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USA

When I attended the DM2 Romans youth conference in Camarillo, California, I didn't expect to meet youth who eagerly listened to 30 hours of Romans teaching and I didn't expect to hear participants fluently explain the gospel to each other on the last day. Yet, that's exactly what happened. For five full days, youth engaged in verse after verse of Romans. During the third day, a 10-year-old, who looked like she was more interested in making her hot chocolate than in Romans, shocked me by explaining how she knew she was justified because Jesus paid for all of her sin. When I handed her the pre-conference survey where she had checked off a long list of works she needed to do to go to heaven, she loudly snorted, "Ha! That's totally wrong!" On the last day, I joined a group of two high school participants who took turns explaining the gospel. At the end, one of them added his own illustration. "This is how I think of it," he began. "It's like a magnet where like charges repel and opposite charges attract. God is like a positive charge because he's plus righteousness. We are negative righteousness. But we like to think we're plus righteousness because of our good works. That's like two magnets repelling. But, if we agree with God and realize we are minus righteousness and our works are like filthy rags, then, it's like a magnet that gets stuck to God. He justifies us right then and we become dead to sin and alive to God. We can choose to live to our sin nature or for God. That part is called sanctification. Justification and glorification are secured." His partner added, "Yeah, I never knew any of that before I came here. I was totally trusting in my own works. Like, I just did what my Sunday school teacher said. I never questioned it." So throughout the week, God worked in hearts and far exceeded my expectations. "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think...to him be glory." (Ephesians 3:20-21).

– Joleen Miller



**“Every time we replace
a lie with the truth, it
brings freedom.”**

Testimonies

"A while ago I was really grieving for a friend. I know he is a Christian, but I feel like he's caught up in the world. I was really seeking the Lord and praying for him. I didn't want him to abandon the faith; I didn't want him to perish. But something that I felt the Lord impressed upon me was that even though right now it may seem that he's struggling, God still has plans for him. He will eventually completely conform him to the image of His Son. And that is what we learned: that sanctification is a process. We get to partner with God with that. There are Christians living according to the flesh. They are going to reap what they sow, but their salvation is based entirely on the work of Christ, not anything they have done. And to me that's something that's just amazing to think about and it gives me a lot more grace for people who are struggling."

"I [really] love you guys. I'm serious. You know how awesome it is, you know how inspirational it is, to see people my age and even younger go this in depth into the Bible? I'll be honest. I was highly skeptical coming to this conference. But you guys somehow did an in depth eight chapters out of the Bible. I was just blown away by how detailed it was [and] how articulate the teachers were. I just love how humble you guys are and how friendly and how loving. Coming here has kind of been a place where the Lord has reassured me that no matter what comes my way, I will face it because He is looking down upon us and He will hold back whatever we cannot handle."



"I was going back and forth about is it works or is it faith that saves you or is it a little bit of both. So that was my biggest question I had coming here. But through this I learned that it is actually faith and that works just mean nothing. And now it makes sense, because if salvation is a gift then why do you have to work for it? It doesn't make sense. God already did all the work. You just have to accept it. The part that amazed me the most was the glorification part because I'm awaiting that most. What I want to do hopefully is just spread [the message of Jesus] for all people because I know that's what God's calling me to do. I want to share the message of Christ and see other people lifted up in His name and not put down. Because if we really are children of God then our job is to bring people up, not push them down in their sin. Love is really what motivates us to do all of this because without love what have we got? That's what the world is missing so much, just this need to turn back to God and see the love He has for us."

Last week was such a blessing to me and so many others. These conferences have helped me grow in ways that I can't explain. Who knew studying the Bible eight hours a day with barely any sleep would be something a big group of teenagers would choose to do? I'm so grateful for the memories and friendships that were made. I love how God shows the importance of unity in the church in 1 Corinthians. At DM2, we are family. I love this crazy, amazing family, and I can't wait until we can all be together again."

"This conference was so fun and I wish it would never end. Sometimes I wish my whole life could be a DM2 conference, but God always seems to remind me that DM2 equips me to become a disciple maker."



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pray for the women's workshop in Zambia August 10-20. There will be an estimated 250 women in attendance. Also, pray for the Costa Rica workshop August 17-24. Numerous Bolivian believers will be joining the Costa Rica teaching team. Pray for safety for the teams and clear and accurate communication for all. Pray for those who come, to learn the truth and then pass it on to others.