

Newsletter Date

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# Familia de Dios

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## The Most Challenging Month So Far

This month has been a very challenging month. An advantage of working with young people is that you tend to not be involved with some of the greatest challenges that come with being a full time evangelist. I have often wondered if I will be ready for those challenges. This month God tested me.

I will not spare too many details for propriety's sake. I think that would be best. A man from the church married another member several years ago. That made her his fourth wife. The congregation determined that he had no right to do so and has been on discipline ever since; however, recently a leader of the church reconsidered some previous evidence of adultery during the mans third marriage. Most of the leaders of the church determined that this evidence allowed them to permit him to be married to his fourth wife with a clean conscience. Others, myself included, did not think this evidence changed anything because regardless, by his own testimony, he was put away and left by his third wife (as opposed to him divorcing her for adultery). The leaders of the church decided to remove the discipline, but I couldn't agree with the decision. If I couldn't agree with the decision, I could no longer worship or teach at the congregation. I was not alone in this decision.

## Trust

One thing that I frequently considered is that I am in the middle of this challenging time, but those who spiritually and financially support me don't even know about it. Then I fully felt the magnitude of your trust in me. I am not sure what I have done to deserve your support, but it is amazing that you do trust my judgment and integrity. I am even more motivated to not allow any reason for doubt. I need a place to live, and therefore need monetary support, but I am not sure the money is more valuable than the spiritual support. I think of poor Jeremiah who was so alone. I have no reason to complain in any situation \* Thanks to you, and thanks to GOD!

This caused in immense amount of emotional strain on myself and those that I loved, but I slowly became more determined to stand up for what I saw to be right above anything else. There was much pain and loss in store, but I found out that I was willing to do so for Christ. I am glad that the Lord tested me. Again, I was not alone. There were others to help and support me during this challenging time.

Fortunately, and to Him be the glory, God did not make me undergo that imminent challenge. Through much prayer and investigation, Roger and I (as well as others) sought for the truth. Our prayers were that the truth would be known, and the leaders would make a decision that they would not be negatively judged for. Soon, more evidence was revealed. When the leaders considered this new evidence, they soon decided that they could no longer (with a clean conscience) support the mans fourth marriage as acceptable to God. The discipline has been reinstated.

I am glad to see that the leaders were seeking to do the right thing and were willing to revoke the discipline (because they thought it right) and reinstate it (because they thought it to be right). I have learned plenty. I made some mistakes in the process. May the Lord forgive me. One thing I need to remember is, when all individuals are seeking the truth with diligence, any issue will be resolved with Gods help. Lets praise Him!

## 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. Study OT with Gary. Teach Sherman teen class.

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Thursday:**

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

### **Friday:**

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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## Young Christian of the Month



Mays young Christian of the month goes to Mike Monclus. You remember him from last month. Well he is still trucking along. I am glad to see he has not rushed his baptism, but is still working towards that. I pray that he continues in this direction and begins to have a relationship with God that is close enough to make him desire to fully relent all worldliness. I genuinely believe that if Mike can come this far, he can do it, but it will be with Gods help. If I was to offer a single individual that deserves prayers, it would be Mike. Please remember him.

My latest attempt to be young and cool is I've started doing my own graffiti art (markers and paper only of course). It's fun!

## Getting OLD?

As you know, my work is primarily with young people. This is something that I am suited for, and by no coincidence was providentially led to be involved in. However, how long will I do this? How long will I be hip enough? How long can I handle it?

I feel like I am going through some changes. At the beginning of my work, I was excited and enjoyed being with crazy kids and being a crazy kid myself. That kind of life style increased for a year. The last year I maintained it. However, recently I have found that I am starting to change. I am 25 and life with just young people is getting tough.

Initially I felt guilty for not being as keen to spending so much time with young people night and day, but then I realized, that's not even normal. Of course I feel this way. Now I am trying to adapt a normal life style without sacrificing too many things. My kids still need me, and I still am obligated to self sacrifice myself to them (especially since some of them have no one else to lead them spiritually aside from Roger, Emily, and I).

Recently I have been able to spend more time with people my age. This has been encouraging and fun for me. It helps me to keep working hard. However, the summer is upon us and I need to be willing to spend a lot of time with my kids while I can. I need to keep having guys stay over at my apartment so we can study and pray. It's a tough balance. It's clear that my time here isn't complete. I intend to stay and continue this work until the Lord leads me elsewhere. I just pray that I accomplish all that the Lord wants me to.



## Where Did We Get the Bible?

I have been teaching a series of classes for the UWMCOG where my Dad preaches. He hosts classes on Sunday afternoons in his apartment. I have been teaching a series titled *How Did We Get the Bible?* It deals with the manuscripts and textual criticism process that results in our modern English translations. In a time of skepticism and arrogance, more Christians need to have answers to these potent antagonistic inquiries.

This is my third time teaching this series, and every time I teach it, I completely revamp it. It is such a large topic and involves intense study. Fortunately for me I really enjoy getting into this stuff. I feel that this time around I have mastered a **fundamental** understanding of this topic. I know the basics pretty well. But knowing that lets me know how much I DON'T KNOW about it. I imagine that I will always delve into this topic on occasionally for the rest of my life.

When I complete this series, I will have good organized notes with power point presentations. I feel that I do a decent job translating a very technical topic into understandable terms. If your congregation has some studious individuals that would like to hear this kind of topic I wouldn't mind sharing my lessons with you (in person or on paper). Or I could point you in the direction of men that REAAAALLLY know their stuff, instead of the basics like me.

## My Visits With Aida

God calls his servants to visit the orphans and widows. This is one of the easiest and enjoyable Christian duties. Especially when you know some real nice widows.

Weekly I go to visit Aida. She is the "grandma" of the church. She has been with the congregation for 20+ years. She has a very strong spirit and is responsible for bringing many to Christ.

My version of being nice to her is eating the food that is prepared for me, sharing stories, watching Ruleta De La Suerte (Spanish Wheel of Fortune), and taking a snooze on her couch. Aida is a real cool lady, and I'm glad we get to spend time together

Aida and I at the Iglesia de Cristo