

December 2011 chi alpha campus ministries - university of michigan

Micah Gillen, UM Freshmen

"My name is Micah Gillen, and I'm a freshman at the University of Michigan. Currently, I want to major in engineering. When I had first decided I wanted to go to U of M, I was encountered by many people concerned that it was going to be a tough environment for a Christian. Needless to say, my realization of that came quickly. The first few weeks were very rough, and I wasn't sure if I was going to make it. Things I had never encountered in my life were suddenly all in my face at once. Drinking, partying and drugs were everywhere.

The good thing was that I got plugged into a good campus ministry right away. I met Pastor Nino and Tammy almost a year ago at my home church, and it was definitely a God thing that I made that connection so early on. The first week here on campus I was able to meet up with the H2O family and make good friendships right away. They even informed me there was going to be a Core Group meeting right in my dorm, which was a big comfort for me. This group is led by Chris Payne, one of the Chi Alpha staff members.

The Core has been a huge help throughout the weeks I've been at college. It has really allowed me to be focused on God, and fellowship with a great group of guys. It's very comforting to know you have this kind of support when the temptations of partying and drinking are staring you in the face."



The Guarisco's Report



There are two ways to give a special Christmas/Year End gift to our ministry:

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On the Home Front

The Guarisco tribe is doing very well, and 2011 has proven to be a busy and wonderful year. Our kids continue to pursue their black belts in Karate, and are approximately twelve months away from their goal. Our oldest three children were invited to become a part of Keith Hafner's Demo team which was a great honor for them. As a part of this team they travel around the area participating in Karate demonstrations at elementary schools, college basketball halftime shows and more. This has proven to be a great opportunity for the kids, and it's brought their skills to a whole new level!



Matthew went to first grade this fall, which means all of the Guarisco kids are now in school full time. This fall semester is the first time in 14 years that Tammy has not had one or more children home during the day! It's a tremendous blessing to have this new margin in Tammy's schedule, and she's been able to take time for resting, organizing the home and planning for our family. It's a new season in her life, and we're excited to see all that God has for her.

We want to sincerely thank you for your financial investment, prayers and love over the past year. Your partnership in this ministry is impacting the lives of UM students like Micah Gillen, and these students in turn will impact the world for Christ. *Remember, if you change the university, you change the world. If you reach the university, you reach the world.* Thanks for changing the world with us!

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