

October  
2008

# Familia de Dios

Timothy Bunting 212.729.1751

## 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 parables with Tiff and Jess. Study Revelation with Bill and Kelvin. Teach Acts at Sherman Ave.

### Wednesday:

Study Mark with Lucy.

### Thursday:

Study Matthew with Vanessa. Study Old T. with Bill Anthony and Kelvin. Singing at Sherman Ave.

### Friday:

Friday night Psalms class in my apartment.

### Saturday:

Study parables with Ibys. Study Old T. with Carol. Take Kevin and Anthony to Fairlawwn teenage class and Spanish worship service.

## The Party Continues

I was prepared to be a little when school started, knowing that my students would have many other obligations and distractions. I've been pleasantly surprised. It still feels like summer time. Kevin, Anthony, Bill, and Kelvin are still regularly using their Saturday nights to go to two Bible studies in New Jersey. When they can, they will also go with Roger or me to several churches all day long on Sunday. When we can, we get together for fun too. Emily has gotten the girls together for some sleepovers these past few weeks. We've occasionally scheduled extra group Bible studies when we can. In short, all the kids are still using every chance to hang out with each other and go to Bible studies. I know that they walk in school differently this year. This year they've identified themselves as Christians, and that's how they're living.

I know there will be challenges ahead. Sports add a lot of pressure. The cold weather discourages our enthusiasm. They'll build closer bonds to school friends. Yet, I feel so much more assured that they will be able to make it to next summer stronger than they are now.

Have we considered the difficulties that lie in our paths? Have we made decisions of what to do when we are tried by these challenges? Every day my students have to decide to serve God. We need to have that same mentality of dedication to God and apprehension of Satan and sin.



## I Thess 2

I recently taught a class on I Thess 2. I like this chapter a lot. Paul goes to Thessalonica to teach. They convert some, but are forced to flee because of the great persecution (Acts 17). Paul is worried about this church knowing they are young and facing adversity. He then sends Timothy whom brings back positive news about the church's faith. Paul is grateful. He writes them a letter to encourage them to continue. In chapter 2 he reminds them why they believed the message to renew their faith. He proves to them that it came from God. Paul is grateful that they accepted the word as God's because only that is sufficient to keep them faithful against persecution.

I can greatly relate to this chapter. I teach kids that face great adversity from families and school. I worry that they can continue, but they do. Believing the Bible to be the word of God is enough for them. I know that as long as I preach the Bible as God's word my kids will be faithful to Him.



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Bunting**

## More Teachers

In a previous report I spoke of helping some of the young men in Washington teach classes. That had a great success. One of them is going to be preaching next month. It thrills me greatly that now some of my city kids are close to being able to teach as well.

Lucy wanted to read with her brother Bill. I recommended James. I typed up a basic commentary that he could use as a guide. He wanted practice going over it so I gave him 20 minutes of the Thursday night class. The next Monday he taught a class on James 1 with Lucy, Melissa, Genesis, Anthony, and me. He did a fine job. Now Anthony wants to teach as well.

I'm excited about the enthusiasm, but anticipate giving proper instruction about teaching before I set them loose. I plan to use the Saturday Fairlawn class time to offer a class on expository teaching for anyone interested. These guys are smart. They'll pick it up real quick and put me out of a job.

## One Weekend with Emily

I'm very willing to admit that this work is a group effort. Some of the greatest changes in my students have been influenced by other great teachers and their own peers. This shows me how God expects the church to work. It is truly a well-oiled piece of machinery here. One great effort that had great results was Emily Ferencze having three of my girls sleep over at her house (Genesis, Lucy, and Melissa). They talked, read, and baked apple pies.

It's amazing how much can happen when we put forth a little effort, Genesis has been a strong Christian for a while, but Emily has encouraged her to put forth more effort to help others. It's had an immediate effect. Lucy has been trying to distance herself from her worldly friends. This weekend helped her grow closer to Genesis and to depend on Emily. This helped Lucy take steps closer to baptism. Thanks Emily!

## East Orange Day Of Fellowship

Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> was a great day. Members of the East Orange Church of Christ were inspired by the spiritual enthusiasm of the youth in the NYC/ NJ area. They wanted to get involved as well. They planned a big day of fellowship and Bible study followed by their monthly song service. There were lots of young Christians there from five or six local churches. It was another chance for us to spend together with the purpose of glorifying God.

I'm grateful for the members at East Orange to go to such lengths to facilitate a spiritually encouraging week. I think some members have been impressed with the youth to the point of questioning their own zeal. With that in mind, they decided to step up and get involved. I think as adults we tend to get comfortable in our faith leading us to do less to maintain it. Let's not let this happen. Even if our faith is strong, there are too many others that need the growth that there should never be time for spiritual retirement.



### Timothy Bunting

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

### Phone:

212.729.1751

### E-Mail:

Hermano\_tim@yahoo.com

## Young Christian of the Month!!!!



November's young Christian of the month goes to Dorca Troche. Dorca is junior from Brooklyn. She has been going to camp several years. Two camps ago she made the decision to get baptized, but wasn't able to attend church anywhere. This year (thanks to the efforts of Roger and Emily) she has been coming every Sunday and Tuesday with her sister. They also have a Bible study at her apartment before church as well. She is a great example of someone who is tired of what the world has to offer. We are so grateful to have her around. I believe that she will continue to grow immensely in the next year. She is also wanting to visit FC soon.