

Aug. 07, 2010

Hey guys,

Thanks for your prayers. I apologize for not updating you on how things are going for a while. Here's a timeline of how things have been going.

-April 30: Our first meeting (I didn't know what to expect) had 18 students show up. (I was expecting between 6 and 35 students).

-We kept meeting until the end of the school year on Fridays from 5-7 pm. We averaged about 14 students until then, but had the opportunity to connect with over 35 different students who came to various meetings.

-In June, I had the the privilege of sharing the gospel with two hispanic students that had come off and on to the meeting. They both prayed to receive Christ! (Unfortunately, they haven't been attending over the summer. I look forward to reconnecting with them when school starts back up.) Their names are Jurnnet and Sarita, pray that I will have an opportunity to help them grow as new Christians.

-Over the summer our attendance has been lower (something that I anticipated because of not having the constant contact with the students that I would normally have throughout the week). However, there have been seven students that have consistently been coming (they are my core students). Not all of them are Christians, but I decided that we would go through a series of what it means to be/live like a Christian according to the Bible. There have been some good discussions and it has allowed me to see where some of my students are at in their spiritual journeys. The students who make up the core are: Sara, Phoebe, Steven, Ian, Bria, Taylor, and Kaeshon. They are really great teens.

-Yesterday (8/6), only Steven and Sara showed up. It was great because it gave me an opportunity to really talk with them and share with them the gospel message. At the end, I used an illustration with one of the park benches. I said, the only way that I can prove that I trust that this park bench will hold me up is by actually sitting on it. My question for them was, what are the steps between you and the park bench that are keeping you from sitting on the bench? (What is keeping you from believing?) They both kind of shared that they had some doubts. (They are so close, was my thought as we were leaving.)

-This morning I got a text from Sara, she said she couldn't sleep last night and decided to read the Bible. This is how she described what happened:

"Okay well this is how it actually step by step went down. I never know where to start reading in the bible, so I close my eyes open the bible point my finger somewhere and read where my fingers at. And my finger landed on "sarah"..So I like really freaked out and closed the book and just stared at it for a good 20 minutes. I decided to open it again and i did the same thing and i read "do not lean on your own understanding" so I took that as "sara, dont lean on your own understanding. An i had been thinking about youth group and walking to the bench all day..I dont want to say i broke down but i did. More of a relief breakdown. Like a weight was lifted, like a breath of fresh air. Thats how i felt if it makes any sense."

I love how God works. Even through the 'tried and true' method of flip, point, and read.

God has been at work in the Refuge. I feel as though Ian and Steven are so close to coming to a relationship with Christ. It is both an honor and a privilege to be working where God is working. Thank you so much for all the prayers. I hope this will be an encouragement to you, as it has been to me. Thanks.

Jeff