



# RE-CHRIST

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Pray for students as they need love and continue to seek the LORD. Pray that they will seek to make wise decisions.

Pray for the students during Thanksgiving break that they will be filled with thankful hearts and they will have a fun, trouble-free, stress-free break.

**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](http://www.re-christ.org)**

Sept/Oct 2014

Dear RE-CHRIST Supporters

The last couple of months have been filled with brokenness, perseverance, and spiritual delight. During the month of September I was nearly reduced to tears by simply watching one of our servant-volunteers help a first grade student read. To provide some context Brandy, the first grader, is the sweetest young girl. She is cute as a button and a hugger. She loves hugs. Last year she stood outside the driver's door of my 12 passenger van as I dropped off other students near her apartment, returning from church on a Wednesday night, with a puppy dog look on her face and her arms opened wide. She was inviting me to get out of the van and give her a hug. I did, and that hug resulted into several other neighborhood kids getting in line for a hug. Brandy also lives in poverty and is often left at home with her siblings (4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade) for extensive time. I have worked with Brandy for a couple of years now so this is not the first time I have seen her being helped with her homework, however, it is the first time I was nearly brought to tears. As I sat down at the table and looked upon the situation, I saw a young girl who struggles with the basics of education and has no help at home being loved on by an educated woman who has reared two godly teenage girls of her own. God's love was radiating through this situation. It portrayed the need for the entire Body of Christ to be involved in somebody else's life, and radiate God's glory!

Brokenness is not having all of the answers to life's questions, but being willing to engage and become emotionally involved in the pain of another person's life to help them to know, they are not alone. This was the case when I sat around the dinner table of a family for several hours one night in September. A young lady, whose name I will keep to myself, was battling to overcome being molested and find her identity in Christ. The spiritual warfare that she experiences often leaves her depressed and suicidal. As we talked I could see God working in her life and she could see God working in her life, although, she tried to renounce God earlier in the conversation as a way to cope with her pain. Our conversation ended that night with me coming alongside a young lady in tears, giving her a big hug and a kiss on the top of

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) PRAISE THE LORD AND BE THANKFUL FOR HIS MERCY, GRACE, LOVE AND PROVISIONS.**
- 2) PRAY FOR THE FAMILY WHOSE FATHER WAS REMOVED FROM THE HOME. PRAY FOR THE MOM TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS.**
- 3) PRAY FOR CONTINUED FINANCIAL BLESSING FOR THE MINISTRY**
- 4) PRAY FOR HEARTS TO BE OPEN FOR THE KNOCKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

**“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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the head, as I whispered in her ear that Christ's love is perfected in suffering; and that God is near to the brokenhearted. That was a challenging message to deliver to a 14 year old girl, however, the young lady has since taken steps to make good of her life. She took a risk of rejection and went out for the 8th grade cheerleading team and made the team. She also has started to channel her deep emotional pain through singing and finds a renewed sense of life by reading the Psalms. She thinks she would like to become a worship leader in God's timing. She just recently sang a solo in a school performance. Thank you Jesus!

Another situation of brokenness that we dealt with over the past couple of months involved counseling two teens that made a bad moral choice, giving themselves over to the temptation of sex. To the credit of the teens, they are seeking to overcome through repentance and reconciliation with God and one another. However, this is challenging because 15 year old students do not fully grasp the damage caused by sex outside of marriage. During a counseling session recently were able to help the two teens gain insight into how much different the male and female mind works. My hope is that this will help to guard their hearts and minds the next time temptation comes calling.

A six grade student, Nadelyn, approached us a few weeks ago with suicidal thoughts and she had also been cutting herself. She said she did not like her appearance. We were able to use the Scriptures to teach this student how God viewed her and how much He loves her. She then proceeded to pray to receive Christ and has been attending church with us on Wednesday night.

There is always a feeling of brokenness and remorse when you arrive to a student's house to pick them up for church only to see the Mom full of anger threatening to punch her daughter in the face because she wants to go to church. The irony in this particular situation is that the mother wants to know why her son is disrespectful and violent towards her at times. I think my three year old son can figure that equation out. It breaks my heart to see such major dysfunction and ignorance towards correction. However, all three of her kids are being ministered to each week through our ministry. Pray Elizabeth desires Jesus.

One last story of brokenness from this week comes from a family that was torn apart through verbal and physical violence. God used us to walk alongside a mother of three who had been



married for 17 years in an abusive relationship to intervene and remove the husband/dad from the home. We actually did not remove the man from the home, rather helped the lady to walk through the legal process at the Sheriff's department. The odd picture I reveal to you is that after the husband/dad was removed from the home, the kids were dancing and lifting up praises to God. The oppressor had been removed. Yes, this family has a challenging journey ahead, but life has been restored to them. This is the way all Christians should view each day. We have been broken and oppressed by sin and death, but Jesus Christ has removed these things and set us free! Yes, Christians have challenges ahead, but Christians need to dance and lift up our voices to God each day with thanksgiving. Christians need to get involved in other people's lives so more people will experience the freedom of Christ, amen!



