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Fall 2021

STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I am sitting here in the Denver airport as I write this. I have just finished up a fantastic couple of days with my affinity group of other Executive Directors from around the country. It is encouraging to lift each other up, learn and grow and bounce ideas off each other. What also gets me excited is that ministry doesn't skip a beat when I am gone. I can't tell you how thrilling it is to know I have a great staff and group of volunteers that can keep things going when I am not there.

Being short a staff member has been a stretch these past few months, but God has kept us and our ministry going strong. Currently, we are talking to a couple of potential candidates to add to our team, and I am very excited about that. You'll find a little more information about that inside, and we covet your prayers through this.

It's hard to believe that November is already here, which means it's

Concert for a Cause time. I want to invite you to join us on Friday night, November 19th, at Bethel Church for a night of worship and a taste of what God has been doing in the lives of some fantastic kids. This year the night of worship features Mack Brock. Mack was a worship leader with Elevation Worship before God called him out on his own. You would know him from songs like "Greater Things, Even The Impossible, and Do It Again." It is going to be a great night, and I hope you will join us. More information on that is inside.

One of the things that I love about ministry is the ways that God surprises me with encouragement. A couple of weeks ago, we were in the detention center meeting with a group of guys. As we finished up with them, one of the boys, who had just arrived at the center a day or so before, asked if he could pray for us. It was so special to hear him honestly come before God and thank him for us and the fact that we would come to be with them.

It was hard not to be a mess right there. I got to spend time with him the following week and pray with him. He is thankful to God that he is in the center because he believes God is using it to help him learn and grow into a better person. Moments like these keep you encouraged and moving forward.

Moments like this wouldn't be possible without your continued prayers and support. Thank you for your continued partnership. I am excited for the days ahead, and God has wonderful things in store for YFC and the kids we work with.

Happy Thanksgiving! We are so thankful for you.

Greg Everett
Executive Director

An Evening of Worship Featuring
Mack Brock
Friday, November 19, 2021
Bethel Church, Fargo
6:40-8:40 PM
DETAILS INSIDE

PRESENTED BY:

Edward Jones
Member SFC
Matthew De Vries

Eid-Co
Est. 1951
Homes

GOLDMARK

Hanson~Runsvold
Funeral Home

Verse of the Week

At every Wednesday night church group, we challenge the kids to memorize a new verse of the week from that week's lesson. If they memorize it by the following service, they get an extra treat. We help them find it, bookmark it (some like to highlight), and work on it with them. This week's memory verse is **1 Peter 2:24, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."** We pray these scriptures stick with these kids long after they leave the facility.



An Update on Momma B

For those of you following Momma B's story, last time I updated you Baby B was placed in the care of CPS (Child Protective Services). In October, Baby B was returned to Momma B's full-time care! 14 Months and some odd days (I can't remember, but Momma B does) Baby B spent in the care of loving foster homes. I am so proud of how far Momma B has come and the steps she is taking personally to be the mom her baby needs. She is learning what it means to be a full-time mom again and doing very well. She has a job, enjoys it, and has been there for several months. Our next hurdle is childcare so she can continue to maintain her work schedule and provide for her little family. When we say we do life together with kids, it means something different for every kid, but for Momma B it looks like endless laundry hangouts, grocery shopping and meal planning trips, and having a car seat installed in my vehicle full-time to be ready to love the two well in all life's adventures. I will not give all her story away as I am so excited to announce that we will be hearing more of Momma B's story at this year's Concert for a Cause event (November 19th at 6:40pm at Bethel Church in Fargo), and you definitely won't want to miss this. *~Danielle Hill*

Finding Worth

Josh*, a young man we met while he was at the juvenile center was released a little over a month ago. He was excited to be released and had a group foster home lined up and he was registered for classes at M-State in Moorhead. During our church services in Josh's pod at West Central he was always attentive and courteous. He was definitely using his stay at the facility to take time to look at his life and figure out what he wanted to do. He didn't want the time to be a waste. During one of our church services, the video we showed the kids brought up the question, "Where do you find your worth and confirmation that you have value?" Answers included family, money and friends. Josh said, "the county," which baffled us. He explained that he doesn't know where his mother is and "no one would want to know my father," so the county workers he interacts with, and his parole officer are the people who give him value. Can you imagine not having any family to give you a sense of worth? Since being released, Josh has been in contact with us, and we have given him rides to a few churches in the area to help him find a supportive church home. He is very serious about his studies and is really enjoying the group home he is in. *~Kim Danielson*



"Can I pray for you guys before you leave?"

One young man asked after a recent Wednesday night church service at the detention center.



Hiring Update:

Please pray for us as we continue working through the process of hiring new staff members. We have a couple of candidates that we are talking with. We have had lots of interest but after the initial contact, most don't follow through which can get really discouraging. We are trusting God though for the right person or people to join us and we believe He already knows who that is.



