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Summer Newsletter

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Summer 2022

STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



An Evening of Worship Featuring
JONATHAN TRAYLOR

NOVEMBER 18, 2022
BETHEL CHURCH
6:40-8:50 PM

TICKETS ON SALE IN SEPT
DETAILS INSIDE

Sponsorship Opportunities
Still Available

[www.redriveryfc.com/
event/concert/](http://www.redriveryfc.com/event/concert/)

PRESENTED BY:



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Now More Than Ever...

Imagine being a marginalized young person in the year 2022. Anxiety and fear cripple the hearts of many. They are consumed by social media and seek attention in unhealthy places. Their family is in disarray and they don't know whom to trust. They are overwhelmed by a hostile political landscape. Depressed and wrestling with suicidal thoughts. Many don't know where to turn. Is life really worth living?

Research indicates that Generation Z is often considered the loneliest generation. Despite increased virtual connectivity and social media engagement, youth are feeling more disconnected from authentic relationships. Isolation and depression are running rampant. Furthermore, Generation Z is also recognized as the "first truly post-Christian generation," meaning less and less youth have even heard about the Gospel let alone understand it. We are seeing this more and more with our kids.

I cannot emphasize enough that thousands of youth, right here in our community, are hurting, overlooked,

vulnerable, anxious, and falling through the cracks. As I think about our mission at YFC...to reach lost youth with the love of Jesus Christ...I am compelled by it now more than ever. There's urgency. There are lost young people deeply in need of God's transforming love.

This is why a ministry like Youth for Christ is so important. Every day we have the opportunity to enter into the lives of young people and bring the hope that Jesus offers.

This past ministry season has been a good one and with it, God has done a lot of incredible things and is opening doors to more ministry. Right after Easter, William began full-time ministry with us and he has been a Godsend. He has jumped right in with both feet and is getting to know kids, building relationships, and sharing Jesus. This past week, Paige Rockensock came on board with us 15 hours a week (you'll learn more about her inside) as our Community Engagement Coordinator and will also be doing ministry as well. We are looking at expanding ministry in Dakota High School in the fall. We are exploring a new ministry opportunity in one of the middle schools. Ministry

at the detention center keeps growing. In the midst of so much chaos around us in our world, God is definitely moving and working.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support for this ministry, our staff, volunteers, and our kids. Your partnership means so much to us. As we start our 2022-23 fiscal year, we recognize we are all facing trying and uncertain times. During these times we need your investments and prayers to not only sustain our work but to expand its reach to more youth on the fringes of our society and in the shadows of our community.

Please consider continuing to invest in YFC. Would you perhaps even pray about increasing your support? Would you make a monthly contribution? Your generosity mobilizes the reflection of God's love to youth in our city, in a time when it's desperately needed.



Greg Everett
Executive Director

Who is Jesus?

One of the girls that has been with us for several months in Secure Detention had no previous exposure to Jesus in her life. From the beginning she questioned who He was and why we would believe in someone who would let people abuse Him the way Jesus did. After weeks of questioning and challenging God, she has asked for a Bible and is now talking about what she prays for. A seed has been planted and we are seeing signs of God softening in her heart. ~Sue Kressin

"How will I know I'm tight with God? How can I see Him? How do I know He's real?"

All questions asked in a one-on-one conversation with a young person at the detention center.

Leading Ministry

The ministry piece of Youth for Christ has been such a blessing to me. I honestly never thought I would be so happy having to "work," but with this job, it doesn't feel like work; it's just fun. Greg asked me if I would lead church at the Detention center for the last month, and it has been so cool to see God work in the hearts of the kids. This past Wednesday, each and every one of the boys was not only singing but jamming to the song "He knows my name" by Francesca Battistelli. I was second-guessing myself on the song because I didn't think the boys would get into it since it is a bit slower.

It has also been really cool to see one of the boys come out of his shell more and more and open up. Initially, he would hardly speak to us at all and would typically just leave as soon as church was done. I assumed he just came for the snacks. Then we started to notice he would hang around and be the last one to be there, and he would begin to ask us questions and make conversations. This past week he was participating in discussion and asking in-depth questions. You can see God moving in his life, and it's cool to sit back and watch it happen weekly.

~William Lawyer

"It's not ok to have a messed up life, I want to be on Your side."

