

From: Veronica Thompson <veronica.thompson@ywammontana.org>
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Subject: update!

Hello everyone! I pray you have all seen God's presence evident in your lives in the last few months. I wanted to share a quick update of the past few months here in Montana. We finished studying the New Testament at the end of January and since then we have studied from Genesis through 2 Samuel. I would say that studying the Old Testament has been my favorite part of this School of Biblical Studies. I had struggled in the past being able to reconcile what I saw of God in the OT with what Jesus taught in the NT. But, I have a much better understanding of what God was accomplishing through His chosen people, Israel, and how He is exactly the same yesterday, today and forever. God is, and always has been, the One who has pursued us and loved us no matter what His people have done. I'm even more thankful now for what He accomplished on the cross than ever before. We head into studying Kings and Chronicles next and then transition into studying the Prophets. We will finish this course by studying the book of Matthew to see how everything that was predicted about Jesus in the OT has been fulfilled. I will graduate on June 27th. I can hardly believe I've already finished 6 months and only have 3 more to go! God has been so faithful to help me through this to and teach me so much about Himself.

I've continued to serve dinner at the homeless transitional shelter, Samaritan House, every Monday evening. God helped me build a bit of a friendship with one of the residents and over time I was able to share the Gospel with him a few different ways. I gave him a Bible in January and he was able to find an apartment in February, so he no longer resides at the shelter. The last conversation I had with him he told me he would read the Bible I gave him. But, please pray for Bobby to desire to know God and to read his Bible because I don't believe he has any Christian influence around him. I know God can transform his life. I've recently developed some friendships with two women at the shelter who seem to be Christians, but have had very little fellowship with strong Christians. Please pray that God would give me wisdom in what to say and how to encourage them.

Lastly, I've continued working closely with the Youth Group. I've attached a picture of the 3 girls I've been working closely with for the last two years (Merrick, Ashley and Mallory). Recently God has really brought some break through with them and they have decided to come to the service our base offers Thursday nights, which includes a worship time and a message. One of them has decided to attend our 6-week Summer of Service programs (which includes 2 weeks of lecture and a 4 week outreach) this summer, but she still needs finances. I know it's going to change her life. Another girl considered doing this program, but has backed out. They're all 16-17 years old and are at the stage where they are getting a lot of pressure from friends around them to make bad decisions. So, I am really praying that they make decisions to follow God rather than peer pressure. We have a lot of middle school aged boys attending youth group, as well. All of the kids come from such broken families. One of our boys was recently put into juvenile detention and I'm not sure when he'll be released. God is using us to reach some troubled

kids. Please pray that God would give them a hunger for Him and use the staff who work with this youth group to share His love and truth. We just finished a series on relationships and how they were broken at the Fall. Now we're teaching them how to practically have a relationship with God (i.e. how to pray, how to hear God's voice, how to read their Bibles).

My updates always end up longer than I mean to! I cannot thank you all enough for your prayers and support; I know I could not be doing this without you. Please email me with any prayer requests you might have, I would love to pray for you specifically!

For His Glory,
Veronica