

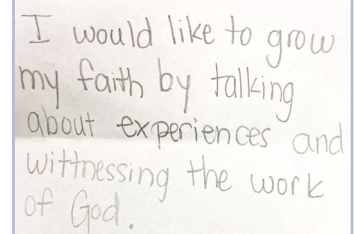
December 1st, 2023

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! I am so thankful for all of you and your impact on this ministry. You are helping to bring hope to so many teens. Christmas is my favorite time of year, but amid all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season, let's not forget what Christmas is all about. Jesus coming to earth, so lives like yours, mine, and the many kids we work with could be changed.

What a year it has been! God has been up to a lot, and I hope to give you a taste of it so we all can celebrate.

Last year, we started at Liberty Middle School working with kids in the last period of the day, five days a week. This year, the door has opened wider, and we are there four days a week at different times of the day, working with 12 sixth and seventh graders who need a loving adult to walk alongside them. We are running two lunch groups for kids who are struggling. Will had the opportunity to coach football this fall, and on Thursday mornings, he and Deb are running a Bible Study. On the first day of Bible Study, the kids were asked what they hope for this year. One young lady, a sixth grader, wrote this:



I would like to grow my faith by talking about experiences and witnessing the work of God.

Things at the detention center continue non-stop. We are in all sections of the detention center and have real favor there, so much so that if other groups want to enter the center, they tell them to go through us. It's wild. This year, we have seen a lot of overlap with kids from other areas of our ministry ending up in the detention center. It makes us sad to see, but God is working in these kids' lives. If there is one thing I would ask you to pray for, I would describe it in one word: CHAOS. We are seeing so much more of that. The center is struggling with staffing, and there seems to be more fighting going on, which means pods are separated more, which means there are kids we don't get to see as regularly. I also believe the chaos is a spiritual issue because the chaos keeps kids from hearing about Jesus. So please pray for that.

God has been moving mightily at Moorhead Alternative Learning Center this year. We are seeing kids so hungry for God. Deb just recently started a Wednesday Bible study with some kids, but now it's growing so much that some kids are asking for another one that's a little smaller so they can go deeper. A couple of weeks ago, a young lady who we suspect is Muslim and very clearly has said she doesn't believe Jesus is the Son of God showed up to the study. God is drawing kids.

One more story that I believe illustrates how God is working this year. A young lady from one of the alternative schools was physically attacked twice at school by another girl. This young lady had her part to play in this by not just walking away and ended up getting suspended for a few days. The following week, Deb followed up with her to see how she was doing, and she was very open with her. She shared that during one of the suspension days, she decided to have a self-care day and did her hair, but she also opened up and read her Bible. Here's the cool thing. God led her to read about praying for her enemies, and she decided to do just that. She started praying for the girl who jumped her. She texted her and said she was open to talking, but she would not fight. She was remorseful for what she had done. Relationships are being healed between kids. These are the things God is doing as He is drawing these kids to Himself.

We feel so blessed to be able to work with the kids we do, and God keeps opening up mind-boggling opportunities. I am so excited about what God has in store for YFC's future and so excited to be able to tell you that you have a chance to partner in stories like these. These stories would not have happened unless people like you gave to this ministry.

When I think about all of you who help make the many aspects of this ministry happen, I am overwhelmed. We are so blessed to have faithful partners like you who help us reach teens through your support and prayers. Who makes it possible to bring hot meals to kids who need them. Who makes it possible to go into the

detention center multiple times a week and walk alongside kids whose only hope is Jesus, and who helps us get God's word into the hands of kids who are desperate for it. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

It costs approximately \$650 per day between ministry expenses, transportation, office expenses, and staffing for this ministry to operate. About a third comes from our fruit sales, and the rest comes from the goodness and generosity of people, businesses, and churches like you. We could not do what we do without it. This past year, giving has been down, but we did have some savings to help us. Georgia losing its peach crop hurt us this summer, and they also lost their mandarin orange crop, which means we don't have that this Christmas. We did have our Colorado peaches, but the loss of Georgia meant we headed into this fall \$21,000 behind.

As this year ends and we get ready to start a new one, I ask you to consider making a special year-end gift to Red River Youth for Christ. We cannot accomplish this ministry without your help. Your gifts will help staff continue to walk alongside kids and show up for them. Your generosity will provide safe places for students to ask their tough questions, connect to God's story, and allow them to be radically loved. Your investment in their lives will pay off, not only today, but can pay dividends for eternity. You can mail your gift in the enclosed envelope or give it online by going to [www.redriveryfc.com](http://www.redriveryfc.com) and clicking the "Give to YFC" link at the top. If you want to donate stock or crypto, contact us, and we can help you.

We are grateful for your dedication to sharing the true Gift of Christmas with this generation. As a partner in the ministries of RRYFC, you are a vital part of every ministry's success in reaching young people and their families. We hope your Christmas season is a rich and meaningful celebration of the birth of our Savior.

On behalf of all of us here at Red River Youth for Christ and each student we work with...Thank you for your generosity.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



*Concert for a Cause 2023*

Greg Everett  
Executive Director

P.S. We cannot wait to be able to share with you how your financial gift impacts the lives of our amazing kids in the new year!

Let me encourage you to go to <https://redriveryfc.com/stories/> to watch Blake's story and hear from some of our kids what YFC means to them.