Prayed a youth in closing to a church/youth group one Wednesday night.



Volunteer Kim & her daughter meet a previous center resident & her son for lunch.



Staff William playing basketball with students from Dakota HS during Wednesday Lunch.



Artwork from youth at the Center

Lineage of Jesus vs Recent History

During a bible study one week the staff of Youth for Christ asked kids if any names from the bible rang a bell. After some silence we gave some hints and said, "what about Abraham?" One of the kids responded, "Abraham Lincoln?" The staff responded with some laughter and a, "Not quite." So we asked them, "How about Isaac?" Someone else responded, "Isaac Newton?" Again, with some laughter we said, "No, a little bit older than him." We moved on and we began reading the story of Rahab hiding the spies in Joshua chapter two. We heard, "Oh yeah, the German Spies, right?!" With more laughter we also responded with a, "Not quite." While we may have laughed in the moment, looking at it now, it just shows the need for the knowledge of Jesus and how Youth for Christ can be used to meet that need. ~William Lawyer



Rules for the Road

"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards." -Vernon Law

Over a three-week period, we shared a sermon series called Rules of the Road with the kids at the juvenile center.

Rule #1: Don't travel alone. We encouraged the kids to seek out people who share their values, not their tastes. We are made for community, but we don't want to gravitate to others just for their acceptance.

Rule #2: Don't pick up strangers. Be kind to others, but be careful who you let into your life. The example given was '....you wouldn't loan your car to someone who repeatedly trashes it....', so don't loan your life to someone who will trash it.

Rule #3: Choose a destination and borrow a map. Determine what you want your life to look like. We all want to end up somewhere on purpose, not just blindly turning down one road then another. Discipline, not desire, determines a destiny.

Rule #4: Pay attention to the signs. If you ignore the signs along your journey, you may not realize you're going the wrong way. Or, you'll end up taking the long way to get to your destination.

Rule #5: Don't carry unnecessary baggage. We all have baggage in our lives such as being hurt, betrayed or left out. People close to you end up having to help you carry your baggage. They dodge your anger or tip toe around your moodiness. Don't let the devil hold onto that baggage and keep dragging it out to hold you back in your relationships and in reaching your goals.

Some of the destinations shared by the kids were: Graduate high school, college, job, go home, no more running away, stay away from negative people, stay away from drugs and alcohol, go 6 months without being hospitalized, get out of here and stay out.

Their list of people to ask for help on their journey included mom, grandma, staff at the juvenile center and Jesus! Please pray that the kids are able to turn to Jesus and healthy people in their lives to help them achieve their goals. ~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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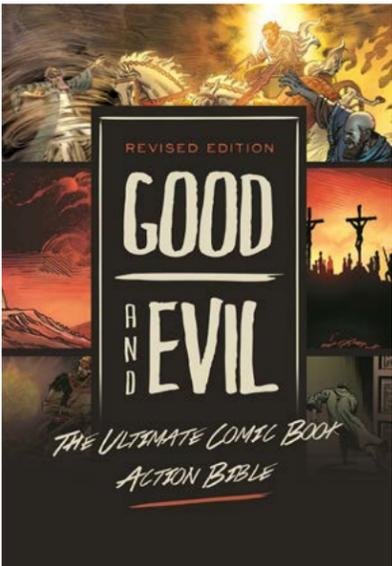
 RedRiverYFC

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.

- **ikyky:** "If you know, you know," referring to a niche interest or inside joke.
- **OOMF:** "One of my friends" or "one of my followers." Meant to call someone out without naming them.
- **Fire/Trash:** Fire meaning something is so cool or amazing. Trash meaning something is terrible. Opposite ends of the cool spectrum.
- **Cappin':** Lying. Can also add "no cap" to a sentence meaning you're not lying.
- **Cheugy:** A person, place, or thing that is out of date, basic, or trying too hard.



Comic Book Action Bibles Donated

We had an entire case of comic book style Bibles, the Good and Evil, Ultimate Comic Book Action Bible, donated to us. This has been such a fun visual for youth and great alternative to other forms of media they could be reading. We still study using the full Bible, but youth have enjoyed comparing the visuals with the full text. This has especially been instrumental with our middle school-aged, non-secure youth. ~Danielle Hill

Hopes, Dreams, & Questions

We had some fun days with the kids at the Moorhead Alternative Learning Center this year. We watched an Alpha series with them that covered topics such as: "Life - Is this It?" And "Jesus - Who Is He?" One of the questions we asked the kids was, "What Question Would You Ask God?" Their responses:

- How do you see me?
- What comes first, the chicken or the egg?
- Why are drugs so addictive?
- Where do we go when we die?

