



RE-CHRIST

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Pray for all the students as they continue to prepare for the CRCT that will be in April. This is a big test for many of them and it causes a lot of stress for them.

Pray for the students (and teachers) as their days are 30 minutes longer due to having to make up snow days. Pray for their concentration and ability to continue learning!

PRAY!!!

If you would like to mail a check to support our ministry, please send it to:

RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES

P O BOX 922518

NORCROSS GA 30010-2518

**If you would like to give online, please go to our website:
www.re-christ.org**

Jan/Feb 2014

Dear RE-CHRIST Supporters

Thank you all for your continued prayers and financial support. We continue to ask God to teach you just how important you are and how loved you are by us.

Father in the name of Jesus, I declare wisdom, peace, and assurance into the lives of all of those who read our newsletters and to all of those who pray and support RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES. I do so knowing that you alone Lord provide true wisdom, prevailing peace, and the only gift of eternal assurance mankind will ever know. However, I also am aware that some people reading the RCM newsletter might not have these things to help endure the trials of this world. Therefore, I proclaim these things, believing in my heart, that you, oh Lord, will provide and assist all of these beloved people according to your glorious riches and perfect will. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ the Lord.

During the first couple of months of 2014 several unpredictable situations and announcements have been made known in our lives. First, Georgia was hit with two winter storms. Both of these storms I doubted would actually hit, but still they took place. The first storm took the majority of the people in the state of Georgia by surprise. People were stranded on highways, at schools, at businesses, and other locations throughout metro Atlanta and the state. However, through the unexpected trial I witnessed many, many people loving and caring for one another. For me, a personal renewal of humanity was established in my heart. This was a blessing. It was also a blessing for me to have been awarded special time with my family and the opportunity to love on my neighbors via snow ball fights, sledding, snow man building and assisting people to get their cars out from the snow and ice.

The second winter storm that hit Georgia this year was better embraced by the people in our state. Yes, some people overreacted, but the people responded with wisdom gained from the prior storm. They remained safe and secure as possible, staying off the roads and allowing emergency people the opportunity to do their work. This is hopefully the case for most people learning to deal with life and the unexpected things that pop up from time to time.

For me the greatest lesson learned was attitude and preparation. On three different occasions throughout the winter storms I had opportunity to share hope, encouraging words, and lend a hand to people in my community that I might not otherwise. Each time I shared the love of Jesus with somebody I witnessed

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) PRAY FOR THE EASTER EVENTS THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE AT THE APARTMENT COMPLEXES IN APRIL. PRAY THAT THE GLORIOUS NEWS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION WILL BE PROCLAIMED!**
- 2) PRAY FOR THE EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**
- 3) PRAY FOR THE 40-50 PEOPLE TO JOIN THE BIBLE STUDY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.**
- 4) PRAISE THE LORD FOR ALL THE WORK HE CONTINUES TO DO!**

**"Because of the LORD's great love
we are not consumed, for his
compassions never fail. They are
new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The LORD is my
portion; therefore I will wait for
him."**

Lamentations 3:22-24

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their souls being shaped by God's love. Maintaining the proper attitude also allowed me to be prepared for the worst and ready to make the best of a challenging situation. How do you do when times are tough? How do you respond to the unexpected?

During the month of February we had two more unexpected announcements. One, our friend of eight years, Heather Gordon, went home to be with the Lord. Heather and Miguel (Heather's son) were one of the first families we met as we started RCM. Heather dealt with severe health issues the majority of her life. She and Miguel personified the ideal of perseverance. Heather and Miguel have never known financial security, but they have always been rich in spirit. Heather was a source of light and encouragement to many others. Although, she had little material goods, she was still a natural giver. At Heather's celebration a friend of hers told a story about Heather's desire to give to others out of her poverty. The friend said, "one day she was out with Heath when Heather asked to borrow five dollars. The friend gave the money to Heather only to watch Heather give it to another person in need." I chuckled at this story as well did many others at her celebration. Heather was also looking to be a blessing to others, even when she had to borrow to give.

