

Sharing the good news of Jesus and His Kingdom and equipping the church to do the same.



Greg West, Evangelist

¡Bienvenidos Amigos!

Welcome Friends!



Photo by Adwoa Asiedu: Latino Outreach at Bennett's Creek

We've launched a new ministry for our Latino amigos who work at Bennett's Creek Nursery in Smithfield. This summer during a medical outreach to the Latino community, I received a favorable response when I polled them about their interest in learning English and the Bible. We are now three weeks into our Sunday afternoon gatherings with some ups and downs!

We sometimes compete with soccer/fútbol as well as overtime work. They are making progress on their English and the conversations around Scripture and the person of Jesus have been solid! Thankfully, there are a number of mature believers in the group. It is also clear that some of the guys are learning new truths from God's Word. It was powerful to see the team working together

and sharing the Good News of Jesus in 'Spanglish' (as we were trying to teach English and share the Gospel at the same time) with Abid, who is from Cancún, Mexico. He was receptive to our sharing and open as well to us praying over him.

The Latinos are in the USA on an H-2A Visa program that brings them into the country for 9 months each year. We have team of friends serving together including Leo Woods, Cesar Flores, Jason Gillikin and Adwoa Asiedu. We are using the Alpha Course as material for conversation. I highly recommend Alpha for those seeking to present the Gospel to a group or to individuals. If you have an interest in this ministry and aren't too far from Smithfield, let me know.

Meeting People...Sharing Christ

"Most people agree that we are living in divisive and difficult times. What brings you hope in the midst of all that is going on?" This is an opening line I've been using to engage people in dialogue about life, hope and faith. Recently in a conversation with a young man, he told me that his father gave him hope. This began an almost hour long conversation in which I got to know him and was able to share Christ with him. He didn't bring up faith in his answer, so I asked directly, "Does faith or a belief in God give you hope?" He nodded and shared about his grandmother's influence on him. "She always goes to church and talks about her faith." He clearly hadn't thought much about his own relationship with God. When I asked him what he thought God was like, he didn't have a clear answer. I told him that Jesus shared a story about what God is like that really stands out.

Then I walked him through the story of the Prodigal Son. He was tracking with me as I engaged him with questions about the story. The father running to his son in the story and welcoming him back with a party clearly gave this young man I was talking to new insight into God's heart and character. He asked me where he could find that story, so I showed him how to download the YouVersion Bible app on his phone and then took him to Luke 15. I shared how God desires for us to all be family, but we've got to turn from our sin

and believe that Jesus' death and resurrection are our path to the free gift of salvation and life eternal. He wasn't ready to take that step, so I gave him my contact info, inviting him to keep the conversation going.

As Jesus traveled throughout the land, he had compassion on the people because they were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matt 9:36b-38). Think about the people you encounter in your neighborhood, workplace, school, and community. Do they have purpose and direction? Do they have hope and peace? Are they like sheep without a shepherd? Generally speaking, people are open to authentic conversations about hope, about faith and about God. They don't want a lecture, so we can engage them with honest questions and create the dialogue where we can "give the reason for the hope that we have" (1 Peter 3:15-16).

If you want to be better equipped to share your faith with people, here are a couple of resources to help you:

- YouTube: Nicky Gumbel on evangelism in the 21st century
- Everystudent.com-An online resource from Cru
- Book: *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did* by Randy Newman

YoungLife Campus Ministry at VCU

On a recent trip to Richmond, VA I met up with some Pastors and spent time with a number of former students who are in ministry in Richmond. It was so encouraging to see these friends serving Christ in the city in so many different ways!



Rev. Wayne Credle (right), Passion Credle (center right), Chieremie Fortune (center left), and Greg (left.) Wayne and Passion lead Credle LLC, a leadership development and consulting firm Chieremie is a poet and spoken word artist with a new book out. We will highlight their ministries in our next newsletter.

I spent some time with Gabe Higgins, a former leader in Marlin Ministries at VWU. Gabe is leading YoungLife at Virginia Commonwealth University.

VCU is the definition of an urban campus with the vibes of the city all around. Monroe Park sits in the middle, a calmer place with shade trees, benches and gatherings of students and others throughout. VCU is huge, having 28,919 students with 21,689 undergrads and 7,230 grad students! They have students from 102 different nations!

Please pray for the students and the ministries on campus. So many people, including myself, began following Jesus on a college campus. Gabe and his wife Faith are both current students at Asbury Theological Seminary.



Visiting with Gabe Higgins

Visiting with Gabe Higgins, a former leader in Marlin Ministries at VWU. He serves as the leader of VCU's YoungLife campus ministry.

They make a great team as they both share deep love for Christ and a passion for evangelism and discipleship. If you know a current student at VCU or someone in the Richmond area that has a heart for campus ministry, connect with them with their Instagram. You can also contact Gabe directly at: gabhiggins02@gmail.com



Faith Higgins (shown in light blue tank top), Gabe's wife, leading a women's group for VCU students.



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Greg with Rocky Lee and C.W. Miller in Gloucester.