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MUSIC TRAVEL FAITH

April/May Issue

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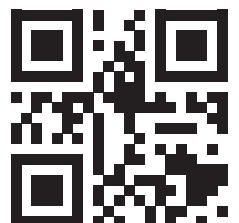


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New York

For a graduation present from high school, my mom took me to New York for the first time. We planned it so that our stay overlapped with my aunt and uncle's visit to New York City.

On the first day of our visit to New York, my family did a picture tour in the morning. On the way we stopped to get coffee, but I ended up with a matcha. I didn't really like it. So my uncle, the amazing person that he was let me drink some of his black coffee and he decided to try it even though he was not a big fan of matcha either. Our tour guide took us all around NYC and photographed us in Times Square, the subway, Grand Central Station, and the Brooklyn Bridge. After the tour I had New York style pizza in Brooklyn. In the evening we saw a Broadway show called Kimberly Akimbo. Which was about a girl that aged very quickly.

Our second day was Harry Potter day where my aunt took me to the Harry Potter store and got me a shirt. Then we went to the United Nations and ate African food and cupcakes. That evening my aunt and I saw the Cursed Child and ate Chinese food.

The next day my aunt and uncle left and my mom and I went to Central Park and the Empire State Building and watched the musical Six.

The next day we went to Wall Street where we did a walking tour. Then we watched Hamilton.

We spent our last day at The Natural History Museum where we saw rocks, jewels, and dinosaurs. We rode in a cab on the way back to the airport.

I loved New York City, but I am not sure I would want to live there. There is so much going on all the time.



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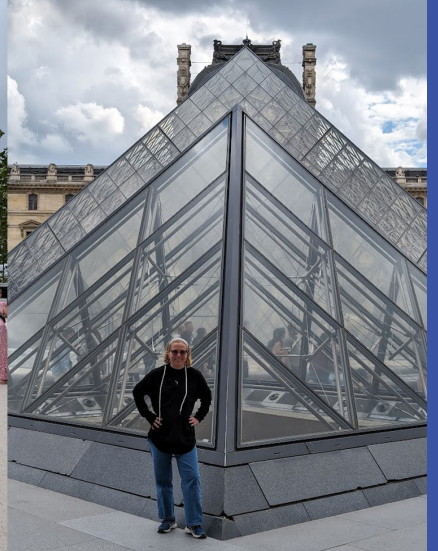
Universal

For Christmas of my freshman year my aunt took me to Universal as a belated graduation present. I had a blast. I got ride a lot of rides at half capacity since we did the Meet-up. Doing the Meetup meant we were able to go into the park at midnight until 4:00am where the park is at half the capacity it is in the day. Since it was Christmas she also got me a grinch sweatshirt and we got to see the Grinch performed we also met Earl, the

Christmas squirrel as well as other cool characters. We also spent some time in the Harry Potter section, riding rides as well as playing with wands. For us to remember, she even gave me a bell jar with a snitch in it for my birthday.



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Europe

During the summer of this year it was my first time traveling to Europe. It's super cool because after years of talking about it I finally got to travel to France and Belgium.

On the first day right after we flew in, my family visited the Arc de Triumph. Which is similar to the Empire State Building because you climb a lot of stairs then take pictures at the top.

On our second day we got to see Versailles. This was probably my favorite place on the trip since I did a research project on Marie Antoinette in the 11th grade. It was also a super pretty place.

Over the next two days my dad was at a conference so my mom, brother and I did activities such as go to the Louvre, shop, and the Pompidou which is

another museum. That following day we went to the catacombs, The Eiffel Tower, and walked around Notre-Dame because they hadn't opened it yet. An interesting fact was I went to the Eiffel Tower close to the Olympics so I got to see the Olympic sign over the Eiffel Tower. We ended the day with a hop-on hop off bus tour which felt like an never-ending cycle.

The following day we took the train into Belgium. After we got off the train we took a walking tour of Belgium. On Father's Day we went to a museum with a lady that my dad works with that had just moved to Belgium. Which was pretty fun. The next day we took the train back to France. We stayed the night in France and flew out the next day.

Yellowstone

Last summer was my second time in Yellowstone. It was fun to visit a place that I had been to when I was little but I did not remember. I kind of recreated an older version because the first time I went to Yellowstone was when my grandma was teaching second grade. When she was a teacher, she would carry around a stuffed Panda bear and would take pictures with it. It was also probably the place that I gave her the nickname Grandma Boo short for Bamboo because that was the name of the panda that went on vacation with us that year according to my parents. So, for this trip I took pictures with a different panda bear at different locations. We took pictures when picking up the car, on a hike, and in front of different geysers. I also enjoyed just being able to spend time with family at another national park.

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Bible Study



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Fellowship

A big part of my life is Bible Study Fellowship. I first started in the children's program around the time of second grade. Since I was in elementary school at the time I started, I convinced my dad to sign up for the men's night class since my family knew they had a night program. This is also around the time that I got my first Bible. This is also where I met one of my closer friends named Hannah Duhon who I also went to church with. However, around 5th-6th grade when I got busy, my dad stopped going.

When I was in 9th grade, my mom started to attend the women's night class that also had a children's program in the women's night class. I remember at the time I skipped the first two weeks I think because I was busy and nervous. At the time my group leader was Mrs. Higginbotham, who was my friend Kade's mother. I guess she thought that it was an incentive to tell my mom she was my leader and to tell her my best friend Rose was also in the class. My mom laughed because she knew Rose and I weren't close friends. I guess the funnier part was that I actually got closer to her son because I saw him at school and BSF. I attend this class until COVID when they moved online. The following year though they didn't have a children's program, so I finished high school without attending BSF.

Last year I started to attend the women's night class up in Killeen with

another freshman. However, we only went for a few weeks though I also chose to visit another class in Houston over winter break. In the spring semester I stopped going because I think the other girl didn't like it very much. However, I kept in contact with my group leader and asked for a young adult's class in Belton. I think my mom also asked her contacts. There were also lots of prayers. Since I knew the other girl was leaving, I tried to find another group closer or that was easier for me to attend. At the end of the semester I enrolled in a class that I thought was online in Houston, but it turned out that it was not. At the time I didn't know that God had other plans for me.

Over the summer I saw that BSF moved to Belton. Now it is easier to attend and I get to see my grandma once a week. This was my second time studying Revelations; however, I have felt so blessed by this study in more ways than one. I liked gaining a deeper understanding of Revelations through the questions and notes. I learned a different perspective of the interpretation of Revelation. I also enjoyed being able to attend my first two seminars which were *Sharing the Gospel* and *Quiet Time*. Another impact was it was a blessing to be able to visit the children's program as a volunteer. I also got my first adult Bible. I am looking forward to next year's study now and can't wait to see the impact it will have.

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Flute

Ever since I was little, I wanted to play the flute. This was a big part of my high school and I still take lessons today. When I was in elementary school I started by playing the recorder. In sixth grade I started taking lessons with one of my mom's friends, Mrs. Melody Shelton, who plays with the Bay Area Symphony. After she retired from teaching, I went to my current flute teacher. I have been playing with her since I was around 8th grade. I met her when she did a workshop for my band class. When I was in 9th grade I got my current flute which is a step up flute. I also started to play alto flute around that time which is I

also still play. As her student I have competed and performed in several different groups. My favorite are Christmas concerts. I am currently in a special trial group where we meet over zoom to play together.



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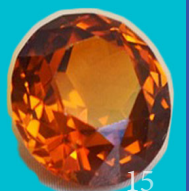


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