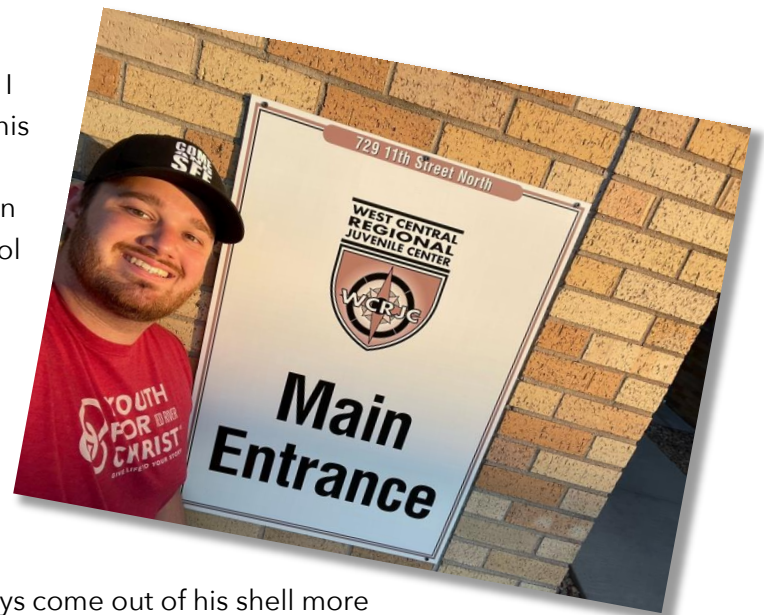


Dear Friends and Family,

Life has FLOWN by the last couple of months. I have been at Youth for Christ for a little over two months now, and it's becoming less and less like a job and more and more like a calling. The people I work with bring so much joy, laughter, and wisdom. I am beyond blessed to be working with the team here at Red River Youth for Christ.

Distance has not been a fan favorite of Carmen nor I, but the wedding is less than thirty days away, and we're both excited to have no more wedding planning, as well as finally be able to start our life journey together! I have been attending Harvest Valley Church for the last couple of weeks, and Carmen and I both have a good feeling about them. They are so warm and welcoming and make the church feel like a second home which is really important.

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.

I have also been working nights at Chick-Fil-A for about two months as well. That has brought opportunities to build community as well as share the love of Jesus. I believe that God has placed me at Chick-Fil-A for this short season as a way to connect with more people and use me to

minister. While working one Saturday night, a boy came in with some friends, and he was from Dakota High School. Dakota is where we minister and feed them lunch and hang out with them on their lunch break once a week. I got the opportunity to give them their food and was able to have some conversation with him. I don't think it was a coincidence that he came in while I was working. I believe God is beginning to prepare the soil for seeds to be planted.

I'm learning that it's the little things in life that really mean so much to these kids. Just remembering their name or maybe even a few facts about them goes a long way. It shows them that I want to invest in them, not just show up because it is my job. While I am being used to help reach lost kids in the Fargo-Moorhead area, I can already see God reaching me and growing me during the mundane of life.

As life has gone on, there are some things Carmen and I would like for you to be praying for us. Firstly, that the wedding planning and distance go by fast as we await our wedding date (23 more days at the time of me writing this). Secondly, for Carmen's transition to North Dakota. I know it will be hard to leave friends and family so please pray that the adjustment would come quickly and for opportunities to connect with new people here. Thirdly, if Harvest Valley is the church God desires us to attend, for us to feel peace in that decision. For me, as I'm still learning and growing in the ministry, that I would continue to be used by God in his ways and timing and not my own. Lastly, for this Ministry as we are reaching out and meeting with a middle school about the possibility of me ministering there this fall. It would be a new ministry site and one that they have been looking at for a while. Pray too for all the many possibilities of growth in another area of youth in the area.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has generously given towards my ministry here at Youth for Christ. Currently, I have \$950 per month committed to my \$1,500 per month goal. People have also been very generous with one-time gifts of \$5,878. I am blown away by your generosity. During times of uncertainty and today's climate, it means so much to me that you would consider Youth for Christ worthy of your gifts. Please continue to consider joining me as a Monthly partner as God leads you. Donations can be given online at <https://redriveryouthforchrist.givingfuel.com/giving>, selecting the option "WL" or through the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for being a part of Carmen's and my life. Each of you means so much to us and your love, prayers, and support are what allow us to follow God's leading in this next chapter of our lives together.

William Lawyer
Youth for Christ Ministry Staff