



December 12, 2017

Dear Friends & Family,

Merry Christmas! It is hard to believe we are in the heart of the Christmas season already! 2017 has been an eventful year. I wanted to share with you some of the highlights from this year.

I currently reside in the blustery city of Fargo, North Dakota, and have been here two years already. How time has flown! I am continually changing roommates as friends move away or marry off. In June, my friend and previous roommate married and moved two apartment buildings down. In August, my favorite and only sister, Paige, moved in to fill the empty room and void of silence. Paige and I have busy schedules, but we do enjoy being roommates when we actually get to see each other. I have truly grown to love the Fargo-Moorhead area. I say grown, because like anywhere it has its quirks. The flat wide open fields, fierce wind, and unique driving styles have taken a little getting used to, but are no match for the vast selection of locally owned restaurants, places to shop, events, and incredible people that can be found in this great city.



Along with a new roommate, I also accepted a new job in August. I am now on staff with a local non-profit, Red River Youth for Christ. I am the special projects coordinator and some of my responsibilities include office tasks, design and promotion, events, and outreach. Each day is different and I love the variety and working with the students. Red River Youth for Christ's mission is to radically love and bring hope to teens in the Fargo-Moorhead area. This chapter has been serving the area for over thirty years. We focus on reaching the "high-risk" and "at-risk" teens with the love of Jesus Christ. Our programs include: Parent Life that serves the parenting teens and children, Juvenile Justice that connects with the students in the juvenile correctional facility, release programing with one of the alternative schools, and a lunch program with another alternative school to name a few. It has been both heartbreaking and rewarding to serve high school students from many different backgrounds.

During the second week of this year's Wednesday lunch program, I met a young woman we will call Lucy. We immediately bonded over our mutual appreciation for art and character illustration. Our conversations soon transitioned from fictional characters to real pieces of our stories. We started discussing past, present, and future. Her story is intense and it has been heart wrenching listening to her talk about the neglectful and abusive home she grew up in. Lucy was recently able to transition from that situation, moved miles away, and now lives

with a friend and her friend's family. In one of our lunch conversations, she proceeded to tell me about the migraines she gets when she is in bright classrooms. Curious, I asked her what she meant by this. She proceeded to tell me that her two-story childhood home had two light bulbs, one on each floor. She was used to doing everything in the dark, and now her eyes have trouble adjusting to light. My heart breaks for Lucy and many of the other teens experiencing rough home lives. I pray our friendship grows and for continued opportunities to share and show her the light. That her heart will adjust to the hope and light found in Jesus Christ.



Lucy is just one of the many teenagers we work with that are experiencing difficult home lives. Many teens experience problems with abuse, neglect, abandonment, drugs, and alcohol. Would you please pray for myself, the team, and the ministry of Youth for Christ? Please pray we would continue to be used by God to impact the lives of teens for His Glory. Pray for open doors at the schools, open ears to listen, and open hearts to be receptive to God's love and forgiveness.

As we enter this Christmas Season and end of the year, would you please consider supporting Red River Youth for Christ? Since we are a non-profit, we rely on partners like you to fund this ministry. Would you consider investing in the lives of teens with a financial year-end gift? 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. All donations are tax deductible, but more importantly, together we have the opportunity to change the lives of teens.

I am grateful for your prayers and support. On behalf of everyone here at Red River Youth for Christ and the Students we work with, thank you!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Danielle Hill

