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Winter Newsletter

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Winter 2022

# STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



**Radically loving and bringing  
hope to teens in the FM Area.**

Your gift to



On



**GIVING  
HEARTS  
DAY**

**Provides programing for  
at-risk teens in the juvenile  
detention center and  
alternative schools.**



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I know that by the time you are reading this, we're already a bit over a month into 2022, but, Happy New Year! 2021 ended strong, and this new year has started with a bang!

I am so excited to tell you that God has answered a huge prayer request for us. We have been in the process of looking for a new staff member to fill one of our open positions, and we now have! April 4th, William Lawyer, a young man from South Carolina, will be joining us on staff. Then in July, once he is married, his wife Carmen will be here as well. We are so excited for this new addition to the team and excited to see what God has in store. You'll find out more about Will inside this issue. Please pray for him in the transition to Fargo. Pray for him and his fiancé Carmen as they get married in July and then transition to married life. Pray that God would

use him in significant ways to impact the lives of teens in our community.

As you are reading this, we also have another potential candidate, John, here from Arizona for a final interview, February 9-11. Please pray for wisdom for both sides as we explore this fit. As I have mentioned before, we are after what God wants for this chapter and don't want to force anything, so we are asking God to make things very clear. It is exciting to see God move, and we are excited to see YFC's impact on this community grow.

Giving Hearts Day is just a few days away, and I am very excited to let you know that friends of YFC have stepped up in a fantastic way and will match the first \$21,700.00. I am humbled by God's goodness to us and so grateful for this opportunity.

You have the chance to make a massive impact in the lives of kids in the detention center and alternative schools this Giving Hearts Day. With a new staff member joining us and the ministry getting ready to expand, this will go a long way to helping make that happen. You'll find more information inside. Please help us spread the word, and if God enables you, please consider being generous that Day.

Your prayers and support are making an impact on the lives of some pretty extraordinary teens. Thank you for joining us to help make that happen!

Greg Everett  
Executive Director





## An opportunity to serve...

Every Wednesday, Youth for Christ provides lunch for the students and staff of Dakota High School. 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 still have openings 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.

If you would like more information, have questions, or would like to help out, email Greg at [gregeverett@redriveryfc.com](mailto:gregeverett@redriveryfc.com).

## "Why do we put our heads down instead of looking up when we pray?"

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



## Concert for a Cause

Concert for a cause, a night of worship, with Mack Brock was truly an amazing evening. We see worship as a natural response to what God is doing in the lives of youth. We were able to hear an update from Momma B (Now on our website), and much to our surprise she agreed to let us publicly introduce her and pray for her and her daughter. Mack Brock and his team also rocked the house leading us in a moving night of worship.

We also want to extend a BIG thank you to our sponsors, especially our

### Presenting Sponsors:

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## Hiring Update:

Please pray as we continue working through the process of hiring new staff members. 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 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 a woman to join our team as ministry staff.
- 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](mailto:gregeverett@redriveryfc.com).



## Alpha Youth Film Series

We are going to be going through Alpha during our Friday release times this semester with the Moorhead Alternative Learning Center youth. Alpha Youth Film Series is a series of interactive video sessions that engage people in conversations about faith, life, and Jesus. It is supported across denominations and various Christian traditions and has been run in a variety of locations, including homes, restaurants, coffee shops, universities, churches, youth groups and prisons. Almost 24,000,000 people in 169 countries have gone through Alpha and many have experienced the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. Pray for our conversations over the next 10 weeks as we discuss topics like "Who is Jesus," "Why Did Jesus Die," "Why and How Do I Pray," "Why and How Do I Read the Bible," "How Can I Resist Evil," and many more. Pray that this series would allow us to build relationships, spark questions, and would be a life-changing tool.



## Oranges & Pecans



Thank you to everyone who purchased the fresh Georgia Satsuma Mandarin oranges and pecans. We had many positive reviews. Fresh food, especially with such wonderful flavor, is wonderful during our winter months.

