

Teaching God's Word in the Mohawk Valley

518.225.3005
dantbunting@gmail.com

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Winter weather hit us hard this month! Two snowstorms, each dropping over a foot of snow, came within four days of each other! Unfortunately, the second snowstorm was on Sunday and we weren't able to get to the building. This is one of the realities we deal with in the North East. This year's storms have had brutal timing, coming on successive Tuesdays and now a Sunday. We have missed more of our assemblies than usual.

We spent missed assembly times singing songs and reading the Bible at home. It is a joy to worship with my family.

RESPONSES TO ADVERTISING

Our advertising gave us new contacts this winter. **Rich** responded to the Men's Class we advertise on meetup.com. He called to talk about his experiences and needs and came to the Thursday night Men's Study. Sadly, he didn't want to simply read the Bible and discuss its' lessons. He just wanted to talk about himself and his needs.

John responded to one of our large post cards. He comes from a Dutch Reformed background, but was excited to come to the same Thursday Men's Study and a Sunday Bible class. Holding to the teachings of Calvin, he was turned off by the Bible example of Moses' prayer affecting and changing God's mind.

These two responses reflect a lot of what we encounter in the Albany area. Some people look for studies that express their personal interests and/or needs. More often than not, they want to spend their time talking about themselves and their personal experiences and theology. Keeping people to simple Bible reading is difficult.

Others come holding to Calvin's teaching more firmly than I have encountered in other areas of the country. They are surprised and often dismayed at the Bible teaching that God allows us to make our own choices and pray to affect his decisions.

I work to continue reading God's word with people in every opportunity God grants. Not surprisingly, His word affects people in a big way. While some run from His word, **Mark** continues to grow by it. His constant reading shows in character growth and conversations. Baptized just this past fall, he is scheduled to preach a lesson to the congregation later this month. I am thankful for God's word and lovingkindness.

MOHAWK VALLEY CHURCH

We started up a new monthly Sunday evening class studying the psalms. Once each month the church meets in the home of the Wells and spends Sunday evening studying together. Our first lesson examined Psalms 113-117 and our next class will look at Psalm 118. We all really enjoyed our first study and look forward to the next one.

BUNTING FAMILY

We are enjoying our snowy winter! I get to go cross country skiing. The kids make paths and forts in the snow. The dog runs around like crazy. Heather enjoys taking pictures of all the pretty scenes.

Please keep our work and labor in your prayers. Your prayers encourage and strengthen us.

