

God works in many ways to change our lives, no life is free from the struggles this earth brings, finding the strength to overcome them is what makes our walk closer to Christ. We caught up with Fabian Pacheco a couple of days ago to see how God has impacted and helped him through the rough patches life throws at you..

SM- How was your life before Christ?
FP- I could say my life was meaningless, I had no real future. I was always trying to find my happiness in relationships and people. I was always trying to fit in with the "cool" crowd, when in reality I was an outcast.

SM- How has God impacted your life?
FP- God has impacted different aspects of my life, spiritually, emotionally, socially, and mentally. He has helped me discover spiritual abilities so that I may be able to further the Kingdom of God, and continue to serve Him with all of my heart

SM- What has been a spiritual marker in your life?
FP- Going to the BSM has been a spiritual marker in my life because when I stopped attending church and had turned away from God, there were people willing to simply just talk to me and pray with me in my time of need. Now, I'm attending a new church and am looking forward to go on missions this summer.

SM- Can you share with us your favorite bible verse and what it means to you.
FP- My favorite bible verse would have to be Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; acknowledge him in all your ways and he will make your paths straight.
 This verse really helped me when I first became a Christian because whenever I doubted God and his plan for my life, it encouraged me to stay strong in the Lord, and to trust him with my life.

SM-How has the BSM shaped you?
FP- It has helped shape my life through bible studies, missions and being a part of the BSM Leadership Team. I have taken these opportunities to grow spiritually and take part of everything God is doing with this organization.



SM- What experiences have helped your spiritual life even more?
FP- Serving in missions has enhanced my spiritual life by helping other people. It has aspired me to try and impact the world and to help the people in need.

SM- When you went to New Jersey this summer for your missions trip, what was the most defining moment of your journey?
FP- It was when we had the opportunity to share the gospel to many illegal immigrants and from that we were able to help buy food and clothes for a person that had only been in the United States for 3 days. It made me realize that even though things might be going well for us, there is always someone else in the world without food, family and shelter.

SM-What would you say to someone who can't seem to find an answer?
FP- I would say to them that the Lord has a plan for their life and that if they just trust in God, He will guide them. (Jer. 29:11)

SM- Tell me about your job, how do you feel being able to help the youth as a youth minister?
FP-I love the fact that I'm able to just serve. Sharing the Gospel with the youth encourages me.

SM- Why would you encourage someone to be a part of the BSM?
FP- It is a great opportunity to be involved on campus activities. To do something greater in their lives, such as missions. It's also a great opportunity to learn and answer questions they have about God.

SM- What about the social aspect?
FP- In the social aspect, the BSM is great for meeting new people. When I started my first years in college, I had but several friends. Now I have many friends, I'm able to relate to them and be accountable with them whenever times are tough.

When community happens....

You are transformed into a better person. Choosing to share your life with others is not easy. It might be easy to hang out with friends and have fun, but being challenged to be a better person, to live a better life, and decide to follow God in the midst of all of it, is a totally different experience.

Perhaps this is why authentic community happens best in what we call Journey Groups: 5 or 6 students meeting once a week to study the Bible and share life with others.

Here are three things you can do to start building community:

Invest your time. Many want to build community but do not make the effort to spend time purposely meeting with other people.

Refresh your perspective. Studying the Bible and learning to follow Jesus will impact all aspects of your life for good.

Open your heart to welcoming other people in your life as you study the Bible and are encouraged to live your life for God.

Journey Groups are meeting weekly. If you haven't joined one, this is a good time to do so. Fill out a form at the BSM or join online.

"Life has no pleasure higher or nobler than that of friendship."

Samuel Johnson

BSM TIMES

Happenings, questions, commentary, and life.

To submit questions, comments, pictures, and ideas, e-mail bsmtimes@utpabsm.org

utpabsm.org

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Coming Up

Oct. 30 A Night for Africa. 8 PM at the UTPA Chapel. Guest speaker from Africa Ezekiah Kaduki.
November 13. Free Concert. Living Proof Singers. 8 PM at the BSM.
Nov. 18. Make A Difference Action Center. 12 PM at the SU.
November 20. Thanksgiving Lunch. During Free Lunch. Noon at the BSM.
November 25. Thanksgiving Service 12 PM at the UTPA Chapel.

BSM Times
 Editor: Suheily Maldonado
 Layout: Robert Rueda

Recent Happenings. By Eliana Mendoza

We're already half way through the semester and sometimes I stop to wonder where the rest has gone. Through these nine weeks, the BSM has been busy with numerous activities; Free Lunch, CHOICE, FOCUS, campus outreach and the list goes on and on. All these events and activities have come to serve a sole purpose: fellowshiping to know Christ. Just recently, we hosted our annual BSM Retreat. Several BSMers joined together with students from other colleges to spend a weekend of Grassroots.

Grassroots was the theme of this year's retreat. It was all about getting to know the foundation of our faith: Jesus. We spent time in a lovely, acoustic worship led by Belinda, Danny and Martha as the rest of us joined into the time of seeking and praise. UTPA professor Bob Jones opened the first night with a message on the person of Christ. It was an awesome experience to hear a highly educated man talk about his relationship with God.

