the Traveling overseer's 1st school May & June 1999

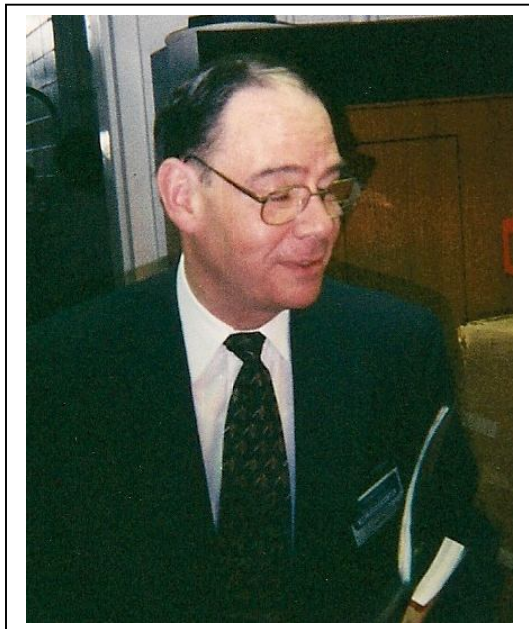


(If you look closely you will probably recognize some brothers. that you might know. I am forth row up 1st one on right)

Some ask: "what is the difference in serving Spanish Circuits from English Circuits". We served **19** years with *Spanish* and **6** years with *English*. The only difference I found was the language. All the brothers are loving and they all follow the "Slave Class' policies. Oh, there might be some differences in cultures but the love is still there! Mary and I are very happy we were able to serve in two different languages. It's nice to be bilingual.



Patterson dining hall. Circuit overseers enjoying a cup of coffee before being served breakfast. 2nd from left, Timothy Dickmon, Myself, Victor Lira.



Above brother Splane of the Governing of the GB

On the right, my beautiful wife with two sisters at Patterson. They were dressed for work. They in Housekeeping



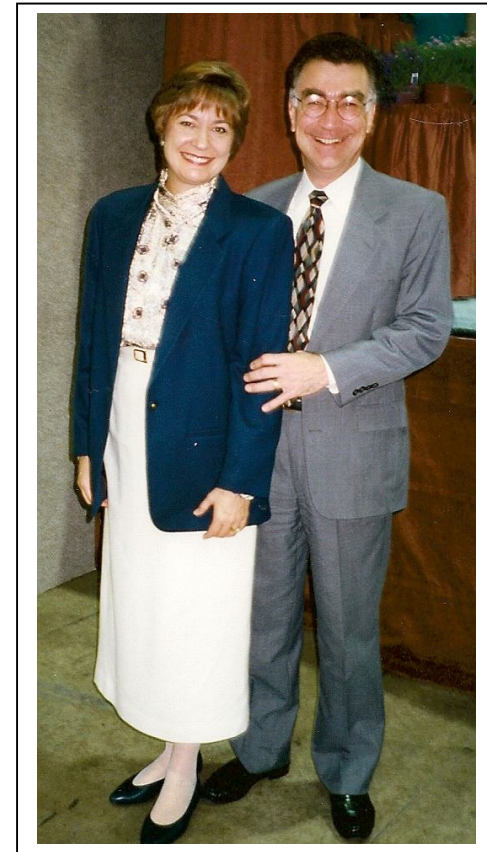
Mary, actually working. She loved it. She had a good time at Patterson Bethel

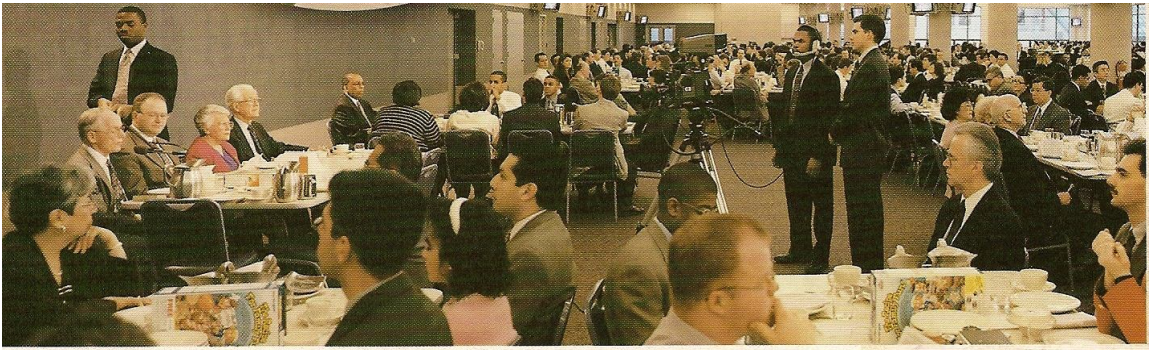


This is a typical class room at Patterson. See the desk to the right of Brother Jaracz, with the white circle? That was the desk I sat in. Very close to the instructor. Could not cheat.

Victor Lira sat in the back...I wonder if he cheated!

Heidi and Baltasar Perla on the right. Below is Brother Jaracz of the GB visiting with Mary and Me. What a privilege!





Above is the dining hall at Patterson. The table at the extreme left is where the daily text is commented. I had the privilege to comment also. Camera in center of picture.



Above is the dining hall at Patterson Education Center



have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you Me and Mary at the Service department. Mary pointing on the map where our name is located indicating our circuit

LOVE is the hallmark of true Christianity. During the last meal that Jesus shared with his apostles, he emphasized this, stating: “I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I am your disciples, if you have love among yourselves.” (John 13:34, 35) All of us rejoice that this distinctive sign of genuine Christianity is observable among Jehovah’s people today. Nevertheless, like the early Christians, we realize that we should constantly seek further ways of manifesting appreciation for our brothers. Paul wrote to the congregation in Thessalonica: “May the Lord cause you to increase, yes, make you abound, in love to one another.” (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

Below is brother Beveridge editor of the Awake magazine at the time. We are in his office at Brooklyn, NY. On the right brother Luis Garza, Mary and I



Below Traveling Overseers School in May and June of 1999 with wife’s and circuit overseers together in a group picture.



Sandy and Bill Melenfant (below) Bethelite's for many years. Bill and Sandy were with our circuit as a visiting Speaker when this photo was taken in 1997



Below, myself & brother LaFranca bethelite and working in the Service department. Handled all of the circuit overseer vacations etc. That is why I am hugging him.



On the left, me hauling my Library around at the traveling overseers school at Patterson, NY.

EXPERIENCES BEFORE THE TRAVELING OVERSEERS SCHOOL



On the left is Marvin and Ruth Roth from a neighboring circuit. Next to Ruth are Ernesto Floyd and Anita sitting in front of him. He was also visiting from my former circuit CA 68-S. Next to Ernesto is Alvarado Martin and his wife Antonia sitting in front of him. Mary is sitting on the left. I took the picture that is why you do not see me. This was taken on a Monday when we are off from circuit work. The side of our trailer is seen with the awning out. Later that day we all went to lunch.

Marvin and Ruth are presently serving in the district work in California and presently Ernesto and Anita have a circuit in San Diego.



On the left are Rachel and Victor Lira with Mary on Victor's right. The three others on Mary's right were some brothers from the congregation in Santa Ana, CA where we were serving that week. Victor was serving as District overseer. Mannnn, did we have a good time. Anyway you can see their field service bags...we were out in service. I took their picture so I was left out again.



On the left is when we serving in Houston.. Mary is in the door of our trailer. 3rd sister from left is Rachel Treviño, the young man behind her is David Estrada Jr. The young man on the right is Chris Estrada, David Sr and Ernestine. We became very close and till this day we communicate with Rachel Treviño and the Estrada's.



