

SOMOS ESTE

THE UNIQUENESS OF GOD

CAMP 2022

Prepare for yourself for what God will do! Save the date for our camp happening Nov. 25-27.

JEFFERSON DELACRUZ

"He is your keeper. He won't forsake you. You are of great influence, don't be discouraged!" - pg. 7

ESTE FIRESIDE

Set a reminder for our next episode and check out recordings of our last episodes only on Facebook & Instagram

REV. GARY ELISA VAZQUEZ

"Pursue the rare and unique in your life. Be in the expectancy of God's presence to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary." - pg. 3



**THE CREATION OF
SOMOS ESTE
MAGAZINE IS FOR THE
SPIRITUAL
EDIFICATION OF THE
YOUNG PEOPLE OF
AJEC RE. MAY THIS
MAGAZINE SERVE AS
AN INSTRUMENT FOR
GOD TO GLORIFY
HIMSELF AND FOR
YOUNG LIVES TO BE
CHANGED
EVERYWHERE.**



1

ESTE

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FOLLOW US

CONSENTS

ISAIAH 45:5-6

**"I AM THE LORD, AND THERE
IS NO OTHER; APART FROM
ME THERE IS NO GOD. I WILL
STRENGTHEN YOU,
THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT
ACKNOWLEDGED ME,
⁶ SO THAT FROM THE RISING
OF THE SUN TO THE PLACE
OF ITS SETTING PEOPLE
MAY KNOW THERE IS NONE
BESIDES ME. I AM THE
LORD, AND THERE IS NO
OTHER."**

FROM ORDINARY to Unique

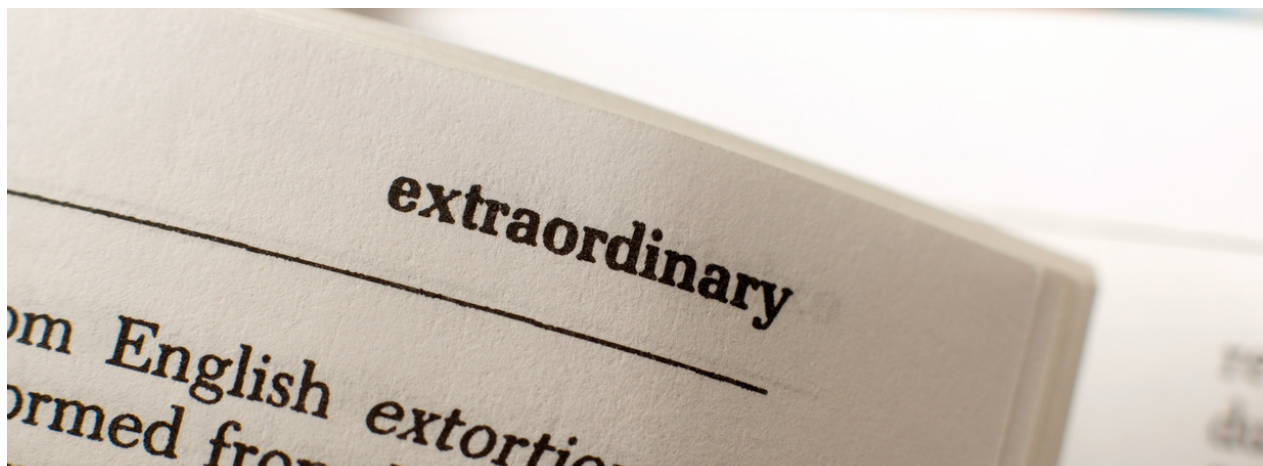
PG. 3

G o d ' s A s t o n i s h i n g
P r e s e n c e



The Seven Wonders of the World are breathtaking locations around the globe that people travel to and gaze at in amazement. These locations tell the story of how ancient civilizations left their marks on the world and culture. Their wonder and unprecedented beauty draws our attention. We read about their history and admire photographs. We add these locations to our bucket lists, and when we finally save enough money, we venture out to see them for ourselves. Catching a glimpse of something so extraordinary is a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

SOMOS ESTE



When we use the word unique to describe something, we often refer to something as “highly unusual,” “extraordinary” and “rare.” It is not a coincidence that souvenir shops are strategically located right before the exits. We buy into the “bottle-the-experience” and we invest our money to take with us a piece of the unusual. So, the t-shirts, postcards, keychains, and magnets testify that we came, we saw, and bought the souvenir to prove it.

That is the problem with once-in-a-lifetime endeavors. Once we

experience them, we may remember the awe of what we saw, but we are off to the next thing. We scratch experiences off our list and quickly move on to the next ‘unique’ thing. The fleeting experiences raise an important question: what can make the ordinary into something unique?

In Exodus 33, the Scriptures narrate an intimate conversation between God and Moses. God directs Moses to leave and take the people of Israel to the promised land. God promised to send an angel ahead of the people for their protection and clear

passage, but because of the Israelites’ stubbornness, God’s presence will not go with them. The instructions were simple: “Leave this place and go to the land that flows milk and honey.” To Moses’ dismay, God’s presence was not going to accompany them. For some people, the presence of the angel would have been enough. Yet, it was not acceptable for Moses. Moses’ disappointment led him to pitch the

meeting tent so he could talk to God and plead his case. Moses declared to God, "If your presence does not go with us, do not make us leave this place" (**Exodus 33:15 NKJV**). Moses had come to expect something so rare that to him it was the key ingredient. Moses was in pursuit of God's presence. Moses was defining the word "unique" before it ever appeared in the dictionary. Moses declared, "...For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth" (**Exodus 33:16 NLT**). In other words, Moses realized that only the presence of God turns even the most ordinary humans into a unique, one-of-a-kind people.

