



# RE-CHRIST

## CONCEPTS

### 21

Pray as our school year starts off with a bang!

Pray for our pre-registration days on August 4 & 11; that the kids who are to be in the program will come and sign up.

Pray as we seek an organize volunteers into this year's schedule for Concepts 21 and Valencia

## YDC NEWS

Continue to pray for the residence that they will hear the Word of God and understand that the Lord loves them and wants to bless them. Pray that spiritual leaders will rise up within the units and that they will show the other residence the true way to live and have peace.

Dear RE-CHRIST SUPPORTERS

Where do I begin? This summer has been amazing! I praise you Lord Jesus for the work you are doing in RE-CHRIST MINISTRIES and the work you are preparing to do in the days, weeks, and months ahead. You are glorious Lord and I want the world to know you; not to know of you but to know you as I know you. Bless this newsletter and all others to come so that the world sees you for who you are. You are a loving, merciful, gracious God who gives salvation to all who seek it. My life is a living testimony to the change and the hope you bring. Praise you Jesus!

I guess I found the place to begin and now onto the ministry report so that you will be able to understand my joy. The summer begin mightily with Ashley going to beach camp with the youth from Peachtree Corners Baptist and I remained at home to spend a week in prayer and fasting for God's direction in the life of my family and ministry. I was also privileged to intercede for the youth at beach camp. Every night from 7-9pm I would pray for the youth and their times of worship. To sum up my time of prayer for the youth; one night I as I prayed I asked God to allow this to be the best beach camp ever. It sounds silly and nominal to the average person but when the campers, staff, and volunteers returned to my delight and anticipation I was able to hear the answer to this prayer. Many people spoke of many remarkable things which happened that week, but the last person I spoke with was Staff worship leader for the youth. I asked Dennis how things went and he took one look at me and he said this was the best beach camp we have had thus far. This is a bold statement because to all those who have been active in this ministry over the past several years we all know beach camp has been the time to witness the transformation of many young lives. The time I spent in prayer with just me and God during those sessions was overwhelming. The love of God is so very real yet it is like anything else one will never know it nor experience it unless that person seeks it for himself.

The following week after beach camp we had Vacation Bible School. This year we averaged 34 kids from the community. This is twice as many as years



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) PRAY THAT THE NEW VAN WILL BE USED FOR GOD'S PLAN AND MANY MORE YOUNG LIVES WILL BE EFFECTED!
- 2) PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM THAT WE WILL HAVE A SPECIFIC DIRECTION AND PLUG MORE KIDS INTO OUR CHURCH PROGRAM.
- 3) PRAY AS WE START ANOTHER YEAR OF ESL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO ADD STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.
- 4) PRAY FOR US AS OUR FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW! AND ASHLEY FOR THE LIFE GROWING INSIDE HER.

Pray for effective networking with local area churches

Pray for planning of West Africa trip Nov 6-18<sup>th</sup> (Matt, Dennis & Jay)

Pray God supply all of our resources according to His glory and riches

## Contact Info

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past. Three kids committed their lives to God. Please pray for Joselin, Jesus, and Luis. Ashley and I have seen God at work in these children's lives as we have disciplined them during the after school program. It was not a surprise to us that these three decided to make a decision for Christ. The cool thing is that neither Ashley nor I were there during their times of commitment but each of these children immediately came up to us at the end of the day to tell us about the decision they had made. Next year I want to see if we can get at least 50 kids from the community to attend Vacation Bible School.

Next we were off to Montana. Praise the Lord my Mom was able to travel with us again this year. It is such a blessing to have us go on a mission trip.

Montana was amazing! It was such a blessing to see all the youth again. So many of them had

missed us over the year and we had missed so many of them. It was like a big family reunion. This year Ashley and I taught the youth. Last year we did the recreation games so we worked with everybody but this year we worked with the youth. We taught four days from the book of James and what it should look like to be a Christian. Instead of recreational time this year we did a service project each day. Mostly we help to paint the church. The kids loved being used by God. They took some much pride in their work and accomplishments. Our prayer is that God would start a fire in the hearts of these young people so that youthful leaders would rise up. This is their struggle- to abandon themselves, casting aside peer pressure, and display for people an acceptance of a changed life in Christ. This is completely new for these youth and honestly they would be the first generation to start change. Also during the month of June I was blessed to lead a door to door salesman to the Lord on my front porch one Sunday afternoon.

