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Summer Newsletter

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Summer 2023

# STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It's summer, and another school year is done. It's hard to believe how fast it has gone.

I am so excited that we get to share this newsletter with you. It has been an amazing year of ministry, and I hope that is reflected in the pages you read. This season has been the highlight of my fifteen years of ministry at YFC. I am so excited!

Yesterday we met with the principal and one of the vice principals at Liberty Middle School. We reflected on the year and looked ahead to the fall. They were so happy with what we did there this past year and have opened the door even wider to us in the fall. It was amazing that we were given the last period of the day, 5 days a week this past year. This fall, we can be there almost any time during the day and week we want to, to work with kids. Wow!

Another new opening has been with Moorhead Alternative Learning Center. This summer, they invited us to be a part of their summer school. We have committed to helping them with two different sessions at least once per week.

Watching God open doors and see Him use us has been so much fun. Project Serve, our ministry to encourage teachers and staff, went so well as

the school year ended, and they were so appreciative of being recognized. More kids want to continue their relationship with us over the summer than ever before. Ministry at the detention center is full steam ahead in every pod 5-6 days a week.

Thank you for praying for us, and thank you for your generosity. Your partnership is what God uses to keep this ministry moving forward. It is making a difference, and God is using you in this ministry. As this fiscal year ends, please pray for us, and if you can, consider giving to YFC. Giving has been down about \$20,000 this year. We have had money in savings to cover this, but it is tight. Normally we have peaches in June and July, but the way crops are ripening, it looks like it will be August before they arrive. This is God's ministry, and we are trusting Him for this, but as partners in ministry, it is important we make you aware.

Something I am very excited about for September is that we will be hosting a night for the community in partnership with Bethel Church and Life 97. On September 25th, we are bringing in Dr. Kevin Lehman. The topic will be Understanding, Loving, and Leading the Next Generation. It will be a night for anyone who

works with or loves kids. The dream is that teachers, youth workers, parents, grandparents...anyone...could walk away from the night knowing how to better understand, love, and lead the students in their lives. All our kids win that way. Tickets will be \$10, with more details to follow, but we will also be looking for people willing to help sponsor tickets for teachers and staff at our local schools. If that interests you, you can contact me at gregeverett@redriveryfc.com.

Finally, Concert for a Cause is set for November 17th, and this year it will feature Blanca. We are so excited to share this night with you, share what God is doing, and enjoy some great music. Tickets go on sale in September, but you can now find sponsorship opportunities on our website. This is a great opportunity for you and/or your business to get your name out in the community and support YFC.

You are so loved by this ministry. Thank you for being a part of it!



Greg Everett  
Executive Director

**NOVEMBER 17, 2023**  
**BETHEL CHURCH**  
**7:00-9:00 PM**

TICKETS ON SALE IN SEPT  
DETAILS INSIDE

PRESENTED BY



**THIS COULD BE YOU!**  
**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**  
**AVAILABLE**



**SAVE THE DATE**

Concert for a Cause Featuring

*Blanca*







Presents  
**UNDERSTANDING, LOVING AND LEADING**  
THE NEXT GENERATION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 - 7 PM - BETHEL CHURCH, FARGO



WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**DR. KEVIN LEHMAN**

Dr. Kevin Lehman has been featured on FOX's The Morning Show, Today, CBS's The Early Show, CNN, Focus on the Family, and Oprah, and he is a former consulting psychologist to Good Morning America. Dr. Lehman frequently speaks to schools, CEO groups, businesses including Fortune 500 companies, and has authored over 60 books.

**TICKETS: \$10**  
MORE INFO AND TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.REDRIVERYFC.COM](http://WWW.REDRIVERYFC.COM)



**The Story of Joseph**

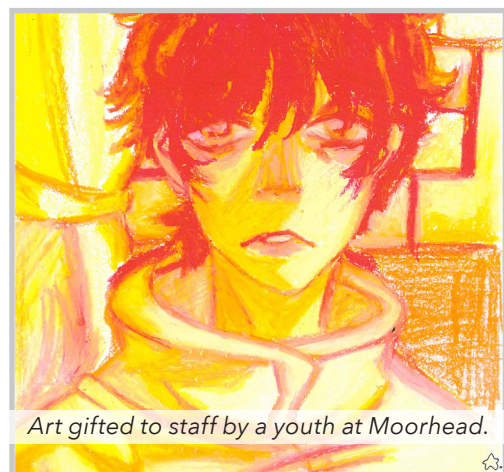
Deb and I went in for Bible study with the kids in the Non-Secure pods one Friday. While there, we covered the topic of perseverance. We used part of Joseph's story, how he was sold into slavery by his brothers, as well as when Potiphar's wife tried to lure Joseph. After finishing up what we had planned, we asked the girls if they knew Joseph's story before he got sold into slavery and after the incident with Potiphar's wife. Deb and I were both taken back after hearing these three girls filling in the story of Joseph. They knew it so well that they were explaining what the dreams meant in detail, and how Joseph was forgotten in jail for years before he was released. It was so amazing to see these girls quote Scripture, it was also a learning moment for me not to put judgment on how much these kids can know. I think at times I can put limitations on the kids with how much they know due to their situations. But I've come to realize it's not the kid I'm limiting, it's God. Time and time again they exceed my limitations, and I am so grateful for God humbling me in these situations, it's such a blessing! ~William Lawyer



