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Our America

Spring Semester, April 2, 2023

Church Visit Paper

The church that I chose to write about was one that is near and dear to my heart, Ekklesia New York. You could say that Ekklesia New York has been a part of my life ever since I was born, literally. This church began around my birth and how my father was talked into becoming a pastor by his own pastor, to go and share the Good Word in New York. He started out with hotels, and in these hotels would begin the first iterations of Ekklesia New York. After some time of knowing more of the area and gathering funds for bigger decisions, my father decided to rent a part of a building for his very own church. Ever since birth, the church has always been a part of my life and it is a blessing to know that I was part of this journey. With this history being an important part of my family's life and mine, it is not that spoken about in church, but I do remember one thing. One Sunday, my father was preaching about how we are able to come to Christ, regardless of anything we have done or who we think we are and he compared the journey of the church to how something as small and insignificant as my father's first sermons may have seemed due to lack of people, it still grew into church we know and love today. Our mission has not changed from that day, bring God's lost people closer to Him so that people can find Him and be with Him.

In the service, there is such an atmosphere of energy that gets me excited and ready for what is to come, and that is when the worship starts. The music is vibrant and full of pure joy and love for God and I was clapping along with people. After the music dies down, the sermon starts

where the pastor came and spoke about how the truth transforms a person, and that God's love is true and will change the hearts of anyone who truly seeks it. It was a beautiful sermon which I was able to receive and one that I will be going over with others about. After the services, there is always a room open called the V.I.P. that welcomes all the newcomers to the room to have one on ones with the pastors and leaders, just more to show that the church really cares about having people feel welcome.

As for the denomination of the church, my father has explained how we are a non-denominational church, meaning that instead of the church following larger organizations or denominations of religion and their beliefs like Baptist or the Catholic churches and that these churches use the Bible to solely base their beliefs on what God says and what to follow. The ministry that has grown with the church is here to show the love that God has shown us and only want others to feel the same, and I believe people are impacted by this love and care as the church has seen a growth in recent months of attendance. What this ministry does for the community and what it sees as right for it is the future of our generations, the children and adults having clear views on what God is and what God wants to do. We have done charities, cookouts, parties, and much more to try and invite the community to a place where anyone can belong and feel loved, a place where you feel welcome, and that is what this ministry tries to give the communities adults and children. The way our ministry's plan affect the say in race, ethnicity, and the exploitation of women does not affect much because the church has not had these problems seeing as most of the church is multiracial, and how as there are many women who help out with the church along with men, they each have come out of their way to help out with the church and it beautiful on the community of friends and family we have grown to have here because of that.

Many of the youth come in thinking that church may be boring or just do not seem enthusiastic about the sermon which is why we have our own sermons for the youth, which are designed to be more interactive and fun so that others can get to know each other more so than regular sermons. One youth that I have seen is a special case because I remember seeing them as someone who was quiet and kept to himself, then one day, I went up to him and just spoke with him. From that one interaction, he has become one of my closest friends at church and out of church. It is beautiful because the plan of the ministry keeps coming up to show what we truly mean, and this is one of those moments where because they felt welcome and seen, they now love the church and are an essential part of the youth. The beliefs of the youth at Ekklesia New York are to encourage others to feel welcome and to come together as not just people, but as family. All the youth understand that topics of race and ethnicity are to be respected in church and outside of it and we have even had talks about it in some sermons, which they have taken to heart and shown much love to each of the youth and church alike, regardless of race and ethnicity because they all just care for each other and want to show others that same love. In short the ministry and youth at Ekklesia New York have grown to tremendous heights and the youth specifically has been an excellent movement of love and care for years now, which goes back to the responsibility of the youth, being practically the same as the ministries, to build a welcoming and loving place where anyone can feel the love of God so that God make work through them.

Overall, what I learned about this church is how much goes into the people and their experience of the church being as welcoming and loving as possible. I learned how the way God affects the lives of the people here is very impactful and how He has helped countless lost people through tough times, which shows in the community and how they all want to be with God.