As July moved in so did the outside church groups to help to do summer block parties. On July 10-11 the Creative Ministries Team from Rocky Creek Baptist Church came to Norcross and performed three times. Two times they performed in local apartment complexes and the third time they performed at our local church. This was the most well prepared team we have seen in four years. They were able to lead one child, Adarious, to the Lord. Thank you Rocky Creek Youth and Leaders! The other church who helped us this year was a local favorite. Perimeter Church has been a big supporter of sending out people over the







past four years. The week following Rocky Creek, Perimeter sent three different teams out, three different days, to love on the kids. Because we were also doing our summer reading program at this time I did not personally get to interact act with the teams but I could tell from a distance that God was at work. Every day two van loads of church kids would show up to love on the unchurched kids in the community. Our summer reading program as averaged about 12 kids each day; we meet twice a week from the beginning of July through the end of this week. I am astonished 12 kids wanted to come and read, write, work on flash cards and other educational games for 6 weeks during the summer. Praise the Lord!

Over the past couple of weeks some very exciting details of the ministry have taken shape. The second to last week in July we hosted a summer soccer camp. We had 21 total kids from the community join us for the camp. Each day I taught a biblical principle from athletic terms. Day one we discussed what team and the importance of knowing what team you were on. Day 2 we talked about the coach and how it is imperative to keep your eyes on the coach and do what he says. Day three we talked about integrity and forgiveness. Day four was a discussion on discipline. These are the components to a winning soccer team and a changed person in Christ. At the end of the week the older kids asked if we could start a soccer team. I pray that God would allow us to do this because it is the gateway we have been looking for to reach the older youth of our community. I am looking into this but how great it would be to work with 15 middle school kids while playing soccer! Thank you to the Rose Sunday School class for providing snacks, filled backpacks and a t-shirts for camp. We also thank Coach Eric, Emma, Drew and Kyle for facilitating the camp.

For over two years now I have been telling the RE-CHRIST board of directors that we needed a ministry van to transport kids and now God has made this all possible. As of this week Ashley and I are the proud owners of a ministry van. Praise the Lord! God is good and his timing is perfect. I am a strong believer that ministry begin within the home so to help ensure that we will use the van for the purpose of discipleship Ashley and I will be putting one of our own in the first seat. That's right we are going to have a baby! We are so very excited and cannot wait until March to get here. Please pray for Ashley and the baby and I will covet your prayers as well. Wow what a summer!

As August rolls around our focus has shifted to the after school programs. We are working diligently to round up volunteers to help us with four days of after school programming at the Corners apartments for age's k-8 grade and two days a week for age's 1-5 grades at Valencia apartments. We will need about 30 volunteers to pull this off so please be in prayer. We are stepping out in faith to see God provide the help we need. August 4 and 11 we will be having pre-registration for the kids at The





Corners and we have already begun accepting kids at Valencia. We will also be offering our beginners and intermediate English classes this year. Pray for our organizing of these programs and our personal schedules. The foundations of this ministry have been firmly rooted but we are only as strong as the members of God's family who seek to serve alongside of us and support is financially. We continue to step out in faith trusting in God. Amen me to the Lord Jesus Christ!



One more note of mention is the Youth Detention Center. This summer has been so crazy we have not been able to attend as frequently as we normally do, however, we have been a few times and seen God on the move and saving lives. On August 14 I will be speaking so please pray for the message and my preparation. I do believe I will be giving a message concerning purpose for humanity concerning individual life. God has uniquely created all people in His very own image. He is has every individual a spiritual gift or multiple gifts and His word says that we were created for a specific purpose. People use this as a cultural saying in 21<sup>st</sup> century America but few people truly devote themselves to knowing their purpose. We often mask this with vocation or other positional titles but the one who seeks God will understand the abundant life Christ promises. Let's face it, we



cannot take material things with us after we are dead and gone so why do we put such a high esteem on them now. And if they are the key to success why does 80% of the world live without. Is it because we are lucky? I think not. Our material success and civil liberties have been based on biblical principles. This country started due to religious persecution. Yes, this country has had some very dark moments and if we as a nation do not turn back to God we will soon find ourselves in another dark period.

I am comfortable with closing this more positive update in a somber reflective manner because one lesson I have learned is to always be humble in life. It is great to rejoice in success but you must realize why you are there. If you fail to acknowledge God you may be heading for a quick fall. As I am delighted God has blessed us this summer and as we prepare to seek His blessings moving forward, I know there is an adversary waiting to pounce. It is imperative I remain humble and stay close to God, my only hope and protection. Thank you all for loving on us, watching us grow and supporting our ministry. Praise you Jesus. I hope you once again enjoy these remarkable images of God's people doing God's work.



Brother in Christ  
Matt Johns





Enjoy the pictures from VBS, our Montana trip, soccer camp and the block parties.

