

God Provides Everything Needed for the 8th Expo in North Texas!



So just 18 days before this year's Expo in North Texas we got an email from the City of Grapevine where we hold the annual outreach that all boat ramps, parks and shore access to Lake Grapevine were closed indefinitely due to extreme flooding. In fact, the area we had reserved for our event on June 8th was 16 feet underwater!

This was one of those "yikes!" moments when you don't really know what to do next much less have a "plan B" in place and ready to go. However, while we did not know where to go, we knew who to go to: God. So we told our local team the situation, and everyone began to pray and as always God began to work through the hearts and minds of His people to do great things.

First, a local church, Valley Ranch Baptist offered to host the Expo at their facility. This was such a huge blessing. However, it was still a monumental task to relocate an outreach featuring so many moving parts to a new location in such a short amount of time. God, always going before us though, had already put in place great staff support through our summer intern, Julia Codispoti, to help handle all the logistical changes. Then in true God fashion He went above and beyond and provided a youth group from Venture Church to help with the Expo set-up and tear-down, as well as over 100 volunteers from Gateway Church to be buddies to participants during the actual event!



God was faithful in pulling everything together so that 808 attendees could come together and bless and be blessed all in His gracious presence and name. Many missed the boat rides, kayaking and fishing we usually offer, but the zip line, rock wall, pony painting and petting zoo kept the smiles coming throughout the day! The joy of the Lord was seen on so many faces, it was clear God was providing much needed rest for parents and caregivers, first time wholesome experiences for folks living with disabilities, a feeling of just having fun for siblings, and touching lives as only He can.

All in all, this year's North Texas Expo reminds me of the verse: **And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:8.** What I find even more amazing about this year's outreach than all that God did to pull things together is the joy He gave us all to share with each other making the day complete. Don't you just love God's economy of provision? Meeting all our needs so we can help meet the needs of others! 😊

