

I turned 20 this month!



Big things this happened this month! God is good and has been present in our lives! I am honestly able to say that this field has changed me in all the right ways. When I entered this ministry called AIM, I thought I knew what would happen, watching the past 3 classes before mine gave me confidence that I had figured it out. Boy was I wrong. From the ups and downs starting off, to Covid-19 changing all of our lives. I have not been able to predict anything! Talking with my classmates I know that we all agree the main lesson has been to let go and say that God has it. To trust in Him as the one in control is honestly both terrifying and gives a sense of release at the same time. I can honestly say that in all of this, God took what I thought I wanted and gave me what I desperately needed. We have a Heavenly Father that knows us better than ourselves and works throughout life. If you would, on the next page I would like to talk to my supporters and anyone

considering supporting me. I have been given the opportunity to extend my field time by 4 months. Instead of leaving in August, I would leave sometime in December. This is a small extension in the long run but it still carries weight whatever I do. I am asking my supporters whether or not they are willing to walk with me so that I can give an educated decision to

my coordinator. To anyone else, I welcome your wisdom as well. I love this field and I do believe that I will continue to grow here. Please pray on my behalf and ask for wisdom. Thank you to everyone who has me helped get this far!

Thanksgiving!! I used a couple pictures taken by Brennan Spear, part of the college age group at Woodland West. We spent thanksgiving with his family and after the meal we went to a park where I proceeded to act like a goof in every shot. So many members offered to host us for Thanksgiving, it was heart warming to receive such love. All together we ended up having three thanksgiving meals! Each on a different day, but that's still a lot of turkey! Speaking of, I cooked one of them! It was my first time and none of us knew exactly what we were doing, but everyone said it turned out great so that is a win in my book! We served it at a Friendsgiving we threw for the college students. It was a small gathering with the people from our Small Groups that we lead at the Tri-C. In everything we plan as a team the intention is to give people a place that acts as an escape. To get away from the world and be surrounded by like minded Chris-

tians their age who understand this life's struggles and what we face when on our own. We are open and honest and share God's unconditional love with anyone who walks through our doors. That is what I am thankful for this year.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a giant goof and that I like to make sure that we all work hard, but laugh while we're at it. This picture on the right was taken by Jerry Sandoval, one of the college Ministers serving at the Tri-C. I think the intention was to capture us hard at work... I am definitely in the zone. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10. I have joy because God has been active.





The offer to extend my time. At the end of November our coordinator sat us down and officially offered to extend our field time. The extension will add an additional four months to my time here in Arlington. This would allow me to further my work and continue to grow and learn the different aspects of ministry. Unless God's plan is different or loss of support stops me, I lean towards staying. I love the work that I do here and I know that I have changed and grown so much while working with the coordinator and ministers that guide us. My dream after I graduate from AIM is to begin studies at Sunset

International Bible Institute. From working with my parents and being a leader in the youth group, my passion has always been in ministry. I am so hungry for every bit of experience that I can get. Growing up and watching different Youth Ministers come and go made me realize that with every generation there comes a time to pass on the torch to the next worker of the Lord's harvest. I want to prepare myself as much as I can. That is why I would like to ask you to continue supporting me the additional 4 months. Please be in contact with me if you do intend to end your support next August or to continue to support to December. My decision has to be made at the beginning of January so that the church can be prepared. If I had known they would have asked this soon I would have given a better heads up. I am prayerful and know that whatever happens, God's plan continues. Again, I am so thankful for everything that you all have done to get me this far. I could not have done this alone.

A glance at the Small Groups. The small groups are definitely one of my favorite ministries here in Arlington. We all lead a group in a study decided by the group leaders. Rachel Maddux and I chose to do a study looking at the different aspects of a disciple of Jesus and asking how we can take spiritual disciplines used in the Bible to further our relationship with God on a personal level. My hope is that if we put our focus here, it will allow them to continue their walk long after we leave. We have had some really good stories of God working behind the scenes. One Monday a couple weeks ago we

were warming up some lunch in the microwaves at the Tri-C. Rachel heard a knock on the door and her first response was to hide behind the fridge! We laugh about it now and how silly her actions were. This is a typical response for her when she is caught off guard, but it just so happens that the previous night she had prayed, asking God to give her a chance just like this. And her own words came to her. As she came out from behind the fridge, our other teammate was already at the door talking to a young lady who was asking for food. Before COVID-19 students could enjoy a prepared meal at our building and she was asking if we still did that. We didn't, but we still had food to offer her from the food pantry. She ended up striking a conversation with us while we gathered her some food. She spoke about her own faith and how she herself had prayed recently after not attending church for a few months. Rachel gathered up her courage and walked over, inviting her to our small group that Thursday. We weren't sure whether or not she would come because we had gotten quite a few no shows at the time. But she did

come! And has ever since. She later told us how much the group had come to mean to her. Guys, let me tell you, this was a big moral booster for our team. We felt shown first hand that we were not alone and God would con-



tinue to bless our efforts. That is all we can ever hope for in ministry, to prayerfully ask God to bless what we do and to do it to the best of our abilities for His glory, and then for Him to do come through. Only through His blessing will anything succeed. AlMing to serve in Arlington, Tristen Herbert.

