

# NEW DENVER MONTHLY

The official newsletter of New Denver Church

## Thank You, God, For Teachers!

IN DENVER AND ACROSS THE WORLD

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month, and because of that, we'd like to acknowledge our global partners in Guatemala by giving you a small peek into what it's like being a teacher in San Pablo La Laguna, Guatemala, a small, impoverished town on the coast of Lake Atitlán.

If you want to know what it's really like to teach in San Pablo La Laguna, you have to understand that it is a whole different world compared to big-city schools in Guatemala City. Teachers in San Pablo walk into classrooms where kids grow up speaking Tz'utujil. This means lessons need to bridge a massive language barrier right from day one since the official curriculum is in Spanish. The school day is usually split into half-day shifts so kids can still help their families farm or weave, and resources like tech or even enough textbooks are super scarce. Because of heavy economic pressures, keeping kids enrolled past the 6th grade is a massive uphill battle. For a teacher in San Pablo, the job isn't just about grading papers; it's a daily hustle to keep kids from dropping out while supporting kids' and families' difficult home lives.

### *An Interview With Andrea, a Kinder Teacher at Vida Real School in San Pablo, Guatemala.*

#### ***What brought you to Vida Real?***

I came to the school through an acquaintance who told me they were looking for a teacher for the preschool level. She also told me about the school and the work it does. When I learned about the opportunity, I contacted the school to ask for more information, and, thank God, I was given the opportunity to work as a teacher and become part of the Colegio Evangélico Vida Real team.

#### ***What do you love most about being a teacher?***

What I love most about being a teacher is spending time with my students and seeing their progress. It makes me happy to watch them gradually learn new things, develop their skills, and gain confidence.

In Kindergarten, every small achievement is very meaningful. I enjoy seeing their smiles, listening to the funny things they say, and guiding them with love and patience. I also love knowing that I can make a positive impact on their lives and teach them Christian values from an early age.

## **D-GROUP DIRECTORY**

### **Looking Ahead:**

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**SEP 6 - SEP 27 REGISTER FOR NDC KIDS IN SEPTEMBER - IT'S VERY IMPORTANT**

**D-GROUPS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION - A FEW SPOTS LEFT IN SOME GROUPS!**

**SEP 6 & SEP 20 PRAYER DOWNSTAIRS BETWEEN SERVICES AT 9:30 AM**

**SEP 11 MOMCO FALL KICK-OFF MEETING**

9:30 - 11:30 AM AT NDC. ALL MOMS ARE WELCOME! REGISTER [HERE](#)

**SEP 13 NDC KIDS TRAINING DURING THE 8:30 SERVICE**

**SEP 13 COFFEE ON THE LAWN - WITH A GUATEMALAN TWIST!**

**SEP 14 MISSION AND JUSTICE SOCIAL GROUP**

7 PM IN THE LOFT AT NDC

**SEP 20 DISCOVERING NDC - FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEW OR FEEL NEW TO NDC**

AFTER BOTH SERVICES IN THE LOFT

**OCT 2 - 4 MEN'S RETREAT**

REGISTER [HERE](#)

**OCT 4 NDC STUDENTS OCTOBER EVENT**

5 - 7 PM AT NDC

**OCT 9 - 10 RESET - A ONE-DAY RETREAT JUST OUTSIDE DENVER**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**APR 30 - MAY 2 WOMEN'S RETREAT 2027 - SAVE THE DATE!**

# Beyond Our Walls

MISSION AND JUSTICE UPDATES AT NDC

## *Interview With Andrea Continued*

### ***What is challenging about being a teacher in San Pablo?***

One of the challenges is recognizing that every child has a different personality, needs, and learning pace. As a teacher, I need to look for different strategies so that everyone can learn, participate, and feel included.

Another challenge is maintaining good communication with some parents, since at times it can be difficult to maintain consistent communication and encourage their participation in their children's educational process. However, I try to approach them with respect, patience, and understanding in order to build a relationship of trust and work together for the well-being and learning of the children.

In addition, at the preschool level, we need to help students adapt to school, follow instructions, and learn how to interact and get along with their classmates.