God heeds Moses' request. "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name" (**Exodus 33:17 NLT**). To hear a yes to a request, coupled with God knowing us by our name, may be enough for most of us. Yet, it prompted Moses to ask God, "Please, show me your glory" (**Exodus 33:18 NKJV**). See, God was asking

Moses to take the people to the promised land, and I suspect that Moses knew that the only way he would accomplish this unique feat would be to be wrapped in God's astonishing presence. The glory of God - His amazing presence- is all we need to turn the ordinary into extraordinary.

You don't have to travel far to gaze in astonishment at something unique. A look in the mirror will reveal the marks of a creative God who yearns for us to desire and live in His presence. Take time today to pitch the meeting tent and get alone with God. Thank God for His presence, for it is His presence that sets us apart from the world. You may be struggling with trials or problems. Perhaps, you are facing an increasingly difficult task ahead. Today, I urge you to consider how God is using difficulty and struggles to draw you into His presence. Don't settle for the leading of an angel. Pursue the rare and unique in your life. Be in the expectancy of God's presence to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

AJEC REGION ESTE

CAMP 2022



NOV. 25-27

MINISTRY IN THE MILITARY

BY: JEFFERSON DELACRUZ

God bless you all! My name is Jefferson Delacruz and for those that don't know me, I have been a member of AJEC since 2015. Back then, I moved to the U.S from the Dominican Republic when I was only 21 years old and all by myself. While I was adjusting to this new way of life, in a totally different country, I constantly switched from job to job and found myself moving from place to place. In that time, I went from being a call center customer service agent to a medical receptionist. Within the span of 3 years, I had moved about 5 times. Now, I was just a young man of God trying to figure out why God had brought me to the U.S. for that. While asking, in early 2016, the Lord started to open doors for me to minister and preach His word as an Evangelist. It was just amazing to see The Lord move in other young people's lives, so I decided I wanted more. In 2017, I joined our organization's bible institute, Mizpa. I successfully studied Mizpa and graduated in 2019.

As time passed and while I was in constant prayer, God began to speak to me about a different route He was taking me and how He had other plans for my life. In 2020, this came to pass and a door opened, presenting an opportunity to join the United States Army. Now you might be thinking - the Army? How can a Young Christian do ministry while being in the Army? Well, I was quickly humbled by the Lord while undergoing military training down in South Carolina at Fort Jackson. I noticed that The Army was more than just shooting weapons, it was an entirely different culture. I saw the great need in young people struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts, and identity crises. It wasn't until I was in the Army that I fully





understood that I was there to be that bright light to guide those in need. Early this year, I received unexpected news that my Unit was being deployed to US Prince Sultan Airbase in Saudi Arabia for approximately 9 to 12 months. I remember becoming overwhelmed by the idea of being in a combat zone, my life being in danger and being away from home for so long but somehow in the midst of all the worries, my Faith and trust in Jesus became stronger.

As you read this, I am 2 months into my deployment, and I've started to assist our chaplain by giving bible studies to soldiers. We recently started a 6-week series called "God Space". It's a program that teaches soldiers how to better communicate the Gospel effectively in the military, especially since, it's difficult to preach with so many different religious beliefs. I also joined a group of advocates here called "Team Phoenix" serving as a liaison for soldiers who struggle with equal opportunity issues and/or sexual harassment in the military. Maybe you read this and think, "Wow that sounds cool," but the military community is extremely rough and one can find it to be very toxic to be in. It is very easy to fall into the common customs and habits of the military. As a Christian it's challenging because you don't have services 3 times a week, you only get one - on Sundays. You don't have different events you can attend to rebuild your faith - you have Tuesdays bible studies that we alone have incorporated. And you don't have as many fellow believers who share your same faith and struggle.



To conclude, I'll leave you with this testimony. One day a soldier expressed to me that he had never felt loved in his life. His mother abused him as a child and I still remember him showing me the burnt cigarette marks on his back. He communicated that he struggled with depression and was very confused as to what his purpose in life, leading him to join the Army. There was another instance where I was sleeping one night and remember a soldier approaching my bunk bed and waking me up, nervously telling me that there was another soldier sitting in the bathroom with a bottle of bleach. I ran into the bathroom to find him sitting there and sat with him, speaking to him about Jesus and explaining how much he was loved by God. As I was speaking, he suddenly broke down in tears and gave me the bottle of bleach, avoiding any self-harm. You see - regardless of the diverse challenges we go through, in Psalms 1, His word says, "Blessed is the man who delights in the word of the Lord for He will be like a tree planted along the riverbank bearing fruit in each season and they prosper in every season." My brothers and sisters, wherever God places you, may you rest in knowing this, He is your Keeper. He will not forsake you. You are of great influence, so don't be discouraged!

May the Grace of God be with you all, sending you all a warm hug from Saudi Arabia. Until we meet again AJEC, Shalom!

ESTE FIRESIDE

LIVE



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