My joy knows that Heather and I often discussed places I have traveled throughout the world. She always wanted to travel the world and now I can only imagine the joy she is experiencing in heaven with Jesus. Her wildest dreams are being fulfilled. Heather embraced the proper attitude while dealing with the unexpected situations of life and poverty and now she is being rewarded. Heather knew that one day all things would be made right for her if she placed her trust in Jesus. We will miss Heather. Please keep Miguel in your prayers. He has been the primary caregiver for his Mom since he was a teenager. He is now 23 and on his own for the first time without his sidekick. The comfort that Miguel has in knowing that his Mom is no longer suffering and that she felt her life mission had been complete. Heather's main mission in life was to stay long enough on this earth to see her son become a man. Although, Miguel is young and will learn much in the years ahead, he is by far one of the most mature young men you will ever meet. It is only recently in the last year and a half that Miguel has decided to get plugged into a local church and now has a job he likes and can grow. We will continue our relationship with Miguel and support him as a young man.

The other unexpected announcement for us in February was we discovered we would not be having another baby. Ashley was 12 weeks pregnant, or we thought, when we discovered she had a molar pregnancy. This means there was a conception, but no life. Needless to say we were heartbroken, but still had to process the news in the light of Jesus Christ. To sum up our experience in a few brief words, we basically came to terms that God's plan was best for our lives. We did not know why this happened or exactly



how to receive this news as a blessing. However, as followers of Christ we can trust that God knows what is best, and that He is working for our good in all things as we follow Him.

Unexpected events happen to all people, and people respond in many various fashions. The trials of life are there to test mankind in their faith, in their core values. God's wisdom, peace, and assurance are everything we have needed for every situation in the New Year and in the things to come. Wisdom was provided by God to lend us the proper attitude. Peace was provided by God to help us to remain in the proper attitude. And assurance was provided by God in order that we never let go of the attitude found in Christ Jesus. God is light and in Him there is no darkness. If we allow His light to shine in us, we can be His instrument to shine light into a dark world full of unexpected situations.



A quick few additional praises from RCM from January-February:

1) While reading the book of Acts with one group of 3-5 graders in January, I was asked by one of the student's if we were going to read the entire book of Acts. I said yes, and then inquired why? Omar said, because this is awesome! He said God is working so many miracles. Does your heart for God's Word reflect the attitude of this fourth grade student? Do you trust in God for miracles when unexpected situations happen?

2) At our other location, a substitute filled in for our normal lead teacher during a 3-5 grade session in February. To the amazement of the substitute, he found the 3-5 grade kids well behaved and informed of the Bible. The kids passed their "pop quiz". Needless to say this pleased me, the regular teacher, and Jesus. Building disciples is not easy, but it is worth it!

3) We successfully put on our second annual 5K race, Run to Love. We had 155 racers sign up and 133 actually ran. This was an increase from last year and many people made positive comments on our improvements from last year. Many thanks and praises go out to my wife Ashley for her hard work on this event and \$2,000 were raised to support RCM. Even Adrian, one of our students ran...with a great time of 24:45...11th overall!!! Some of our wonderful volunteers ran too!





- 4) Our first classes of elementary students, who are now in high school, are really beginning to mature and grow in the Lord. In the fall of this year we are planning to create a high school discipleship program that will allow high school students to become mentors for our elementary school students. The high school students who enter this new program will also gain financial assistance towards future education, mission trips, or other high school discipleship programs that are typically costly. We are very excited about this process and once established should help to complete the cycle for our student discipleship. Pray for us as we seek God's blessing to make a self sustaining program that will last and be fruitful for generations of students.

- 5) We are preparing to start an evangelism campaign in Duluth. Our goal will be to watch God build an adult discipleship program from random people in the community. Just this last week we feel we have a good lead on where our initial meeting place will be. Our goal is to have about 40-50 people meeting together for Bible study and prayer by the end of the year. Please join us in prayer for this endeavor.



As you can tell there are many blessings to be discovered in the midst of many unexpected challenges. This month Ashley and I will celebrate our 8th wedding anniversary as we continue to keep Christ at the center of all we do. This does require intentional effort and accountability, but having lived lives apart from Jesus, we never want to live apart from Him ever again. His wisdom, peace, and assurance give us the power and the strength to continue to be light in a dark world. Be blessed and look to set your heart and attitude upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Matt & Ashley
Johns...and Noah!





