

October

2007

New
Studies

Familia de Dios

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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. Two of their friends have begun to attend!! Then Sing with Genesis, Tiaisha and twins in the Bronx.

Tuesday:

Have Bible class with a Joel, or Melissa and Luz. Then teach the teenage class at Sherman Ave.

Wednesday:

Free evening to schedule other classes.

Thursday:

Have Bible class with Madaleyne Olivarez. Then have singing devotional at the church with all of the kids.

Friday:

Two Bible classes taught by my roommate and me in our apartment. Classes are for anyone.

Saturday:

Meet with Gardner in Newark to study with three young sisters.

In relation to my Sunday morning teen class at Sherman Ave. (which is about being dedicated to the Lord), I've implemented a Bible reading email group. It's important for us to remember that going to church is the minimum for our spiritual growth. It is time for us to take command of our own growth. I've gotten my students to give me their email address, and I have been encouraging them to read by emails. The other incentive is that any confusions, revelations, or comments can be sent to me. I will then read and respond.

My original goal was ten chapters a week.

Lessons Being Taught:

I teach to a variety of audiences. So it is necessary to teach a variety of classes. This is great because I love studying many different topics, but is also very difficult to stay ahead of preparing all the lessons. This will be a brief description of several classes I have been teaching.

Sunday morning Teen class at

Sherman Ave: Being dedicated to the Lord; we have focused on what it means to follow Jesus (Mat 8:20). I have taught the importance of studying the Bible, and the need for sacrifice.

Tuesday night Teen class at Sherman

Ave: The plan of salvation; this started from Adam and Eve causing sin, and went through every key element pertaining to God's plan of Jesus throughout the OT. Now we are starting the life of Christ. This class gives new kids a great background of the Bible stories, and helps them understand the unity of the Bible. This class is **extremely** beneficial.

Reading Luke

That was setting the bar a little high. Now I keep track of where everyone is, and set goals for the next time I see them. Its been a variety of responses. I'm still encouraging some to read Luke 1 by Tues. (one student said he had read only one verse). Others have taken off. Gary (one of my younger students) is pretty close to the lead. Sometimes I will call him and we can read together.

This will be a work in progress, and overnight results can't be expected, but I have seen growth. If you are interested in joining, write to hermano_tim@yahoo.com



Madaleyne is a senior in high school. We have studies on Thursday about baptism

Baptism: I have been having personal Bible studies with Madaleyne, Joel, and Luz and Melissa. These are kids that are close to the point of being baptized. I expect Madaleyne to be the first.

Hebrews: this is the class I am teaching in my apartment Friday nights. This is a class of adults. Most are members of the UWM COC. Neil and I use this as our best chance to bring friends to class.

Parables at the Cruz's: the four Cruz brothers are some of my most encouraging students. They learn and understand everything. They now have a good background of the OT, and will learn about Jesus life (from Tues. classes), so parables will present what Jesus teaches.



Iglesia de Cristo at Sherman Ave.

The group is very loving and supportive. The first Spanish phrase I learned was "Dios te bendiga", which means "God bless you".

There are several churches that I am devoting my time to. I will describe one of these churches per report.

The congregation is very appreciative of my presence there. I am always being given gifts. One time I got cheese. They have also included me in song leading. There are many familiar tunes with Spanish words that I can lead.

Still, the most encouraging part of this congregation is the immense growth among the youth. When I first started teaching, there were 2 to 4 kids. The record is 21 students on a Tuesday night. The kids are all on different spiritual levels, but as long as teaching remains, they will continue to come and grow. Gardner Hall needs to be recognized as a huge contribution to this work.

This congregation meets in upper Manhattan in a neighborhood called Washington Heights. It is a very exciting family oriented Spanish area (mostly Dominican, and a little Puerto Rican). The Christians there come from upper Manhattan and the Bronx. Gardner Hall takes his van all over these parts picking up members. Victor Grado drives another van picking up others. The church has many older women that bring their nieces and nephews. Rosa brings five foster kids she cares for. There are not many families, but the congregation acts as one big family.

Tim Cuts His Hair!!!!

When some of your favorite bands are The Beatles and Led Zeppelin, I guess it's only natural that you start letting your hair grow out. My hair had grown a record length right about the time I had decided to start evangelizing part time. I reluctantly decided to let my roommate (conveniently a professional hair dresser) chop it off for propriety's sake. Though I missed my long locks, it felt nice to look presentable again.



I had been anticipating a positive response to my "new do", and I received that from my parents (of course) as well as other members of the churches. However, not everybody loved my new look. Some of the younger Dominican kids were a little attached to my long hair.

Esmeralda thought I was my brother. Ismelda said, "You know I'm not gonna talk to you now." Teanna said "Why'd you cut your hair?! I hate you!" She has refused to hug me since. Gary just looked at me and shook his head in disappointment for a week.

Paul said he has "become all things to all men" (I Cor 9:22). My hat is off to him in this tremendous feat.

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Young Christian of the Month!!!!



October's young Christian of the month goes to Carlos Peralta. Carlos is a senior in high school. He has been attending Sherman Ave. with Gary, his little brother, and his mother Maria for about two years. They travel 1 1/2 hours from Brooklyn to get there. Carlos is quiet, but a very important element to the classes. When he knows the answers, he waits to let others answer, but also speaks up to keep the class moving forward. He takes responsibility to keep the more rambunctious ninos in line during class as well. I think we can expect Carlos to be someone that will continue to grow in the Lord.