

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S !



I can't believe it's already December... time has flown by! Sean and I have been taking every opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with our puppy Fishstick, but alas... winter is now upon us.

We had a very nice, quiet Thanksgiving together at home. We're excited to host family for Christmas this year and I've had fun making our house feel festive and inviting. Anyone who knows me knows that I love celebrating Christmas! This is a time to celebrate Jesus entering our world and that thought really captures me.



F I R S T I M P R E S S I O N S

When I was told before starting with this ministry that we worked with youth in the local detention center I envisioned visiting with teenagers as I've done in the past. Fast forward to me, weeks later, sitting among a sea of blue sweatsuits and orange crocs... having church. I listened to some teens recite a bible memory verse, watched their faces as they heard the message, and sang along with them to Matt Redman's song "10,000 Reasons".

Wait... we are bringing church into the detention center? Wow.

Every week we have the opportunity to bring the Word of God to teenagers behind locked doors. Some of them have made poor decisions, some have been placed there because there is nowhere else for them to go (yes, this surprised me too), but all have a story that can now intersect with God's story. This intersection to them may look like an ugly brick building and a loss of freedom, but to us, and more importantly to God, it is an opportunity... an amazing opportunity.

Along with doing bible studies and church at the detention center, I was also able to begin connecting with students and staff at the different schools we are present at. One of the schools that will be one of my main ministries is an alternative school in Moorhead (just outside of Fargo). Every Friday morning, students can choose to take a bus from their school with us over to a local church here in Fargo where we provide a one hour program for them. I'm so excited to get to know the students and to see how God will use our time together.



Today I'm actually meeting with the principal of the school to talk about other opportunities to meet the needs of the school, grow community and encourage parent involvement.

This is just the beginning and I already feel so grateful for the privilege to be a part of what God is doing here in Fargo.

Jesus chose to insert himself into our broken world. He sacrificed comfort and left glory to live among sinners... and ultimately save us. He did not expect those who were too crippled, ashamed, sick, and hurting to find him... He went to where they were... He met them where they were at.

There are many teenagers that I pray will encounter Jesus.

P R A Y E R

- Pray for our ministry at Liberty Middle School. The principal has given us the incredible opportunity to meet with students during 6th period... 5 days a week! The launch of this is currently on hold due to a teacher shortage so please be praying for provision for the needs of the school and that we will be able to start our program there soon.
- Pray for my financial monthly support goal of \$1500/month.
- Pray for overall health and recovery. Sean recently had knee surgery and I have been dealing with headaches.

As we enter the Christmas season, 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 please prayerfully consider making a financial year-end gift and investing into the lives of teens? Gifts can be mailed in the enclosed envelope or you can give online by going to www.redriveryfc.com and clicking on the "Donate" button at the top of the page. Select the "Give Online" tab which will take you to the donations page. Click on the "Select Fund" scroll down menu and select "DN" for my initials. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be sent if you include your mailing address.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement which makes it possible for me to step into the ministry God has led me to. I pray that as you reflect on the birth of Jesus that His presence of peace, comfort, and hope would enter into whatever season you may find yourselves in.

On November 18th, we had our fall fundraiser "Concert For A Cause" with artist Jonathan Traylor.



It was a night of worship open to our community where we shared all God is doing in our ministry along with a testimony from one of the youth.

We ended an amazing night with a photo with the band. I feel so blessed to be a part of this team that God has put together! (Left to middle: me, Paige, Danielle; center: Greg; far right to middle: Tim, Will)



Merry Christmas!