



FBCD's Ignite Youth Groups' Hottest Stories & Updates!

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2015

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A Story of Friendship

By: Andrea Barajas

What does the word “Friendship” mean to you? Does it mean that when people become your friend, they instantly bond with you? Do you feel like friendship is more than what most people think, as in you are finally connected to your brother or sister in Christ? Or do you think friendship is a time where you get to bond with people who know all your deepest secrets and you can forgive them for any unrighteous things they do? Well, as its says in Proverbs 18:24, “One who has unreliable friends soon comes to a ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Meaning, there is always that one friend who is closer to you and knows everything about you. So, let me talk about the one person who knows me more than anybody else.

Her name is Ines. She has been my closest friend since kindergarten. When we actually became friends, it was recess and I was eating a tomato that fell on the ground four seconds earlier. All she did was say, “Hi, my name is Ines, wanna be best friends forever?” and of course I said yes. Ever since then , we've been the best of

friends. We would hang out at each other's houses, playing games, etc. That was until we had a big fight the summer of fifth grade.



“Andrea, I don't like how you always ditch me to be with your other friends. I don't want to be friends with someone who doesn't even talk to me.”

Honestly I didn't even know how to respond. But I chose my words wisely:

“Ines, I'm sorry but I do have other friends too.”

We argued back and forth and we ended up not talking for the rest of the summer.

Sixth grade started and Ines brought to my attention that we had three classes together, I guess she could tell I wasn't too thrilled, so she told me, “Look, so about what happened during summer vacation ... Could we possibly start over?”

I didn't really know how to respond so I just said, “Sure. I'm really sorry too. I didn't now you felt like that ... Maybe we can hang out soon?”

Cont...

She said yes and ever since then we have been as close as we were before our little misunderstanding.

I like to look back on that day and say, "Wow. All we had to do was say a few words and all was forgiven." That reminds me of Scripture, more specifically, Matthew 6:14: "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." So, when you're in the car and your mom or dad gets furious

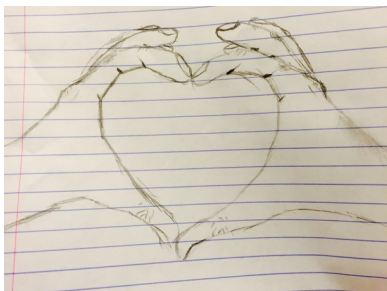
at rush hour or if you say something mean you now regret about someone, remind them that God tells His children to forgive amongst themselves and when you ask for forgiveness, you are always forgiven by our Heavenly Father.

I pray you all have a lovely March!

Your Article Could Be Here!

What we are looking for:

- Short stories
- Devotionals
- Your Questions
- Your Memories (Past Events)
- Photos / Artwork



It does not have to be long. (Or it can be as long as you would like.) We are looking for a minimum of two paragraphs.

You can look up a passage of Scripture and share about what God is teaching you. Share about your stories, your struggles and your dreams.

We want to give you options as well as opportunity. Hope to hear back from you!

TAKE THE Opportunity!

Discovery Channel: Rachael Messini

By: Alex Perez

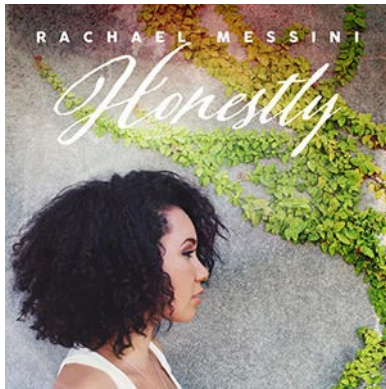
Rachael Messini was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1984. Singing and dancing became her passion at the very young age of 4. In the 8th grade Rachael began singing part-time with her family in a group called “Souljahz.”

They flew to Germany to record their first album with a producer they meet through a family friend. After the finishing of their first album, Rachael’s father took the music, and not long after, Souljahz was in a meeting signing a deal with Warner Bros in 2000.

After the completion of their first major album in 2002, at the age of 17, Rachael became the youngest singer, writer, and producer in Warner

Bros history.

