

This Summer has FLOWN by! It didn't really hit me that Summer was over until I stepped outside one morning and, with a bit of a chill going over me and realized it was in the 50s. Now I know what you're thinking right now. If he has a chill when it's in the '50s, how will he handle the temperature when it's in the -50s? Well, you're right. I don't know either. However, this leap was made out of faith and obedience, and God will be faithful in keeping Carmen and me warm.

Youth for Christ's biggest fundraiser of the year is our six weeks of fruit sales. We start with a couple of weeks of peaches from Georgia, three Weeks of peaches from Colorado, and finish with a week of Nectarines and pears from Washington. Going into this, I was told by different co-workers, as well as volunteers, about all of the crazy stories and how crazy people go for the peaches from Colorado. I honestly just laughed on the inside and just thought, "there's no way a peach can be this popular." BOY, was I wrong! The first week of Georgia peaches had come, and I was amazed at the number of people who would drive up to our stand and instantly leave when we told them the peaches were from Georgia and not Colorado. A couple of weeks later (with a wedding and honeymoon in between), the first Colorado Week was upon us. As we set up our spot in the parking lot and began to unload some boxes from the truck, I felt like I was preparing for a game. Crowds of people were flocking on all sides, and a line was stretched across the parking lot. Very quickly, my demeanor needed to change from relaxed to "I better start stretching because it's game time." One thousand six hundred boxes were sold that day, and the "Legend of the Colorado peach" was no longer a fairy tale in my head but very much a reality as I woke up sorer than I had in a very long time the next morning. The fruit weeks may have been long days, but I really believe my relationships with co-workers and volunteers grew as we talked, laughed, and of course, played board games when it was a bit slower.



Now that school has started, I am so excited about all of the things happening with Youth for Christ. We started our lunches with the alternative school once a week again (Dakota High School). At Dakota, I play basketball and build relationships with the boys two days a week. We also have added a new ministry site at Liberty Middle School (Where Carmen happens to work). We are going to be helping and building relationships with kids during their lunch/recess time on Thursdays & Fridays, and we are going to be starting a mentor program after school on Tuesdays & Thursdays. This could include helping kids who struggle with homework, behavior, or life in general. We also will also be partnering with FCA with a Bible Study during the week.

Things at the Detention Center are still flying at full speed, even with everything else starting up. We are doing church with the kids every Wednesday with two different pods. Currently, YFC runs a girls' Bible study on Wednesday afternoons, a Bible study with the kids in Non-Secure on Thursdays, and I will be starting a boys' Bible study once a week with either the treatment or secure boys. I continue to be challenged and grown by the kids at the Detention Center with their questions and thoughts. It's honestly refreshing to hear answers that aren't from the "American Church" and to have people who aren't afraid to ask the "hard or dumb" question. This past week we talked about Jesus flipping tables at the Temple before being crucified. One of the boys explained that because Jesus showed anger, he wasn't perfect. This led to a great conversation on how righteous anger is ok, emotions are valid, but it's what you do with those emotions that aren't perfect. These kids are definitely searching for comfort and consistency from something.



As I finish this letter, I have a few prayer requests to share, as well as some answered prayers along the way (we'll start with those first). Carmen and I have found a Church we have been attending regularly and have started volunteering and using our gifts. Another answer to prayer is that we have started attending a life group in the church, which has led to some blossoming relationships.

As for prayer requests, please pray for this ministry as we are growing with ministry opportunities and trying to grow our team. Pray for the right people to be put in our path along the way and for the right ministry opportunities to be shown to us. One specific way you can pray for us has to do with YFC looking to find a like-minded ministry partner in Minneapolis. Many of the kids we work with come from the cities which are 3.5 hours away. It's quite a ways outside of our area, so we are looking for a partner to be able to hand them off to when they leave detention. On a personal note, I ask for prayer for the distance between friends and family. While Fargo is beginning to feel like home, we still ache to see friends and family. Finally, pray for Carmen and me, as we are still learning about each other and adjusting to the early stages of marriage. I can't tell you how much it means to us to know that we have such an amazing prayer support team behind us as we follow God on this journey.

I want to give a HUGE thank you to anyone who has supported us during this journey. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to my ministry here at Youth for Christ. Currently, I have \$995 per month committed to my \$1,500 per month goal. People have also been very generous with one-time gifts of \$6,167. 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.

Personally,