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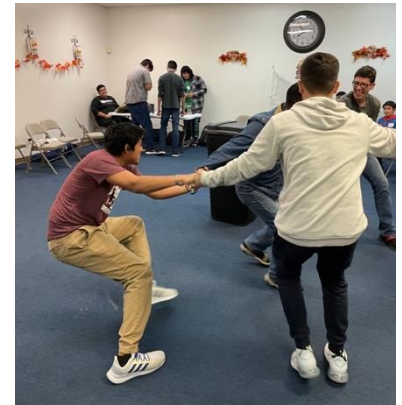
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Dear Praying Friends,

Great news! We are finally in our new church building! We were able to move in after the new year. There are still many details to take care of and some unpacking and organizing, especially in the children's classrooms. But we are so excited to have some more space! And the ladies are very thankful for more than one restroom!

I'm looking forward to having our next teen meeting in the new building. Towards the end of the 2022 year, we had our first teen all-nighter. We had a great crowd come and enjoy games, food, trivia, a movie, an Uno tournament, a cupcake decorating contest, and a snowball fight (with cloth snowballs here in deep south Texas) to end the activity. We also had another great lesson in the series: "7 Steps to Perfect Dating." A couple who will begin teaching the teen Sunday school in March and two more of our ladies helped me throughout the night, and we wouldn't have been able to pull off a successful event without their hard work. I also learned that I'm no spring chicken anymore...all-nighters are exhausting! But lots of fun.



In January, I was able to attend a Vacation Bible School conference in Houston for VBS directors and workers. It was a blessing to be able to get new ideas and renewed passion for VBS. I have never attended a conference like that before, but I hope to attend more. I even hope to take some workers with me next year! It's great for children's ministry workers to get together, share ideas, and encourage one another in the Lord. It's also amazing to see the work that goes into events like that. The decorations were amazing and so creative. I look forward to using some ideas I saw in our VBS this year. I will share some pictures of the teen meeting and conference decorations below.

Please pray for Bethesda Baptist church. We have had many trials and attacks from our enemy lately. But greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.

Jesus has won the victory over sin and death. Pray for strength for those in the ministry here and spiritual growth for our church.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you all!

In Christ,

Melissa Houston

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