

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE 2018

Beloved Del Rey Church,

As 2018 came and went, I look back on the year with so much joy, gratitude, and thanksgiving in my heart. I love each and every one of the Jr. High and High School students of this church, and pray that God would use them in mighty ways throughout their lives.

As we ended 2018, we were met with a lot of changes: changes with attendance (since so many had graduated), changes in some structure of our night, and changes in leadership. Pastor Atlas took his bow during the middle of the year to focus on his family's future in the ministry he is pursuing abroad. I have been so thankful for his supervision, assistance, and leadership through his time leading us, and through the new transition. We lost our Jr. High boys MVP leader Brian Lin as he pursues his future with his amazing fiancée. Brian is dearly missed, and we pray God's best for their future. Shannon, Brina, Will and Ryan are holding it down every Tuesday for now.

To reflect a bit, as 2018 began, we knew there would be a lot of changes underway. I focused on teaching High School while Atlas remained teaching the Jr. High. The theme of our year focused on apologetics, in which the students learned about the Christian worldview, a superior defense of the Christian worldview, the integrity of the Christian worldview compared to other various worldviews, and how to share our worldview graciously and patiently with others. In February we took the youth group to winter camp at Angeles Crest Christian Camp, which was a great bonding experience for students and leaders alike. The teaching was sub-par, so we hope to change that in a venue change this coming year. Nevertheless, the winter camp experience is always most memorable. At the end of the spring, almost a dozen students graduated and moved on. We then had our summer bonfires, fall apologetics conference, and finished the year strong with apologetics, *Truth Matters*, and the Gospel Project.

I am thoroughly excited about this new year with our students. As you can see, I have attached a 2019 annual calendar highlighting the main points of the year. I felt there would be no better way to follow up a year of apologetics than to take the students through a year with Jesus Christ. My prayer is that a year in apologetics would solidify our students' faith in the veracity, perspicuity, and trustworthiness of the Bible, and likewise the reality of the triune God through the person and work of Christ. In the coming year we are looking forward to various lessons and events, including a year with Jesus, winter camp, summer bonfires, campout, ReTHINK Apologetics Student Conference, group nights, and many other activities.

This year we will be looking for male leaders, one for Jr. High and another for High School. Since the number of male students keeps growing, we have a desire to see these boys disciplined into men. So if you think you got what it takes, please let me know! Brina and Shannon continue leading the girls' group as they do so well! Furthermore, to keep youth group fresh we have added more outdoor and indoor activities such as ping pong, cornhole, spikeball, and other fun things to bring the group together before our time of study.

I am steadily praying for your students, and upcoming students. Specifically, for their hearts and minds to be ignited by the Spirit, to fall in love and faithfully serve the Savior, and that their lives would illuminate as a city on a hill, where the world would see radiant love for God and neighbor, and through their work as ambassadors of Christ, the world would be drawn toward faith and repentance.

In His service, with, and for you,

Ryan Richards