Only photo from our June staff retreat & it's this awkward one & we're still missing Kim.



Staff Deb took these two girls hiking this summer for their first time. We love introducing kids to new adventures.



Art gifted to staff by a youth at Moorhead.

**Car Ride Conversations**

I had the opportunity to take 2 senior girls that I've been building a relationship with on a hike a couple weeks ago. During the car ride, the topics of security and identity came up. I asked the girls if they believed having a relationship with God helps with insecurities. While processing through the question, one of the girls started sharing about what God means to her. Her mom died when she was 12 years old of pneumonia and she has struggled with God ever since. She shared that even though she doesn't understand why God allowed her mom to die, she still loves Him. She mentioned that God and one other person was all she needed to get through life. I was so encouraged as I hiked with these two girls and listened to them share about how they want to learn more about God. I'm beyond excited to begin doing a bible study with them this fall and to come alongside them as they grow into young women. ~Deb Napton

**"I like the verse about the girl that laughs at the future."**

One girl at the Juvenile Center said referencing Proverbs 31:25 as her favorite verse.



**Prom Fun**

Staff Deb and Danielle and ministry teammate Kayla hosted a prom dinner and photo shoot at Danielle's home. This group of students went without dates and our team had a blast celebrating and serving them "delightful" food. One of the girls exclaimed that the salad was the "best she had ever eaten in her life"... which was telling since it was simply a salad kit from a store. During dinner, none of the girls were on their phones, but all engaged in conversation. It was so fun to have a family meal and celebrate these girls.

**Aren't We Going to Pray?**

Sue and I visited the secure girls pod at the juvenile center on Saturday. This is a two-hour period where we just visit with the girls, do crafts, or play games. There is no bible study topic and no prayer request time, just a visit to get to know the girls and let them talk about whatever is on their mind. One of the girls who was visiting with us that day had just recently entered the juvenile center and had attended our bible study the previous day. As we were packing up our supplies to leave, she looked startled and asked, "Wait! Aren't we going to pray before you leave?" Another girl popped up out of her seat and offered to lead everyone in The Lord's Prayer. She had a bookmark with the prayer on it and had taped it to the door to her room. The girls all joined in to pray along and gushed their thanks to us for our visit. ~Kim Danielson

**Our Mission**

YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and commitment to social involvement.

YFC provides a safe and friendly place to learn leadership skills, to think about important issues, and to develop quality relationships with peers and with caring adults.

**YFC's 5 Ministry Essentials:**

-  WIDESPREAD PRAYER
-  FAITHFUL BIBLE TEACHING
-  LOVING RELATIONSHIPS
-  ADULTS WHO EMPOWER
-  COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

**RRYFC Staff**




Greg Everett  
Danielle Beyer  
William Lawyer  
Tim Brown  
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## What Does that Mean?

Here are a list of popular words teens are using and how our teens explain them. We don't recommend using them, but hopefully this will help you better understand the teens in your life.

- **Whip:** Typically, referring to their car or ride sometimes followed by a driving hand gesture.
- **Parentification:** Being forced into a parental role as an adolescent or "too young." Having to care for younger siblings.
- **No Cap:** No lie or for real.
- **Rizz:** Charisma, someone's ability to flirt, charming.
- **Slay:** Succeed, killed it, or something amazing.



## Project Serve

Something that God has put on our hearts is the desire not only to be an encouragement to our students but to be one to our teachers and administrators as well. With that in mind, we have decided to launch something we are calling, "Project Serve." It will be a ministry to our teachers and administration as a way to say, "What you are doing is important, and we are so thankful for you!"

We completed 3 project serve lunch events for teachers, staff, and administration at two of the alternative high schools and the middle school we serve. These events were a great blessing to the teams and another opportunity to get to know teachers on a deeper level. We look forward to continuing this program and finding creative ways to give back to teachers, staff, and administration.