Brother Luís Garza, myself and José Gonzalez in San Antonio, TX. I was serving their congregation this particular week and the three of us were out in Field Service. That is my truck in the back ground. See how happy we were!



To the right is the car and trailer we had when we were serving in Florida and Houston. Later we changed to a fifth wheel trailer and I pulled it with the truck you see above.



Above is Mary and Marianne out in Field Service in Atlanta, GA.

On the right is Brother Luís Garza, Mary and I at Bethel. We always got together when we visited Bethel. This is during the time I attended the Traveling Overseers School in May and June of 1999. This picture is a double whammy or a second time it is shown.



THIS PART IS WHEN I SERVED THE ENGLISH CIRCUITS



This pioneer school is in Colorado Spgs where brother Turner was my co-instructor. These pioneers thought they were funny. Take a look at the pictures below on the far left.

They are actually laughing. Look at them close! What happened here is that I had informed the pioneers on the first day of pioneer school that we the instructors received as gifts from

pioneers at many of the schools we teach many neckties. So I said: "please don't buy us neckties, buy us suits, we will buy the neckties".

Well as you can see these pioneers did buy us suits. See the one brother Turner is holding up? Yes, these pioneers went to the "Goodwill" store and found two babies suits and that is what they gave us on the last day of Pioneer Service School. Nice eh?

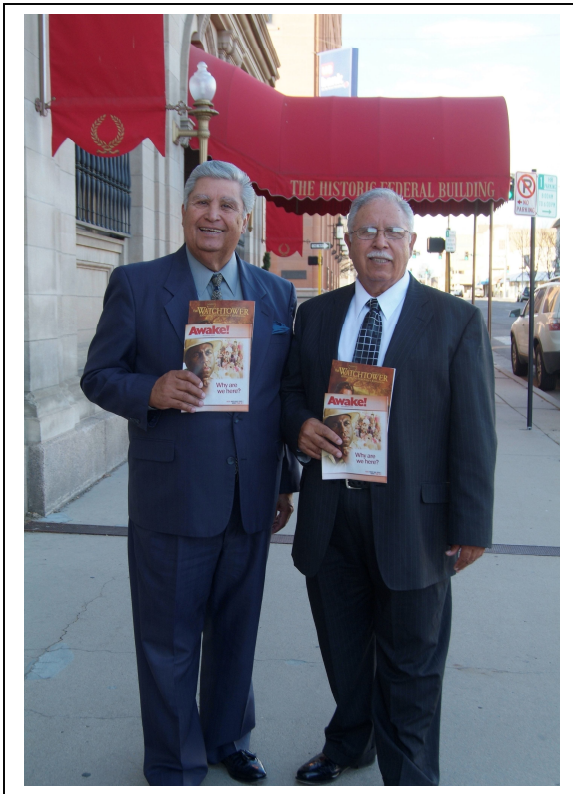


The pioneer school above was taught in Pueblo and the school below was taught at Colorado Spgs. These two Pioneer schools was the last privilege I had as a circuit overseer to teach the school. Robert Mast was my co-instructor.

Actually all the pioneers were very beautiful people. They would give their lives for us as we would for them.



THE HISTORY CONTINUES HERE BEFORE THE CIRCUIT WORK BUT INCLUDES SOME EXCERPTS OF THE TRAVEL WORK



Remember the above picture in the first part of my experiences? The two lights you see behind us in the black and white is the Post Office in Pueblo on Main St. In the colored picture, me on the left just like in the black and white, my brother on the right. The lights are different and there are some awnings on the building. But it is the same building only 61 years later. The colored picture is in the year 2008 and the black in white was the summer of the year 1946 or 1947. Of course our father is not in the 2008 picture...he is in Jehovah's memory. (John 5:28-30)



This 1942 Ford, (left) one of the last ones manufactured in that year. It is located at the San Antonio, Texas Assembly Hall.

My father always wanted to do something similar to his car but never did get around to doing it. I can imagine myself riding around with my dad. What would my school friends think? Wow!

Below are all of us from my dad's family. Top row left to right, Bill, Lillian, Myself, bottom left to right, Jerry, Mom, and Ron. Below is my mother and father and sister Frances Arguello, the very sister that first brought the truth to my parents in 1942.



“Happy is the man in fear of Jehovah.”—
PSALM 112:1.

HAPPINESS does not come easily. Real happiness is contingent on making the right choices, doing what is right, and turning away from what is wrong. Our Maker, Jehovah, has given us his Word, the Bible, to teach us how to enjoy the very best way of life. By seeking and following Jehovah's direction, thus displaying the fear of God, we can be truly satisfied and happy.—Psalm 23:1.

“Come, you sons, listen to me,” wrote David. “The fear of Jehovah is what I shall teach you.” (Psalm 34:11) As a father, David was intent on passing on to his children a precious heritage—the genuine, balanced, wholesome fear of Jehovah. By words and by deeds, David portrayed Jehovah, not as a demanding and fearsome God, ready to pounce on any infraction of His laws, but as loving, caring, and forgiving Father of His earthly children. “Missteps who can keep track of?” asked David. Then, indicating his confidence that Jehovah is not constantly scrutinizing our errors, he added: “Hold me clear of unnoticed things!” David was sure that if he put forth his best effort, his words and thoughts could be acceptable to Jehovah. My father felt the same. — Psalm 19:12, 14

“Our parents raised us in a way that made being in the truth enjoyable “When we were young, they included us in their conversations about congregation activities, and we became as enthusiastic about the truth as they were. They brought us up to believe that we could do good things in Jehovah’s service. Yes, my father left us a *precious heritage*...the truth that set us free. My father was determined to follow David’s example on passing on to his children a precious *heritage (3 John 3,4)*. And today for the very hard work of our father and mother opening the Spanish preaching work of the good news of the kingdom in the 1940’s, the Pueblo, Colorado Spanish congregation was established and recommended by brother Powers and appointed sometime in 1951 or 52 which was comprised of most of our mom and dad’s bible studies. One of the first Spanish congregations formed in the United States, we believe it might have been the third or fourth in the nation at that time.

We also appreciate very much that our father preached to all his sisters and brothers because we now have precious relatives that serve Jehovah as we do as well as many friends and spiritual brothers and sisters of the families my parents studied and helped into the truth.



My father was an avid reader of the Bible even before he learned the truth. He read the “Versión Valera” Spanish Bible. Later he read the “Moderna” and used it to witness because it had Jehovah’s name in the Hebrew scriptures. He was so glad when the “New

World Translation was published. On the right he is reading the Bible as he did everyday. In the spring of 1982 when we serving in the Houston area mom and dad came to visit us. I was serving four circuit assemblies at that time. My parents attended all four assemblies. They also accompanied us to the meetings with the host congregations and went out in service with us. My father was very impressed with the territory because we worked house to house in a Spanish territory. He was not accustomed to this kind of territory. In Colorado and Utah the Spanish territory is scattered and one has to search out the Spanish speaking.

As a Kingdom proclaimer, dad always had the attitude, “be aglow with the spirit.” He cultivated zeal through personal Bible study and fervent prayer to Jehovah, no doubt that he was an excellent example to me, my siblings as well as to others in the congregation where he served as an elder, “with holy spirit and strong conviction.”—1 Thess. 1:5.



The man on the left was my father's younger brother, uncle Sam. He also taught his children the truth and all of them embraced it. Through him I have many cousins serving faithfully in different capacities, elders ministerial servants and pioneers. My uncle is now in Jehovah's memory.



