

Hola desde Homestead! I hope that this letter finds everyone well!

It's been a couple of weeks since my last update, so I figure it's about time to catch everyone up.

In my last letter I mentioned that we were going to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico for a conference with all of the national Young Adult Volunteers. It was AMAZING!!! I have never been to New Mexico, and it is so incredible. The scenery is so different from the south, but it is so gorgeous that it is impossible not to see God's hands at work.

It was such a wonderful retreat away from the hustle and bustle of Miami, and I really enjoyed getting to know the other volunteers and hearing their experiences and stories. Our group from Miami really bonded and came together and had a really great time being together, which I'm really thankful for. We hiked twice during our free time, once to the top of a mesa, and once into a place called Box Canyon.

Some of the spots along the way were kind of challenging, but it was so rewarding once I got to the top and could see the incredible view below. Even though pictures don't begin to do justice, I'm attaching some pictures- the first of Kitchen Mesa and the second the view from the top.

Last week I was also blessed to be able to go home for a visit. It was my college's Homecoming weekend, so I got to be home and see family and friends. It was awesome to be back in the real South (seeing as Florida definitely is not!) and to see the people I love and catch up with them.

This has been a great week at work. The after-school program is coming right along, and October and November are very busy months filled with lots of fun things. Last night I got the chance to lead a Bible Study with a small group of high schoolers. We discussed Psalm 25, a prayer of adoration and thanksgiving written from King David to God. I was so impressed with the comments that the youth made as we talked. Their insight and their faith in God really struck me, especially with one guy in particular. It is amazing how God works through such young minds and speaks to them in such remarkable ways. It was really humbling and inspiring for me to listen to those youth and to hear parts of their faith journeys and the passion they have for God.

Tomorrow I'm going to a conference for urban youth ministry in Fort Lauderdale, and I'm really looking forward to that. We're leaving bright and early at 7:30 a.m.! Sunday I'm trying out new churches and a young adult group.

Thanks again for the continued uplifting and encouraging notes! It's so wonderful to have such an amazing sense of support behind me.

In Christ,
Erin