## 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

Greg Everett  
Danielle Hill  
Kim Danielson

## RRYFC Board

Karen White  
Brent Roeder  
Del Losing  
Shane Kosloske

## Contact Information

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**\*Youth names in newsletter are changed for privacy purposes.\***



## 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.

- **Sus:** Short for suspect or suspicious. Often used to question a statement. Ex: Bro he said that? That seems sus.
- **Flex:** Meaning "To show off" or "Flaunt," physique, belongings, or anything considered superior. Often considered a power move.
- **Big Yikes:** "Yikes" doubled or a more intense version of the word "Yikes." Ex: Did you see what Jared posted on TikTok? Big Yikes!

## "17 years ago I was born, I experienced a ton of trauma, and now we're here."

A girl explained in response to a question about her story over lunch.

## Finding Scripture

When William came to visit, we were all impressed by his willingness to jump in and help wherever needed. We received special permission for him to come into the detention center to help with our Wednesday night group. Immediately upon entering the treatment pod, he bombarded with questions, introductions, and requests to listen to that week's memory verse. He listened to the first youth quote the verse and then he asked where it was found. The kid looked at him with an "I forgot to memorize that part" stare. William smiled and used it as an opportunity to share the importance of not only the content of the verse, but the reference. He used the example of how important addresses are and that, "...if you want to take a girl out on a date, it's pretty important to know her address or where to find her, right?" He went on to say the same about scripture, to quote a verse it's important to know where it's found comparing the reference to an address. His analogy and ability to relate was met with bouts of laughter. The analogy made a lasting impression on our team and it was a fun example for us to see him interacting with the kids. We look forward to him starting in April. ~Danielle Hill



## Verse of the Week

For our Wednesday night church/youth group we put together a series based on an Andy Stanley sermon, "Rules for the Road." The first couple weeks have been great discussion starters and we pray that this series will continue to be a tool to point them towards Scripture and Christ.

This week's memory verse from this discussion is from **Proverbs 13:20, "Whoever walks with the wise will become wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."** We pray these scriptures they are memorizing stick with these kids long after they leave.

## Praying for Friends

At the end of our time together every week with the youth from the center we ask if there is anything we can be praying about. We often ask if anyone besides our team would like to pray. The secure girls have been praying for each other more and more dividing prayer requests among themselves. Youth there are not allowed to have physical contact with any other residents, staff, or visitors. One week they had this idea that they wanted to "hold hands" and pray, so they placed their hands alternating face up and down with their neighbors hovering, but not touching and prayed for their friends. Prayers included "I pray for Macy\* that you would smack the smartness into her and help her to make good decisions," and "I pray for my family that we would love more than we fight." It was fun to hear the authenticity of their prayers as well as the visual of the airy connection. ~Danielle Hill



## Coloring Conversations

We have been enjoying getting back into a somewhat normal routine with the teens at the Fargo and Moorhead alternative high schools. We are lucky to be able to transport the Moorhead teens to Bethel Evangelical Free Church where we are given access to a classroom and the gym. It's a wonderful opportunity to play some games, share a worship time and enjoy a light snack while getting to know the kids.

One of the girls, Mandy\*, normally doesn't join us if her friend Anna\* isn't there. Mandy told us that Anna is her only friend and the only person she speaks to at school. Recently, Anna wasn't able to join us, but Mandy decided to attend anyway. After we played a group game and finished worship, Danielle and I had the opportunity to sit and color with Mandy while we visited. She had always seemed very quiet around us at previous gatherings, but this day she colored and chatted up a storm. She shared with us about her family's pets, her classes at school and was very open and engaging in her conversation style. What a difference something as simple as using a coloring book can make! No pressure to participate in anything, but there is something to focus on if conversation stalls. I'm not a conversationalist by any means and I struggle to find ways to start conversations, but this is such a simple solution. Mandy seemed a bit brighter that day when we dropped her off at school afterward and we pray she and the other kids continue to visit and open up to us. God is working on these teens a small step at a time, and we are blessed to be there to help them find a path to Him. Please keep the kids in your prayers that they will continue to join us and open their hearts to God's word. ~Kim Danielson







# Giving Hearts Day

## Help someone.



[givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org)

Your gift to Red River Youth for Christ on **Giving Hearts Day, Thursday, February 10th**, provides programing for at-risk teens in the juvenile detention center and alternative schools.