The first night was filled with laughter and smiles as the students shared their talents of impersonation, improvised songwriting, poetry, singing and a taste of standup comedy. Now the BSM can be officially called a school of arts! There were other highlights to that night according to Samantha SanJuan, "I really liked the fellowship among the girls in our



Eating Breakfast



Volleyball Tournament

dormitory, even though every one was exhausted we stayed up talking forever!".

A prayer garden marked the spot to the beginning of our second day. We gathered around Robert as he led us into a devotional and quiet time. Two Grassroots sessions were held, one on Jesus and the other on Evangelism. "I learned how simple it is to share the gospel because Jesus made it simple", Irving shared. We concluded the retreat with worship and hearts stirred with a longing to seek the Beginning, Foundation and Grassroots of our faith: Jesus Christ.

Thinking.... On Character

"Character is always lost when a high ideal is sacrificed on the altar of conformity and popularity." Charles Spurgeon

"The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken." Samuel Johnson

"Humans show their character in nothing more clearly than by what they think laughable." Johann Wolfgang

Q&A

Photo Essay: Campus Chill. By Irving Tapia



Arcade Games



Going for the Green



Music at the Union



Reading History

Running Into Friends



If you know someone that is doing something wrong thinking he is right, how can you tell that person without that person getting mad?

Everyone at some point thinks the things they are doing are right. Call it the “we are always right...until proven wrong by experience” kind of deal. It’s not an easy task to confront a friend, but when you do it, don’t just tell them “you are wrong” and walk away, instead sit down and start a conversation with examples that relate to what that person is doing wrong, and then introduce the problem. Let that person know that you are exposing the situation because you care and not because you want to prove a point. You can’t control how a person thinks but you can enlighten their perspective and remember, “An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips,”* even if after talking to that person, their reasoning hasn’t changed, then let it be, at least you know you tried. Let them know that no matter what the outcome is, you’ll be there for them no matter what, and remember sometimes experiencing things on their own is the best advice they can get.

*Prov. 24:26

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



FAREWELL

By Suheily Maldonado

Today I bid you farewell. You have anchored for so long in this lonely bay forgotten by time and desolated by pain.

You’ve been like a ghost wailing for what you had lost that you forgot the meaning of your purpose.

You misunderstood, and with that, you brought shadows that covered that beautiful light that was within you.

For some time now you’ve been awaiting for something to awaken you from that deep slumber of lonely valleys and chirp-less birds.

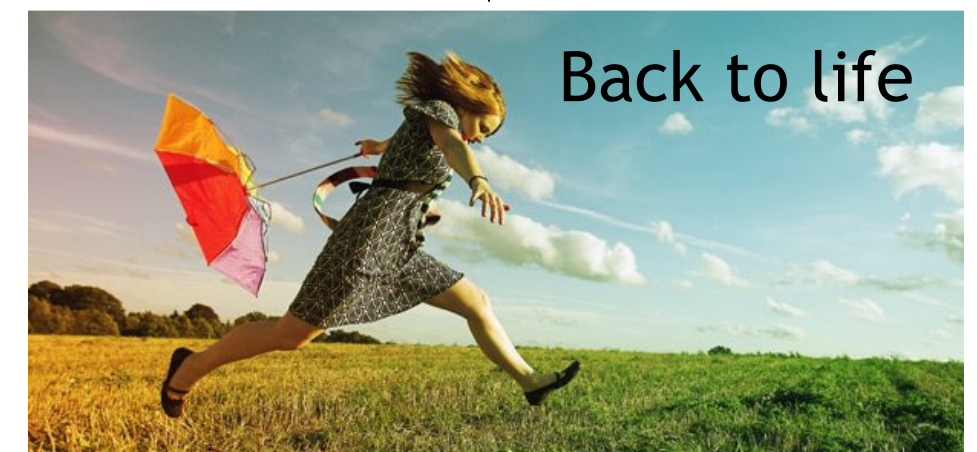
You have painted your walls with pale colors mourning what you

lost, wishing, thinking, screaming and begging to get it back, but when nothing gave you what you wanted, darkness fell, and with it so did you.

Staring out the window, statue-like you never moved, fearing if something changed, what you had lost would never return back to you.

Until one day crumbled down, your lonely world fell apart. Yes, while your mind was paralyzed your heart had sought for something greater with such a passion, that today, all those shrieking voices you heard, turned into comfort noises that brought you back to life.

Today I bid you farewell knowing that where ever you go a canvas of beautiful colors will follow you, no more darkness, no more stillness, no more pain.



Back to life

jeremiah

29:11

C -Sometimes plans tend to take a route of their own, leaving us desperate for answers as to why things didn’t go the way we wanted them to go, even though now we might not see the answer, as the bible says in Jeremiah 29:11, the Lord has plans for us to prosper us and bring us a better future. He will find us when we seek for him with all our hearts bringing us back to life and with that, restoring our souls.-

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Restoration

Plans

Let go

Future

Hearts