



RE-CHRIST

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Pray for students as they may encounter difficult situations at home.

Pray for students to strive for excellence in their school work.

Pray for the students to come to know Jesus in a real relationship where He is all they need for their worth.

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

March - April 2016

Dear RE-CHRIST Supporters

Another school year is almost behind us. This week is our final week concerning the after school programs and then on to summer events. However, we will close the year with a big bash at Jones Bridge Park. This is always a fun celebration as we bring both apartment communities together with students, families, and servant volunteers for a fun filled day in the sun. Pray for the sun because it is a 50% chance of rain on Thursday. A quick reminder as stipulated in the email. We are currently raising support for summer camps and outings. If you feel led to give financially, no matter the amount just write on the memo line "summer events" and we will use the money to support student activities this summer. Students are always looking to participate in fun relationship building activities. Thanks

Last week I met with the servant-volunteer leaders who run the after school programs to talk about the ministry; past, present, and future. Let me share some of what I heard. I will begin with the praises. One consistent thing I heard was "students helping students". In one group there was a young boy who struggled to belong. However, as the students were taught to pray and to love others they began to be intentional about including the boy who was a perceived outsider. Not only were the students being inclusive during play time, but during the prayer time they began to pray for one another. These are first and second graders might I add. I love how the innocence of children brings about the reality of God's truth.

Another group of first and second graders also displayed humility and innocence as they would try to guess the secret word each week. One of our teachers would use a biblical word, the secret word, to help illustrate the lesson each week. The kids found it a joy to try and guess the word or get another adult to divulge the word prior to the lesson. The use of a secret word helped to bring about unity and mystery towards each day's learning. The students helping students idea is capped off as some of our high school students continued to grow in their walk with the Lord by helping to mentor our elementary school students all year. It is precious to see our high school students connecting and influencing the next generation.

Ok, now for some of the challenges. Discipleship in the community is a difficult process. Yes, it can be difficult in the home as well, but the challenges we face in the community are much more difficult than the ones I have in my home. The advantage is that I can nip issues in the bud in the home before they grow, and lead to utter rebelliousness. Several of our teens are reaching the point of what I will call saturation. In this context

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) PRAY TO RESTORE THE HEARTS OF THE STUDENTS TO LOVE & LEARNING TO LOVE JESUS IN RETURN.**
- 2) PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS THEY GO TO BEACH CAMP JUNE 5-10.**
- 3) PRAY FOR THE KRISPY KREME FUNDRAISER AT THE END OF MAY!**
- 4) PRAY FOR THE ELEMENTARY KIDS AS WE TAKE THEM TO VBS JUNE 13-17. WE WILL ALSO HAVE VBS AT THE APT JUNE 27-29.**

“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

Contact Info

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saturation means that the students have repeatedly listened to the Bible being taught over and over again, but they have taken little ownership in the process. Therefore, their hearts are turning calloused towards the truth because of their failure to obey the truth. They have become saturated in their minds but not in their hearts. Until they use the nourishment that has been given they will feel they have too much information, becoming bored and complacent with the truth. The older students have entered a new phase of the discipleship process, lessons on reaping and sowing. Pray for us this summer as we readjust our methods to help our students take hold of the life changing truth of the Gospel. Hence, we could use your financial support for summer activities.

The other challenge we have in the years ahead is found in our servant-volunteers. We need more laborers and we feel at this season one of the best ways to do this is to cast a bigger net. We had hoped specific church partners would have sustained us, but it looks less plausible as the years continue. We still hope to catch many people of the family of God but, casting a bigger net and trying to reach the general public means that we need to have systems in place so that we protect the children from any perceived harm, along with our servant-volunteers and ministry as a whole. Pray for us as we work on these things over the summer and into 2017.

