

March 2007

Easter greetings! Sorry this March update is so late! Life in South Florida has been very hectic the past few weeks (in a good way). Work and recreation are going exceptionally well, and I am most definitely seeing the hand of God at work through me and those around me. It is such a blessing to be in a place with such wonderful resources and such an amazing support system. I have been growing in God's word and my prayer life has been continuously strengthened, especially recently as I consider what God's plans are for me post-volunteer year.

Last weekend KIX (my youth program) and Branches (fellow volunteer Tony's youth program) led the 30 Hour Famine, supported by World Vision. We had forty teenagers sleeping outdoors in cardboard boxes in our yard Friday night, and that was quite an experience!! Our goal was to raise awareness concerning world hunger and to have the teenagers (and adults) experience what it is like to be homeless and hungry. We fasted thirty hours from Friday morning to Saturday at noon (hence the name). Friday night was organized to educate the teens about world hunger and open their eyes to its effect on the lives of people their age. I was astonished to learn that more than half of the world's population lives on *less than one dollar a day!* We had the teenagers do exercises where they put rocks in their shoes, put a blindfold over one eye, etc. to signify the pain and difficulties people live through every day. Saturday we woke up bright and early and headed out to do a service project, picking up litter and trash by a local canal. Then we broke the fast together with a huge meal provided by Dare to Care. I pray that last weekend opened the teens' eyes and that they heard even a fraction of what we said. We of course raised money to send to World Vision, and I would encourage you to explore their website and consider giving to this outstanding organization to help feed and clothe our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We all need your prayers BIG TIME over the next week. We are organizing, planning, and carrying out an outdoor camp over Spring Break from April 1-4. It is called Camp Oasis, and has been born and run by Tony's boss, Kim Torres, for the past ten years. My youth are going this year, and many of the volunteers (myself included) are camp counselors for the week. I am super excited about next week. I know that God is in this camp and that God's will will indeed be carried out. I ask you to pray for safety, fun, fellowship, and most importantly, for the Holy Spirit to be present in all of those involved. I am teaching a cooking class with a fellow co-worker. We are looking forward to it, but it will certainly be a challenge, seeing as we do not have a stove to cook on. ☺ Never fear...we have a plan.

I trust that Christ will be alive and real to you as Lent ends and Easter is celebrated. Thank you for sharing Christ's love with me.

In love,  
Erin