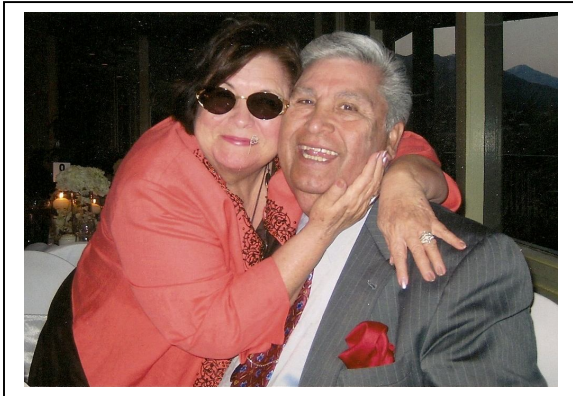
The two ladies to the right with my father in the middle are two of his sisters that also learned the truth with my dad and mom studying with them. Their children also embraced the truth and serving in many different capacities. My aunt Della, on the right, pioneered for more than 40 years and her son Ray Gonzalez is also a pioneer today. Uncle Sam & wife and my two aunts and husbands are in Jehovah's memory. The lady on the left, aunt Lala.

Being a part of the only God-approved international **brotherhood** is a source of great joy. Happily, we have the most desirable associates on earth. Jehovah God himself pointed to our day and said: "I will rock all the nations, and the desirable things of all the nations must come in; and I will fill this house with glory." (Haggai 2:7)

Indeed, it is the joy of Jehovah that is the stronghold of our spiritual **brotherhood** throughout the earth. Yes, all of us suffer persecution and other hardships. This draws us together and gives us a sense of unity as part of the one genuine organization of God on earth. And this joyful international **brotherhood** will never collapse, for we have the assurance that 'after we have suffered a little while, God will finish our training and will make us firm and strong.' Think of it. Our joyful **brotherhood** will last forever. Jesus firmly states: "No one has left house or

brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not get a hundredfold now in this period of time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields. (Mark 10:29, 30).

As Jesus promises, wherever in the world his disciples go, they enjoy a relationship with fellow Christians that is closer and more precious than that enjoyed with natural family members. This has been my greatest experience of all as well as for my wife.

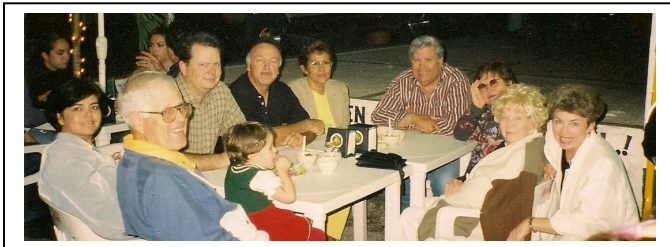


Mary and I are so very grateful for the wonderful privilege of service we were able to undertake which is the travel work. We enjoyed it 25 years and would have liked to been able to stay longer but our circumstances did not permit. At our 50th anniversary I emphasized that half of our married life had been in the circuit work.

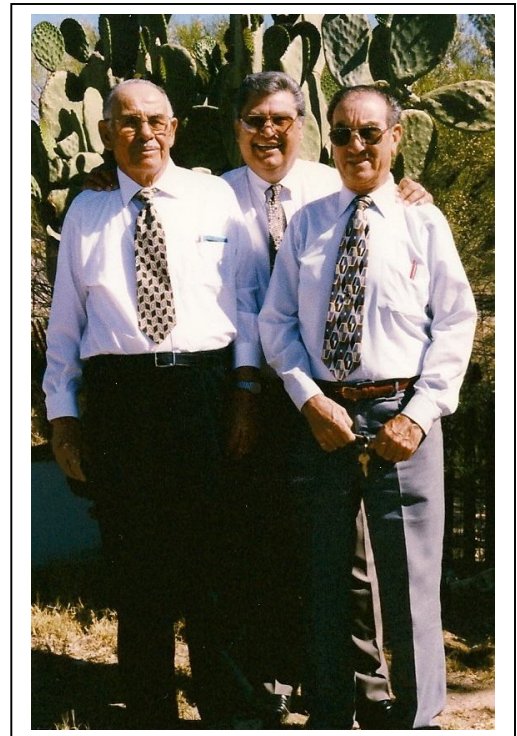
We met so very many brothers and sisters that were true blue Christians including my cousins, which I had the privilege as serving some of them

in the circuit.

While we serving in Tucson Arizona one congregation I visited was in Mamoth and José Lovato's brother Sam lived there. José & Rita came to visit them when we were visiting the congregation. The picture on the right is Sam, José Lovato and me in Arizona.



Above we are just relaxing. We were on vacation in Matzatlan, Mexico with the Curley family from the Monte Vista English congregation. They arranged for Mary and I stay at a Penthouse apt.





On the left is Mary on a boat going towards the Niagara Falls. I took the picture. Did we get wet? Absolutely!
Sister Heidi Garras was with us during this trip. She is from Las Vegas, Nevada.

(Right) Heidi is standing behind a brother, Juan de Dios Pérez in the circuit work now. Next is me, Jorge Palacios and Mary. West Palm Beach, Florida 1995 district assembly. Those behind are Palacios two kids and brother Garza.



On the left is Lena and Juan Zozaya also from Las Vegas, NV. This is the same district convention as above. Jorge and sister Palacios in the middle.



The picture on the right was taken at Patterson when the Educational Center was under construction. We were at the temporary dining hall and just finished eating with Juan Manresa his wife and those two which I cannot remember their names. I do know that the sister above Mary was from Eagle Pass, TX and a regular pioneer. She attended one of the schools which I instructed and during that school she asked me for an application to Bethel so she could marry the brother next to her. I signed her application and there she is at Bethel with her husband. Juan Manresa was later appointed in the travel work but did not last to long as circuit overseer because our dear sister Manresa got really ill and they had to leave the work. I served him as circuit overseer in Tampa, FL right after he came over from Cuba.



In this picture and to our right are the Bodre's. Very dear friends and to this day we still keep in touch. José was an elder in one of the congregations I served in West Palm Beach, FL. Norma Bodre was serving as a regular pioneer at that time. Since then they have moved to Groveland, FL.

Betty Duran is on Mary's right and a very dear friend. She owned a Tamale factory in Chino, CA and always gave us Tamales to eat. her husband José is also a good friend. Could not find his picture .



The Cavazo's and Díaz' outside a Kingdom Hall where we were teaching a Pioneer Service School. This was in Dallas, TX 1983.



Just as Jesus received training from his Father, we can take advantage of the education that Jehovah is now providing. Jesus himself said: "It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by Jehovah.'" (John 6:45; Isa. 54:13) Today, there are schools especially designed to equip us as Kingdom proclaimers. Doubtless, all of us have benefited in some way from the Theocratic Ministry School in our local cong. Pioneers are privileged to attend the Pioneer Service School.

Here we have three **fat** circuit overseers and their wives. The first one on the right we called "Tiger" and his wife we called "Sugar". The one in the middle we call Paul and his wife Mary. The next one is Oscar and his wife Reina. Mary and I were visiting both of these traveling overseers at their assignment, which was in Queens, NY. Tiger was serving an English congregation and Japanese congregations were he needed a translator. He had a lot of fun in this circuit.

