



SUMMERDALE YOUTH NEWS

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"A MESSAGE TO THE SENIOR CLASS OF 2020"

COVID-19. Quarantine. Zoom Meetings. No school. No sports. No movies. No camp. No fun! I realized this past week at TITUS Camp that our seniors are not going through a tough transition. They are very discouraged over the Coronavirus. At least that was my feeling after I spent time with the teens this past week through the virtual TITUS experience. Our seniors feel like they were robbed of their Senior night and their last chance to speak to a local congregation as a part of our training camp. I decided to address this issue in an article...

A Message to Senior Class of 2020 - What Is Your Identity? Who are you? I can promise you that you will not be defined by a pandemic or a problem. You will be defined for what you do about that issue.

In the world, identity theft is a chronic problem. We are often the victims of cruel or negligent data breaches that steal our identity. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live your life with a false identity? That's what happened to Francisco Madariaga Quintela. Over 40 years ago his mother Sylvia was kidnapped by Argentine security forces. Her husband Abel last saw his pregnant wife being pushed into a Ford Falcon by army officers dressed as civilians as she walked to catch a train on January 17, 1977.

Sylvia was placed in one of the most notorious torture centers near Buenos Aires—Campo del Mayo. Surviving prisoners later revealed that the baby was taken away after birth and Sylvia disappeared in a short time. The baby was taken by a military intelligence officer and adopted as Alejandro Ramiro Gallo. The adoptive father was eventually put in prison for murder. When he was older, Alejandro's adoptive mother told him the truth about himself.

In the meantime his real father Abel had joined a group called The Grandmothers of the Plaza del Mayo—a group formed to help return children who had disappeared during the late '70's to their parents. One day Alejandro went to the group. After DNA testing a match was found and a meeting with his father—Abel—was arranged. Alejandro, after learning his real name was Francisco Madariaga Quintela, said, "For the first time, I know who I was. Who I am. . . . Never again will I use this name. . . . To have your identity is the most beautiful thing there is."

Maybe you need to know your identity. Who are you? Really? A strong sense of identity can take you through the toughest tests. It did for Jesus. Just after his baptism where his lineage was stamped with these words, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased," Jesus endured tests in the wilderness. Satan attacked his identity three times with the phrase, "If you are the Son of God . . ." Jesus knew who He was and He changed the world so that you can know who you are and have your world changed by your faith in Him.

During a news conference where Abel Madariaga told his story, we are told "his chest heaved" as he presented his own son to the world. Like a proud papa, God has presented His one and only Son to the world. He wants you to believe in him so that he can, with "chest heaving full of joy," present you as His child too. When Satan attacks you can stand firm. You can know that God will be right there beside you. Just as the Father declared He was pleased with Jesus, He will declare the same for you. You are His precious, chosen child.

My prayer is that God will bless our seniors here at Summerdale. It has been a blessing to watch you grow up. Now it is time to discover your own identity. You are not defined by what adversity finds you but what you choose to do about that adversity. Be you. May God bless you and your future!

*You are loved,
Ray*



After carefully weighing the COVID-19 safety concerns, we must announce that we have decided not to send our children or any staff to GCBC this year on the church van. However, we will not discourage parents from sending their own kids to GCBC or other summer camps. We believe that each family should weigh the risks and make that decision. Thank you so much.

YOUTH NEWS



**JUNIOR WEEK
JULY 5-8**

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL WEEK
JULY 26-31**

www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com



The "Sunshine Studies" online series has moved to 9 AM on Sunday mornings. These studies revolve around the Sermon on the Mount and are directed towards our pre-K to 5th grade. However, it is fun for the whole family! We will continue this series of Bible lessons until Sunday morning Bible classes resume at the building at 9 AM in the near future. Please watch the bulletin and our social media pages for that update.

We've got questions. You've got the answers. Don't throw us shade. It's time to spill the tea.

Each week one of our teens will be asked a series of random questions.

We call it "7 Groovy Questions." You can find it on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube.

So far we have interviewed Brady Long, Sebastian Hall, Carter Long, Zane Rider, and Caryn Coxwell. Who will be next? Hayden Joiner! Follow us and watch on YouTube.



We have postponed the Awards Presentation due to COVID-19 and summer vacation. In the coming weeks we will announce a date to honor our L2L kids. Also, Junior Leaders has been put on temporary hold. We are tentatively planning to attend an L2L convention in New Orleans on August 8. Thank you to all who help L2L!

TITUS Camp was a huge success! Our 4 day virtual camp had 64 teachers and 77 students from eight states. It was a wonderful experience. We would love to take a large group next year to HCU for the week. It will be July 11-18 in Florence, AL for students 13-19 years old. Go to www.hcu.edu or follow @TITUSCamp on social media.



We are saddened to announce that we have had to cancel the Youth & Young Family Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN. We will do our best to reschedule this event for the Fall or Spring. This was going to be a wonderful weekend in the Smokies but after evaluating the risk, the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, and the precautionary measures, it was determined that we should postpone the event for a future date. Thank you for understanding.

TENTATIVE YOUTH CALENDAR:

- July 24 - Youth & Young Adult Game Night (7-9 PM)
- August 8 - L2L Convention in New Orleans, LA
- August 12 - Teen Zoom Devo & Bible Study
- August 21 - Youth & Young Adult Game Night (7-9 PM)
- September 13 - Gulf Coast Area-Wide



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