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God is at work!



One Way International combined Kids Club and Teen Time students presented the nativity for an audience of 80 apartment residents and volunteers on December 17. Christmas carols were sung and the gospel and invitation to receive Christ was given in both English and Spanish.

Christmas treat food bags were given by door-to-door visits at every residence. Hot chocolate and cookies were served at the performance, over 60 door prizes were given to those in attendance, and Bibles were available to anyone who desired one. New students were registered by their parents to join Kids Club in the spring and several interested adults signed up for Bible study and ESL classes. Our deepest appreciation is extended to all who provided the finances and gifts for this wonderful Christmas celebration! If you are interested in joining the OWI apartment team teaching Ladies Bible study and or ESL classes, please contact Joyce Velasquez at your earliest convenience at 210-342-0440 or onewayinational@netscape.net All glory and honor to God for this wonderful opportunity of ministry!



Volunteer, Braydon Neugebauer packed special treat bags at the OWI office. We are thankful for his service and the generous donations of hot chocolate and snacks to wish every family at the apartments where we minister a Merry Christmas and invite them to a program put on by our apartment Bible Club and Teen Time students.



Sixty age-appropriate door prizes were given to residents from babies to adults who attended the apartment Christmas celebration. Financial gifts, toys, and games were given by individuals, Northwest Hills Christian School, and Children's Hunger Fund to provide the gift bags, backpacks, and all contents for this exciting outreach! For a December night, the weather was absolutely beautiful and everyone enjoyed the evening.



Games, toys, toiletries, school supplies, sweet treats, stuffed animals and sturdy school backpacks were gifted to all Kids Club and Teen Time students. We are praying we will be able to take the teens on retreat in the Medina area at the beginning of Spring Break. Pray with us that covid infections will be under control at that time so we can safely transport and do the retreat in March.



Handmade, crocheted blankets were donated by an individual for all Teen Time girls. Our girls were thrilled to be able to pick their own beautiful blanket lovingly made by a friend of the ministry. This was a special testimony of the love our ministry friends have for the people with whom we work. Gifts of Love baskets were lovingly prepared for the parents of the students who attend our weekly Bible meetings for them to give their parents.

After the wonderful evening with our students and their families I received testimonies from two of our school volunteers about “God moments” they experienced the last two days of school before Christmas break. I know you will be blessed by their words.

I had a really “positive” and exciting experience at Colonial Hills Elementary today!

I have a testimony to share from today (12/17/21):

I offered to read Mrs. Tondre’s class some Christmas stories when they were getting restless with the “secular” Christmas movies she was showing. So I went to the library and “happened” to pick up 2 books about Christmas—one was What Is Christmas? and the other, Christmas in Mexico. I had no idea what the books were going to say—it was ALL GOD! The first book talked about the real meaning of Christmas as the celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem!!!! It explained the angels, shepherds, and 3 wise men and all the symbols of Christmas including the star on top of the tree to remind us of the Star of Bethlehem that led the shepherds and the wise men to the baby Jesus. And it talked about how the idea of Santa came from a real man named St. Nicholas who gave gifts to poor children! (It was at that point one of the students in the class asked me—so Santa is really St. Nicholas?) I didn’t want to blow their minds with explaining Santa (not my place to do that), but I did say that St. Nicholas was a real man who died and what he did is what people think Santa does now. (It was a little tricky)—but the beautiful thing was when I started reading the 2nd book about Christmas in Mexico—it started with the same story about Jesus and Mary and the baby Jesus and how there was no room for them in the inn...2 books saying the same things and that in Mexico they believe that “kings” bring gifts to children on Feb. 2 (their “Christmas” holiday), not Santa. I said they got this from when kings came to bring Jesus gifts when he was a child and that he must have been pretty special for kings to travel great distances to bring him gifts. God just gave me all the words I needed to spread the true meaning of Christmas to these precious children. It was a sacred moment!

Then one of the little immigrant students from Afghanistan piped up and said they don’t celebrate Christmas in their country, but they have a time of celebration later in the year where they wear fancy dresses and go to parties like we do at Christmas. I said—“Yes, that’s right, it’s called Eid, right?” (I work with Afghan women teaching English so am learning all about their holidays!) I then said, “Isn’t it interesting how different countries celebrate special holidays? We can learn a lot from each other. How wonderful that so many countries are represented in this classroom (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mexico, USA) and we can all appreciate each other.”

Again...another beautiful teaching opportunity God gave me. I had prayed for that before I went to the school this morning—that Mrs. Tondre would give me an opportunity to read to the children—she did—and she didn’t stop me when it was all about JESUS!! PTL!!!!

I was blessed by God today. My heart is full!

You have a wonderful Christmas, Joyce—celebrating the true meaning of our holidays, Patty

On Thurs, a girl from that class was hanging out with me on the playground & started asking me questions about Christmas... like REAL questions.

- *How did Christmas start? (Shared John 3:16)*
- *Did God have other kids, too? (John 3:16 again – only son)*
 - *Was Jesus a regular kid? (Yes, but he didn't sin.)*
- *Who made the world? (Shared Gen 1:1. (Both of these verses are in the Bible.)*
- *What's the Bible? (God used many people over hundreds of years to record 66 parts to make the Bible to help us know Him.)*

Thurs. night at Awana, I told the Sparkies (K-2nd gr) about that conversation. A couple of the kids' mouths dropped open when I said she didn't know what the Bible was. I told them to give their parents big hugs, thanking them for helping them know God through His word.

YES, God is working! Kay Ann Kyler

Kay Ann and Patty work in the same classroom on two different days at the principal's request. This is such a wonderful working of God in the lives of students and volunteers. We are glad to be back working in the school. If you would like to volunteer as a teacher aid in a classroom contact Joyce as soon as possible. The need is great and many more volunteers would be welcome at the school this new year.

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We will be starting Kids Club at Colonial Hills Elementary in early February. We are still in need of 2-4 volunteers to be on a substitute list in case our team members need to be out for any reason. We don't want to cancel any clubs once we start again.

Covid 19 has kept us away from Kids Club at the school since March 2020. For information about joining our Kids Club team please contact Joyce Velasquez at onewayinational@netscape.net or 210-342-0440.

With much appreciation for praying and partnering with One Way International,

Joyce Velasquez—Executive Director