While in Souljahz, Rachael performed alongside people like, 50 Cent, Christina Aguilera, Faith Hill, Boyz II Men, and so many more. She also was featured on stations such as



Honestly album cover

CNN and E!. Their first album took them very far, winning them 2 Dove Awards. Things for Souljahz went a little downhill before they could release a second album; however, they re-connected with a few different people in 2006 and were then known as “The Washington Projects.”

The Washington Projects, which included Rachael Messini, released 2 successful albums and toured internationally and nationally on and off from 2006 to 2010. One of their

last tours was traveling to war zones in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait to entertain the troops.

As of 2011, Rachael took a few years off to start a family of her own. She has recently released her album, *Honestly*. It speaks about her life, lessons she has learned, and overall what she has been through over the past decade.

I recommend Rachael Messini to anyone who enjoys great music that includes a little bit of rap and some soft tunes. Rachael’s music speaks from the heart as her lyrics speak of many situations and meanings. Listen clearly to her words. She has a ton of good things to say and teach.

Rachael Messini’s album *Honestly* is out now and available on iTunes. Enjoy.

March Thoughts

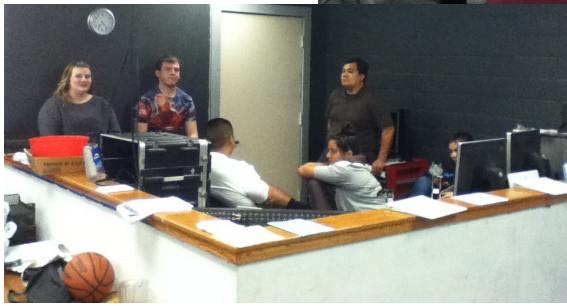
Last month was a blessing. With a packed bus that went out to serve the homeless, to helping to provide parents with a break for Valentine's Day, to small groups putting together presentations for the Agape Feast, there were blessings all around. I think it would take up too much space to try to recall all the activities and all the events, but I think it's good to highlight the Agape Feast. Each of our small groups were given a task. From a selection of over 40 passages in the Bible focused on love, each group was supposed to pick one or two to focus on. The task was pretty simple, come up with a way to share the truth of that to the whole group. One group simply chose a song to help illustrate God's love, two groups chose two different types of dramatic presentations, and another group chose to produce a video. This year's program was specifically designed to be different than last year's. This year more responsibility was given to students. God calls us to be a part of His body (1 Corinthians 12). We all have been given various gifts, talents and abilities. The more we put those to use, the better we can grow.

Growth is a part of this month's theme. Growing requires a balance of taking in, action/change, and quiet rest. If we look at some of last year and compare it to this year, we can see signs of growth and change. It's not perfect, but there *is* development. A part of growth and change also requires a release of the unneeded. The idea of spring cleaning leaves me with mixed feelings. I'm pretty sentimental, and I also am a blend of a 'prepper' and a 'hoarder'. I remember times where I needed and I did not have (especially at the end of college). Because of that I like to have 'stuff' and an abundance of that. But too much stuff, can be more of a mess than a help. Cleaning at first is stressing and overwhelming to me, until I get started. Once I get focused, I can get pretty intense on that. My kids discovered that pretty quickly and were never thrilled when I got into one of my 'Cleaning moods,' I think that sometimes that kind of focus is necessary in our walk with God as well. There are over 150 passages in Scripture in regard to cleaning. Psalm 19:12 says, "How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults." (NLT) Getting some help from God is important to figuring out what needs to stay and what needs to go. If we actually take time to look into what needs to be cleaned out, it can get really overwhelming, but God knows we can't do it all at one time. In Matthew 23:25-26, Jesus is talking to a group of leaders. He says to them, "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too." Simply put, Jesus tells them to start on the inside. The inside of a person is a blend of thoughts, passions, and focus. Take some time with God. Ask Him to show you what needs work. Then start on the inside.