Please consider partnering with us in reaching youth in this growing community. Go online to **[givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org)** and choose Red River Youth for Christ to make your secure online donation. **You can either do this on Thursday, February 10th, or by scheduling a gift anytime between now and February 8th.** Checks dated and delivered by noon on February 10th will also be accepted. The most exciting part, **friends of RRYFC will currently match your donation of \$10 or more up to \$21,700!**



*Making friendship bracelets is a popular pastime for West Central's non-secure girls.*



## Introducing William

Hey y'all I'm William! If you can't tell already, I was born and raised in the South! I lived in Virginia for the first twelve years of my life before moving with my family down to South Carolina where I still reside. I graduated from The University of South Carolina with a degree in Sport and Entertainment Management. My hope and desire was to become a high school athletic director, however, God has completely changed that as well as the location I will be living. I love anything to do with sports either watching or playing, I'm always game. I also love to play board games and spend time with family and friends in my free time (which I don't give myself much of).

I will not be the only one moving over a thousand miles though, as you see in the picture, God has blessed me with an amazing best friend and fiancée, Carmen! Carmen and I started dating in March of 2020 (yes, the first peak of COVID). It brought many challenges, but also growth for the both of us as individuals and as a couple. Carmen will be moving up after our wedding July 8th. You'll never meet someone who laughs more than Carmen, or someone with a heart as pure as hers. Carmen and I love to watch movies/shows together, play board games, be around friends and try new places to eat! (We're looking forward to all the new cuisine in North Dakota!)

Like I said above my plan was never to get into ministry, however God has a different plan. I am so excited to be joining YFC and the team in Fargo starting in April. God has always given me a soft heart for children, especially those who don't have role models in their lives. The fact I get to "work" and do this for a living is beyond amazing. I look forward to making new connections and building relationships not only with the kids, but also the volunteers who will be accompanying us in the journey. I cannot wait to see how God uses myself and those around me to reach the communities around Fargo! ~William Lawyer



## Caring Catalog Thanks

Thank you to everyone who donated to help feed and care for FM Teens. Thanks to you we raised \$3,630 to help care for, love, and meet the needs of teens in our community. I look forward to sharing more stories like the one below about how your support is making a difference for teens.

## Hot Meals & Hugs

Our first Wednesday lunch back at Dakota after Christmas break, I was wheeling a card with the lunch down the hallway when I heard whispers behind me. I thought I heard something about Youth for Christ, so I paused and turned around. Immediately two girls came running up and asked what we were serving today, if they could hug me, and excitedly chattered about how they missed us, were so happy we were back, and thankful for a hot meal. It's fun to know we are missed and appreciated, and I look forward to continuing to build relationships with these too spirited friends. ~Danielle Hill



Our Dakota Christmas Dinner Helpers

## Practical Needs

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

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Paper products (Plates, bowls, napkins, &amp; utensils)</li><li>○ New or gently used decks of cards</li><li>○ Adult coloring books</li><li>○ Puzzles</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Disinfectant wipes</li><li>○ Boxes of individually packaged chips</li><li>○ Cases of bottled water</li><li>○ Cases of juice boxes or sports drink</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Fruit snacks</li><li>○ Any kind of pre-packed, or individually packaged snacks</li><li>○ Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682</li></ul> |
|--|---|--|

*Students and staff enjoy a family style Christmas where we all gather around one big table and everyone is welcomed. Staff refer to it as a "favorite tradition" and "for some, the only Christmas meal they get."*



Hey, it's CJ\* from non secure in moorhead. I remember the church leaders meeting and getting together every week there <sup>100</sup>👊. I also was told by the young man I forgot his name 🙏 to email on the Bible I was given. I'm doing very well if you could let him know I'm getting my license finally 🤔 bout time and I'm doing the program and probation with exceptional effort. I hope everyone is doing good please let me know if you get this, as well as how very is doing 😎

*An aftercare update we received.*