



Preaching the Gospel in New York City

Donald T. Bunting

April Report

5/2/2007

Financial Woes ... or maybe WOWs!

April brought two drastic changes in our financial situation of staggering proportions.

First, my tax accountant informed me that my estimated tax payments for 2007 must increase by \$539/month. I pay Federal, State, and CITY income tax, as well as social security, which includes my excessive housing costs. Obviously, that large of an increase is not within our budget.

Secondly, we have just received the renewal lease for our apartment. As of September, our rent will increase by \$450.00/month, plus that amount for a security deposit!! Research has shown us that real estate markets in NYC continue to grow, even the gov-

ernment – controlled rents have been allowed to increase 7% this year.

Some apartment shopping has shown that our new rent is within the current market price for this neighborhood.

My support was just fine. What happened in April?

Apartments recently vacated in our building are renting immediately. Apartments nearby for the price we are paying now, are much smaller.

One large moving expense is a new broker's fee - at least one month's rent. Moving

toward mid-town would be more expensive. We would have to move 3-4 miles north to avoid bad neighborhoods. This would be a huge setback, as our home serves all social functions and Bible classes outside of our assemblies.

So, I must request an additional \$950/month PLUS the amount to cover the tax increase associated with that income, just to remain at our income level and continue the work that we are doing. If you are willing and able to consider helping in any amount, please call or write so I can further explain our situation. I am happy for you to see our personal budget and receive answers to all your questions.

Facts & Figures April Averages

Sunday Morning 56

Contribution \$1007

Tuesday Evening 14



City Sightings

The Bicycle Chain — Is not that unusual anywhere you find bicycles. But, in NYC bikes and chains are in large quantities. Not just for recreational use but for the delivery of almost anything sold. But these are serious locks and chains!!! Does anyone wonder why?

Sewell Hall writes:

When Don mentioned the financial crisis he is facing, I immediately volunteered to write a word of recommendation that his needs be immediately met.

Good progress has been made in the Upper West Manhattan church since the Buntings came to work with them. It has grown in number and in stability. A major factor in this growth is the good work they have done. It has been expedited by the proximity of their

apartment to the meeting place and their gracious hospitality to members and visitors. Their modest apartment has served for personal studies and for group classes. This last is especially important since the church's access to its meeting place is severely limited.

One must live in New York to comprehend the cost of living in the city. Yet every major company maintains an office here and pays whatever has to be paid. Preachers of error are everywhere, many living in luxury. If the rent for

the Buntings' apartment seems high, I can assure you that few if any other preachers in this country live in smaller or less luxurious quarters.

It would be a pity indeed if the Buntings should have to curtail their effectiveness by moving farther from the meeting place. The local church understands their situation and is giving them a commendable amount of support considering their size and ability. Surely other brethren will willingly and generously provide the rest of what is needed.



Donald T. Bunting

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Upper West Manhattan
Church of Christ
Meeting at Hostelling International
891 Amsterdam Avenue
at 103rd St.

Sunday Bible class—10:30 AM
Sunday Worship — 11:30 AM
Tuesday Bible study—7:30 PM

IRONICALLY —

In contrast to our financial woes — April has produced more contacts, more local visitors, our largest average attendance to date.

April Activities

- Gospel meetings in Wellsburg, WV and Sidney, NY — both were good weeks for me, but I was gone too much and will be cutting down on my meetings.
- Two Bible studies with Belinda and Chris. They are engaged to be married.
- Married Julie and Gregg on April 28th. A fine young couple for whom I have high hopes, spiritually.
- Took four days in Florida to help Cami's parents move — necessary and good time with family.
- Invited the church to our place for Sunday dinner — 18!
- Continued the 2:30 Sunday class in our apartment.

→ This ad ran four times in April and in May at a cost of \$1600/month.

Well worth the cost, I get an average of four calls responding to the ad every time it runs. It has resulted in several visitors and some new studies.

Our attendance is reflecting the attention our ads are attracting. We had 59 and 70 the last 2 Sundays in April!

Gospel meeting in Sidney, NY

I started the month of April with a series of lessons on the book of Revelation in Sidney, NY. That weekend of work with Larry Bailey, family and the church there was real joy for the following reasons:

- The work done in the community to get visitors to the meeting.
- The many local visitors that attended!
- The large number of brethren that drove hours each way to attend ... several in excess of two.
- The joy expressed by so many in the opportunity to study in depth and at length.

This is a congregation of about sixty members in a small town in the middle of New York state, a three hour drive from NYC. God has blessed persistent work with

good fruit. The success has not come easily or quickly, however. Larry Bailey has been preaching in New York state over two decades.

One lady, who's face was so familiar, told me about her first visit in the church. She was the organist in a local denomination. She knew from her own reading that they were not helping her get to heaven. Having seen an advertisement, she decided to visit the church one night of its gospel meeting. Her first visit in the Lord's church was during a gospel meeting I was preaching in South New Berlin, NY over 20 years ago! Still serving.



The church belongs to God, not man.
The Bible calls it the church of
God and the church of Christ.

Jesus said: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it...I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:18-19

As long as it is governed and guided by God's word, it remains His church. As soon as people assume control and determine doctrine, morals, faith and practice it ceases to be God's church. Christ is head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:22-23)!

Upper West Manhattan Church of Christ

Meeting at 891 Amsterdam Ave. @ 103rd
in the NY AYH Hostelling International
For more information, call 212-729-8356
or e-mail for_bible_study@yahoo.com
Web: www.uwmchurchofchrist.org

