

Greeting from Atlanta! I hope you had a good Thanksgiving Holiday. Mine was very relaxing. I didn't get a chance to go home because of work, but my pastor had several people from the church over to eat and hang out, so that was nice. The church also has an annual race Thursday morning called the Turkey Trot in which I took part. That was a lot of fun.

The church I attend is called Community Fellowship. One of the requirements of the D.O.O.R. program is that we had to find a church within the first two months of arriving and spend at least 4 hours a week doing some type of activity with that church. We were supposed to pick a church that stretches our comfort zone. Jeff, our D.O.O.R. supervisor, introduced us to several churches he likes to visit and I actually chose to attend the church where he is a member. My options were limited because of my soup kitchen hours on Sunday but fortunately this church starts at 5pm and I really enjoy hearing the pastor's sermons. I have helped lead worship a couple of times and I have started helping with the youth group Sunday evenings. I also attend Bible study on Wednesdays, which I hadn't done in a long time, so I'm very glad they offer that.

One thing D.O.O.R. offers us is a mentor for the year. My mentor, Donna, is actually the pastor's wife. I get to see her several times throughout the week because she is the one who leads worship, youth group, and the Bible study is at her house. It was just a coincidence that I get to see her a lot, but it is very helpful for me because the mentor's job is to help us along with our spiritual journey and to be there for us if we need to talk about anything throughout the year. All the mentors have had experience doing the same kind of work that we are doing this year so they will be able to help us deal with any struggles we might have.

We took the after school program kids on a field trip two Saturdays ago. It was quite an adventure. We went to a local state park where we hiked, skipped rocks across a lake, and had a picnic. Most of the children had never been to a state park or been hiking. It's amazing how quickly you tire when you're carrying a four year old on a hike. It was a lot of fun to introduce them to the outdoors, though.

Things at the house are going well. We are all still getting along. At the beginning of the month we all went on a solitude retreat. We read a book beforehand talking about how to grow closer to God while in solitude. We spent several hours a day by ourselves. I chose to go on an almost nine mile hike. It took me around four hours to walk it and I was completely exhausted when I finished, but the scenery was beautiful and it was great to spend that time with the Lord.

Work is never boring. I started going to the Trinity House, the men's shelter, once a week to eat and just hang out. The men there are such an inspiration. Some of them have lost everything because of drugs, like their job, their homes, and their families, but instead of giving up, they are working hard to get their lives back together. My bad days don't even compare to one of their decent days.

The soup kitchen is definitely keeping me busy. We have plenty of volunteers for several months so that's a blessing. I am worried about the weather getting colder, though, because we are very limited on donated clothes and it's hard to watch the people who come through have to go out into the cold without anything warm on. Hopefully more clothes will come in soon.

Thanks again for your support and prayers. God Bless!