



## Winter is Cold



### Hello Friends and Family!

I am happy to share the progress and steps we have taken here in Arlington with the Tri-C (college ministry) as well as Woodland West Church of Christ. With warmer weather on the horizon and vaccines steadily making their way to the people, Woodland West has begun talks of opening to full capacity. They are calling it re-emergence Sunday and even though there is not an official date, we are planning what that day will look like. Asking how we will welcome the members back and what we want to have in place ministry wise to offer as a way of reconnection to the body.



Over half of the congregation still watches online streaming and the Staff at Woodland West are aware that there could be a transition phase as members replace what has become known as the new normal with face to face connection that we as a body have missed. Re-emergence is about a celebration, welcoming friends and family back to rebuild without the fear that has plagued the people of the church for over a year. The hope is our planning can be put into effect sometime in the early summer. When we were suggesting different ways to celebrate, I put forth a night dedicated to worship and praise. I miss gathering and singing songs together, nothing is more powerful than when hundreds of voices are raised in unison for our God! I miss times of worship when we do not fear. I believe we all agree that fear has gripped God's people long enough. My continuous prayer is to reach that point when we cast off all the worry and doubt to simply be in community and sing, lifting up our hearts in worship. All in God's time.

### Small Group

The Thursday night small group has continued into spring semester. As the leaders of the small group, Rachel and I have focused on asking ourselves how we can make this statement true, "after I leave, community remains." Our goal is to empower, equip, and encourage the members to keep meeting after our time there is done. The way we have begun this is to intentionally seek potential leaders within the existing community who we can pass this to. Frankly, I believe that they all have that potential. It only takes someone to say, "here I am, use me" for God to work through them. Already three different students have led devotionals and are familiarizing themselves with the process. We don't teach them the way that we lead, all we have had to do is ask them to take over one night and speak about what is on their hearts. It is far better to allow them to talk about their passion and story of Christ, it is true to who they are so it resonates more readily with the group.

With the different backgrounds and beliefs being represented we see the harmony and peace that God expects of his people. We don't always agree, but we still gather because we have one thing that unites us, and that is Christ. I will always be blessed to be able to look at this group and see the peace that God wished for His people. I am prayerful over the rest of my time with them, that we continue to go strong and empower each other to see Christ in everyday life.



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

## Food Pantry

The food pantry is still one of our biggest outreaches in Arlington. Two days of the week are dedicated to volunteering alongside the church members. There will always be people who are facing food insecurities in their lives and one of the simplest ways that God's people can reach them is through food pantries. We have an opportunity to talk to people about their lives and what brings them to our doorstep. People are always willing to share what they need prayers for. Some are even so desperate for the power of prayer that you don't have to ask, they will come to you and seek it. Many mothers have cried as we pray over their families and specifically their children. Prayers asking for assistance finding a job after being laid off due to the affects of the pandemic, prayers for missing children who have been lost for weeks, or prayers for the chronic pain that restricts them from work. And especially prayers for this cursed pandemic to end so grandmas can see their grandchildren.

God is good. The food pantry has not had to turn people away from lack of food. Plenty is donated through grocery stores and the combined members of multiple congregations working to keep this ministry afloat. Sometimes we even have an overflow, enough to donate to other ministries in the area that also provide food to those in need. God has equipped His people to continue the Good Work and reach the hurting.



## Camp Adventure 2021

At the beginning of March my team and I were invited to participate in Camp Adventure, a week long retreat for high schoolers and young adults who want to know more about AIM but also spend a week in spiritual growth. I wrote about this event back when I was still in Lubbock. It was actually during Camp Adventure last year that Covid-19 hit and shut down the world, ending my time in Texas (or so I thought). When we arrived at the start I got to see so many friends, teachers, and people that are dear to my heart, I don't know how to express that feeling other than saying my heart was full! After leaving so abruptly a year ago without being given the chance to say goodbye to them, it weighed on me for a long time that I hadn't seen their faces or heard their voices. God is good and works in time to bless us, so it was well worth the wait to see them again. Since my plan is to continue studying at SIBJ, I am looking forward to catching up with the ones I didn't get to see on that trip. Lubbock was my home for four years, and I was blessed to meet many amazing people who will always be in my heart.

The theme for camp was Wherever. Focusing on how it doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing, we are called to spread the good news wherever we are. Through our actions and words we express the life that we hold in Christ. Sharing our testimony

through the choices we make and striving to be the salt and light of the earth. Every day began with a time of prayer with God, one on one. Since Wherever happens to be where you are currently and not where you are going to be, the prayer prompts were focused on how we can be Christ at camp. After applying it there, the practice can then be taken home and applied in any situation we find ourselves in.

Being On Field AIMers, our responsibility was minimal. We were encouraged when we arrived to relax and focus on filling our cup while we could, to allow the time to renew and energize us for when we returned to our Fields. Over half of my class was able to attend camp adventure, many of the state side teams had gathered to share their experience. They are amongst the people I have missed dearly and to see them again was incredible. I had many life giving conversations with my classmates and caught up with them about how God has been active in their lives. Some of them will read this letter so I just wanted to say, thank you. I really appreciate the encouragement you have given me and I can't tell you how much it meant to me. Stay strong and continue in God's word.

Sadly, I did not take pictures. So I can't showcase some of the things we did out at Camp Adventure. There were a few capable photographers out there who documented the week and I am looking forward to seeing the finished product when AIM releases it. These other photos are just some taken here on the field.

AIMing to serve,

Tristen Herbert



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