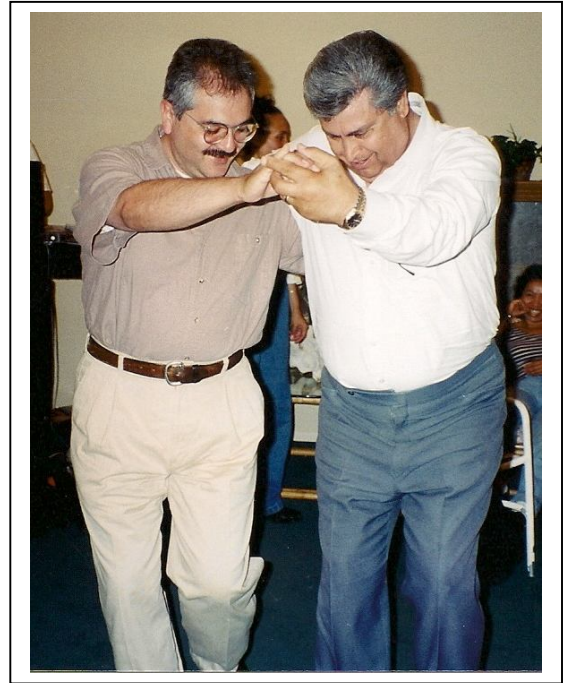


Below is a going away for Mary and I from California to Arizona. At this going away party no one wanted to dance with us two brothers so we danced together. Later on I did my tap dancing...boy did I get tired.

Here is Mary cutting the cake. Notice the little sister waiting for a piece of the action. Me too! Notice I had black hair!



For example, Jesus attended a marriage feast in Cana and contributed to the joy of the occasion by performing his first miracle there. (John 2:1-11) Likewise today, Jehovah's people have happy times together on similar special occasions. We were being sent away.



Though true Christians do not follow popular customs or observe worldly holidays and festivals, there are occasions when they do get together to enjoy one another's company. For

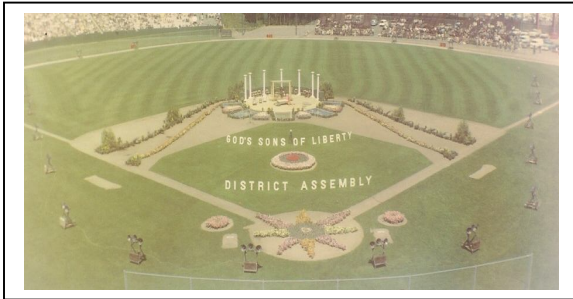


Simón and I found some Indians at Knott's Berry Farm in California. To our surprise, we looked like them. We could have dressed just like them and no one would have known the difference. Of course I have about 1/8 Apache just enough to look like an Indian. Simón quién sabe, probable Azteca

J. F. Rutherford, who was then president of the Watch Tower Society, suggested the name Kingdom Hall in 1935. In connection with the Society's branch facilities in Honolulu, Hawaii, he arranged for the brothers to construct a hall where meetings could be held. When James Harrub asked what Brother Rutherford



was going to call the building, he replied: “Don’t you think we should call it ‘Kingdom Hall,’ since that is what we are doing, preaching the good news of the Kingdom?” Thereafter, where possible, halls regularly being used by the Witnesses gradually began to be identified by signs that said “Kingdom Hall.” (Salón del Reino)



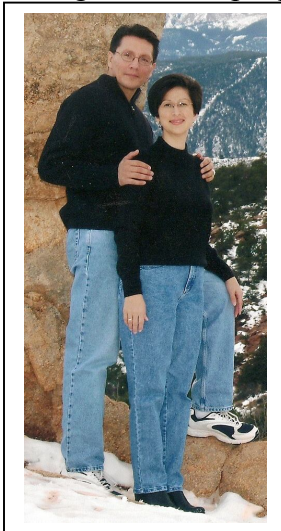
As the Universal Sovereign, Jehovah God has the right to decree that his servants should assemble and to specify the time and place of assembly. In these ways he acts for their benefit.

Such gatherings resulted in many spiritual benefits and were often occasions of great joy. In accord with the divine will, Moses and Aaron assembled all the older men of Israel in Egypt. The words of Jehovah were related, signs were performed, and the people believed. (Ex 4:27-31)

FRIENDSHIPS

In the Christian brotherhood, each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the warmth of the congregation. (1 Pet. 1:22; 2:17) Such warmth is generated when we “widen out” in our tender affections for one another. (2 Cor. 6:12, 13)

As we become better acquainted with fellow believers, we come to appreciate their faith, endurance, and other fine qualities more fully. Their shortcomings seem smaller to us, and the bonds of friendship grow. Knowing one another well, we are in a better position to build up and comfort one another. (1 Thess. 5:11) We can become “a strengthening aid” to one another to resist the unwholesome influences of Satan’s world. (Col. 4:11) In view of these pressure-filled last days, how grateful we are to have good friends among Jehovah’s people!—Prov. 18:24.



On the left is my nephew and his wife. He is serving as elder in a congregation in Decatur, Alabama

On the right is Antonia and Mary me and Lalo Martin.



Below, Luz Mary Me and Leo Macias



On the left is Delia, Simón, Myself and Mary. Notice the Jack Daniels bottle, I took it away from Simón and smashed it because he has no right to drink that stuff! The picture on the right is Oscar, Reina, Mary and I. We were ready for anything, but nothing happened. We were so bad that people stayed away from us.

We were on vacation from our circuit work when we took these silly pictures.

Below is my Son with his beautiful wife Deanna



MORE PICTURES OF THOSE WE MET IN THE TRAVEL WORK AND OTHER INTERESTING BROTHERS & SISTERS



Sandra Chan & her Husband at Patterson



José Olivas & wife Sally



My Mother Ruth & a sister at Wallkill, Mary



**Mary, Sister Donlin & Ernestina Estrada from Houston
The Donlin's are in the travel work now.**

This congregation in New Orleans was part of the Houston, TX circuit (1981-1984)



**This picture was taken at the Spanish New Orleans cong. Mary is the middle Stu Barnes and his wife
on the end behind Mary and to her left. Stu & wife are in Jehovah's memory now.**



Lolita & Manuel Sosa from Tampa, FL



Oscar Bonifaz and his family, Orlando FL



Marta Torres from Tampa, FL with Mary



Mary here with some sisters from Belle Glade, FL



The above picture where Mary is with the Belle Glade, FL sisters Are Margarita Martinez, Sister Carrillo, and a sister Elba. Sandra is right in front of Sister Carrillo who is third from the left. Sandra was about four years old here. On the left is Sandra with her husband at Patterson, NY.



Familia Briseño with Mary and the daughter on the end. This photo was taken in Cuerna Vaca, MX They are in San Antonio now and they visited us in Pueblo in 2010 while they attended an assembly in Pueblo, CO.



Sister Marin, Norma Bodre in green Sister Peréz



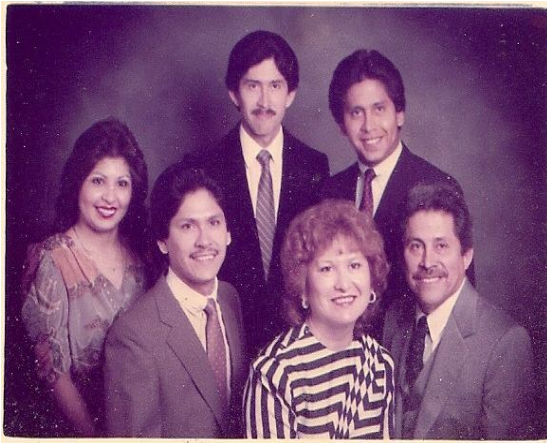
Sister Raquel Guajardo from Ft Worth, TX & Mary



David Estrada daughter in law, David Jr & Ernie



Leyda Duran, at this time of her life.



This is all of David's & family & daughter in-law Brother Rivera and Wife from Atlanta, GA with Mary on the right.