## From Challenge To Scripture Memorization

I had three girls in Non-Secure who did really well with memorization. I challenged them to memorize the books of the Bible for a snack of their choice (Fyunys, Taki's, or popcorn are their three faves and the options they could choose from). I had them say the books to me on two separate occasions to really test if they knew them. After that, they liked the challenge and asked what was next. The first thing that popped into my head was Psalm 23. By the next week they had that memorized! I gave them another chunk from Psalms, and they memorized that. After that I began challenging them to pick out their own verses and memorize them. They do really well with the weekly memory verse, so I challenged them to memorize 5-6+ verse chunks of scripture. One week one of the girls was struggling to memorize the passage she chose, so I helped her make actions to help her remember. This continued week after week. Recently one of the girls left, but the other two still show up with their Scripture memorized. Last week I got a little teary eyed as the two kids helped each other with gestures and encouraged each other as they recited the passage. They had it down word for word and I was so proud and encouraged by them. It warms my heart to see them be so supportive and dig into Scripture. ~Danielle Beyer

## "What's for good food Wednesday?"

A young man asked us this spring at Dakota HS. Many of the teens are so thankful for a hot meal, this is what they nicknamed Wednesdays.

## All Rise Workshop

Deb, Sue, and I had the opportunity to attend the All Rise Community Workshop held locally in April. Many local organizations that are active with justice-involved women in the community were in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and hear about what the biggest roadblocks are for women returning to the community after incarceration. In many cases, the teens we work with face some of these same problems with finding housing, finding a job, and completing their education. There are many reasons that drive people to committing a crime and sometimes it is desperation, which doesn't go away after they are released. Please keep these women and young people in your prayers.



## The Story Behind the White Shoes

We took students from Moorhead in our release program to a park for their last day of school. We all had a blast playing games and enjoying the sunshine. During one of the games, one of the students got her new, white tennis shoes dirty which caused her to have a melt down and walk away from the group. Her boyfriend helped her clean off her shoes and she rejoined the game. A few days later I was in a meeting with Amy, the homeless advocate at Moorhead and learned more about this girl's story. She has been displaced since she was 12 years old and is now 18 years old waiting for housing. As I thought about the incident with her shoes, it hit me that a new pair of shoes to her probably means the world for someone who has very little.

This girl has attended our program throughout the whole year, but has talked very little. I didn't know she was without a home entirely. Amy shared with me that a lot of youth who are displaced are difficult to identify because they won't outright share about their situations. I learned that our program means a great deal to this girl and how she was so afraid she would miss going to the park with us because of needing to get an Uber for transportation.

Though it is heartbreaking when we find out the stories of these students, I'm encouraged that God has placed us in their lives, even if for a short time, to be an expression of His love. We may not be able to fix their situations, but we can give them the love of Jesus. ~Deb Napton

## "I tried reading Genizize (Genesis), but I got bored"

A young person responded to a question if they had ever read the Bible and how it went.



## Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people on Giving Hearts Day. Because of your generosity, we not only met our match, but raised a total of \$52,328! You truly have made a difference and we are so excited to continue to share with you through updates, like those found in this newsletter, how God is using your gifts and this ministry to bring hope and help to teens.

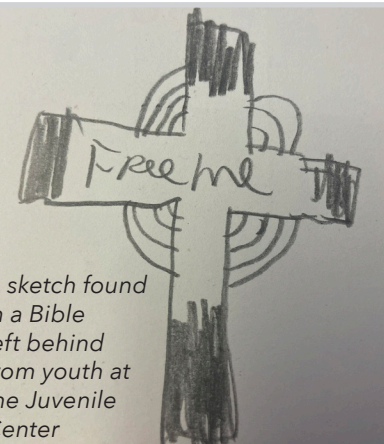
## Volunteer Paige

In April, we said "see you later" to part-time staff Paige Rockensock locally. Paige and her husband moved to Park Rapids, Minnesota, to take over his family's construction business. While she is no longer part-time with us, she has offered to stay on as a volunteer and continue our e-news and prayer team emails for the summer or until we can find a replacement. We're so thankful for Paige and while she is greatly missed, we wish her and her husband well on this new endeavor.



## I Want to Pray

While at church a couple of weeks ago in the boys' secure pod, I asked if anybody wanted to close in prayer. After a little silence, a center staff member spoke up and said he would love to pray for the kids. It was so cool to see God use a staff member to care for more than just these kids' physical needs, but also their spiritual needs. ~William Lawyer



A sketch found in a Bible left behind from youth at the Juvenile Center





**SAVE THE DATE**

Concert for a Cause

Featuring

*Blanca*

**NOVEMBER 17, 2023**

BETHEL CHURCH FARGO  
2702 30TH AVE S, FARGO, ND 58103

**7:00-9:00 PM**

(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM)

Tickets Available in September

**General Admission \$10**



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**THIS COULD BE YOU!**  
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AVAILABLE

\*Sponsorship opportunities still available on our website.\*

**"Who was David's wife?"**

A girl asked while reading 2 Samuel's account of David and Bathsheba.

