

# Last performance of the year



Well this weekend was a special one, for more than one reason. First my friends from Ohio came out and visited. They came out to see their family and then came over here for the "nightcap" before they headed back. It took us a bit to decide on where to go for entertainment. For a very populated area I couldn't think of much in that line. There is a lot of outdoor entertainment during the warmer months, but it was cold and wet so that was out. Indoor water park down the street? Too expensive. Laser tag? Kids not old enough. So we settled on Chuck E. Cheese. We got there and it was so packed that people were making their own parking spots at the side of the building. Fortunately some people were leaving so we got a spot. Inside, C bought a bunch of tokens which the older girls used for the most part. A couple of times C would raid the cup of tokens, but the two girls used most of them. There were a couple of rides, some skill games, a video roller coaster, and video games. The favorite seemed to be the Nickelodeon race game which basically stole borrowed heavily from Mario Kart. The younger of the two could not reach the accelerator when she played, so her older sister did that job for her while she steered. I didn't get to talk to C and L much at this time, but it was quality time with their two oldest. Following CEC, we went to a local hot dog joint, down the street from me actually, and had us some good food. There is where we were able to talk, that is between young C spitting up and some issues that crept up with the girls eating. From there they dropped me off (we all went in one vehicle), changed the baby, and they were off for home and I was off to part 2 of this post...

...Drama. This was my cast's weekend to perform so I had to be at my church at 3:30 for rehearsal. Between making a DVD for another friend in OH and the visit this mornig I had no time

to shower so I dragged my grubby self over to the church. We found out that the learning center where we perform was in use so we rehearsed in the room next door. I gave the two giggling kids some candy (4th and 6th grade) and we were slowly able to get through the lines. We then did it with blocking a few times. Through all this time the guest author (there is a different "guest author" every week) never showed up. Steve, the children's pastor, didn't know anything about it so I gave the director a call and he was surprised that he hadn't shown up. I hung up and a few minutes later Steve got a call from him and it turns out he wouldn't be coming, so Steve would have to fill in (again...) for the night. The one who was supposed to be there would be there for the Sunday performances. Now, because Steve is the kids' pastor he had many other duties to do so we still didn't get to rehearse with him. This may or may not have contributed to what happened next during the performance. Bear in mind that I am an experienced actor and rehearsal had actually gone fairly well, especially line-wise by the time we got to the performance. I did my puppet part well, but when I walked out to do my live character, I started off fine but then I forgot my lines! How...? Anyway, I at least stayed in character and the others tried to cover until I was able to recover a few lines later. I almost missed my puppet entrance after that because I was mad at myself.

Today's performances went fine though I am happy to say. There was a line flub by the kids in the first performance today, but nothing like my flub last night. I will miss this drama for the next two months. We will be off for the holidays. Next week is the last one until January, but it is a different cast so I am done until that time. Hey, more time to memorize for the next one, right? ☐