

Newsletter Date

April 2010

Familia de Dios

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Good Times

Life has been pretty crazy busy this past month, but that's great because I had a couple weeks that it was a struggle to be productive. God changed that big time!

Its been good to be busy and productive because you know that you are pleasing to the Lord. However, this past week I found myself with less responsibilities and to my surprise a reasonable amount of free time. I think in the past, I would've stayed busy doing something because I felt like that's what I should be doing. I have come to realize that most of that service is more about satisfying my own conscience and concern for the opinions of others. So it's not really that valuable. I am trying to remember whom I serve. I serve God and I know when I am pleasing to Him.

Since I know that I have my limits, when God grants me the opportunity to enjoy myself with His creation and Christians, I am going to take advantage of that s I can be replenished to serve Him again in the future.

This past weekend I was able to go skateboarding in a beautiful sunny day, play baseball and soccer with Christians, as well as just spending time together hanging out. It has been GREAT! But now I am ready to get back to work and be busy and sacrificial for Him.

Help Is On the Way

The Upper West Manhattan Church of Christ received the good news that Jady Copeland and his (soon to be) wife will be moving to New York to work with the congregation. Jady's work won't coincide with mine much, but it will be great knowing that there is at least one more teacher trying to handle the insane amount of teaching opportunities with that group. I will also feel better knowing that my father can share the load with someone else. I look forward to having another great Christian brother in the area to work with. Thanks God!

Bad Times

The end of this month ended very well, but it didn't start that way.

There have been some extra special challenges in a couple of my kid's personal lives. I do not intend to share any details, but I do ask that you say and prayer and let the Holy Spirit take it to the right department.

It was good for me to have the opportunity to step up and serve. Sometimes it's hard to know what sacrifices I make when I feel that all my service to Him is expected (its in my job description); however, this month I was able to serve as a Christian brother to others in need. It has been a tough situation, but it reminds me how important it is to be a Christian. We can truly depend on each other. What a blessing. What great divine providence.

Remember that some of the most important Christian responsibilities are done outside of worship and Bible classes. This society we have learned to depend on ourselves. If we cannot take care of ourselves, the government steps in. This is not the case for Christians. Can you depend on the Christians around you? Do they depend on you actively? If not, evaluate your relationships to the church and step up. God is so good!

Weekly Classes

Sunday:

Teach teen class at Sherman Ave. Teach afternoon class at UWMCO. Teach teen class after Washington church.

Monday:

Take kids to Bible class at Rosie's.

Tuesday:

Study Mark with Grace. Teach Sherman teen class.

Wednesday

Visit Aida. Study Matthew with Alvin. Study Matthew with the Cruz boys. Study OT with Jessica.

Thursday:

Study Eph with my Dad. Study OT with Melissa. Study II Cor with Kelvin. Study Mat with Carlos & Mercedes. Teen class at Sherman Ave.

Friday:

Study Zacheriah with Bill. Study Mat with Christyn & Alysha. Occasionally teach 20s class at my apt.

Saturday:

Study with Mat Ibys. Study Daniel with Joe Works. Teach Ephesians at Fairlawn.

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20 Something Christian of the Month



January's 20 something Christian of the month goes to Jessica Gill. Jessica is from FL and got introduced to the work here went she was a camp counselor in 2006. Since she has been visiting frequently and staying very involved in the lives of our kids. She was constantly sending cards and making calls in the meantime. Recently she moved in with the Grados in the Bronx. She now is a member of the UWMCOG but attends classes with the kids too. It is good to have another dependable friend to share in this work. Me and Jessica are similar in many ways so it helps to have someone around to relate to. That keeps us both sane. I am glad God sent Jessica here!

Bryan Genao

Bryan has been coming to church for several months, but has recently been very active. He is 15 and was pretty shy at the beginning. My kids still are not so good at welcoming and including visitors even though we constantly talk about it, but then he decided to go to winter camp. Ever since he has been coming to every worship service and extra weekly Bible class. We have not been able to start a personal weekly class yet because of our schedules, but I hope to be able to start that soon.

He is very excited and enjoys coming to worship. Now we need to try to step it up and make sure that he is not coming just for friends, but is growing in his relationship with God.

He is an overall good nice kid, but no matter how good any one is, we all still need God. Pray that Bryan matures in time.



Some Classes:

I am teaching Ephesians for some teens at Fairlawn. I am teaching II Corinthians for the teens at Washington. I just recently finished I Corinthians for the teens at Sherman. Now I am surveying the Law of Moses which I will be done with this month and then teach Hebrews. I am studying Zechariah for the first time with Bill Sanchez.

As well as these studies I am continuing my usual OT or gospel personal Bible studies.

Michael Monclus

This kid is something. He is 14 and has been coming for over a year. Last year he randomly came with his mom, and then showed up to the six hour Deut class the next Monday by himself. We were all pretty impressed. Since he has been coming on and off. When school started he disappeared for a while, but he has been back with us for several months again.

He started as a pretty rough kid very in love with the world. He didn't believe in God much at all, he loved many evil worldly things, and thought many good Christian things were pretty lame; yet, he kept coming over and over. It was very enigmatic. It shows me that good people lurking behind tough exteriors are always seeking something. Recently he has been seeing God as He really is.

With lots of help from Emily, and recently help from several of my kids, he has been encouraged to make serious changes. He boldly tells his friends at school that he goes to church (something he definitely could not do before). He has been considering baptism pretty serious as well, but realizes there are still things he is not willing to give up for God. Please pray that God coerces Mike into full submission. I know he has the potential. God works miracles today. Mike could be the next one.

