



### **Update from Brian Mackie - Power to Change**

September is coming at we will return to at least partially in person classes and gatherings! I am so looking forward to seeing students again after a long time away. As we engage this year, we will be digging into the Scripture to know God's heart—and specifically we will be engaging in some discussion of the **growing phenomenon of Deconstruction / De-conversion**. This past year we have seen prominent

Christians leave the Faith (DC Talk's Kevin Max, 'I kissed dating goodbye' author Pastor Joshua Harris, and podcasters Rhett and Link as examples), as well peers of many—I know of two. I want to help our students be able to engage in this to know where to look for solutions and knowing how to help people through the process. Pray that as we learn about how to address deconstruction, that our students would be built up in their faith and enabled to support their friends. Pray also that we meet many new interested students and pray that students who disengaged from us last year would reconnect.

In my last update I mentioned working on The Resilience Project. We have come a long way in designing a Pilot program to walk students through. We partnered with the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology to create a five-session group program. Each week students will read an article we have chosen and together will watch a video by the Seminary on a different theme related to how to develop resilience. Themes like the people we have around us, the regular practices we engage in, and the purposes we have in our lives which each can help build resilience. There will be Gospel discussions and specific application for participants. Pray that we can engage well with both Christian and non-Christian students as this goes on. That students are strengthened in their daily walks, and that many meet Jesus through this program!

We made it to Ontario. In my last update I shared how we had been missing our families from Ontario who we hadn't seen is such a long time. Well, we took a last-minute trip at the end of June into July and spent two and a half weeks deeply connecting with family and friends. My Mom lives with my brother and his family, and we basically spent the entire time there lounging around their (heated) pool, with a few day trips to see friends and other family. It was so, so good. Otilia celebrated her 8th birthday party having the best birthday ever. Our girls took swimming lessons in the pool and followed each lesson up with 8 additional hours of swimming practice each day.

Thank you for those of you who prayed for us to be able to go when we did. It means so much to us to be able to see our family!

***We are so thankful to be serving in ministry with you and would love to hear from you.***

Brian