

## DEAR FAMILY & FRIENDS,

So here we are... 2023! I'm four months deep into full time ministry and it's amazing to think of all God has been doing. It's still winter here, but the wonder is gone (ha). Sean and I have spent the past few icy months indoors... watching our sweet puppy grow, working in the basement (Sean), and recovering from various illnesses (me).

Sean is pumped to be able to run again after his recovery from knee surgery at the end of last year. I've been desiring to get back into reading and have been in the process of adding books to my amazon cart. Reading is a way to experience rest for me and is a nice alternative to mindless scrolling on my phone.

True rest is not hitting the pause button on life so we can hit the power button on the remote. It is communion with God. It's reconnecting with our deepest purpose in life, refocusing, repenting, and returning to the status of belonging as the children of God. Sounds refreshing right?

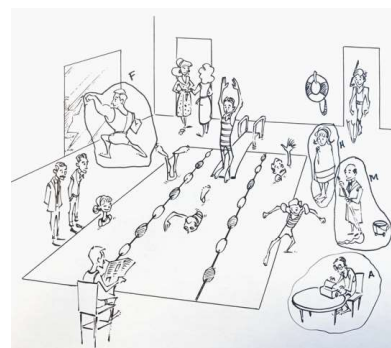
My hope and prayer for this year is to live toward the reality of heaven-- storing up treasure where moths and rust can't destroy, finding joy in what God is preparing, and being committed to do my part for His glory.

## h e y , I ' m h e r e

These past few months I've seen God work through faithfulness and consistency. I've been reminded that availability is a platform for which God can unfold His grace. Little did I know that I'd sit next to a girl in the detention center who would ask me if I could show her how to know Jesus and then later invite Him into her life. When we show up for God... He meets us. It's as simple as that.

This month we started providing and serving breakfast at Moorhead ALC to the students and staff. We will be planning to do this once every month as a way to connect with more students and partner with the school. I've been able to meet more students during this time and invite them to our program. Two weeks ago, four of the new girls I met came to our program at Bethel. It happened to be the week we shared the gospel message.

We are now six adult volunteers strong for our program, which gives us the ability to have a small group leader at every table during discussion time. We're currently going through a video series called Alpha with the students and have been exploring questions they have about God. The students have had many questions concerning God with some expressing a desire to go deeper. The majority of these teens are unchurched or have rejected God out of their own pain.



A picture where students in a small group circled which character they identify with if the pool represents a relationship with God.

What I love most about ministry is the relationships that form and deepen over time. After a few months of building familiarity and consistency, I've gotten closer to several girls at the school and our other ministry sites. They've opened up about their lives- whether it be fear of being in a relationship, a dad who is dying, an abusive father or tough experiences at a previous school. I am hoping to begin a bible study next fall with some of the girls.

I'm learning to not become attached to my own goals or expectations, but instead, to be led moment by moment by His leading. Ministry is constantly surprising in both good and hard ways, but I continue to see God's hand in it all!

## prayer

God answered your prayers for our ministry at Liberty Middle School to begin! Not only were we able to begin meeting with students, but we were given extra students!

My migraines have been resolved and Sean has recovered well from knee surgery. .. thank God!

Pray for God's leading and work in discipleship with a girl I meet with regularly at the detention center who recently invited Jesus into her life.

Pray for God's protection over my marriage as the enemy would love to attack it.

Pray for more opportunities to share with our community about our ministry.

Sean and I want to say thank you for your prayers, partnership, and encouraging words over the past few months! God has provided \$335 of monthly support and \$4,063.75 in one time donations. My goal is to reach \$1,500 of monthly support. I ask that you would prayerfully consider joining me as a monthly donor and invest in the work God is doing in the lives of youth. Donations can be given online at:

<https://redriveryouthforchrist.givingfuel.com/giving> and selecting the "DN" option or through the enclosed envelope.

Blessings,

*Sean, Deb, and Fishstick*

Follow our blog to read more of what's happening in our ministry:  
[www.redriveryfc.com/stories/#blog](http://www.redriveryfc.com/stories/#blog)