Before I shift away from the student ministry I do want to highlight a couple of other praises. One, our older students have been exposed to some faith based movies like Risen, Do You Believe, God's Not Dead (1&2), and War Room this year to help them better understand Jesus and His message. For as many that are reaping a season of bitterness, there are just as many that are learning to bear fruit. One student was going for a jog one afternoon when the Holy Spirit arrested his soul and brought him to his knees. There in the middle of a public parking lot, a 16 year old boy was worshipping the Lord of the Universe out of joy that his name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Other students are there to help set up and clean up when we meet for discipleship. It seems small, but in reality it is big to me. It shows a sign of responsibility and a heart's desire to help as a need is recognized, rather than waiting to be asked. I am witnessing more and more students developing questions about life and purpose for their life, but the world is seeking to block righteousness from winning. Most of our high school students are entering into their 11th grade year next year, so it will be interesting to see their development over the next couple of years.

This year Rickson and Hilario will graduate high school and next year Karen and Rebecca will be seniors. These are challenging times, but also some of the most rewarding times. Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. God may it be so for each of these students! In Jesus name! FYI- the students will also be helping to raise support



for their summer events via a Krispy Kreme fundraiser at the end of the month. This is more about their desire to help earn money than the actual revenue. Like I said, the discipleship process is an endurance race. I continue to ask God to reveal the victories in each student's life so that I might grow strength and not become weary.

On the home front: Ashley and I celebrated 10 years of marriage in March. We renewed our wedding vows with one another and plan to make this an annual event from now on. Reciting our vows is like keeping the commands of God before our eyes. We want to be blessed and refreshed in our commitment to God and to one another. Amen!

Ashley is doing well with the pregnancy thus far and we learned we will be having a girl. Her name is Eden Medora Johns. Noah received his name because we felt the days that he would live would be difficult. We ask God to make our son into a blameless man of his day. We pray that Eden will also be a sign of the times. Her name will carry the hope of paradise in the perilous times in which they will live. We pray that she would be a woman of equaling character and purity. Eden has already received her first monetary blessing from the Lord as God provided the cost of the deposit for her prenatal care through an unforeseen gift. The donor called out of the blue one day and said the Lord had laid it upon his heart to give a specific gift to our family. The day prior to the gift Ashley and I were discussing how to pay for the medical cost. It was awesome and we were so moved by the Father's love and the obedience of our brother who gave. Thank you Jesus!

Noah is still getting use to the idea that he will have a baby sister here in the coming months. However, we could not be more proud of our little boy. While on vacation in April, Noah and I were riding bikes and listening to praise music when he just began to erupt in shouts of praise to God. This is music to our heavenly Father's ears and places a rich blessing in Ashley and my life as well. Noah loves to worship. There are days while he is in his room listening to music when all of a sudden we hear, Praise you Jesus, Hallelujah, Yes Lord!

Noah has also helped me all year long disciple a group of students at one of the apartment communities. I have seen this group of 4th and 5th graders be inspired by Noah's Bible knowledge and willingness to pray out loud for the group. Finally, Noah often comes with me to share my faith in the community. He is beginning his process of learning to share his faith by distributing materials and telling people that Jesus loves them. This past Sunday we had an extra dozen roses left over from our Mother's day service and Noah and I distributed them to random ladies. We blessed them with prayer and gave thanks for their lives, how God has fearfully and wonderfully created them. Pray for Ashley and myself that we will not lighten our mode, correction, for teaching Noah or Eden when she arrives. For as many praises I can share,





we also are combated with his desires to not completely yield to authority at all times. Pray for our effectiveness in teaching and modeling humility and submission for our children. We want them to learn to obey God at all times.

Finally, pray for Laythe. He is a student Ashley tutors in our home. Laythe's family is from Jordan with a Muslim background. This kid has absorbed all the Bible lessons they have done all year and they are currently watching the kid Jesus film. Wednesday, Ashley will talk to Laythe specifically about inviting Jesus to be Lord of his life. Yes, this young man has much to learn about discipleship but we believe it has all started now. Join us for God's provision for this soul.

Servant of the Lord
Matt Johns

