



K O I F I S H

Thank you...

To all of you who sponsored a child this Christmas. All of our kids were sponsored before December 1st! ONLY GOD!

To Christ Church for allowing us to gather every 1st Saturday and use their church van to transport children to our outreach event.

To the Assembly for transporting children to church every Sunday.

To all our volunteers & donors...we could not do this without you!! May God bless you ten fold!!

The Lord gave me a vision one night of a Koi fish. It was stunning, but I did not understand until I did a little study on Koi fish. Don't take what the Lord shows or tells you lightly. Steward it well.

The size of the Koi fish highly correlates with the challenges it faces in its environment. If you put this little swimmer in a fish bowl and feed him his food, he will stay about the size of a goldfish. Put him in a pond where he has to struggle and fend for himself, and he can grow to an average of 3 1/2 feet, with many much larger than that, of course.

YOU GROW IN THE STRUGGLE. Look back on your life, and ask yourself, "When were my most significant times of deepening maturity? When did I learn the most – about God and about myself?" As long as all is easy swimming, and the "food" is just being dropped in to you, you don't have to learn, to stretch, and most of all, to actively and desperately depend on God. I'd be willing to bet that as you review the seasons of your life, those times when you didn't believe you had all the answers were the most fertile growth periods. Valleys always display greener grass than the mountains.

Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing. (James 1: 2-4, The Amplified Bible)

I don't know about you, but I want to rush on out of adversity. "Lord, deliver me! Change these circumstances! Make it stop!" Sometimes God says, "No, I choose to deliver you in them, just like Daniel in the Bible. I want you to understand as never before My faithfulness. I want you to think and to challenge your assumptions. And that pride? It has to go because it will destroy you. I'm doing a work within you in this season of adversity."

May you walk in what God has already done for you! Andrea Greer Jones

OUR AMAZING TEAM

Board of Advisors:

Bryan Jones (President/Business Advisor)

Bryan Ponsell (Vice

President/Pastoral Advisor)

Mandy Brakefield (Deliverance Advisor)

Alexi Markou (Evangelism Advisor)

Kassie Ponsell

Debbie Gaines

Andrea Greer Jones (CEO/Founder)

HIGHLIGHTS

- At our December outreach, we celebrated the birth of Jesus with a birthday cake and singing. We made sure the children knew that Christmas is about Jesus! We read the Candy Maker book that explains how the candy cane was created: white - holy, red - blood of Jesus because He loves, hardness of candy - because He is our rock and firm foundation.
- Congratulations to our Rewards Winners: JaNiyah, Cece, VJ, Caiden, Dyma & Tia (Earned from acts of kindness, helping and participation)
- We had so much fun on our annual group Christmas lights outing to Candy Card Lane.



JANUARY DEVO

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Psalm 150: 1-6

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. John 4:23

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6

Worship through song is one of the most powerful ways to connect directly to the love, compassion, power, and grace of God. In worship, walls we've placed between God and us get torn down, just as God tore the veil at the death of Christ. In worship, our hearts become soft, aware, and open to the glorious majesty of God's nearness. In worship, God makes his nearness known to us and fills us anew with the power of his manifest presence.

LET GO OF DIGNITY AND BE OBEDIENT IN WORSHIP! YOU ONLY HAVE AN AUDIENCE OF ONE!

"I can look back when I was worried about what others thought if I raised my hands in church. Then I started with my palms up and hands down low, so no one saw. What was that!! I wasn't until I had an encounter and that the fire lit where I no longer cared what anyone around me thought. There is such freedom when you can hit your knees to praise the King of Kings, Lord of Lord, the Great I AM!!"

LET'S PRAY

Holy Spirit fill me afresh! Forgive me for grieving you in any way. Teach me how not to grieve you. You are worthy of all honor, glory, and power! I surrender it all to you Father. In your most Holy name!

From No Middle Ground by FaithBW.com

HAPPY
Birthday



Tia



NELA YOUTH NEEDS

- Prayer for the children
- Prepackaged snacks for outings (chips, drinks)
- Little Caesar's pizza donations for every 1st Saturday (6 pepperoni & 6 cheese)
- Financial donations



**DONATE AT
NELAYOUTH.ORG**

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