

June
2008

Familia de Dios

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Disadvantages of Working with Youth

Weekly Bible Studies Sunday:

Teach Bible class to teenagers at Sherman Ave. Then return to Upper West Manhattan Church to worship there. Drive to Washington, NJ to attend worship and teach teenage Bible class afterwards.

Monday:

Study parables with 4 Cruz brothers.

Tuesday:

Study with Anthony and Gardner. Study with a Kelvin and Alvin. Teach the teenage class at Sherman Ave.

Wednesday:

Study with Leah Ann. Study Revelation with my father. Stud Mark with Luz Sanchez.

Thursday:

Study with Melissa. Singing at Sherman Ave.

Friday:

Study Romans with Youming. Study James with Madaleyne. Study at my apartment with UWMCO members and invited guests.

Saturday:

Teach parables to young class in Fairlawn, NJ. Worship with congregation in Fairlawn.

Previously I wrote an article about the advantages of working with youth. This article is about some of the disadvantages. This is a good time to write this article because the month of May was a very disadvantaged month.

One disadvantage of trying to teach the gospel to the youth is that they (naturally) are immature. It is difficult to teach them how to put God as their main priority if they don't have a sense of priorities to begin with. It is difficult to teach them the importance of fulfilling their spiritual responsibilities if they don't know how to fulfill their school or family responsibilities either. Being a faithful Christian requires a lot of maturity, and kids don't always act mature. This is why it is so important for each child to have a supportive parent behind their spirituality. A teacher's influence can only go so far.

Another disadvantage is that they aren't independent. It would be easier to plan Bible studies with groups, or arrange social events if they could get places by themselves. Since very few people own cars in NYC, their parents can't just drop them off somewhere. They also can't get to church without some one to take them.

Kids also struggle with motivation. If you are a parent, you understand how you need to constantly push kids along. Many of my kids love church but lack the motivation to wake up on Sunday, or get their homework done on time, etc. This is very frustrating for me. Again, if these kids had parents that would instill help them grow in these areas, they could grow spiritually so much more. These are many things that I'm working on with my kids. Please pray that we can all grow in faith and maturity.

HermanoTim.com

This is the beginning of the second month for my website. There are some changes, so I thought I should update you.

This website is helpful for people interested in my work. The "About Me" page has a general summary of what I do, but now it has links for printable pdf files of all my past reports. My blog is also a good way to keep up with some of my current events. Encourage members of your congregations to visit the site if they are interested in the work here.

I have also made the website helpful for those interested in learning the gospel. On the "Contact Info" page there are directions to churches in the area. The viewer is also able to schedule classes with me, or sign of for a free correspondence course.

I have also added a "Bible Materials" page. This page has links to printable pdf files of lessons I have prepared. There is lots of good material on parables, as well as some other topics. I will continue to increase this collection. I encourage anyone to teach from this material if they want. I have also begun a video blog. On the same page is a link to a short spiritually themed video. I pick a random topic, and say a couple things about it.

The website will also be helpful to my students. They will be able to access all the materials from "Bible Materials" page as well. More importantly, they can use the "Bible Readers Club" page. This way they can read chapters of John online, and leave comments. So far, a few kids have actively used the website. A lot of kids are still reading John the old fashioned way.

Visit the site every week to see the updates.



Yet Another Good Weekend



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Young Christian of the Month!!!!



June's young Christian of the month goes to Ariel. I first met Ariel at Summer Camp 2007. He was one of the kids in my bunk. I quickly figured out that Ariel was a great guy. He was fun, funny, and cool, and he was always respectful to his fellow campers and me. Ariel attends the Spanish Church at Fairlawn with his cousins German and Jonathon. I see Ariel when I teach the Saturday Fairlawn kids class and often he comes with Gardner into the city for class on Sunday as well. He is always very attentive and eager to answer questions in every class. I am confident that Ariel can continue to grow as a faithful Christian with the help of his friends and family.

The weekend of May 10th, Brigham, Esther, Beto, Ruth, and me drove to Gettysburg to hang out with the young Christians there for a weekend of spiritual encouragement and fun.

Friday night we went to a play and a movie with several of the young Christians. After that, the boys and girls split up for the night. Brigham, Beto, and I stayed up late hanging and talking to James and Darwin. We said some prayers, and I taught a short devotional. The next morning we spent some more time in prayer.

After that we went to Kathy's birthday party. All the young Christians in the area showed up.

Kathy specifically said that she wanted a Bible study at her party. So Brigham obliged. We sang some songs, and listened to Brigham tell the story of Esther.

Overall it was a very fun and encouraging weekend.

Serving since 1933

Barbara Lemasters, my grandma passed away Monday May 26 2008. I flew down the Winter Haven, FL to meet my distressed family for the viewing and funeral.

Regardless of the unfortunate circumstance, it was such a pleasure to see all my family again. We gathered for the viewing to see an abundance of beautiful flowers. We embraced many friends and loved ones who came to mourn and encourage. It was such a bittersweet weekend.

I suppose that this is what Jesus means when He tells us not to seek our own glory. My grandma spent her whole life serving others and Christ. She never sought herself. Now that she is gone, we see others lifting up her memory. She is with God now, and God is glorifying her. Like my grandma, I want to be remembered for being a servant to others.

Three's Company

Originally I was the only teacher for the kids. It used to not be a problem because the classes were so small. Eventually, the numbers got too high and ages too far between to effectively function as a class. Lucky for me, Esther Rodriguez stepped up. She began teaching the kids of 11 and younger. That is when we began to consistently have two classes.

Lately we've had more toddlers. There were too many kids that were too young for Esther to be able to teach effectively. Fortunately for us, Jennifer Rey stepped up and began teaching the kids 6 and younger. That is when we began to have three classes.

I can't stress enough the importance of these young girls stepping and taking responsibility. Jennifer is a full time teacher (so she is busy), and Esther is coming from New Jersey (it's a BIG hassle to get to the church), yet they make the effort to please the Lord.