### ***What does a typical day at school look like for you?***

We begin class at 7:30am, take a break for snack from 10:00-10:30am, and end school at 1:00pm. Every day, I teach the kids mathematics, science, and languages. In science, we are learning about the environment; like the plants, water, and air. In first grade, we learn three languages: Tz'utujil (the Mayan language most villagers speak in San Pablo), Spanish, and English.

## JOSHUA STATION HAS A NEW VOLUNTEER SYSTEM

[check it out here](#)

## The Invitation from NDC and Nova Church

**SUPPORTING A LOCAL CHURCH PLANT**

Were you at church a couple of Sundays ago when Norton and Katie Fowler from Nova Church both shared a message for us? If you weren't, you can listen to the message [here](#), because it's really important.

New Denver Church helped plant Nova back in 2021 as they moved into Corona Presbyterian, a long-standing but struggling church in Capitol Hill, with hopes of eventually bringing the two congregations together at one service. Well, that day has come! On September 13, Nova will host a 10 am service bringing together both congregations. It's both a really exciting and daunting endeavor.

**Here's the invitation:** Will you consider attending Nova Church? Either making it your permanent church home or attending for a season (maybe 6 months to a year) while Nova enters this critical transition? Consider being a welcoming and faithful presence for a church entering into a new season.

If this resonates with you in any way, check out Nova's "launch event" [here](#).



**nova**  
CHURCH



# The MomCo at NDC

FRIDAY SEP 11, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

All moms, both inside the NDC community and outside, are welcome to NDC's MomCo group! The first meeting of the semester is September 11 at New Denver Church. During the two-hour meeting, you can expect brunch, childcare for your child(ren), some content and discussion, and an opportunity to meet other moms who "just get it." [REGISTER HERE.](#)

IF YOU'RE NOT A MOM, you can still be part of this ministry!

- Help with KidCo as a childcare worker (either paid or volunteer positions available)
- Give financially to cover dues for a mom or donate a breakfast for a meeting (this could be sponsored by an organization you work for!)
- Tell a neighbor or friend who is a mom about this community



## Reset: A One-Day Retreat

OCT 9 - 10 AT SACRED HEART RETREAT CENTER

A new opportunity to get away for just 24 hours is available to anyone in our faith community! Here's what you can expect:

- a time of mostly silence and space to explore what God is inviting you into
- a guide to help you figure out how to use your time
- your own room and meals provided
- optional spiritual direction with Brian Davis
- a debrief meeting for coffee or dinner with the other NDCers to talk about the experience

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Men's Retreat

OCT 2 - 4 AT SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH

Whether you're brand-new to the NDC community or you're a long-time attendee, the Men's Retreat is the perfect way to get away for a weekend, spend some quality time with other guys in our faith community, and see what God wants to invite you into.

You can expect:

- lots of time to play games, sports, explore nature, or get some R&R
- group sessions that focus on contemplative practices and small groups for more intimate conversations and relationship-building
- some pretty great food

