

LEARNING AS YOU GO

(NOTE: This is the article from the February 2015 Rivers Newsletters. Unfortunately the full article is unavailable)

A few years ago NBC began the process of looking at our graduating students and envisioning a better transition from NBC to post-NBC life. Since 2010, NBC has graduated 12 internship students involved in ministries ranging from para-church, church planting, support ministries through to established church ministry.

This year there are four students completing internships. Chris and Alexandria Neudorf are serving at Prince Albert First Baptist Church. Chris is working with Pastor Rodney Hennessey (Youth) along with Pastor Michael Engbers (Lead Pastor) gathering valuable field experience.

We asked Chris a few questions regarding his internship experience:

NBC: Chris, what ministries are you involved with at First Baptist and what are your responsibilities?

Chris: Right now at the church my focus is Youth Ministry. First of all, I am to be an observer, learn what I can, and to get a hands on feel for what youth ministry looks like. I am also regularly involved in the music and have helped out with the children church. I've done youth parent visitation, and Mike (the senior pastor) has me doing some senior visitation as well.

NBC: How does the internship affect the classroom dynamics?

All of us can share and relate to the positives and negatives of our internships. Because we are all involved in our particular ministries we are a little more disconnected with school and each other and the student body. It's also difficult to spend a week to slug through a ton of information. The things that I have learnt over my time at school have been invaluable. Everything from biblical understanding to leadership and conflict classes.

NBC: What kind of practical skills are you using and what are you learning?

I am learning that as good as all that knowledge and schooling is, the most effective thing for youth ministry is just being yourself, being open, and being relate-able to the youth. Having someone who is trustworthy and shows integrity will go much, much further than a BA in anything. Knowing yourself and being comfortable in who God made you as well is huge because if you can't take feedback, or some joking from people, you're going to shut down pretty quick. I have been trying to be willing more than anything, not just being a YES guy who burns out in the internship, but taking what I know I can do and doing it. This is frightening at times when you get thrust into a

leadership position and have responsibility that you didn't expect, but if God wants to use you, don't deny him the chance to let him be glorified through your weakness cause honestly, I feel weak a lot!

In April, Chris will be graduating with a B.A. in Christian Leadership and intends to pursue youth ministry.

One of the core outcomes for NBC is to see our students develop a heart to serve. We believe that our internships provide a space for students to learn and serve simultaneously. If you would like more information about our internships or if you would like to read the complete article please head to www.nipawin.org.