

December 13, 2022

Dear Friends & Family,

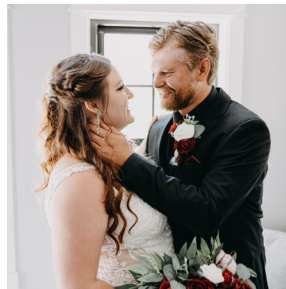
What a year it has been! I'm not sure quite how to update you with everything that has happened in the last 12 months that have flown by. Cody and I began our house hunting process in January, planned our wedding, got married in June after a major storm, made an offer on a fifth house without Cody even seeing it at the end of July (he travels for work a fair bit and homes here move in 24-48 hours), our offer was accepted (total God Story), I celebrated 5 years at YFC in August, we closed on our house September 9th, spent the first couple weeks cleaning, painting, and making updates, and moved at the end of September. We have lots of projects and a little unpacking to do yet, but are so, so excited to be married and have a home of our own. It's been such a busy year I feel like I'm just now starting to catch my breath and it's almost over!

Youth for Christ hasn't been any slower. Last year at this time we just received word that William Lawyer accepted a full-time ministry position with us. He moved from the Carolinas and started in April, we hired Paige Rockensock (my sister) part-time starting in June, Tim Brown part-time starting in October, and even more recently Deb Napton who started in November. It's crazy that when we reflect on a year ago, it was just Greg and I on staff, and now our staff has tripled. Last year at this time we were praying that Will wouldn't be our only hire and God blew our prayers out of the water. We have had so many open doors for ministry and are so excited to finally take significant steps in walking through them.

On a weekly basis we are in two alternative high schools, a middle school, and the regional juvenile center multiple times. Ministry opportunities look like feeding hungry kids a home-cooked meal, a release program where an alternative school allows us an hour of the school day every week to take kids off campus to learn about Jesus, Bible studies in the local juvenile detention center, building relationships with kids as a lunch monitor for a local middle school, and the list goes on and on. The relationship opportunities that arise from these encounters are incredible.

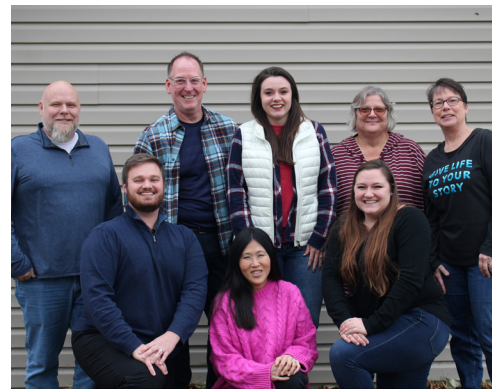
One of my favorite stories from this year is about a young man from the non-secure unit of the juvenile center (We'll call him Logan*). Every week we have a memory verse for the kids to go along with the discussion. If they memorize the verse and can recite it next time, they get an extra treat. We always print a fun verse with an image for them to take. They often use them as bookmarks, or many hang them on the plain walls of their rooms. One week for whatever reason all the kids from Logan's pod lost their memory verse slips. Logan usually memorizes the verse every week, so he found the verse in his Bible, wrote it on a piece of paper, and had center staff photocopy it for everyone to help them memorize it. My heart absolutely melted when Logan walked in that week, handed me the tattered paper with the memory verse in his own handwriting, and proceeded to recite John 3:16. Loving teenagers and loving like Jesus often has its ups and downs, but its moments like these that remind me of why I love what I do.

In another discussion we had a young man, Matt*, ask for a Bible. I gave him one and asked how familiar he was with it. He said not familiar at all, so I launched into explaining where to find things and the New vs Old Testament. I shared about Old Testament sacrifices connecting the New Testament where Jesus hung on the cross for all as He was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Matt hadn't heard much, if any, about Jesus. His mind was blown by why Jesus died on the cross, he had no idea. While his stay at the



center was short, a lifechanging conversation was had and a seed was planted.

Another time while serving lunch at Dakota High School I met a girl named Katie*. I had joined a game of Uno at a table she was sitting at. She wasn't playing so I struck up a conversation. Katie is so shy and anxious a teacher typically fixes her plate for her. In a matter of minutes, she had meandered from across the table and was standing right next to me pouring out her story, showing me pictures of her family, and sharing her deepest struggles. Within just a couple of weeks from not being able to even fill her own plate, she helped us set up for our Christmas family meal at the school. I look forward to continuing to build this relationship and being a caring adult in her corner.



*Left to Right Front Row - William, Deb, Myself
Back Row - Tim, Greg, Paige, Sue, & Kim*

This summer, I had the honor to have a conversation with Anita*, a young lady in the secure pod at the juvenile center. Anita knew very little about Jesus and was moved by a Bible study in her pod. Afterwards, she asked me if I would come visit her for a one-on-one. Later, when I met with her, she asked amazing questions like, "How do I...like know? How do I see God? How do I hear God?" I gave Anita a Bible, helped her look up and discuss answers to her questions, and prayed with her. That day she gave her life to Christ.



It often amazes me how little (or how much) teens at the center know about God. Anita and Matt are just two examples of kids who knew very little and there's a strong possibility that they would have never attended a church or sought Him out on their own. I appreciate that at Youth for Christ we go to where kids are, starting with conversation by getting to know their story, sharing our story, and ultimately getting to connect them to God's story. We have such an opportunity to love on the least of these, the overlooked, and the hurting. This ministry allows teens to be seen, heard, and valued and this is what I get to share with you. This is just a taste of the encounters we have, and the exciting things God is doing through the ministry of RRYFC. We know that only God can heal these kids as they journey through life altering events. Would you please keep our (expanding!) team in your prayers? Please pray that God would continue to use us to impact the lives of kids for eternity.

As we close out 2022, would you consider making a gift and supporting the ministry of Red River Youth for Christ? Since we are a non-profit, we rely on partners like you to help fund this ministry. Would you please prayerfully consider making a year-end financial gift and investing in the lives of teens? Donations can be mailed in the enclosed envelope, or you can give online by going to www.redriveryfc.com and clicking the "Donate" button at the top of the page. All donations are tax-deductible and will be receipted if an email address is included. Thank You!

I am so thankful for your prayers and support! Thank you from everyone here at Red River Youth for Christ and the students we love! Your thoughts, prayers, and support are truly a gift!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Danielle (Hill) Beyer



Names of youth have been changed for privacy purposes.