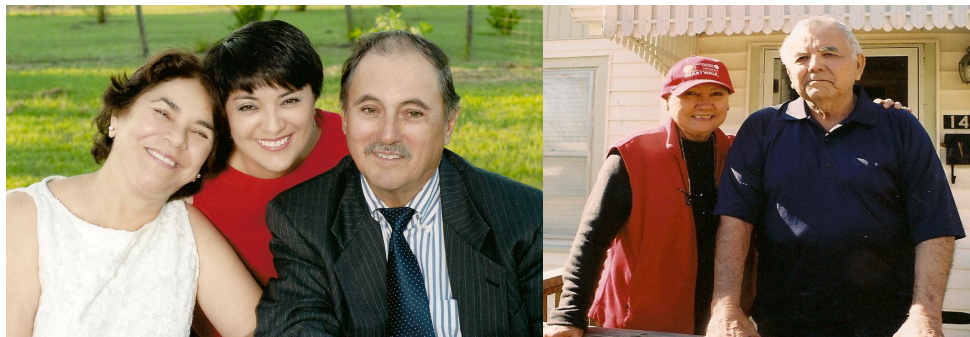


This is the Federal Pen in Atlanta, GA where Br Rutherford & others were incarcerated. I gave a talk here to Cuban detainees, 1980.



On the left are some very dear friends of ours. Abel and Susie Vizcarra. They are presently serving in the travel work and their current circuit is in Ft Worth, TX. (2012)

We had the opportunity to visit them in January of 2011 and attended the circuit assembly where he was serving at the Denton, TX Assembly Hall. We had a very good time with them and look forward to visiting them again. They will be getting a change of assignment this year (2012). Hopefully they get a good one. Actually all the assignments are good. But if you are from a certain area of the country it is nice if you can be close to where you are from. In their case it would be southern California.



On the left is the Lopez family. In 1981 I had the privilege of starting their Bible study and when I would visit the congregation I would go to their study with Santiago Melendez. He is now an elder and his wife has been pioneering for more than 15 yrs. Their daughter is also very active. The other couple is Simon and Delia Villarreal from Arlington, TX. They recently moved to Baycity, TX. Simon was in the circuit work for 20 years but had a stroke and had to get off the road. He is one of whom I recommended for the travel work.



On the right is Jimmy Guajardo form Ft. Worth TX. We stayed with them for a week in January of 2011. Serving as elder and Assembly overseer. Is very good at his work.

THE HOUSTON, TX BUNCH

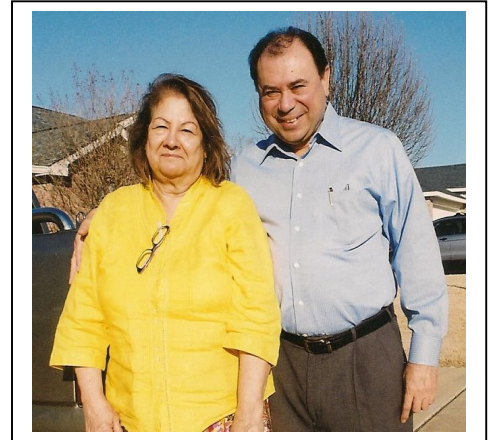


Left are Santos Marino & wife, next David & Ernestina Estrada, next son Chris & wife Adriana who live in San Antonio. Far right Fernando Hernandez and wife.

Below is Frank Gonzalez, Felix Martínez & Jimmy Almendarez all from Houston.
Bottom right, Gaspar & Eva Garcia from Arlington, TX



Frank Gonzalez, Felix Martinez, Jimmy Almendarez



Above Gaspar & Eva Garcia from Arlington, TX

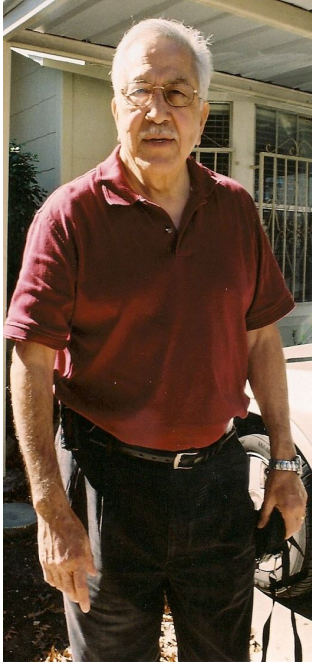
BELOW ARE THE SAN ANTONIO BUNCH



This is Frank & Yolanda Sanchez



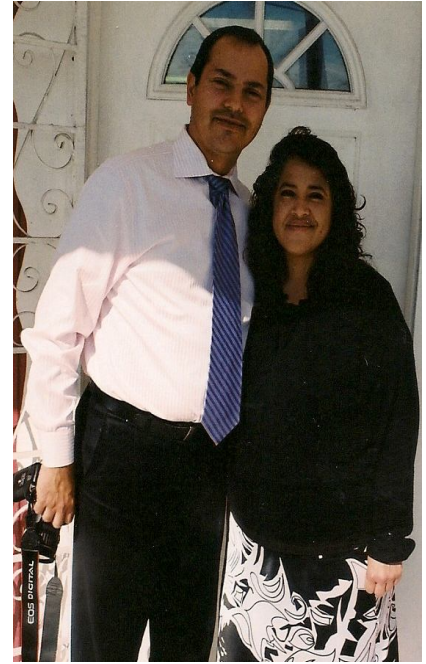
This is Erasmo & Yolanda Serna



Above Manuel Noriega



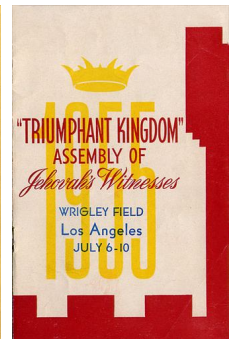
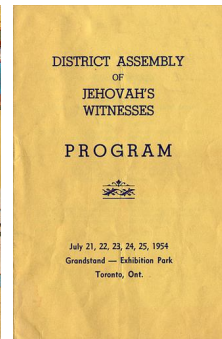
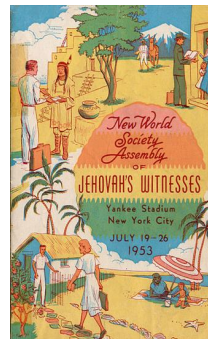
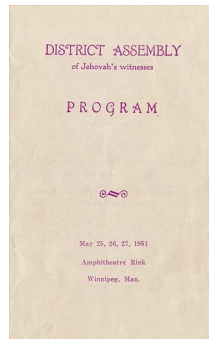
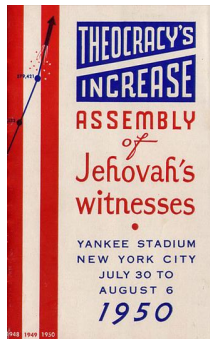
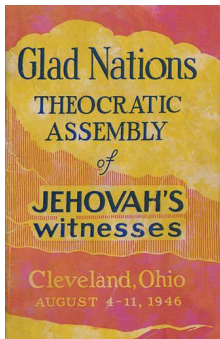
Joey Lopez & wife