One of the boys was really interested in the various questions that came up during the Alpha series. He spoke of how spending time with us gave a positive spin to his day. He would like to be a motivational speaker some day. His dream for high school would be to start a motivational club for students to check in for 10 or 15 minutes each day before they start classes. The club would share uplifting bible verses or positive reinforcement to give students a good start to their day or week.

~Kim Danielson



Verse of the Week

Since starting verse of the week for our Wednesday night church/youth group, we have seen awesome growth. While some weeks we don't have any kids who memorized the verse, other weeks we have every single kid have it memorized. I especially love watching them help each other but using what they think are subtle gestures to help jog the memory. It's often hard to scold kids for helping their peers memorize scripture even if many times it's just for the extra treat.

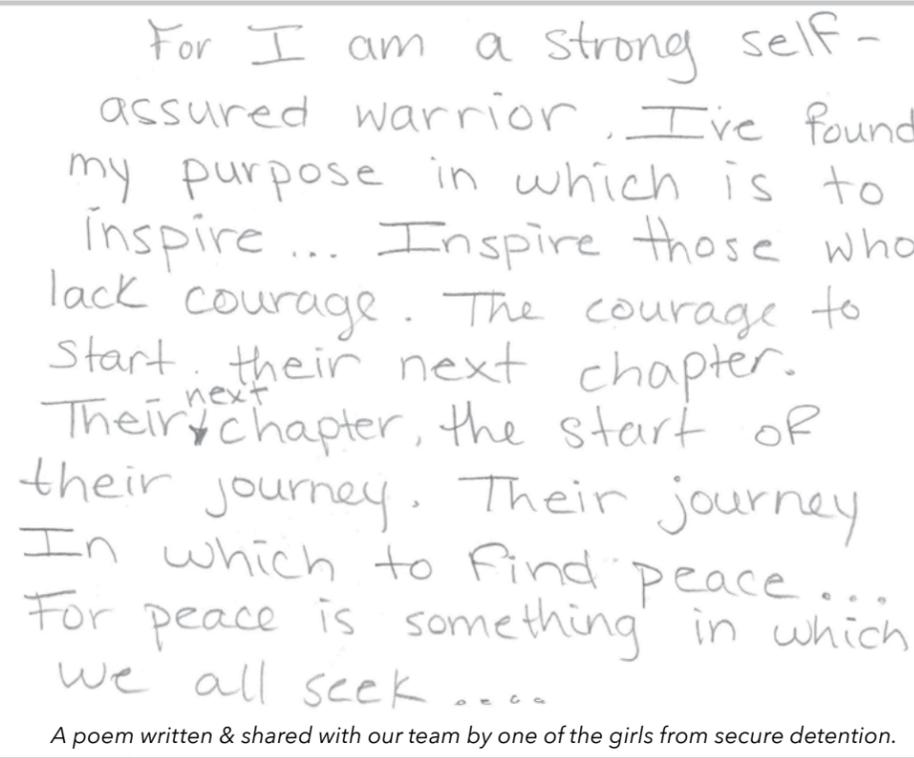
We had one youth tell us that when they are sad they try to think of the verses they've memorized for comfort. ~Danielle Hill

"I feel more at home here than I do at home."

A young man from the secure said in reference to the detention center.

"Girl, do you even eat at home?"

A girl asked her friend one Wednesday lunch at Dakota when she wouldn't stop making "Mmm" noises as she ate.



A poem written & shared with our team by one of the girls from secure detention.



Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people on Giving Hearts Day. Because of your generosity, we not only met our match, but raised a total of \$50,600! You truly have made a difference and we are so excited to continue to share with you through updates like those found in this newsletter, how God is using your gifts and this ministry to bring hope and help to teens in our community!



Some YFC team members and case workers from Christian Adoption Services (who we share office space with) attending Soul Shop, Suicide Intervention Training. 10 out of 10, would highly recommend for faith-based training!



