



The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel
parksidevisalia.org

by Jeremiah Shawver, Youth Pastor

At the beginning of this month, I, along with four other chaperones, took our youth to Orlando, Florida, for the **LIFE 2022 Conference**. From July 5-9, we were able to attend sessions with other Christian and Missionary Alliance churches from around the United States. All sessions focused on reality of Jesus being greater than everything. The LIFE Conference only happens once every three years, and for many of our students, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

During the conference, we not only attended sessions and participated in worship, but we also were able to serve the community of Orlando. On Wednesday morning we left the conference to prepare a local elementary school's classroom for the new year. Other groups worked at this school to lay mulch, paint, and move furniture. Through this experience, students learned that the Gospel calls us to worship Jesus and to serve our neighbors by providing for their needs.

I am not writing this month to simply report on the LIFE conference but to say thank you to our Parkside

family. Over the last year we have asked you to give students opportunities to work at your homes, letters have been sent to you, and prayer has been requested. If it was not for our church's contributions and prayers, our students would not have been able to experience this conference.

From each of the participants and chaperones, I would like to express our deepest gratitude. It is through your support that one of our students responded to the call to use their vocation to minister to the lost in the world. It is through your support that leaders in our church were able to connect with our students. As I have shared elsewhere, a student who stays in church after graduation has connected with five adults in the church. Camps and conferences are one way this happens. Through the LIFE Conference, our students have deeper connections with adults in our church.

I also want to thank (and hope you will join me in thanking) these chaperones: Trina Rettig, Tony Morgan, Trevor Hayward, and Stephanie Hamilton, who took

time out of their summers to go with us to Orlando. It is this sacrifice that allows students to connect with the church. It is their love for our students that show students they have a place in the body of Christ. Without their help, this conference would not have been a possibility.

As we go into a new year of school and events, your support and prayers are a reminder that Parkside cares for its students. So, I thank you for your support not only in our attending conferences and trips but in the everyday ministry to students and their families. Thank you for supporting the youth ministry at Parkside over this past year and for the support I know you all will show as we continue to reach students with the Gospel.

Jeremiah Shawver, Youth Pastor



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