



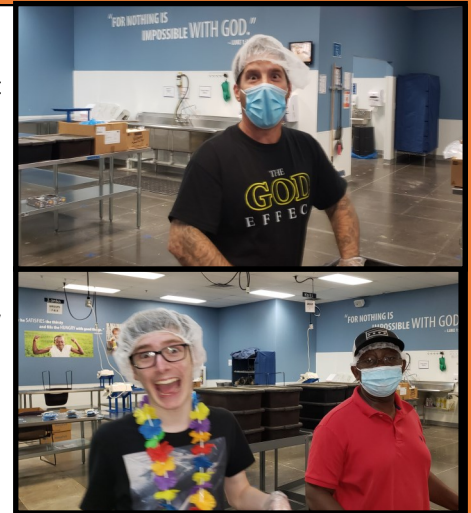
Herbert Herald July 2021



A Mild Summer... Plenty of Work

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The Arlington team has been busy this July. From summer camp counselors, to volunteering at Christian based organizations. We have done what we can to give the youth group plenty of life giving work. My focus shifted from college work at the Tri-C, to youth ministry with Woodland West. Meaning I met with the youth group more and was intentional about forming strong bonds so that I would be more effective in the group. I've taught some classes on prayer and purpose, filling in for Mike here and there. Led discussion groups over lessons we had heard and even tried to get them to sing! Which they would rather not, leading to me joyously singing Father Abraham alone to their embarrassment. At different times they've laughed at or with me, played games and cracked jokes, thought deeply and zoned out, cried on my shoulder and opened up about how life gets them down. These kids, just like every other kid in the world, have ups and downs. Many of them are carrying burdens too heavy for someone their age, yet it's an all too common experience. I listed so much in rapid order to show that the month of July has been busy and fast paced. I sadly do not have the room nor time to share everything.



I have found that God will always answer a prayer centered on His will. Even if we don't know what that is just yet. I prayed that God would use me to bless the community here and challenge me to grow more into His image. You have to be prepared when asking God for such things, because to make you stronger you have to work for it. True growth is that which comes from facing adversity in some form or fashion, and learning from the experience. If you ask for wisdom, be prepared for circumstances that you will learn from. If you ask for strength, buckle up for times where you carry a load. If you ask for rest, know that He will provide. God has His good and perfect way, the truest way. "Ask and you shall receive, knock and the door will be opened to you." - Mt 7:7 Please continue to pray that I will be used for God's glory. I want to use this time to be made more and more into the image of God. Pray that our Father will put me to the test. Then pray that I will have strength to press on, and rest when I need.

Mission Arlington

Instead of a mission trip to Oklahoma, Mike planned service projects working with organizations based in the DFW area. In the pictures below we served at **Mission Arlington**, a ministry focused on helping lower income families by providing physical needs and community outreach. Every day hundreds of people reach out to them for help with food, clothing, furniture, medical needs, and many more resources. **Many have been blessed by the loving people here, and it all started because one woman saw a deep need in her community for a ministry that reached the people and their daily needs.** God provides for His children, and it is often though places like this that are filled with people ready to give. Ms. Tilly decided that she would begin the work of serving that need. The youth group was blessed to help in the sorting/delivery line. Donations from all over Arlington come in from families that no longer need them, and we helped sort the items into their respective places to be distributed to those in need.



If you are interested in monthly or one-time support, please contact me at tdherb00@gmail.com cell# 253-240-5952
mail support to 3723 34th St Lubbock, TX. 79410 % AIM financial office. Remember to write my name so they know who its for.



The community
remains...
Building
relationships
centered on Christ

Many of the pictures I put into my newsletter have places and faces that may mean nothing to you. You don't know them and probably haven't been to some of these places. But it is a record of what I have done and every photo has a memory that has shaped me. Sometimes it is the place and time, and for other cases just having the people in the picture is what makes it valuable. In this newsletter I am a little sentimental, because August marks the fourteen month mark, the minimum amount of time required to complete AIM. As I have said in previous updates, I plan to continue working with Woodland West and the Tri-C for a couple more months, but I am looking back at how I got here. The many trials and struggles, every person who has mentored me and challenged growth, mistakes and successes, friends that I will always hold dear. I am nothing but grateful for the ministry of AIM, it has made me into the type of God centered man I always looked up to. And I could not have done it without the supporters and family who have encouraged me every step. AIM is not easy, but honestly, neither is life. My goal is to live it to the fullest of God's command. Serving others while finding rest in the greatest source of love Man could ever know.

Another thing that I need to update you on is that **soon I will be the only AIMer on the field.** Peach Holt, one of the ladies on my team, has already left for Lubbock to be an AIM assistant. She has already started mentoring the next class and beginning a new chapter in life. The other two, Rachel Maddux and Daniel Lopez, finished their time as well on the fifteenth of August. They will still be around, but will start a new chapter in life. This is a transition that I have been preparing for with my coordinator, Mike. We've discussed my transition into a more solid state of meeting and working with the youth group. I have already begun mentoring some of the guys on preparing lessons for a portion of the Sunday classes, encouraging them to step up as leaders in the youth group. The question now becomes what do I have to let go of in order to take on more responsibility with the ministry opportunities in Arlington. In order to continue I will have to learn a new lesson of leaning on new people to help my work now that I no longer have a team. I hope to use this as an opportunity way to grow closer to the body at Woodland West.

One of my roles is as a member of the implementation team. Focusing on implementing the mission of outreach at Woodland West. In the last two meetings we discussed a stronger focus on the college age students in the congregation, and looking to partner closely with the ministers of the Tri-C. An all too familiar experience for congregations, is losing their kids after college. Either they lose their faith while away, or just feel too disconnected when they return. How do we as the body of Christ make them feel welcomed and encouraged by their brothers and sisters back home? To not abandon them once they have stepped out on their own? I know that sometimes it is out of our hands, but we cannot let that deter us from intentionally seeking the next generation. If the world is vying for their souls louder than Christ's followers, we are doing something wrong. After spending two semesters working in college ministry, I can tell you that we can give them a place on campus and support the ministry there and still lose them. Until we make a strong effort to connect with them on a personal level, only a few will return. If you send off your child to college, you want them to find a strong and healthy support group. Are you offering that same peace of mind to the parents sending their kids to a college near you, or making sure that your congregation is one that your students want to return to? The seeds are planted in your children's ministry, watered in the youth group, and cultivated as a young adult. I hear older generations call us the church of tomorrow, meaning it will be in our hands one day. But we are here today. **The church of tomorrow is here today.**



I am always happy to share the good things God has done on my field. And I am very passionate about what I have been blessed with. I know nothing else in this world that I find more fulfilling than serving in God's kingdom. Thank you for your support in my efforts to continue serving here in Arlington, TX. I pray that the Lord blesses you and continues to give me strength as I press on. AIMing to serve, Tristen Herbert

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