

Newsletter Date

April 2009

Familia de Dios

Timothy Bunting/ 212.729.1751

Finances (and other annoying stuff)

This is a popular and dreaded topic in the current economic situation. Before going any further, we should stop and thank God for this faith building "crisis". This is definitely a great opportunity for prayer and trust.

After completing my taxes, I have a much clearer understanding of the monies I receive verses actual income. I had no idea being an adult was so expensive. I've tried to be conservative in my monetary needs because I live a fairly inexpensive simple life, but recently the expenses of city life and increasing expenses of my ministry have shaken me. I am in no financial crisis, but I've been made to consider what could happen in the future. I'm trying to learn how to save money without doubting God, how to furnish my living without being materialistic, how to receive my just wages without being a burden. It's a very tricky balance, I've been praying to God and speaking with other Bible teachers.

I have a few new expenses. One continues to be my car (discussed in another article). Another is food. I've

been taking my kids all over the place. On Sundays we'll be together for 12 hours. Saturdays I have kids with me for the entire evening. I've been covering meals for my kids during these times. I want to reward them for the sacrifices they're making by being with me all day. I also won't the lack of money for food keep them from doing it. Now that this has been going on for a while, I'm trying to tell them that they can't "freeload". They need to talk to their parents, or save their own money and help me out. This is more for their benefit than mine. I'm not too eager to make them take too much money from their parents because I'm fed by a variety of mothers multiple times throughout the week.

Another possible future expense is rent. Neil and I have been sharing 300 sq ft for about two years now. He's the best roommate a guy could ask for, but I'm just ready for some more space. Of course, this will cost about another \$500. This is something in the future, but just another reminder of how expensive life is. I don't like that. I pray that God will guide me in my financial decisions.

Texts We've Been Studying:

We've been pretty heavily steeped in the Bible these days. Here are some texts that we've been studying with our students the past few months. Acts, I Samuel, I Peter, I John, Revelation, Daniel, and I & II Thessalonians. Those are all group studies. Some personal classes held in the area have been

studying Matthew, Genesis, James, and more. The Bible speaks so well for itself. Sometimes we get so topical with our classes that we dilute the text. Be careful not to do so. Also, people need to trust in their own ability to understand the Bible. Textual studies empower others to do the same.

Weekly Classes

Sunday:

Teach teen class at Sherman Ave. Take kids to English worship at Amsterdam Ave. Take kids to Washington for worship and teach teen class afterwards.

Monday:

Study with Cruz boys. Take kids to Bible class at Rosie's.

Tuesday:

Study Acts with Emily. Study OT with Anthony. Teach Acts for Sherman teen class.

Wednesday

Study Mat with Candida. Study I Sam with Lucy. Study Mat with Vanessa. Read with Alvin.

Thursday:

Study Mat with Carlos. Teen class at Sherman Ave.

Friday:

Study OT with Diana. Study OT with Bill and Kel.

Saturday:

Study with Ibys. Study OT with Carol and friends. Teach Rev at Fairlawn.

Contact info

312 W 93rd St. Studio 136
New York, NY 10025

Phone:
212.729.1751

E-Mail:
HermanoTim@mac.com

Website:
www.HermanoTim.com

Old Christian of the Month



April's old Christian of the month goes to Gardner Hall. He hates the attention, but he deserves to be noticed as one of the godliest significant men to have lived. He has positively affected so many people. He's the reason I'm here doing what I'm doing, which is the reason many of my kids are now doing what they're doing. He has helped me with many challenging decisions regarding my faith and future. He has been an example of proper conduct for Bible teachers. He has been serving and giving to everyone, whether it is a ride to church every Sunday or organizing summer and winter camp. All in all, Gardner is very important to many people including me. Thanks for Gardner, God!

Pepper, Tim's Car

My car has been the greatest blessing and curse of my ministry. I received it as a gift, now it is my ball and chain.

I must stress how essential it has become in my teaching. I can teach many more classes in different areas in the day. Saturdays I have classes in Newark, Queens, then go to pick up kids in the Bronx for more classes at Fairlawn, and then drive them all home. None of this great opportunity was possible before I had a car. I'm able to have classes with more people now that I can travel farther faster. Others are able to attend more classes now that I can take them. Certain visitors are more likely to come if a ride to church is available. If my car exploded (which it might), I would absolutely need another one.

With all good come some bad. First of all, CARS ARE EXPENSIVE!!! Good grief! Especially up here. The last quarter of 2008 I spent \$530 for gas, \$490 in tolls, and spent \$2600 in repairs since I've owned the car. That's really changed my current financial situation.

Monday Night Class at Rosie's

This weekly class has been one of the better parts of 2009. After I study with the Cruz boys, I take usually one or two of them, Anthony, Carlos, and sometimes Mercedes to Rosie's house. We meet Bill, Kelvin, and usually a couple more kids from Harlem, and Genesis there.

This is just a nice casual night of singing and eating Emily's pancakes. Recently we've made it an extremely valuable evening. That night has become the time when we discuss our specific areas of improvement and specifically what we can do to fix it. Now we are studying gratitude. I did a short class on Luke 17 one week, and the following week Bill taught from a few more texts and led a VERY helpful discussion of what we all need to do to be more grateful. Things such as doing chores for our parents, keeping Tim's car clean, getting camp applications to Gardner or time, and taking time to thank God for all that He's done for us.

In the future I will need a new car. I have also considered getting a van so I can take more people. I'm certain I won't have enough money saved up to be able to purchase another (used) car.

Another challenge of having a car in the city (besides moving it daily for street cleaning) is it's easy to become a bus driver. This past Sunday I spent 6.5 hours in the car. I had to pick up a visitor and some of my girls in Brooklyn before church. Then we went for services and another teen class in Washington, NJ. Then I took everyone home. I don't mind the effort and expenses when it is deserving (such as that day); however, I'm a little cautious of being too giving and using too much time and effort for people that could get to church by themselves (this is another topic we've discussed with our students). In the meantime, I've got to keep up the pace.

None of this is meant to be complaining. I just need brethren to be aware of the financial challenges in the area in case something happens. I anticipate the need to ask for more support in the near

One thing I really cherish about working with the kids that I do is that everything is very personal. If there's a problem, we address it and see an immediate improvement. The humility of young people makes this possible. Let's pray that we don't lose this as adults. Let's not build social barriers that will make God's teaching and the exhortation from brethren less efficacious. What a disadvantage that would be! Read I Corinthians and imagine if another adult was accusing you so harshly. How would you react? But we know that it was the right thing for Paul to do because we see that the congregation responded to the message. We need to be able to give specific exhortations and receive specific exhortations humbly.



Rosie
and me.