Mind Blown

During a Bible study I gave a Bible to a young man who had requested one. I asked how familiar he was with the Bible, and he responded, "Not familiar at all." I explained the New vs Old Testament and share about how there were lots of sacrifices in the old testament and that the new testament share's of Jesus dying on the cross for all and He was the ultimate sacrifice. Though he hadn't heard much bout Jesus, he had been familiar with the symbol of the cross. He was mind blown in discovering why Jesus died on the cross. I was impressed by his comprehension and questions, but simply overjoyed to be sharing this life-changing message with him. ~Danielle Hill



Flower doodles from youth at the Center



An Evening of
Worship Featuring

JONATHAN TRAYLOR



Practical Needs - Getting Low

Our snack supply is running out, are you interested and helping us restock? Snacks are used as rewards for scripture memorization, prizes for games, and simply feeding ever-growing teens.

- Disinfectant wipes
- Boxes of individually packaged chips
- Cases of bottled water
- Cases of juice boxes, bottled juice, or sports drink
- Fruit snacks
- Granola Bars
- Any kind of pre-packed, or individually packaged snacks
- Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682

Introducing Paige

Hello everyone! My name is Paige Rockensock and I grew up in the heart of lake country in Park Rapids, Minnesota. I attended North Dakota State University (*Go Bison!*) where I graduated with a bachelor's of science in Political Science. While studying at NDSU I had the amazing opportunity to intern in Washington D.C. with the United States Senate; which later led to a full-time position on Capitol Hill following my college graduation. God allowed me to pursue what I thought was His plan for my life in order for Him to show me He had something much different planned. After moving back to the Midwest in March of 2020, (*literal days before Covid-19 shut down the country*) I got engaged and later married my best friend in June of 2021. My husband, Andrew, and I moved to Fargo in April of this year and we are very excited to get involved in our new community! I love spending time with my family and friends, being outside, riding my horse, and spending summers on our family boat.



While attending college at NDSU I often volunteered for Red River Youth for Christ's "Concert for a Cause" event as well as their annual peach fundraiser. I am very passionate about YFC and their mission to bring hope and the love of Christ to teens in the Fargo-Moorhead area. While I never imagined I would work in ministry, I could not be happier to be part of Red River Youth for Christ family! God is good, and His plans are always perfect.

I am so excited to see what God has in store for me as I enter this new chapter of my life, and I am honored to be a part of the work that He is doing through this ministry. *-Paige Rockensock*

Jun 2022	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	26	27	28	29	30		
Jul 2022	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						
Aug 2022	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
Sep 2022	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2	3

Highlighted dates indicate fruit weeks.

Peaches

Every summer, Youth for Christ brings in fresh, tree-ripened peaches from Georgia and Colorado, fresh Georgia pecans, and Washington nectarines and pears as a fundraiser to help support our ministry with teens.

We need volunteers to help make this fundraiser possible. We have several shifts available throughout the week for various jobs such as running the cash registers, carrying boxes for customers, and unloading cases of

fruit from the truck. It's outside, during the summer, and lots of fun! This is the perfect opportunity for small groups, churches, businesses, and friends. If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping with this, please sign up or pass this along or both. The sign-up can be found on our website under events or at: www.redriveryfc.com/event/peaches/.

For more information about this fundraiser or to order, see our website.

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

BETHEL CHURCH FARGO

2702 30TH AVE S, FARGO, ND 58103

6:40-8:40 PM

(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM)

Tickets Available in September

General Admission \$10



Thank You to Our Event Sponsors:

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Sponsorship opportunities still available on our website.



Grad Celebration

Every year we have the opportunity to host a graduation celebration for the students of Dakota High School. (Formally Woodrow Wilson High School. This is Dakota High School's first graduating class since the name change this past fall.) This celebration follows the ceremony and allows many of these kids who don't have graduation parties of their own, an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments with their friends and family. We are so thankful for all who donate to make this event possible! Morning Glory (Christine, ND), Sandy's Donuts, Dip-N-Dots, and so many more volunteers and supporters.

This year post-pandemic, we helped custodians set up additional chairs three times prior to the ceremony as guest continued to arrive and overflow all expectations for attendance.

~Danielle Hill



Many students take advantage of the open mic option when crossing the stage to quickly thank those that have helped them.



So proud to share the joy in celebrating our young friends' accomplishments!



Look out world, here they come!



The selfie station for photos with friends