Now allow me to share a few brief testimonies concerning the perseverance and spiritual delight that we have experienced in ministry over the past two months. However, in the midst of the testimonies concerning brokenness we did experience many people's healing and deliverance, amen!



Because of your generous giving to RCM we were able to fill one family's home with food. It is an awesome picture to see a family who is in need of the basics of life coming out of a store with a full grocery cart and already eating a snack as I helped them load up the car. Thank you for helping to feed the poor. Your financial gifts also helped some members of the Body of Christ. This beloved couple has been faithful servants of the Lord for numerous years. They lost their jobs about a year ago and have been scrapping and clawing their way to make ends meet. Also, the husband has been suffering from bad health due to cancer he had several years ago. The cancer treatment left some other major organs in bad shape and now he experiences extreme fatigue and pain, although, he still pushes forward, working 12 hour days, to do all he can to support his family. God led us to go and raise some support for this family and the thanks we received spoke of how the financial gift came at a time they had zero money left in their account. Thank you Jesus for using us to help lift up the souls who are broken living in a fallen world.

Michael, Sara, Richard, Pamela, Meghann, Maria, Rachel all herd clear Gospel presentations over the past couple of months. I also took some additional time to meet, on a few different

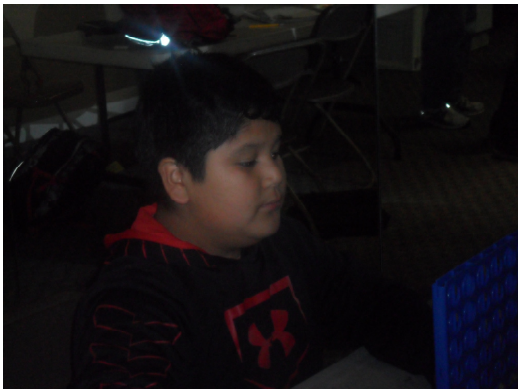


occasions, with two Mormons that visited my house. I tried to help the Mormons see Christ for who is and that He alone is all they need. Jesus is the Savior of the world and He alone is our source of redemption and eternal life. To be honest, there are some pretty awesome testimonies from these spiritual encounters, but for the sake of not turning this newsletter into a book, I will simply ask you to lift up a prayer on their behalf. I am still able to remain in contact with half of the people. Others have come and gone from my sphere of contact, but they are not out of God's reach.



The after school students are doing well this semester. We started the programs in September. God used one fifth grade student to start reading the Bible with his Mom at home. She came by one day and asked some questions concerning the commandments of God after a study she had done with her son. Praise the Lord for His law which is perfect and reveals our need for a personal relationship with Christ.

This year we have 7 high school students, disciples of ours formerly in the elementary after school program, helping to mentor our current elementary school students. The last phase of our discipleship program is for our high school students to become mentors to our elementary students. Pray for Maria, Jovita, Adrian, Karen C., Ernesto, Karen M., and Jesus (our high school mentors). Also related to the after school programs: our friends at Simpsonwood United Methodist hosted another successful fall festival for the community and the students and families of Valencia Parks.



Finally, Ashley, Noah, and I made a road trip to Roberta, GA (just northeast of Macon) to scout out a potential summer camp opportunity for our students. The name of the camp is Camp Grace and it is designed specifically for at-risk students. Our hope is to send a team of 3rd-6th grade students and a team of high school students in the summer of 2015. Be in prayer for us as we work through the logistics of this decision and determine an answer by the start of the year. This is something that needs to be determined in advance so to reserve spots for students. It looks like a super wonderful place built by the Lord and we heard some amazing testimonies about how the camp came to be. At the camp, students would experience daily devotions, evening times of worship, archery, swimming, horseback riding, a mega food fight, and many other summer camp activities as they discover the Almighty for themselves. Glory!

I will close this newsletter with a salute to my brothers and warriors for God's kingdom, the Elijah Generation. In early October I hosted 30-35 men (depending on the time you were there) that came from seven different states to converge on Norcross/Duluth for the purpose of seeing the glory of God revealed. The invitation was to come and taste of His presence. The men came together in power, through unity, as we worshiped, prayed, taught each other, and evangelized the community. It is a powerful sight to see 30-35 men, hungry for God and eager to go claim territory for God's kingdom, take the Gospel to the streets in unity. People in the community came to Christ for salvation and healing as it is proclaimed in the Scriptures. The Body of Christ was strengthened and I continue to hear testimonies about how the gathering has transformed individual lives, creating many more faithful followers of Jesus.

You know something spiritually is happening when a person shares the Gospel of Christ with a stranger at the mall and the stranger gets down on their knees in the parking lot to surrender their life to God. Thank you Jesus! After being in vocational ministry for almost 8 years I have never found a more dedicated, God fearing, loving, sincere group of men in my life. They walk in a manner worthy of what they preach and they continue to grow and challenge each other to surrender daily to the will of God and live holy lives. Thank you Elijah Generation, and thank you Lord for creating such a blessed group of men that I can be part, as we grow in Jesus and reveal the things to come. Jesus is coming, be prepared for His arrival!

Brother in Christ

Matt Johns