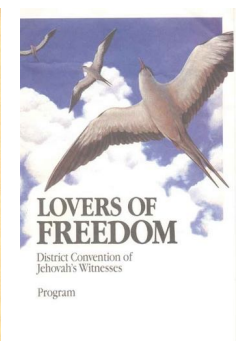
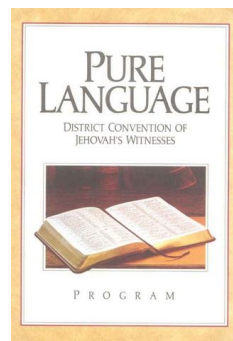
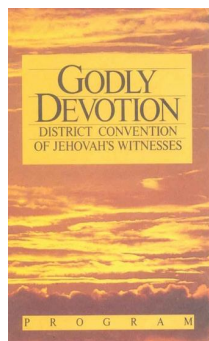
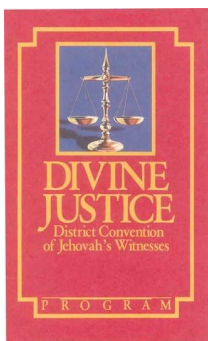
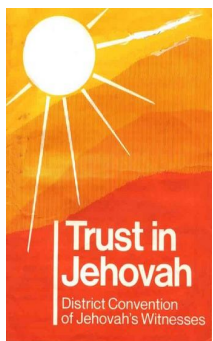
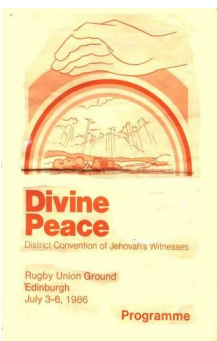
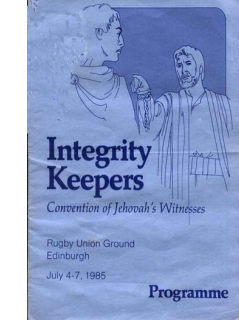
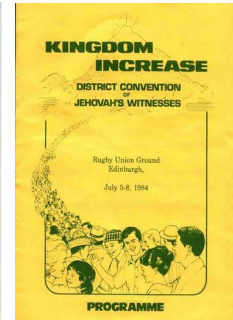
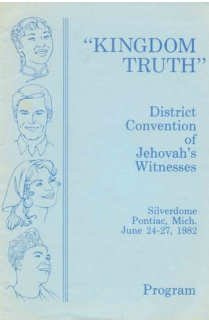
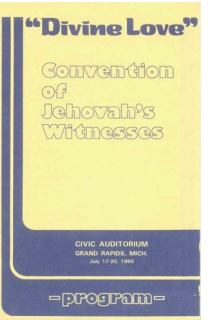
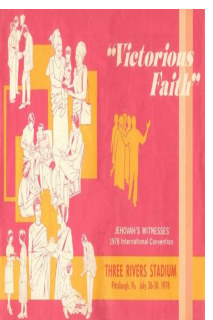
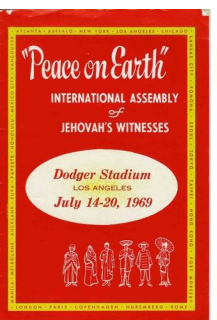
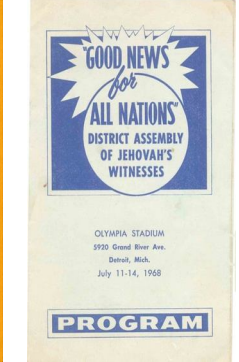
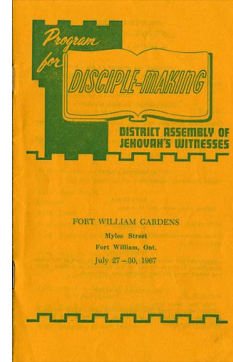
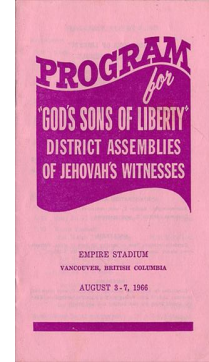
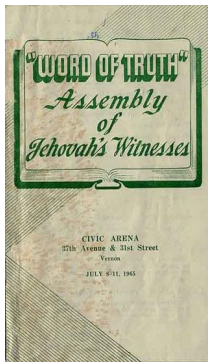
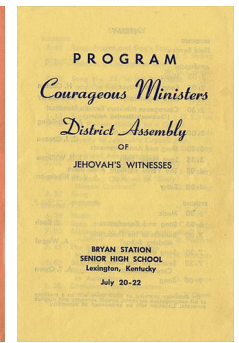
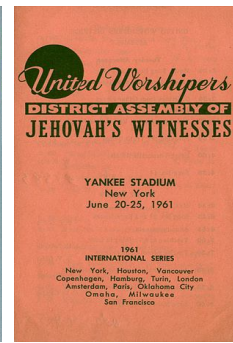
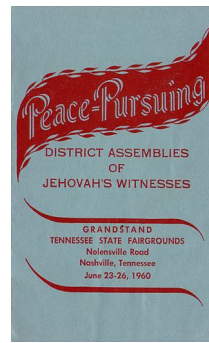
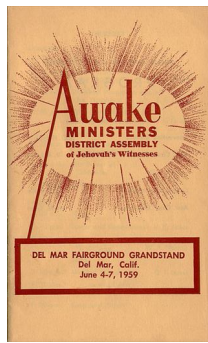
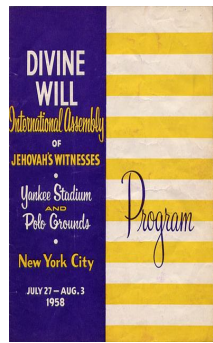
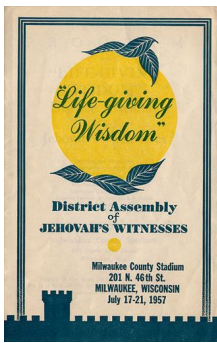


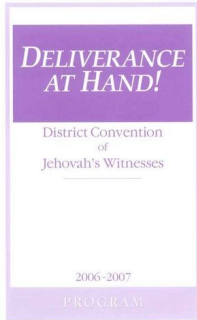
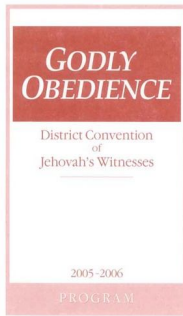
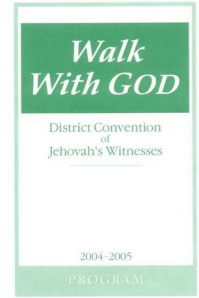
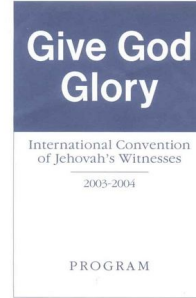
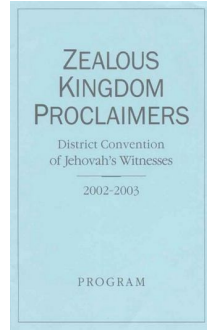
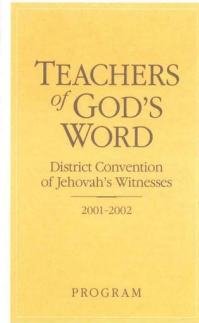
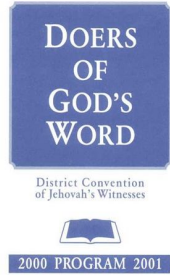
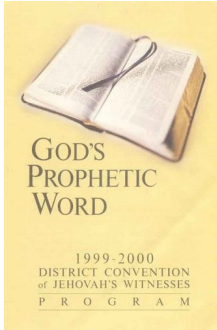
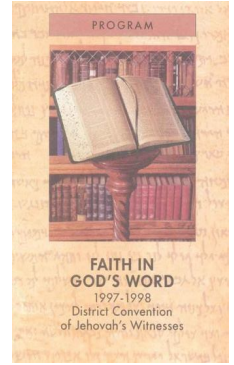
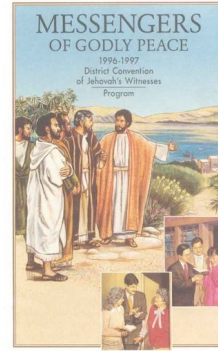
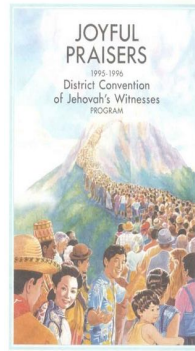
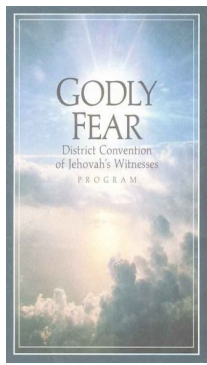
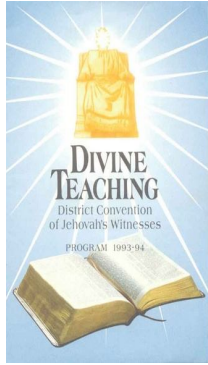
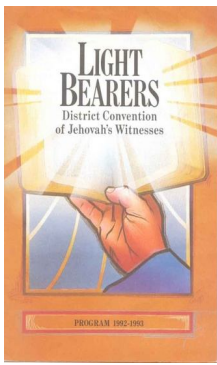
Joey Lopez Jr & wife