Here are some ways you can specifically pray:

- Pray that we will be successful through this process.
- Pray for wisdom as we discern the right fit for the ministry.
- Pray for the candidates as they discern God's call on their lives and if Fargo is a good fit for them. It will require relocation.
- Pray for them as they begin the process of building a prayer team and financial support team.

If you would like to be a part of helping to financially seed these positions please contact gregeverett@redriveryfc.com.

Just Listening

Recently, the group of girls who have been housed at the juvenile center have been a bit reluctant to actively participate in Bible study. One girl is always up for a good discussion with us, but the rest of the group will often say they don't want a Bible to use but they'll "just listen." After a couple weeks like this, I was visiting the girls in the pod as a social visit outside of our weekly bible study time. Two of the girls were scheduled to be released the next day and before I packed up my cards and board games, I wished the two of them well and said I would pray for them. Tammi*, one of the girls who had "just listened" during our bible studies, said "We should all pray for them now." We like to encourage the kids to get used to praying out loud, so I invited Tammi* to lead the prayer if she wanted. She looked alarmed and looked at Donna* next to her and said, "You do it." Donna replied, "I don't know how but okay." Donna prayed that the two girls being released would be safe when they left the facility and thanked God that they would be sleeping in their own beds the next night. Donna even prayed that I would have a safe drive home and enjoy sleeping in my own bed! It was a humbling moment for me as it's so easy to take for granted that I can just walk out of the facility, drive home, and sleep in my own bed every night. *~Kim Danielson*

A Few Weeks Later

I was at the juvenile center two weeks later for another social visit and when the girls' meal trays arrived, I packed up my things to leave. At the door, I turned to say one last goodbye and saw all the girls with their hands raised. They aren't supposed to be touching each other, so Donna* had them all raise their hands as if they were holding hands and she prayed for everyone before they ate. God moves in amazing ways! *~Kim Danielson*



Our Mission

YFC radically loves and brings hope to teens by working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their Godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

YFC provides a safe and friendly place to learn leadership skills, to think about important issues and to develop quality relationships with peers and with caring adults.

YFC's 5 Ministry Essentials:

-  WIDESPREAD PRAYER
-  FAITHFUL BIBLE TEACHING
-  LOVING RELATIONSHIPS
-  ADULTS WHO EMPOWER
-  COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

RRYFC Staff


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Danielle Hill
Kim Danielson

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-  RedRiverYouthforChrist
-  redriveryfc
-  RedRiverYFC

Youth names in newsletter are changed for privacy purposes.



The opening of the new Moorhead Career Academy and Alternative Learning Center



Moorhead ALC first program back after over a year off! So fun to be together again



Karen, Connie, & Sue helping serve lunch at the renaming of Woodrow to Dakota.



The celebration of Woodrow Wilson becoming Dakota High School

What Does that Mean?

Here are a list of popular words teens are using and how our teens explain them. We don't recommend using them, but hopefully this will help you better understand the teens in your life.

- **Bussin:** Most often used as an adjective to describe when something is really good or cool.
- **GOAT:** An acronym for "greatest of all time." Often used to describe a person, place, or thing.
- **Finsta:** A mashup of the words "fake" and "Insta"; refers to an "alt" or fake Instagram for posting memes, unpopular opinions, private information, and other things you wouldn't want associated with your main page. (*The Culture Translator*, Vol. 7, Issue 41, October 8, 2021)



We invite you to an opportunity to serve...

Every Wednesday, Youth for Christ provides lunch for the students and staff of Dakota High School (previously Woodrow Wilson). It is an amazing opportunity to make a practical difference in the lives of some amazing kids and help us build 3Story relationships.

Do you like to cook? Bake? Serve?

We are looking for individuals, small groups, Bible study groups, or businesses that would like to serve by providing lunch, covering the cost of a lunch, or providing baked goods. You can help serve the meals you provide, drop off the meal the day before or the morning of. We do have the ability to heat pre-made meals at our office. You can provide a great lunch for 50ish kids for about \$100.

Lunch hour runs 11:15-12:15 with set up at 11:00. Any leftovers are left for kids in the afternoon or for needy kids to take home to their families.

If you would like more information, have questions, or would like to help out, email Greg at gregeverett@redriveryfc.com.



You are Loved

What do teens in crisis need? Love! They need to know that God's love will never leave them. As the saying goes, it isn't God who turns away from us, it's we who turn away from Him. Some of the teens we meet at the area high schools and the juvenile center in Moorhead have never been introduced to the Bible and God. Some have, but they feel they are unlovable and not able to be saved. Just by being a group of people, who regularly show up for the kids, helps to open them up to the possibility that their lives are not a waste. ~Kim Danielson

Moorhead ALC

Our release program with the Moorhead Alternative Learning Center (formerly Red River ALC) started for the first time since March of 2020. We are so excited to have the privilege of this Friday program. With so much time off, it feels we are starting small so we are praying the Lord would bless the time we have with these youth and that authentic Christ-sharing relationships would continue to be built.

