



JULY



ADVENTURES IN MISSIONS IN HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA

LITTLE CHILDREN, YET A LITTLE WHILE I AM WITH YOU. YOU WILL SEEK ME, AND JUST AS I SAID TO THE JEWS, SO NOW I ALSO SAY TO YOU, 'WHERE I AM GOING YOU CANNOT COME'. A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER: JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, YOU ALSO ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. BY THIS ALL PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. ~ JOHN 13: 33-35

RENEWAL

This last month was such an encouraging time for me. God put so many people in my path that reminded me of the bigger picture of why I am serving here in Homestead.

July was packed full of exciting events. It's been so awesome to see the ministries here in a new light as I've become more at home with the culture here in South Florida.

The Redland Christian Academy school year is starting a week from today, and I'm excited about being able to teach classes!

Everything seems to be moving along steadily and healthily. Many of the initial bumps in the road, and times of feeling overwhelmed are starting to fade away now that we are more at home with the work and the people here.

BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF MERCIES AND GOD OF ALL COMFORT, WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR AFFLICTIONS, SO THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE IN ANY AFFLICTION, WITH THE COMFORT WITH WHICH WE OURSELVES ARE COMFORTED BY GOD.

-2 CORINTHIANS 1: 3-4

HOMESTEAD CHURCH OF CHRIST



Disciple Trips: A Week of Fun, Fellowship, and Service!



"DISCIPLETRIPS IS A SHORT-TERM MISSION ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO SEND **PEOPLE** TO MISSION **PLACES** TO HELP EVERYONE DISCOVER THEIR GREATER **PURPOSE.**"
<http://www.discipletrips.com/>

One of the highlights of July was when a DiscipleTrips group, made up of youth, ministers, and parents from west Texas, came to visit us in Homestead for a week. DiscipleTrips, led by Jeff Smith out of Sunset International Bible Institute, has sent people around the world to serve in places like Antigua, Honduras, Belize, and Mexico. Homestead is actually the first state-side mission field to host Disciple Trips. It was such a huge blessing to us here in Homestead to have them visit and give of their time, energy, and resources in order to see that the ministries here flourish. They were a wonderful, hardworking, loving bunch of people. I feel so blessed to have been able to get to know them and I hope that some of them find their way back to Homestead for another DiscipleTrip next year!

Events!

Our ministry focus in July was definitely outreach. We were able to utilize the manpower of the DiscipleTrips group and we spent quite a few sunny days out in the community passing out flyers for Homestead Church of Christ and Redland Christian Academy.

We also prepared for the upcoming school year by putting on some events for the families of Redland Christian Academy. We had a RCA Family Field Day and BBQ which was such a blast and it was a great way to meet some of the families of students who attend RCA. RCA is a great outreach tool because the vast majority of families who have children enrolled at RCA are not members of the church. Later that week we also hosted a Parents Night Out where we babysat children for parents at RCA free of charge as a way of saying "thank-you" for being a part of the school.

We also put together a block party in the neighborhood where we do "VBS on Wheels". We had quite a few families show up who were curious about what their kids have been up to every Saturday at our VBS. I think we made a few promising connections with people in the community, plus it was great to see the kids running around and having fun.

Koinonia: Koinonia was an open-mic-night on Saturday for church members and people in the community hosted at the church. We had Christian rappers, singers, spoken word poets, students from RCA, and so many others come and share their talent. This open-mic-night is an expansion of a ministry – "Positive Vibes" that Robert Porshe has been leading and it has been a great way to get to see the hearts of the people we work with, as well as a place to invite people to get to know the Church.

Because summer is coming to a close for our J4Lers, we have been putting on fun events and games for them throughout the week to encourage them to bond with us and one another so that they don't start falling away when school starts and things get hectic and negative influence starts to take its toll. We've had smores cookouts, capture the flag tournaments, slip n' slide kick ball... you name it. It's been a very effective tool for us to get to know the kids better, and it's been a great, low-pressure place to bring people from outside the youth group.



Ministry Spotlight:

The Ministry I'll be highlighting this month is our WoW (Women of Worship) Bible Study Group. Every Sunday evening after church, the AIM girls, Karen (coordinator Mike Hoot's wife), and girls from the youth group come together to study the Bible. We are starting a series on prayer that has been very challenging. We get to hear a different perspective from the girls gathered together for a time of study and fellowship. We have had two new girls join our study group!



A Little about South Florida:

Colada: Something I love about the culture in Miami is Cuban Coffee. Colada is a dark roast espresso, what makes it special is the tradition of sharing that comes with it. Whenever someone whips out Colada, it is shared, with friends, family, strangers.. whoever is around. I remember on my first day in Miami, a woman started passing around those little tiny cups and I thought it was an unusually friendly gesture, now it seems like such a normal part of life here.

Personal Growth:

A lesson that I have learned in this past month has been the value of unconditional love. So much of the work we do here is about you pouring yourself (your emotions, your time, your resources) out unconditionally. The past month, as the kids have become more and more comfortable with us, I have noticed that sometimes their attitudes can be extremely critical, mocking, and inconsiderate. While that is definitely not all the time, whenever those kinds of things do crop up, my first instinct is to take it very personally. That would lead me to become less willing to go the extra mile for people, and in certain cases it would make me bitter and angry. Looking at the beatitudes, 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4, and John 13: 33-35 helped me to recognize that if I was working for the Lord, while having bitterness in my heart about the people I was serving, then I'd missed the whole point. Recognizing that it was like Jesus to sacrifice and put others needs before my own made my work so much more fulfilling.

REQUESTS:

Prayer-

- That we are put where we will do the most good in the school.
- For Jamie and I as we prepare to launch our after-school girls group.
- For the J4L youth group, I believe that J4L is on the cusp of positive change, please pray that we seek God's wisdom and act with boldness and humility.

Financial Need- I plan to buy a car here in Florida so that I can more effectively meet the needs of the ministries here in Homestead. If God opens this door for me, I believe that it will greatly increase the impact I can have on the people I am trying to reach out to. The vast majority of the young people I work with have no way of getting to the church or to bible studies; AIMers with cars have become an essential part of how young people are a part of the church.

- I am in need of \$200 monthly support to cover the cost of a vehicle (including fuel costs). If you would like to look at my budget, or if you have any questions feel free to contact me, I would love to hear from you.

I ask that you consider whether or not you are able to help me as I try to reach this goal. If the Lord moves you to help me, know that even the smallest contribution can make a huge difference!

Thank You! I love you all so much, thank you for choosing to be a part of my life. I hope and pray that God blesses you in every way. I would love to hear from you, if you have any questions, advice, or would like to reach out about support. You can contact me or my home congregation, Marble Falls Church of Christ:

Home Congregation

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