



Chino Valley Released Time Christian Education

January 2017

Matthew 18:5 "Whoever receives one little child like this in My name, receives Me."

Chino Valley RTCE Events

By Gail Blake-Smith, Executive Director



The Lord said in Ephesians 3:20 that He will supply all of our needs exceedingly and abundantly more than we think or ask. Our ministry is a testament to His promise. We thank the Lord as we convene our 19th year for we have been abundantly blessed.

We have 40 committed and faithful domestic missionaries serving at 23 elementary schools. Six of those are new teachers. This year we were able to open up the ministry to third graders as well. So, in ten of our schools we now serve 3rd — 6th grade students. Another amazing blessing was offered to us in September when we received a request from the Oxford Preparatory Academy in Chino. They asked if we could offer RTCE to its charter school students. When the request first came in, I thought that we would have to say no since I didn't think we had an opening on our schedule, nor a bus driver or teacher who could make it happen. The Lord had me slow down long enough to see that we had one spot still open. He then brought a teacher and a driver. Moreover, at the charter school, they can pass out the parent permission forms through the school. We are no longer able to do that at the other schools and have to recruit students by at-

tending the Back to School Nights and conducting Street Campaigns.

We are all very excited about the new school year which convened for us on November 1st, but we needed major prayer help for our school board election on November 8th and we received it! There were three seats open for election and our two incumbents from Calvary Chapel Chino Hills were re-elected! Please keep the school board in prayer for the battle is fierce for the hearts and minds of our children in public education. We know our God is Sovereign and only He can open and close doors.

Additionally, we meet for

Corporate Prayer the first Saturday of every month at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills where the buses are parked. If you are over our way on the first Saturday of the month, please stop by the buses and join us in prayer at 9AM. Also, we have named each bus and have a scripture verse on its rear door. Their names are Glory, Hope, and Grace. If we purchase a fourth bus, we will probably name her Faith. The scripture verses are great for witnessing to others as we drive the buses all over the Chino Valley.

In closing, we give God the glory for all things. Only He can do this great work through us, His kids, and you, our partners.

Inside this issue:

Chino Valley Events	1
A Thankful Parent	2
A Student Update	2
First Year At OPA	3
Answering God's Call	3
Volunteer and Student Pictures	4



A Thankful Parent by Gabi Aguirre



Dear Released Time,

My daughter Audrey truly benefitted from the Released Time Christian Education Program when she was in the 6th grade at Country Springs Elementary School. She went through a difficult and challenging year when she was 12. For the first time Audrey had to make a stand for Christ and to hold onto her faith as a Christian.

Audrey's friends were changing, and not for the better. She actually had one girl whom she had been friends with for a few years – tell her that she no longer wanted to be her friend because all Audrey talked about was God and church. This girl not only stopped being Audrey's friend, but she pulled other girls away with her. Audrey was so hurt, and she felt isolated because she was also labeled by her peers as a "Christian." Now the lines were drawn. She had to choose to be bold for her faith, or to dim it down a little.

At the same time her teacher that year was harsh and incredibly insulting to not only her, but to the whole

class. She would tell them at the end of the school day, "Get out. I don't want to see any of you anymore!" She would yell throughout the day, and came just short of cursing at them. I tried to get Audrey moved to another class, but they were all maxed out. Audrey's world was in turmoil, but there came hope — a Released Time bus pulled up to her school!

I signed Audrey up to go and attend the program for an hour every week. This was her refuge; her saving grace, if you will. Audrey became emboldened to face the ridicule from "friends" and the harsh environment of the classroom. My mother's heart really owes Released Time Christian Education a huge thank you. I prayed and cried out to the Lord a lot on my daughter's behalf, and I know that *you* were His answer.

This ministry made all the difference in shaping Audrey into the strong, bold Christian she is today. She stands for Christ Jesus proudly. Audrey is now a junior at Ayala High School and this year she was elected president of her high school's Chris-

tian Club. Membership of the club ranges from 30 to 50 students, and Audrey organizes Bible studies, pastor teachings, and outreaches on the campus. I write this with tears in my eyes just remembering how hard it was to watch her cry and to see how hurt she was back then. But you truly held her together and reached her where and when she needed it most during her school day.

Thank you for what you do, and please continue to love these kids!

