

Dear Woodsfield Church of Christ,

I would like to thank you for the support you have given to me as I attended the Adventures In Missions (AIM) program. During the past two years, I have attended the Sunset International Bible Institute and completed a missionary apprenticeship. As I lived in Lubbock, Texas I took a series of classes that covered a thorough study of the bible, the importance of learning how to interpret the original text of the bible (Hebrew, Greek), how to prove the reliability of the bible, understanding different personalities/spiritual gifts and how to work with them in the church. At this time, I also traveled to many different places to learn how to serve God's people where they are at. Some of the places I went to include Arizona, California, Kentucky, and Mexico City.

After I completed my training in Lubbock, I was assigned by the AIM administration to go to the Commerce, Texas mission field with one female teammate; but, God worked to show the AIM administration a new mission field and the need of workers there. So with two weeks notice, I packed my car and headed to Arlington, Texas where I would join with two female teammates.

Arlington, Texas had never been a mission field for the AIM program before, so it was exciting to be a part of the first team. When we arrived in Arlington, Texas, we were assigned to the Woodland West Church of Christ. The youth minister, Mike Bingham, and his wife, Mayra Bingham, were our coordinators and found us work to do on the mission field. Our mission field work included being involved around Arlington, at the Woodland West Church of Christ, and University of Texas, Arlington.

At the Woodland West Church of Christ, my teammates and I were given the opportunity to teach children classes, work with children's activities during the summer (camps, VBS, MIA), mentor the youth group, teach at summer youth camps, speak at lady's devotionals, attend weekly staff meetings, be a part of the implementation team, and so much more. One of my favorite ministries that I was involved in at the Woodland West Church of Christ was a Titus 2 ministry called "Heartfelt". Heartfelt focuses on the unity of the older and younger generation. Once a month young women would meet in the homes of older women. The older women prepared a devotional to share with us their wisdom, serve a meal to exemplify how to have hospitality, and listen to our many questions! It was wonderful to be a part of this ministry. I was able to learn practical people skills, different spiritual gifts, and the importance of inviting everyone in the church family to participate in different ministries! It was an amazing opportunity to witness the roles in the ministries of the church, and I now have a greater appreciation for the leadership of our churches.

One of the ministries that the Woodland West Church of Christ is heavily involved in is a food and clothing pantry, called "Hearts&Hands". At Hearts&Hands, I assisted individuals who were in need of clothing and I took their groceries out to their car. I also prayed with individuals as they waited for their things. This was such a blessing. I was able to talk with each person, learn about their situation, and listen to their needs. I saw God working in their lives and it was amazing to see some of the individuals visit our church and seek the truth.

At the University of Texas, Arlington, my teammates took on the role of student leaders at the Christian Campus Center (Tri-C). I participated in the Tri-C Food Pantry and FriendSpeak. The Tri-C Food Pantry occurred on every other Thursday during the school year. I would help

get the shelves stocked with food, and talk with students as they came in and received the food they needed. On average, 120 students would attend the food pantry during the school year.

When the pandemic hit, the Tri-C staff decided to have the food pantry every Thursday. Students would make appointments and I would assist in making their food bags and deliver it to them outside. On average, 75 students would attend the food pantry every week. FriendSpeak is a domestic version of Let's Start Talking where an individual learns English by studying the Bible with an English Speaker. One of my readers has completed all five FriendSpeak workbooks and we have now moved onto regular Bible studies. Her and her husband are from Iran but, they now attend a Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas. It has been a blessing to witness spiritual growth in her, and learn from her! At the University of Texas, Arlington, I also participated in starting a Coffee&Worship night at the Tri-C every Monday. My role in the Coffee&Worship nights was to greet students when they arrived, and collect prayer requests in a basket that I would later pray over. Along with the Coffee&Worship nights, I participated in game nights, movie nights, and even started my own ministry on the college campus. Every other Thursday, I led a "crafternoon" and once the pandemic started, I posted a "Thriving Thursday" on the Tri-C social media accounts. The "Thriving Thursday" posts were videos of easy crafts, and recipes that college students could imitate to stay active, and healthy as we were at a time of self-isolation.

During the time I spent on the mission field, I matured as an individual and grew in my knowledge. The Adventures In Missions (AIM) is an experience that cannot compare to any other. I witnessed God working in the lives of everyone around me and He opened my eyes to see things in a new light. I have learned how to take care of myself spiritually, the importance of prayer, and the impact sharing God's word truly has on someone. I am excited to be back in my

hometown, take what I have learned, and implement it into my daily life. I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I transition into a new chapter of my life. If you would like to know what I am doing now that I am back in Woodsfield, Oh, please let me know. I would be more than happy to speak with you!

In Christian Love,

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