



RTNI Newsletter

Winter 2016 Volume 9 Issue 1

Cierra's Story

My first interaction with RTNI was through a five day music camp in 2014, lead by a dear friend of mine, Rachel. Verdict after the first day? The kids at the camp were extremely lovable, and, at the same time, extremely difficult. However, I had many opportunities to encourage them with the message of the Gospel. It was a fast-paced and tiring week and at the same time, joyful and incredibly refreshing.

I thought, "AH! This is why Jesus loves the little children so much!" Shortly after music camp was over, I was in Aaron and Emily Starr's backyard on Thursday nights helping with Young Disciples Bible study for students ages 5-12. Honestly, I had only planned to help during that summer. Months later, I was coming back again and again. I loved watching God work in the hearts of children, and was grateful for the work He was doing in me. An estimated month and a half turned into a year and a half.

I have received (and given) so many mini-lessons on patience, peace, and self-control during my time with RTNI, but one I would love to elaborate on is my big lesson on joy. This lesson came from a friendship with a very sweet, seven year old girl named Kamyra. When I first met her, her knowledge of Jesus was limited, but she was eager to learn. She soon decided to pray for salvation, with Rachel – who I mentioned earlier, and follow Jesus!

I had so much joy knowing that Kamyra had been saved! The Most High God has welcomed her to draw near to His throne because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. She became aware of her worth and value. She learned that she was immensely loved and cherished. How can you not overflow with joy when you explain to someone their new position as a child of God?!

I ended up making her a card, detailing to her how she was now the daughter of the Most High God – the King of Kings. I told her that she was a beloved princess. I gave her the card as we were sitting in Emily's backyard, and she took the card, read it, and paused. She looked at me and her eyes grew large. "Am I really a princess?" "Yes! You are, Kamyra. Don't ever forget that."

From then on, we have had some great conversations about how she can live out her faith with her friends and family. She had a Bible that she was struggling to understand, so I purchased a picture Bible for her. She reads it all the time. I have been working a lot of overtime and I haven't been able to see her much lately, but I saw her earlier this month and she ran and hugged me. "I love my Bible! I read it every day." She then started telling me about all her favorite Bible stories. She was still so excited to learn about God! What a lesson about how our joy in the Lord should look! I have so much joy from seeing her life story develop. Kamyra will do great things for the kingdom of God, and I am honored to be a part of it.



Cierra met students for the first time at music camp

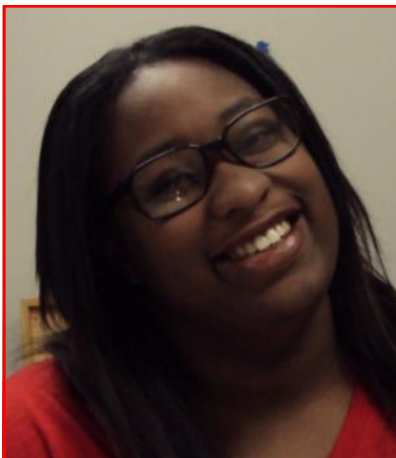


Cierra and Rachel told kids about Jesus in our yard



A great RTNI memory from 2015 was camp. It was fun and I got to make a lot of new friends and learn more about people. One thing that God has been teaching me is how to behave and how to be at peace. And one thing God is asking me to do is change my life before it's too late and be more responsible because not everything is going to last forever. Another thing I learned is how pride is bad, but there is good pride and bad pride. Good pride is when you're happy but not bragging. If you brag about how good you are at something, you would be demonstrating bad pride. – Ivan, age 17

God is asking me to bring out my full potential in 2016. He wants me to become a better person and use my skills to do something good. I want to be an actress when I grow up and I can use that to be the living evidence that God has done something good. And I believe that He will be there for me and help me achieve my goal. – Shae, age 16



In 2016, as I prepare to graduate from High School, I think God wants me to learn to do for myself. I've always wanted to be the one that helps everyone else before I take care of myself. He wants me to stop and think about Tajuana. He wants me to be the best person He intends for me to be. I think God wants me to be a Neurosurgeon missionary doctor and a humanitarian. God is just asking me to follow HIM and do whatever He intends, plans and has in store for me. – Tajuana, age 18

A great memory I had in 2015 with RTNI is when we went to the CCDA conference in Memphis, TN. I liked it very much. They talked about Jesus a lot and I got to tour the city a little bit. It's a nice city and they had some good food. This workshop I went to at CCDA talked about sports and how they made their organization better. They started with just one Recreation Center, and now they have like 3 or 4 Rec Centers. They have Bible studies before they play basketball and they tell the kids to get their parents to come, because some parents don't know about Jesus. I would love to visit their ministry and learn more about what they do and how we could do it here in Columbus. I would also like to ball on them Memphis kids, LOL. – TaJaun, age 18