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## NDC Students Events

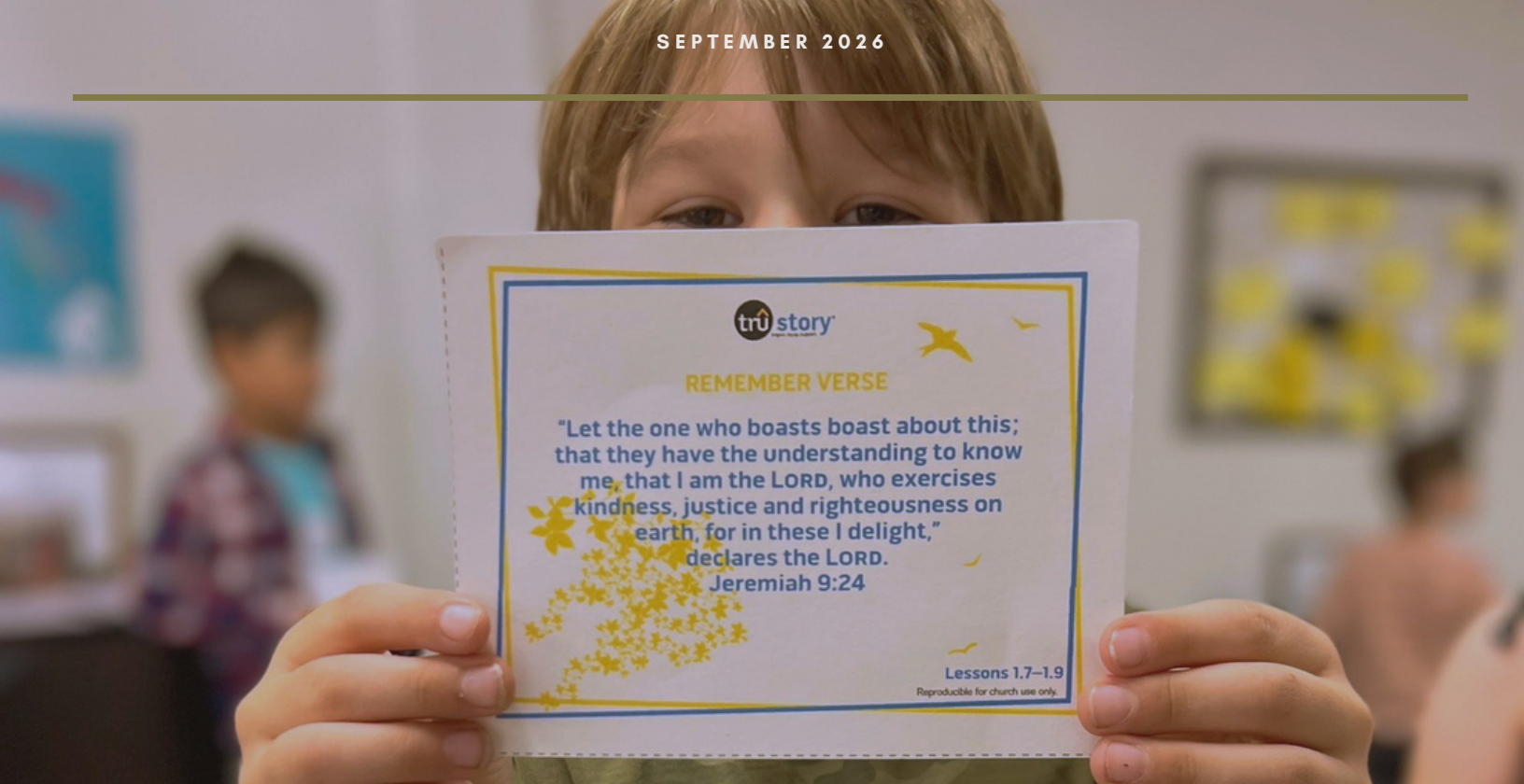
FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Steve Carlson, the NDC Students Director, invites all students from 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade to large group gatherings on the first of every month through December from 5-7 pm at NDC.

The large group format is coupled with a mentor model where students can discuss their faith in a more personal way. This can either be one-on-one or in groups of two or three with similarly aged students.

[REGISTER HERE](#)





## What is the Buddy System in *ndckids*?

NDC Kids has a new system and volunteers in place to help kids who need a little extra assistance in the NDC Kids environments. Whether your child has separation anxiety, presents as neurodiverse, or has a physical need that requires an extra eye or helping hand, this might be something your child can benefit from.

We have a select group of volunteers suited to help kids who need that extra attention. If you think this might be something you'd like to explore for your child(ren), if you haven't already, fill out the "Tell Us About Your Child" form, or email Catherine, the NDC Kids Director at [catherine.gates@newdenver.org](mailto:catherine.gates@newdenver.org). You can also find the link in your confirmation email when you register NDC Kids on Sundays.

## *Remember* verses

### ELEMENTARY

YOU WERE GOD BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS  
WERE BORN, BEFORE THE EARTH AND THE  
WORLD WERE MADE. YOU HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE GOD!  
PSALM 90:2 (ERV)

### PRESCHOOL

I WILL PRAISE THE LORD ALL MY LIFE.  
PSALM 146:2 (NIV)

**ndc** *students*

**OCTOBER 4, 5-7 PM AT NDC**  
**FOR NDC STUDENTS (6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)**