

Newsletter Date
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Familia de Dios

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Indiana Trip: Gary Fisher's 3 Day John Study

This year Gary Fisher prepared a three-day study of John. Emily and I drove thirteen kids from NY/ NJ to Indiana to attend. Unfortunately not many of my kids got to come. But Gary, Carlos, and Bill came plus other kids from NJ. We took the 15-passenger van and two other cars made the trip as well.

On the way we worshipped with the congregation in Pittsburg. It is a small new congregation meeting in a day care. They were grateful for the extra attendance and help singing. A generous couple cooked lunch for us as well.

The Churchill's were hospitable enough to house about 20 kids that night. She even made breakfast for everyone.

The next day we arrived at New Salsbury for the studies. It was a great study. They book of John can be somewhat cryptic at times. It was nice to have plenty of help understanding some of Jesus' more complicated sermons.

We got through fourteen chapters. Many of our kids took extensive notes. It was a tough study because John reveals how much Jesus was rejected, but there are always those few disciples that hold fast to Him no matter what. I pray that we can all be like those disciples.

The trip was also helpful because it helped form some new Christian bonds. Trevor Wilson has been attending the UWMCO for the past year. He was able to come on the trip and meet more Christians his age. I also got to know some kids in the area I didn't know as well before.

The trip was funded by many generous donations including from my paypal account. We are such blessed people. We are living in a great time of spiritual freedom. Not only are we permitted to praise God freely, there are so many others that will give of themselves to make it possible for others. There was so much hospitality and generosity that made this trip possible. Thanks be to GOD!!!

All the kids that stayed at the Churchill's



Weekly Classes

Sunday:

Attend teen class at Sherman Ave. Take kids to Washington for worship and teach teen class afterwards.

Monday:

Take kids to Bible class at Rosie's.

Tuesday:

Study Mat with Chris. Study II Cor with Kelvin. Teach I Corinthians for Sherman teen class.

Wednesday

Study Mat with Christyn & Alysha. Visit Aida. Study Hebrews with the Cruz boys.

Thursday:

Study Mark with Grace. Study Mat with Carlos & Mercedes. Study OT with Melissa. Teen class at Sherman Ave.

Friday:

Study Mat with Suweena.

Saturday:

Study with Mat Ibys. Study OT with Carol. Drive kids for two classes in Fairlawn, NJ.

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20 Something Christian of the Month



January's 20 something Christian of the month goes to Emily Ferencze. Emily grew up in NJ, went to FL for school, and has been back the last 2 years working with the young Christians in NJ/ NY. She now lives in the Bronx. She has been vital in so many spiritual lives here. She is always driving a van full of kids to Bible studies. She is constantly hospitable having people over to her apartment for classes and sleepovers. She has also been teaching the young kids class on Tuesdays at Sherman Ave. where she is currently a member. She was a large part of making this last Indiana trip possible. She did much of the planning and helped drive. I'm glad she's here to help the work!

Independent Kids

This month I was gone for a total of three weeks. Two were for vacation, and the other was for the Indiana trip. Usually I would worry about being gone so long. Who is going to teach class? How are the kids going to get to church? Who is going to make sure they go? Finally, we've come far enough for all of those things to take care of themselves.

The kids have matured to the point that they go to church without being pressured, and they get themselves to church by train or bus when needed. That's a big weight off of my shoulders. I'm very glad to see them take such responsibility for their own spirituality. They all got themselves to Rossy's Monday classes and taught the classes themselves.

I got to relax on my vacation knowing that everything was being taken care of!

Winter Break



This month I was blessed to take a pretty long winter vacation in Duluth, MN. It was awesome. I got to visit with the church there that I used to be involved with before. They've grown a lot since I've left. They also asked me to give a report of my work.

I also got to eat and sleep a lot. The first three days I didn't even leave the house. I just slept, watched movies, ate, read the Bible, and prayed. It was great. When I got home I could tell that I was rested. I forget what that feels like sometimes, but it's just so nice to go about your day and even in the hard frustrating things (such driving all over the city in a terrible rain storm) be at ease. I hope the rest can last me for a while.

Sunday Morning Classes

Well it's been a couple months since Sherman Ave. had some struggles in regards to dealing with languages and the division between the young peoples and older members. Things have been going very well so far.

I taught my month, and now I'm waiting my turn in the rotation. Victor, Gardner, Frank, and Roger all take a month of teaching in Spanish before I get to teach in English again. My next month will be coming up in February or March.

It's been nice having others teach. Different teachers have different things to offer. I also think it has been invaluable for the young people to see the older men take a part in their spiritual lives. However, I do miss teaching my kids on Sunday morning and I'm anxious to do so again soon. But it's not about me. It's about God!

Free Food

I've mentioned before that several women from the church cook for me when I go to their houses to teach class, but it needs to be mentioned again. Why? Because it's been two years and they are still cooking for me. It's hard to fully appreciate kindness when it becomes a regular thing so I'm trying to make sure that I don't forget other people's kindness.

Monday nights Rossy makes pancakes for all the kids that come over for class. Every Tuesday Sylvia has been cooking for me and Gardner. Now I study in Harlem and Tia Niña is cooking for me. On Wednesdays Aida cooks lunch for me. Sometimes I get an early dinner from Christyn's grandma too. Thursday Adela prepares snacks for me. The other days I'm on my own.

Seriously though. My grocery budget is so much smaller thanks to these gracious women. I'm gone almost every night around dinner, but they are kind enough to make sure I have something good and healthy to eat.

How do I repay them? I brag about how good their food is. Often they playfully argue amongst themselves about who feeds me the most. I also have been able to pay for their kids meals when we are out. In the end, life is just so much better when we take the time to be good and kind to each other. Thanks everyone!