As we served in Houston, TX the years of 1981 through 1984 we got real close to a lot more brothers than we have pictures of. Same thing in San Antonio, which were the years from September of 1987 through August of 1990. From there we were sent to California.

I REMEMBER ATTENDING MOST OF THESE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS DURING MY LIFE TIME except for the 1946 Convention which is the first listed on this list.







The Society receives many letters from brothers and sisters expressing their appreciation for the arrangements made for them. A family from Illinois said: "We just want you to know that we did not take the district convention for granted. We realize it did not happen by chance but was the result of much hard work on the part of many brothers. We wrote to thank you." A sister from Michigan wrote: "I want to express heartfelt thanks to all my brothers involved with the rooming arrangements. My husband and I appreciate the reduced rates, as we are subsisting on one income so that I may continue pioneering. These arrangements help us benefit so much more from the convention."

Modern-day Christians realize that their conventions are periods of spiritual refreshment and instruction in God's Word. They consider these large meetings as an indispensable means of helping them to "stand complete and with firm conviction in all the will of God." (Colossians 4:12) Thus, the Witnesses wholeheartedly support these gatherings, making great efforts to attend them.



**At a circuit assembly at the Arlington, TX Assembly Hall. That's me in the middle.
They now have the assembly Hall at Denton, TX**

A CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

I cherish my spiritual heritage that was past on to me and my siblings from my father and mother.

In the light of God's Word, Christians will benefit from pondering their rich spiritual heritage. This inheritance includes the truth of Jehovah's Word, the hope of everlasting life, and the honor to represent God as proclaimers of the good news. I remember, it is none other than Jehovah who affirms: "You are my witnesses."—Isaiah 43:10.

I ask myself such questions as: "how precious is this spiritual heritage to me?" Our spiritual heritage can also infuse in us a deep sense of spiritual security that can be enjoyed only within Jehovah's organization. (Psalm 91:1, 2)

Of course, I cannot depend solely on my spiritual heritage. I need to continually develop an intimate relationship with God. After Paul had worked hard to build the faith of Christians in Philippi, he wrote to them: "Consequently, my beloved ones, in the way that you have always obeyed, not during my presence only, but now much more readily during my absence, keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12) I cannot rely on someone else for my salvation.

I am now over 77 years of age and am still benefiting from the good example of my loving Christian parents as are my brothers and my one sister. I pray that I also can be a good example to my Son and to others.

I remember the account in the Bible of Jacob wrestling with an angel. No doubt that one needs to exert oneself to gain Jehovah's favor, wrestling for it, as it were. Life today is full of difficulties and challenges for those who want to do God's will, and sometimes it is a struggle to make the right decisions. However, the fine example of Jacob offers strong incentive for me to hold on to the hope of the reward that Jehovah sets before us.

And it is my earnest prayer that I will prove my full appreciation for this heritage by properly using it through all the ages to come. —Psalm 71:17, 18



To the left is my wife Mary and I when we were in our late 40's.

These are not the last of our experiences as we are still very active in Jehovah's service. We are not in the travel work anymore, which is one of the greatest privileges of service one can have in Jehovah's organization, but we are serving as Special Pioneers and because of our ages we are limited in what we can do...but we do it whole souled. I hope, you have seen and read our experiences, have enjoyed them and been encouraged somehow. We love you all!

A special note: In the 25 years serving in the travel work I had the privilege of recommending 87 new congregations in all 9 circuits we served. Also had the privilege of recommending 8 brothers who were appointed for the circuit work.

On the right is the last school I had the privilege to attend. At this school there was a brother from Orlando FL who kept looking at me and I finally asked why he was looking at me so intensely. He said: "You do not recognize me do you"? I told him no. He said that I was his circuit overseer when he was 8 years old. He is now 36 years old and he still remembered me. As we talked I than realized who he was. Amazing that this young man, now a coordinator and after 28 years recognized me.



ANOTHER PART OF MY EXPERIENCES

Carmen & Ray Gonzalez. my first cousin and serving as Pioneer & coordinator in National City, California. Ray also made arrangements for me to give the Memorial talk at his congregation.



On the right is Sammy Diaz and his wife Susan from Woodburn, CA. He also serves as an elder in a Spanish Congregation. Sammy is a first cousin and son to my uncle Sam. The theocratic principle that we reap according to the way we sow applies likewise within the family circle. Here we can bear in mind Jesus' words at Luke 6:38: "Practice giving, and people will give to you. They will pour into your laps a fine measure,

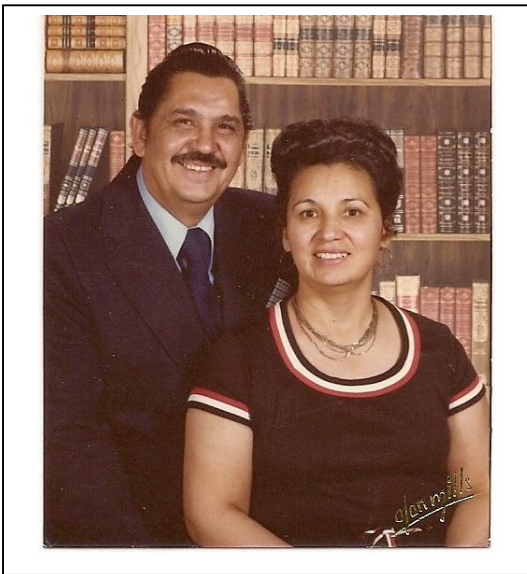


pressed down, shaken together and overflowing. For with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you in return."



Berlinda another cousin and regular pioneer. Serving in an English congregation in Pueblo Highland Park. Below is Berlinda's mom & dad. Louie & Margaret Martinez. Margaret is my first cousin and in the truth with the rest of us. A former Pioneer. Louie is in Jehovah's memory.

My father and mother as well as all my uncles and aunts in the truth worked hard in applying the principal found in Luke 6:38 with their children. Their children applied to their children and so forth, and we are now in our fifth generation of Jehovah's Witnesses and our last count was within the number of 500 or more. I wish I had everyone's picture so they could be all exhibited here in this report. Maybe some day we will all be together in the New World.



DÍAZ FAMILY REUNIÓN



Above the Díaz clan. (Picture taken in 1994) My father is missing here. Starting with my mother, on the left with the polka dot blouse, then aunt Lala, aunt Della, uncle Sam, aunt Barbara and uncle John. The ones standing on my mother right are her family, the ones directly behind aunt Lala, her family, behind aunt Della her family, behind uncle Sam his family, behind aunt Barbara & uncle John, their family. Those in front are grand & great, great grand children and are sitting in front of the corresponding grand parents. At the time this picture was taken all of us were in Jehovah's organization, thanks to my Father and Mother who encouraged my aunts and uncles to study the Bible truths. There were about 200 or so here. Other relatives could not show up at this gathering for some reason or another.

