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03/16/2023

Our America

SOC147

Church Visit to Community Alliance

During my time at home during spring break, I had the opportunity to visit the church that I have been attending since my family first moved to America. This was special to me since I have not been able to visit for a while due to my move to New York City. Community Alliance Church is located in San Pablo, California, and has been open since 1975. This church has continued to serve the Lord and its community since then. One thing I learned about the church while visiting is that our old pastor had retired. Since I have not been to this church for more than a year, I was surprised to hear that my pastor had retired and moved his family to Florida. In a way, this was a bit challenging for me because Pastor Jung had been all I knew for most of my life. In addition to being my pastor, he also worked at the High School I attended. He played a very important role in my walk with Christ because it wasn't until High School that I officially gave my life to Christ and decided to start my own personal journey and walk with the Lord. Despite Pastor Jung not being there to preach this week, I still enjoyed the message provided to the congregation that week. This week, the main message for the week was rending our hearts to the Lord. The pastor discussed the importance of proper repentance and how we as Christians, can trick ourselves into thinking that we have resented, but our hearts may say otherwise. In a way, I had felt as if the pastor was calling me out because I, to participate in outward repentance, but my heart may say otherwise. Toward the end, the pastor left the floor open for anyone who felt the Lord was calling them to "Render their Heart." I struggled so much during this time because I felt as if the Lord was calling me to the altar, but I was so nervous to go up

there alone. In a way, I felt like I hadn't been to this church in a while, and if I had gone up, I would have been judged. For the longest time, I have always struggled with going to the altar out of fear of being judged by others. In the end, I did not go up to the altar; in a way, I still regret it. A part of me felt like the Holy Spirit had been calling me up, but I had used my anxiety and fear as a way that had stopped me from that connection with the Lord.

During my time at church, I had the opportunity to talk to old childhood friends and people who watched me grow up, and I could see the importance of religion in their life. I had a conversation with an old high school friend about implementing the Lord's word into our everyday lives. In today's society, Christians can easily listen to the word on Sundays but not apply it to their lives for the rest of the week. One thing she said she tries to do to prevent this is to spend at least 10 minutes a day with the Lord. As I had this conversation with her, I felt a bit guilty because one of the things I am currently struggling with at the moment is spending time with the Lord. Some days I feel guilty because I am "too busy." In a way, this conversation challenged me to pursue the Lord more. After talking to the people around me, I realized that my time on social media could be substituted for 5 or 10 minutes with the Lord. Sometimes we may feel as if we are "too busy" when in all reality, there are times throughout my day when I can include the Lord.

Overall, I am grateful for the opportunity to visit a church filled with people who watched me grow up. In a way, it was a blessing and a reality check I needed due to the fact that there were so many things that I took away from my time at the service. This trip also helped me reconnect with many people I had not seen since high school graduation. In a way, this assignment had turned into a blessing in disguise because it initiated me to face many areas in my life that I had been trying to avoid or had no idea about.

