



CALVARY KIDS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 | October 2018

Beach Birthday

By: Edilmar Gonzales

Colorful balloons
Meat and mango juice
Shovel in the sand
Bridge and blue sky
Friends swimming
Happy music
Basketball cake
Candle that reads nine
Brother on the beach

Thoughts on Citizenship

Guest Writer: Sarah Settels

I was asked to speak about how I've struggled against the wall of citizenship in my life. I haven't been in this world for a long time but ever since I can remember my citizenship has been something that I am extremely proud of but also conscious about at the same time.

I come from a multicultural family, which is something I take much pride in. My father was born in a small town in Germany and my mother was born in El Salvador to a Salvadoran father and Mexican mother. Because of this, I am German, Salvadoran, and Mexican by blood. While my parents were living in Chile, they made the decision to come to the U.S. for my birth, so I was born here in Washington DC and got my United States citizenship. My little sister however was born in Chile which means that each

member in my family was born in a different country. I take immense pride in my family, which always leaves people stunned even at airports with customs agents telling us often that they've never seen such a mixed family before. Through my multicultural family, I've been to my parents' cultures, which are wildly different such as in food and language. For a long time, people have always been trying to categorize me into a certain group: "Are you white? Are you hispanic?" - when I strongly identify with both. My nationalities give me the ability to see first hand how people are treated just for being from another country. For example, sometimes when I'm at the airport with my family, my mom's passport gets looked at weirdly and they ask her more questions. For my father and sister as well whereas when it's my turn my passport only gets glimpsed at. Another instance was when a while back my sister said that she wanted to start working at a hotel. My parents said it was fine but when we looked at the requirements we realized that she needed a social security number which she does not have. It is also not nice to realize that if my mom stopped working at her job for any reason the three of them would have to leave the country and I would be the only one allowed to stay. When my grandfather was in the process of becoming a US citizen, he asked me to quiz him on the content that would be on the test. I remember being angry at the questions that were being asked since I didn't even know some of the answers and I am pretty sure many other Americans wouldn't either. I am extremely blessed to have such a special family but the fact that having a German father means being associated with Nazis and my mother being associated with Mexicans and Salvadorans who the president has targeted in offensive ways, gives me the sensitivity to see the treatment of different communities and their struggles here in the US and in their countries.

(continued on the back)

As I've grown up seeing these injustices first hand, I will use my voice, my gifts and my vote to change this country and this world into a place that embraces diversity and practices the teachings of Jesus and God to love your neighbor.

(This essay was originally read during worship)

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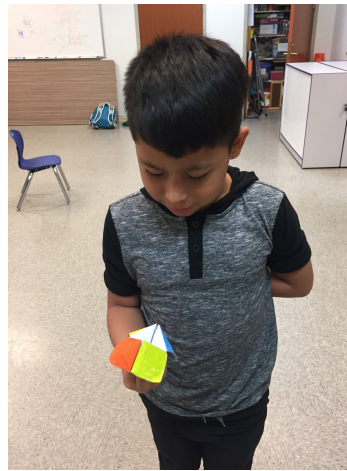
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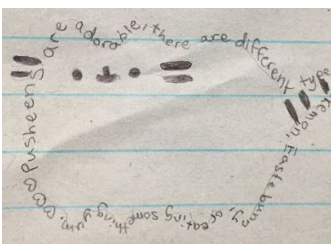
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 always drive to the moon

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FAVORITE PLACE CALIFORNIA	ABOUT MY FAMILY
FAVORITE MUSIC	FAVORITE COLOR
FAVORITE MUSIC	MY BIRTHDAY
FAVORITE VACATION CALIFORNIA	FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL MATH
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WHO IS PUSHEEN?
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