

Personal Notes

A “Working Vacation” for Jorge and Wanda Ginés, of the Bayamon, Puerto Rico congregation

Luis Rodríguez, his daughter, Janet, and her husband, Eduardo, place membership with the West Broward congregation.



From the right, **Rita** is first, then **Jorge**. Next: **Janet Rodríguez**. Then, **Wanda**. Next: **Luis Rodríguez**. And, behind Luis is **Ulbert Romero**, principal preacher for the

Spanish part of the West Broward church. Luis and his daughter, Janet, were baptized in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. Luis, about 40 years ago, and Janet, much later. Luis is 90, and lives with Janet and her husband, Eduardo, who was baptized here in the Fort Lauderdale area. The three placed membership with the West Broward church about two months ago. Eduardo had already gone outside when the photo was taken.

Jorge Ginés is one of the three deacons of the Bayamon church. Preaches, teaches, directs song services, and is one of the treasurers of the congregation. Both Jorge and Wanda are very, very active members of the church, and have been for long years. Both have Six Year Certificates from the School of Advanced Bible Studies of Churches of Christ, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Both work in the banking industry. Jorge preached for the West Broward Spanish-speaking congregation the Sunday in March when this photo was taken.

Jorge and Wanda informed us they were coming to Florida on a mostly “**Working Vacation**,” and we thought that quite interesting and wonderful. First, they went to Orlando and visited Minerva Báez and her family, who had been members of the Bayamon church for many years before moving to Orlando about 4 years ago. While there over the weekend, Jorge preached for the Concord St. Spanish-speaking congregation, in Orlando.

After visiting relatives in Tampa, they came and stayed with us several days. Since they wanted to “work,” we took them up on the offer, and put them to work, both in the printing facilities Antonio has in his garage and the part of them we have in our garage! Folding tracts, making spiral-bound books, proof reading texts, etc. Plus, packing materials for Venezuela in the West Broward building.

It was so great having this dynamic couple here. A big lift for our spirits. Not all work, though. We did take a day to visit a sixty-acre historic site, about 12 miles south of here, known as Flamingo Gardens. Well worth a visit. The first citric farm in the whole area, with a house built in 1931, its furnishings intact, etc. Tours and a wildlife refuge, especially for Florida birds.

Right. In the printing facility in Antonio’s garage. Wanda, Jorge, Dewayne and Antonio folding tracts. The Baunfolder folding about 35,000 an hour. Antonio feeds it continuously. I jog the tracts, making packs of 200. Jorge puts two rubber bands around each pack. Wanda stores the packs in designated areas or puts them in boxes. The four of us could hardly keep up with the folder at that speed.



Behind us, eleven HP Page Wide, full color printers. The print head, with 40,000 nozzles, is fixed and is the width of a letter-size sheet of paper. Programed to print at the same time, the eleven printers can produce 8,000, or more, high-quality, full-color tracts an hour. In front of us, stacks of printed tracts to be folded.

In Dewayne's garage-printing facility , Jorge quickly learned to use the spiral-binding equipment, using it to make scores of books, while Wanda dedicated a number of hours to proofreading texts for a new booklet.

Yanitza, her husband, Gabriel, "Gaby" to family and friends, and their little son, Milan, visit us in Tamarac

We were present when Yanitza was born, 42 years ago, in Sierra Bayamon, the urbanization where the church in Bayamon was begun in the living room of our house. Her mother is Nilsa. Her two sisters are Lili and Dali. All faithful Christians. We were very close to this family as Yanitza and her sisters grew up, and continue to be. Baptized Yanitza. Then, six years ago, performed the ceremony when she and Gaby were married. Gaby is a lawyer. Their son, Milan (short "i"), is 14 months old. Yanitza was with her mother, Nilsa, and sister, Dali, when they spent a few days with us in October, 2018. The three sisters are well prepared academically and have good jobs in Puerto Rico. Now we are waiting for Lili to visit us! Milan took up with Rita right away, and they had a great time! This family spent a few hours with us before going on a cruise that included Cuba, then a day and night with us after the cruise. I was especially interested in their observations on Cuba, where they spent about 24 hours. Needless to say, it was a joy to have this family in our home!



A short visit by seven from Puerto Rico



May 22, 2019. From the left: **Luis Jiménez**, his wife, **Amneris**, their two sons, **Shaiel** and **Gabriel** (who was recently baptized), 14 and 17. Then, **Sari**, Amneris' mother, and her husband, **Pedro**. Next, **Vilie**, Sari's son. Then, **Rita**. For long years, we were together in worship services and activities of the churches in **Ceiba** and **Bayamon**, as well as special family occasions. Sari, Pedro and family in Ceiba; Luis, Amneris and family, in Bayamon.

After completing a cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Key West, Cuba and back, the seven came by for a 4 hour visit before continuing their trip back to Puerto Rico. In Cuba, they went around La Habana in vintage cars of the fifties and talked with

some of the residents. **Vilie** went into an area of very narrow streets, where he took pictures of low apartment buildings in very dilapidated conditions, families occupying little more than cubicles and living more on the street than in such small apartments. Nevertheless, the people themselves were, as he observed, well dressed, and appeared to be wellnourished and in good health.

Rita and I took the seven for lunch to a nearby Golden Coral, where we have found the food to be, consistently, of good quality. It was great to renew acquaintances with these wonderful people we knew for so long in Puerto Rico!

Thank you for your patience in reading such a long report. Hope you have found it interesting and informative.

With brotherly love, and sincerest appreciation for your continued support.

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