



**FOUNTAIN
OF LIFE**
COVENANT CHURCH

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Kingdom Workers: Called, Trained, Sent

FOL Celebrates Ninth Anniversary

Thanks to everyone for helping us celebrate our ninth anniversary as a church! From the choir to the cake, the service celebrated God's work in our midst. We heard wonderful testimonies from the Life Groups and Pastor John shared past, current, and future graces. Let's pray that God continues to grow us in youth evangelism, discipleship through difficult circumstances, and developing kingdom workers.

If you have a memory from the last nine years at FOL, would you please share it with us? You can post them on the Facebook group or send them to us via e-mail.

Do you have feedback for us?

Please feel free to let us know if there are topics or particular ministries that you would like to learn more about. We can cover them if future editions of the quarterly newsletter. Please e-mail tim@folcov.org with your comments or questions.



Deepening and Rejoicing at the FOL Family Center

by Emily Kazim

As we enter a new semester, I reflect on how I've seen the Lord lavish his love and blessings on the Family Center and each branch of its ministry. It has been incredible to witness God deepening and expanding the ESL Classes, Fix Your Bike crew, Middle and High School Youth, and After School Program. As each ministry deepens, however, we become achingly aware of the hardships individuals and families involved in our programs face on a daily basis. With this, I reflect also on the insurmountable needs to be met, and how we, as the Body of Christ, can lay them at our Father's feet.

So far, my semester as director of the tutoring program has been filled with times of elation and moments of frustration. I'm elated as I see the Lord answer the prayers of, draw near to, and reveal Himself to the volunteers, children, and parents involved in our program. *(Continued on next page)*



Please Pray

While we rejoice over and praise God for the good things He has given to the Family Center, let us also come together to pray for a few desperate needs:

- The father of one of our kindergartners has recently been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, and he and his wife are also expecting a baby this month. Please keep the Davila Family in your prayers. Pray that the Lord will heal the father completely and that his wife and child will be safe during and after the birth.
- The majority of students in Long Beach are struggling to reach grade standards. Please pray that God will provide them with what they need to be successful in their academics.
- The After School Program has a waiting list of about 40 students right now. Please pray that the Lord will provide us with more resources and afternoon tutors so that we will be able to accept more students from the waiting list.

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I empathize as I sit with frustrated parents who are desperate to see their children succeed, but are overwhelmed by an education system that seems to work against them. It reminds me to rejoice with those rejoicing, and mourn with those mourning. However, for every instance of pain, I count two of joy and celebration, and that is what I'm going to focus on below.

The Lord has blessed the tutoring program with many faithful volunteers from both FOL and the community. He has also blessed us with families determined to see their children succeed and with students eager to learn. The Lord has also established unexpected partnerships in West Long Beach. You know God is at work when things go inexplicably in your favor! It is absolutely amazing to me that the Lord provided the program with 22 tutors that are scholars, educators, engineers, doctors, therapists, and college students who are devoted to instructing our students well, and showing them and their families the love of Christ.

I've also seen God at work in the families of our students. Not only have parents begun to assist in cleaning the Family Center and planning events—several now attend Fountain of Life and have made commitments to follow Jesus! As we continue to build trust with the families in our community, we witness God's love breaking into their lives in real and powerful ways.

Another joy I dwell on and thank the Lord for is the presence of our eager-to-learn students. One student, we'll call her Sara, stands out in my mind as curious to learn more about Jesus. Sara, a middle schooler, has been involved in the After School Program for several years. She comes from a devout Muslim family, but has recently begun to ask questions about Jesus. One evening, we discussed the difference between Christianity and Islam, and the importance of making a personal decision of what and who to believe in. Sara is a critical thinker, and while she has yet to make any decisions regarding her faith, I know that God is working in her mind and heart.

At the Family Center, we see God working in powerful ways and we are also reminded that people face hardships and injustice. This bolsters our conviction to be here in West Long Beach, to work for change, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.