

HAPPYINDERENDENCED

This week we are celebrating our independence. We typically look at independence as being a good thing; it represents our freedom. But I am not sure that we have that definition correct. I don't think that independence equals freedom at all; quite the opposite actually. God has been really teaching me this year what true freedom is. God made humans to be in a dependent relationship with him. In the Garden of Eden when we walked in complete submission to him there was complete freedom. It was when we decided to step into our independence and eat the forbidden fruit that our world became broken. By stepping out in independence we actually chose to give Satan control of our lives, and unlike God, he absolutely does not do anything out of interest for our wellbeing. I have been in a season of surrender. God keeps putting his finger on more areas of my life that I need to submit to Him and more of my rights that I need to kill. In the natural, it would seem that by submitting I am losing my freedom, but that is not how God works. The more dependent I become on him and the more of my rights I surrender, the more freedom I experience. God is such a loving God. Submitting to Him isn't submitting to a tyrant ruler out there in the cosmos. He wants to walk with you as a friend who listens and cares for your every need. This surrender has truly been a remarkable experience for me. This Independence Day I challenge you to ask God to show you areas of your life where you are walking in independence from Him. I promise that as you submit those areas you will begin to experience what true freedom is. And

that is something that is truly worth celebrating!



Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through." John 8:34-35 (MSG)

The Commission

The need to get the Good News to the lost is getting more and more urgent. Last month, we partnered with the Orlando House of Prayer and The Circuit Rider ministry to hold a conference called The Commission. We had a wonderful weekend full of God's presence and getting a better understanding of his heart for the lost. I believe there will many, many lost souls saved as a result of this weekend event.



Our Own American Ninja Warrior

One of our staff, Hunter Sipes, is competing on American Ninja Warriors. He is a part of our Sports and Fitness ministry. He has made it past the first level competition and moves on to the Orlando Regional Finals. This is such a great open door and opportunity for our ministry to expand and provides us with greater influence. Please be praying for Hunter to represent Christ well and for him to continue to do well as he competes this summer. See him compete Monday nights on NBC.







Training them up from young ages!

Part of our vision here at YWAM Orlando has been to one day have a school for our staff and student's children. Well this year part of that dream became a reality. We just "graduated" our first preschool class. Last summer we had a retired Montessori school teacher volunteer to give a year to teaching our children. At around the same time, only through God, a Montessori school in Colorado was closing and donated all of their schools supplies to us. We flew someone to CO and they rented a large box truck and drove it back full of everything we would need to start our school. So last fall school began for our preschool age kids. They had an incredible year! Our retired teacher has committed to one more year! We would love to see this school increase in grade levels every year, until we eventually make it a full pre-K - 12 school. Please be praying for God to continue to bring us quality teachers who would willingly donate their time to invest in our staff kids!







Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to great places! You're off and away! - from Dr. Seuss' Oh, The Places You'll Go!

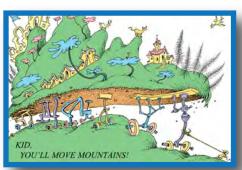
This is so often the story of our lives here at YWAM Orlando - people come and people go. The Bible says the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. We are doing our part to change that and sending people "off and away" to the nations is what we are all about. So as hard as it may be, we train them, congratulate them, and send them on their way. So far this year we have sent our training schools on outreaches to South Africa, Algeria, China, Turkey and the U.S. We have also sent people long term into Lebanon, Turkey and Indonesia.

Our spring Discipleship Training School (DTS) just left for South Africa a few days ago and they have already seen a couple of salvations! Last week both our summer DTS lecture phase and our summer youth program began. Our Mission Adventures youth program has several teams this summer who will be working both here in Orlando as well as in the Dominican Republic.

It has been a busy year. Many seeds have been planted and many have been saved.

"And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.) KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!" Dr. Seuss

We are truly believing that with God's help our teams can see the impossible done, lives changed, and mountains moved!



God Bless, Colleen Crawford Serving With:



We Have A Kitchen!

This spring we were finally able to see the completion of our first commercial kitchen. We had a dedication in April with a time of worshiping God for this provision! It is so wonderful to have the right equipment to feed all of us.







