



Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! I am so thankful for all of you and the impact that you have had on this ministry. You are helping to bring hope into so many dark places. Christmas is a fantastic time of year, but amid all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season, let's not forget what Christmas is all about. Jesus coming to earth so lives like yours, mine, and the many kids we work with could be changed.

What a year it has been. This year started with ministry running strong, then COVID hit, and it seemed for a moment like everything stopped. We had to step back, reassess how we did things, and then look for new ways to connect and minister to kids. It was hard on all of us, but we especially saw how hard it was on the kids. Kids weren't showing up for online classes. They were getting more and more isolated, and you could see the hunger growing for connection, but the great thing about Jesus is the hope He can bring right when it feels the darkest.

In the midst of all of this, Baby B was born to one of our girls, and our staff spent a lot of time walking beside her young mom as she navigated through it. For a while, it seemed like there were a lot more downs than ups, but God stepped in in some beautiful ways. He opened up a last-minute door for housing and, with the help of many of you, helped provide baby clothes, supplies, and furniture to help set her up. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus. I wish this story had a happy ending, and everything was blissful, but I ask for your prayers as Baby B was removed from mom. Still, along with Danielle's help, she has been working towards working on herself and taking steps to see Baby B returned to her.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus by being a part of encouraging our kids who graduated this year. Many of you gave to help make graduation an unforgettable day for Woodrow Wilson High School's grads. It was so much fun to present each Graduate with a Grad Party in a Bag and a box of Sandy's Donuts. It brought so many smiles to the kids and showed them God's love by recognizing their hard work and showing up for them. Something as simple as showing up can make a massive impact on a kid's life.

Showing up for a young lady at her parole officer's office and being a support for her when her world crashes around her. Showing up as a young lady steps out of the detention center for the first time. Showing up at the doctor's office to help a young lady who is pregnant and showing up for her delivery. Showing up at school and throwing a BBQ for the entire school to show staff and students how much we love and miss them. So much of our ministry is about showing up for these kids when others won't. It builds trust, helps enforce our message that Jesus loves them, and lets them know we aren't going anywhere when so many in their lives walk away.



In June, God blew open the door at the Juvenile Detention Center for us. Kids were so hungry for connection that we now have more opportunities to minister to them than we had pre-COVID. Each



week we have young men and women hungry to get into God's word through Bible Studies. We have three studies running with more on the way. Two chapel services run every Wednesday, one-on-ones happen five days a week, and we have staff picking up kids on Sunday to take them to church. God is so good and YOU, through your prayers and support, help make that happen. Thank you.

When I think about all of you who help make the many aspects of this ministry happen, I am overwhelmed. We are so blessed to have faithful partners like you who help us reach kids like Baby B's mom through your support and prayers. Who makes it possible to bring hot meals to kids who need them. Who makes it possible to go into the detention center every week and walk alongside kids whose only hope is Jesus, and who help us get God's word into the hands of kids who are desperate for it. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

As this year comes to an end and as we get ready to start a new one, I ask you to consider making a special year-end gift to Red River Youth for Christ. COVID has been challenging, and giving has been down about 10%. We cannot accomplish this fantastic task without your help. Your gifts will help enable staff to continue to walk alongside kids and show up for them. Your generosity will provide safe places for students to ask their tough questions, get connected to God's story, and it will allow them to be radically loved. Your investment in their lives will pay off, not only today but can pay dividends for eternity. You can mail your gift in the enclosed envelope or give online by going to www.redriveryfc.com and clicking on the "Give to YFC" link at the top of the page.

We are grateful for your dedication to sharing the true Gift of Christmas with this generation. As a partner in the ministries of RRYFC, you are a vital part of every ministry's success in reaching young people and their families. We hope that your Christmas season is a rich and meaningful celebration of the birth of our Savior.

On behalf of all of us here at Red River Youth for Christ and each student we work with...Thank you for your generosity.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Greg Everett
Executive Director



P.S. We cannot wait to be able to share with you how your financial gift impacts the lives of our amazing kids in the new year!