Proverbs 22:6 says it best: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

From a very appreciative mom,
Gabi Aguirre

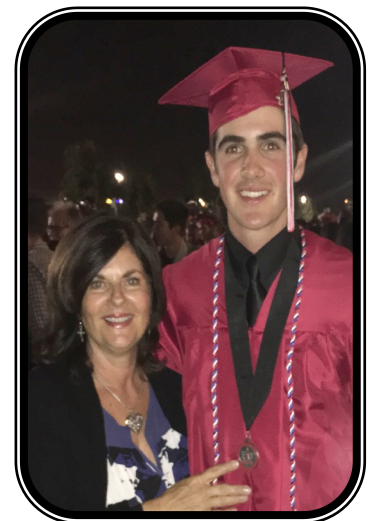
A Student Update By Ruth Beaugh

I started with RTCE in the fall of 2009 as a bus driver at Briggs Elementary. Last Spring a woman at Bible study approached me and said, "I know you!" She didn't look familiar to me, but I was curious to see where we might have met. She went on to say that I had been part of her son's 6th grade RTCE class at Briggs in 2009-10!

Kathy Lee was making a scrapbook for her son, Michael, for his high school graduation. There I was in his 6th grade pictures at his end of the school year party for RTCE. I really did "know" her and her son! I had taken pictures at the parties also and I was able to share some with his mom. To her pleasure, RTCE has used Michael's picture of him reading the bible in class many times for our fundraising campaign.

I was also blessed to hear how well Michael is doing. He graduated last June from Ayala High School and in July received his Eagle Scout Award. He is now attending a secular college in Oklahoma. He's playing baseball there and attends a Bible study with the team.

Time has flown so fast! The 6th graders in my first year are now high school graduates! My prayer is they are all still enjoying studying God's Word and following Jesus!



First year at Oxford Preparatory by Lillian Brandyberry

My daughter is in 5th grade at Oxford Preparatory Academy (OPA). This year Released Time Christian Education came to OPA! This exciting program allows my daughter to learn about God during the school day. She really enjoys the program and looks forward to it every week because she gets to praise the Lord and thank Him for the many blessings He has given her. Whenever I pick her up from school, she tells me how much she enjoys Released Time because of the singing and the fellowship with other students. I can tell the difference it makes in her life. She is so much more into the Lord and she remembers what she learns. I believe

that Released Time is helping to mold my daughter into the wonderful young lady that she is today. It is awesome to know Released Time is helping our

children grow up to make a positive difference in this world! I know she will cherish and remember the times at RTCE for many years to come.



Answering God's Call by Mia Ontiveros

In December of 2015 I attended a school board meeting to support the members who had been under attack from an atheist group. I gave a brief speech of thanks to the board for standing up for religious freedom and supporting quality organizations such as Released Time Christian Education. I pointed out that students in our classes are learning they have advocates here on earth through their parents, teachers, school board, and in Heaven from a loving and forgiving God. I told them how the children are learning to love their neighbor as themselves, to love mercy and bestow grace. Moreover, I told them even though we can't see Him, God is with us wherever we go to love and protect us.

After that meeting, I was asked to pray about possibly running for the school board. There were three seats available and if the Christian majority was lost, RTCE would be in jeopardy and the ministry I love so much could be lost also. I spoke to my husband and prayed for three months asking the Lord to guide our hearts and minds over this decision. We both felt

He was moving us in the direction of running for a seat. I had to learn a lot about politics and get my name out in the community. I was running on a slate with two fellow Christians, but the teacher's union was backing three candidates and they had a lot of resources!

Well, it was an ugly race at times. Our opponents were constantly stressing how we had a "personal agenda". They attacked us in print, on the web, board meetings and candidate forums, but we kept serving the Living God and He kept us strong! He gave us the strength to keep up the fight and continue to be gracious in the most difficult of situations. I did not earn a seat in this election, but we were victorious as my running mates were able to keep their seats and the Christian majority is still on the board. God is sovereign over everything, including political races, as we've seen across the nation. Moreover, He chose to keep a board that would protect our ministry.

I teach RTCE at a school where there is strong opposition from a couple of teachers. Last year we had



four of their students sign up for RTCE, they stayed for two weeks and then all of them simultaneously dropped out. This year we have seven students from both of their classes and they have stayed in the program and have even recruited other students. We had 13 students last year and this year I'm proud to say we have 25 student enrolled in our ministry. I feel Him pressing on my heart... ***"You are exactly where I want you."*** Is there any question that God is in control?

It is a privilege to count you as partners. Thank you for your prayers and support!



Join us for our corporate prayer the first Saturday of every month.

Chino Valley Released Time
Christian Education is a non profit organization
16095 Pinnacle Road
Chino Hills, CA 91709

Donations to our ministry are greatly appreciated and can be done online
www.chinovalleyreleasedtimechristianeducation.org
(chino valley released time Christian education.org without the spaces)

E-mail us at
gail4rt@msn.com



May God
Bless our
Students