A Voice from a Cell

In closing a recent Wednesday night church service, I asked if anyone would like to pray to close our time out. The group of teen boys sheepishly avoided eye contact immediately. I paused just long enough and was just about to reassure them and close the evening with prayer when a voice from a cell piped up, "I'll Pray." He asked, "what do I say?" We proceeded to share with the young men about prayer being a conversation with God and discussing the Lord's prayer. Even though he wasn't allowed to leave his cell for whatever reason that evening he was still listening. I love raw, authentic moments like these. ~Danielle Hill



Peaches

Thank you to everyone who bought our fruit this summer and all of our wonderful partners Magnum, Scheels Home & Hardware, Bell Bank, Black Bear Orchards, Martin Family Orchards, and Genuine Georgia. Also, Special thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and to all of our amazing volunteers. We are so thankful for you all!



We are so thankful for all of our volunteers who make this fundraiser possible.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Volunteers show up every summer and are so much fun!



Practical Needs

Here are some practical things we frequently use. Are you able to help supply these items?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ○ Paper products (Plates, bowls, utensils) | ○ Cases of bottled water |
| ○ New or gently used decks of cards | ○ Cases of juice boxes or sports drink |
| ○ Adult coloring books | ○ Fruit snacks |
| ○ Puzzles | ○ Any kind of pre-packed, or individually packaged snacks |
| ○ Disinfectant wipes | ○ Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682 |
| ○ Boxes of individually packaged chips | |

While reading through Luke 19:8, the story of Zacchaeus, "Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." What do you think Jesus meant by that, YFC team asked during a church service at the Juvenile Center?

"Boi, you're sleeping on the flo tonight, Jesus sleepin in yo bed tonight."



Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

Save the date for Giving Hearts Day, Thursday, February 10, 2022. More information to come.



November 29
— THROUGH —
December 13

A link will be on our website soon.

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What Do I Need To Know?

- Oranges come in a 1/4 bushel box and are at least 10+lbs of fruit.
- This is a pre-order only event, don't miss out. Mail in orders (forms will be hitting mailboxes soon or are available to print on our website) must be postmarked by Friday, December 3rd. Online pre-orders end Sunday, December 5th.
- Order pickup approx. December 15th-17th. (Please include all of your contact information.)
- Order pickup at:
Red River Youth for Christ
2345 Meadow Ridge Pkwy
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The perfect Christmas gift for family, friends, & coworkers!



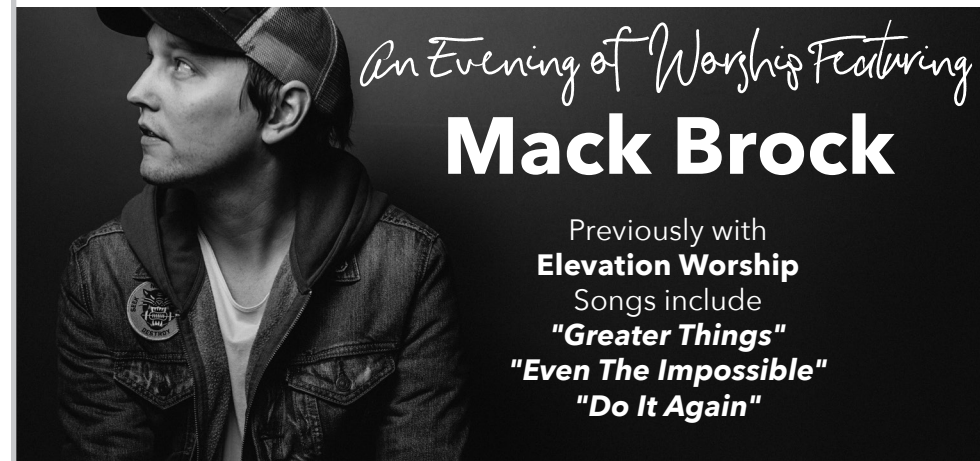
NOVEMBER 19,
2021

BETHEL CHURCH FARGO
2702 30TH AVE S, FARGO, ND 58103

6:40-8:40 PM
(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM)

Tickets at www.redriveryfc.com

General
Admission \$20



Previously with
Elevation Worship
Songs include
"Greater Things"
"Even The Impossible"
"Do It Again"

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Homework?

The secure treatment boys (whom we have previously had the most challenges with) are now one of our most interactive Wednesday night groups. A few weeks ago, some of the young men made an odd request. They asked if we could start providing homework as we only get to see them every other week for church. They expressed that "...It's just too long." What teenage boy asks for Biblical homework? This is definitely evidence of the Lord working in their lives.



Red River YFC staff Kim, Greg, & Danielle at the YFC National Conference Training