Uncle John and aunt Barbara celebrating their 75th anniversary.



On the left is my cousin Louie Chávez and his wife . He is son to my aunt Barbara. Louie serves as an elder in a California congregation near Stockton. Can't find him in the group picture but he is in there somewhere. Louie died and below is a little history on his life. We will miss him very much.



Louis Benjamin Chavez was born on November 16, 1945 in Denver, CO to parents John and Barbara Chavez. He grew up in a large Christian family with seven sisters (Pauline, Angie, Ann, Gloria, Priscilla, Barbara, and Lorraine), and one brother, David. At the age of fifteen he and his family moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. That is where he met the love of his life, Gail Anita Cox in 1962. They married on November 26, 1964.

That's when the fun and chaos began as the family grew. First came Michelle, followed by Kelly, Donovan, and Michael. The fun continued as the kids married and had children of their own. Michelle married and had two daughters, Elizabeth Ashley and Candace. Kelly married Sean Hawkins and together they had Alec and Savannah. Two years later, Donovan married Deanna Dutra and then Marissa and Cameron came along. Their youngest son Michael extended the family by adding Alexis, Michael Jr., Cadence, Celine, Patience, and Vianni.

Being raised by a God-fearing mother who taught him Bible truths, Louie grew up with a deep love for Jehovah. He symbolized this love by water baptism on July 5, 1958. His spiritual growth continued from there. At age 14, he "vacation" pioneered in Greeley, CO despite the fact that his only means of transportation was his bicycle! He had the privilege of conducting bookstudy at 18, and gave his first public talk at 22. He was appointed to serve as an elder at 28, and continued to serve until his death. He truly loved conducting the weekly Watchtower study at the Sunday meetings, even though half the time he couldn't remember your name when he called on you! He liked to call those his "senior moments".

Louie was known for his sense of humor, his love for family and friends, and of course, his love of cars! You could always count on Louie for a funny story or anecdote to cheer you up when you needed a laugh. We look forward to hearing more of those soon when we see Louie again in the resurrection promised at John 5:28, 29.

BROTHERS COME TO OUR AID

While serving here in the Pueblo circuit or CO-5 we experienced a very sad situation. Our Marianne took sick with leukemia and this took a toll on us as I mentioned earlier in my story. So due to this tragedy we decided that perhaps it would be better to leave the travel work.

After much prayer and talks with a very mature brother in Bethel we decided to stay until August of 2003. And before we got off we traveled to Spain to an International Convention, which I also mentioned earlier.

To our surprise many of our brothers from the English and Spanish congregations encouraged us to build a house. I did not know anything about construction but many, many brothers in this field assured us that it could and would be done.

Well, we trusted in Jehovah and in our brothers and sure enough it did get built.

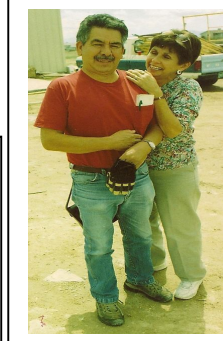
It took about a year to complete it because the brothers were not able to come all at once like they do for a Kingdom Hall build. Here is the foundation of our house. My cousin Ted Díaz (elder) helping with the house



Here is the house not quite finished



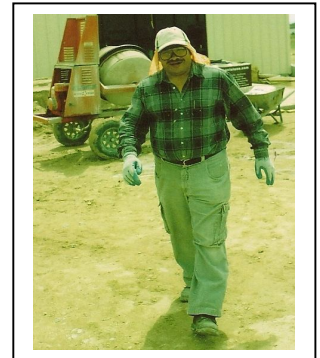
Below is Daniel & Carmen Melgosa...plumber



Doing stuccowork is my cousin Ted Diaz & Ricardo Padilla.

Brother José Torres (below) as the mud man!

from Monte Vista Spanish Congregation. On the left is Paul Gallegos and Willy Lopez looking busy.



Here is the house almost finished. We were able to move in and we continued to work on the house inside and out.



Do we have a Brotherhood? Absolutely! I would have never been able to build a home. Love just runs out from all of our brothers! (*Mark 10:28-30*)

Where have we been serving lately?

Since the fall of 2003 we have been serving in the Spanish Pueblo, CO congregation. We were appointed as Special Pioneers. We have a nice group of brothers and sisters here.

From this congregation the Cañon City Spanish congregation was formed and appointed.

The Spanish here in Pueblo are mostly native and most of them speak English and do not comprehend Spanish. So we decide to ask for a change of assignment to the English and we are now serving in the North Pueblo West congregation and have been since March 2011.

Now that I am not so busy in the circuit work I was able to restore a 1950 five window Chevrolet Pickup.



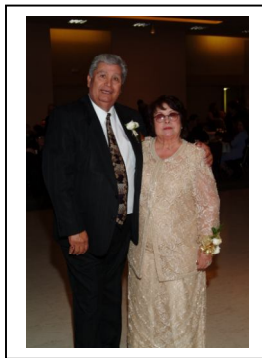
I still need to work on the upholstery. I can drive it around and sometimes I take it to the Kingdom Hall on Sundays. I need some better chrome wheels, though.

I found an old 1949 Chevrolet Deluxe 4 door sedan and thought of restoring it. When I was courting my wife, that is what I had, so I thought of fixing this one up to match it and then after it would be



restored take my wife out on a date. Here it is with me thinking. Should I really do this? Do I have the time? Do I have the money? This last question helped me to make the decision...dump it! I don't have the money. So I sold the car and now I have more room in my shop and more time!

OUR 50TH WEDDING



Above, hanging up the big banner with the announcement of 100 years of marriage. 50 years for me and 50 for Mary.

Below is my cousin Priscilla with her hubby Floyd Valdez. Almost 50 years married.



Our dear brother José Salinas playing and singing at our anniversary. Brother Salinas is in Jehovah's memory.



I am interviewing my cousin Pauline and Rex Kennedy with 54 years married on the right.

Below is Steve and Celia 51 yrs married.





I asked for all those who had 50 years or more of marriage to come up to the microphone. I would ask them what they owed their many years of marriage to. Above is brother and sister Betz. At this interview they had 63 years of marriage. They applied Bible principals. Do we need to say more? Br Betz is in Jehovah's memory now.

This is Valentin Vásquez and both of us have been

in the truth since our childhood. I always remember him at our circuit assemblies. He lived in Denver, I in Pueblo. We have a lot of memories as teens in the truth. That is why we are laughing so hard.



Below is my beautiful sister Lillian and her husband Joe Sisneros.



Sister Mendiola on the left and a regular pioneer. composed a song just for Mary and I. She is married now.

Bill and Juanita Padilla from Buena Vista CO



Bill & Leyda Freeman from Hollywood, FL
 Mary and I have known Leyda since we served in
 Florida. She was Leyda Duran back in 1979. She
 is very dear to us.



Above, Antonio Martín, Pauline Kennedy (cuz) Leo, Luz & Elena
 Macías. Antonia, Leo, Luz & Elena are from Victorville, CA

Below, Phyliss and Ivan Curley from Monte Vista, CO



Frank & Virginia Madrill...known
 them since prehistoric times. From
 Pueblo.



Below is my brother Jerry and his wife Debbie



These two people,
 on the left,
 Miriam and Angel
 Beltran del Rio
 are very dear to
 us. He wants us to
 live next door to
 them in Chino
 Hills, CA. He is a
 former Bethelite
 and a *Wine
 Expert. He gave
 us a drink of wine
 from a bottle
 worth \$1000 a
 bottle. Maybe we
 should move next
 door!*