**Following the Crowd**

While in the detention center for Bible study, the kids got to go to the gym to learn from a few nursing students about various topics. They said I could follow them instead of waiting in the pod by myself. There were three different stations set up (which was normal). However, there was something that wasn't normal that stood out to me. All the boys except one stayed in the one big group, and because of timing, only could make it to two of the booths. When we returned to the pod I asked them what their favorite station was. Without hesitation they grumbled they didn't have a chance to get to all of them. It made me realize this is the type of behavior that got them here in the first place. These kids will just follow a crowd and won't make decisions for themselves. This gets them involved in things they shouldn't be and make choices they later regret. So this brings the question, "How can we as Christians get them to follow Jesus instead of the sin surrounding them?" ~William Lawyer

**"...and that's all, Amen"**

A girl sweetly ended her prayer one night closing church service at the Juvenile Center.



**Practical Needs - Low On Snacks**

Our snack supply is running out, and we could use your help restocking. Snacks are used as rewards for scripture memorization, prizes for games, and simply feeding ever-growing teens.

- Boxes of individually packaged chips
- Cases of bottled water
- Cases of juice boxes, bottled juice, or sports drink
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars
- Any kind of pre-packed, or individually packaged snacks
- Disinfectant wipes
- Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682

We also take gift cards to Walmart, Sam's, Costco, & Target if you would rather save the shopping for us.

Highlighted dates indicate fruit weeks.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Aug 2023	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sept 2023	27	28	29	30	31		
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

\*\*Pick up times can change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please include all contact info, check Facebook, & visit our website for any changes.

**Ready...Set...Peaches**

Every summer, Youth for Christ brings in fresh, tree-ripened peaches, nectarines, pears, and fresh Georgia pecans as a fundraiser to help support our ministry with teens.

We need volunteers to help make this fundraiser possible. We have several shifts available throughout the week for various jobs such as running the cash registers, carrying boxes for customers, and unloading cases of

fruit from the truck. It's outside, during the summer, and lots of fun! This is the perfect opportunity for small groups, churches, businesses, and friends. If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping with this, please sign up or pass this along or both. The sign-up can be found on our website under events or at: [www.redriveryfc.com/event/peaches/](http://www.redriveryfc.com/event/peaches/)

See our website for more information about this fundraiser or to order.

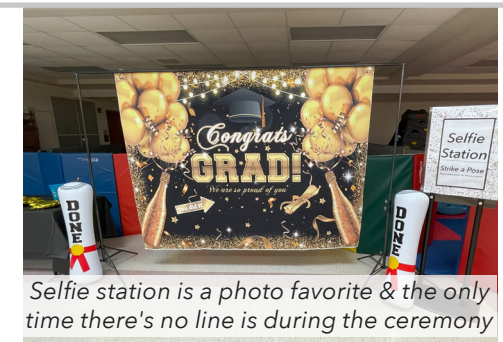
**Teach Me About Prayer**

For the past six months I've had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with "C" in the detention center. "C" is a 14 year old girl who I had the privilege of leading to Jesus in one of the visitor rooms shortly after the first time I met her during a Bible study in the center. The day before she was released, we were hanging out in a visitor's room and I asked her if she had any prayer requests. Several weeks prior, "C" had asked if I could teach her about prayer. We had been praying together ever since and I would always ask her what she specifically wanted to pray about. On this particular day she had replied that she had nothing to pray about because everything was going well. She knew she was leaving to live with a foster family that truly cared about her. I took the opportunity to encourage her to use the time to say a prayer of thanks to God... the kind of prayer I had yet to hear her pray. She then proceeded to pray the most beautiful prayer thanking God for showing her that there were people who loved her because she had begun to believe there wasn't anyone. Her words were sincere and from the heart and I was so blessed to witness how her prayer life has deepened.

I was able to be at the detention center to say goodbye the morning she was released and hope to hear from her soon and visit with her. I saw God work in her heart and reveal Himself to her and I know He will finish the work He has begun in her! ~Deb Napton



Every year we have the opportunity to host a graduation celebration for the students of Dakota HS (formally Woodrow Wilson HS). This celebration follows the ceremony and allows many of these kids who don't have graduation parties of their own, an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments with their friends and family. We are so thankful for all who donate to make this event possible: Morning Glory (Christine, ND), Sandy's Donuts, Dip-N-Dots, and so many more volunteers and supporters.



Selfie station is a photo favorite & the only time there's no line is during the ceremony



So proud to share the joy in celebrating our young friends' accomplishments!