This month as we continue to look at a number of passages regarding Christ's miracles, partnerships and couples in the Bible, there will be all sorts of lessons that we can grow in, all sorts of ideas we can learn from, and examples we can follow as well as those we should avoid or abandon. In looking at all of these, it could totally be overwhelming, but God asks us to start one step at a time. I pray we grow together in the next step.

Still Growing,
Jackson

Past February Events



Small Group Prep

Agape Feast



February Events

College Game Day



Beacon Light Mission
—Packed Bus!



Parent's Night Out



**Don't forget so pictures may be shown in our newsletter hash tag it to:

#FBCDowney

Or just email it to either Alex or Jackson. (more info pg 11)

First Baptist Church of Downey Student Ministries March 2015 Upcoming Events

Beacon Light Mission

Serving the Homeless
Sat, Mar 7
Meet @ FBCD 5:30 pm

Food Run

Sat, Mar 28
6 pm—10 pm
\$20 a person
Join us as we explore the possibilities of budget eating.

Entrench Middle School
(Sundays 10:50-Noon)
Miracles of Christ

Blood Drive

Sun Mar 15
Here's a practical way to give.
Donate Blood.

Ignite

(Weds 6:30-8)
Couples in the Bible

Immerse

(Sun 5:30-6:30 pm)
*Principles for Building and
Strengthening your Relationships*
Specials by: Eve Rey Body

Game Night

Sat Mar 28
11 am—5:30 pm
Bring Your Favorite gaming System/Games

Newsletter deadline

Sun, Mar 31 (Midnight)
See FBCDowney.com for specifics

Entrench High School

(Sundays 10:50-Noon)
Bible Battle Buddies

Save The Dates!

April 24-25 Planet Wisdom
May 8-9 YSTeam Training

For additional Details and MORE, check out FBCDowney.com

For Text updates and Reminders: Middle School—Text JHS to 33733 High School Text HSGroup to 33733

FOOD RUN!

Saturday, March 28th you are invited to join us for a Food Run!

What is it? It's a delectable adventure in taste. We'll be traveling together to a number of places. (The surprise is a part of the adventure!)

We are asking everyone to bring about \$20 per person. You can bring less, but if you do, please partner up with one or two others to provide yourself with additional options. Please bring a Friend! (And yes, parents are also welcome.)

We will meet in front of the worship center at 5:30 pm. Please make sure that you have a completed 2014-2015 medical form. These can be downloaded at FBCDowney.com. or on the First Baptist Church of Downey parent page

For a FULL day, you are also invited to join us earlier that day for a time of "gameing". Bring your favorite game (console, card or board) and a bag lunch. We'll be in the High School room that morning from 11 am to 5:30 pm.

Submission options

2015 Updated Submission Topics and Themes

April – Easter, Forgiveness, Christ

May – Mom, Beauty, Nature

June – Dad, Graduation, Fire

July – Freedom, Country, Patriotism

August – Fellowship, Rest, Fun

September – School, Learning, Change

October – Fear, Harvest, Anxiety

November – Thanksgiving, Gratefulness, Blessing

December – Christmas, Winter/Snow, Gifts



Submit Your Art!

* Please contact Alex or Jackson to submit your art for next month's newsletter!



Stay Informed!

-Check out FBCDowney.com

-Find our Student and Parent Facebook Pages

-Text Updates

Middle School—Text JHS to 33733

High School—Text HSGroup to 33733

College—Text FBCA to 33733

Upcoming Events!

March

- March 7 - Beacon Light
 - Be at church at 5p.m.
- March 28 - Game Day
 - Meet at church @ 11 a.m.
 - Food Run
 - Meet @ FBCD 5:30 pm. We will return by 10 pm. \$20
- March 30—April 5 - Rainbow Acres Mission Trip

Further Ahead 2015

April

- April 4 - Beacon Light (meet at church at 5p.m.)
- April 17—19 - Family Camp
- April 24—25 - Planet Wisdom

May

- May 2 - Beacon Light (meet at church at 5 p.m.)
- May 8-9 - YS Team Training/Development
- May 16 - Community Carwash

To submit pictures or articles for next month email Alex or Jackson.

pzalexandria@yahoo.com or

Jacksonf@fbcdowney.org