

JOE'S JOURNEY



Ponderosa Retreat

Hello all! This month has been full of strengthening my relationship with God. At the beginning of the month, we took a trip to Ponderosa Christian Camp in northern New Mexico. It was just a great time to relax and to unwind after the super busy month of August. We took a hike to some cool rock formations, played a few games, volleyball, cards and 9 square. Not only was it a time of relaxation, it was a time to connect with God. We were given 30 minutes to an hour to take time by ourselves and to pray. That was really refreshing. Jason Thornton came up to lead us in great classes about what it means to be a disciple. There is a notion that to be a disciple means to have all the answers and to know everything. However, if you look at Jesus' disciples, they were learning from Jesus all the time. We as disciples do not know everything. We are learning as we go along. We don't need to know all the answers when sharing our faith, in fact, we aren't going to know all the answers. We learn as we help others.



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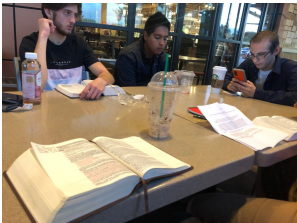
Each AIM student was assigned an area congregation to serve with in various ways with a team of other AIMers. The congregation I am working with is in Lockney, Texas. It is a smaller group with more elderly people. I have been able to lead the song service, speak for a devotional, and help with yard work for some of the members. The members in Lockney are very kind and sweet, I am glad I have this opportunity to get to know them. They also make great food! I look forward to serving in Lockney for the coming months



Bible Classes

Classes this month have been really good. Pat Sheaffer has brought Jesus to life in his study of the book of Luke. One thing that strikes me is that Jesus was a lot more like us than we often realize. He was tempted in every way possible and yet didn't give in. If we have the same Holy Spirit that Jesus had while he was on earth and he didn't give into temptation, what is there to prevent us from staying strong when we are tempted? One student shared this comment in our Luke class, "God doesn't have an obligation to look for us, but he'll be waiting with open arms." God doesn't have the obligation to look for us, we don't deserve for Him to. But because of His love for us he seeks out our love and wants us to be saved and to live in Him; and when we run to Him, he'll embrace us with open arms. Isn't that amazing?! In our class on the Sermon on the Mount we recently went over Matthew chapter 7:7-11. This section is where if we ask it will be given to us, and about the great gifts God gives. In verse 9-11 it says, "Which one of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish will give him a snake? If then, you who are evil, know how to give good gifts, how much more will you Father in Heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" God doesn't want bad things to happen, but he can use them for good. If bad things happen it wasn't of God. If we ask in humility and are in God, he'll answer our prayer.

Small Groups



Small groups also started this month. We had our first small group meeting with the college ministry through Sunset Church of Christ on Thursday the 23rd. We are going through the book of Luke, taking time to see the works of Jesus and finding ourselves in the passage and applying the principles to our lives.

Closing Remarks

September was a great month, I grew so much in my faith. I'm so thankful for my time in these studies. I really appreciate the time our teachers take to share what they know from God's word. I can't wait to share with y'all about October!

Prayer requests

A family very near and dear to SIBI lost their father to Covid. He was not very old.

Our AIM bus is getting very old and it will soon be time to buy a new one

The contract with the Apartment complex in town that we use is up after this year. SIBI and AIM are looking for new housing sites

Field presentations have started. Please pray for our field selections and that God puts all students where they are needed.

we have a trip to Arkansas coming up in two weeks. Pray for safe travels

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