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Summer Newsletter

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Summer 2024 STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Summer is beginning, which means a new newsletter to share with you the amazing things God has been doing these past few months. It's hard to believe that school is over and that we are just days away from peaches starting on June 18th. We are so excited that Georgia is back and thank God for his provision.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope that it provides many opportunities to witness the transformative power of God's work in the lives of these kids. Their stories, filled with hope and resilience, are a testament to the importance of our mission. I also hope that you see the passion and dedication our staff and volunteers have for these kids. Many of these kids are ones that others have given up on, but I am so glad that God hasn't!

So, let me catch you up on a few things...

We are incredibly grateful for your prayers and support as we have looked for new office space. God has answered prayer! With your help, we have found a new space. We expect to move sometime after July 15th, a transition period between Georgia peaches and the start of Colorado peaches. We'll update you on our new address when it is final.

Please also pray for Danielle, as her little girl is due to be born in July. Pray that both Danielle and the baby will be healthy. It will mean a lot of change for her and Cody, but they are very excited. Please also pray for us, as we will miss her like crazy as we navigate the move, peaches, and enter a new ministry season without her for a time.

We continue to look for new staff. This is a crucial hiring process for us, and we need your prayers and support. We are looking for someone or two who is sold out for Jesus and sees working with teens as a calling. This combination is a lot harder to find than you might think, but it's essential for our ministry. Please also pray that God would provide the funds for these necessary hires.

We are so excited about this year's Concert for a Cause, and I encourage you to save the date, Friday night, November 15th. This year's night of worship will be led by Sean Curran, a worship leader with Passion. It will be a night to celebrate what God has been and is doing in students' lives, and as we worship, God gets all the glory. There are still sponsor opportunities, and we'd love to have you or your business as part of the team. It's a great way to show

the community your support for teens and a great way to get your name in front of people.

On a personal note, we just graduated our last this past month. He plans to go to the University of Northern Colorado for Theatre Education, so working with him through that transition is another prayer request. We are working through the financial offer, making an appeal with the school, and hoping for the best. I'd appreciate your prayers for my wife and me as we anticipate being empty nesters and for our son Max as this new chapter begins.

Once again, and I know I say it almost every time I close, but it is so true. As partners in this ministry, you are crucial to what we do. We could not do what we are doing without your prayers, financial support, volunteer time and encouragement. Thank you for partnering with this ministry and introducing so many young people to Jesus!



Greg Everett
Executive Director

Save the Date
Concert for a Cause
Night of Worship Featuring

SEAN CURRAN
PASSION Worship Leader

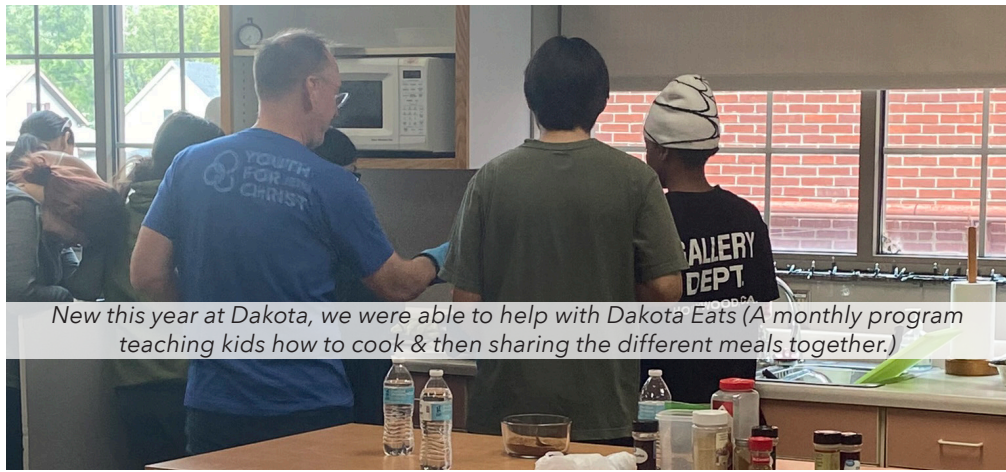
NOVEMBER 15, 2024
BETHEL CHURCH 7:00-9:00 PM

TICKETS ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER
EVENT DETAILS ON WEBSITE
www.redriveryfc.com/event/concert/

PRESENTED BY



THIS COULD BE YOU!
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



New this year at Dakota, we were able to help with Dakota Eats (A monthly program teaching kids how to cook & then sharing the different meals together.)



Cooking at Dakota Eats



Practical Needs

Here are some practical things we frequently use. Are you able to help supply these items?

- 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
- Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682

Pagan?

We have a girl who considers herself to be a pagan. (One of her parents is pagan, one is Christian.) She will always sit down with us during Bible study and church. She likes to read the Bible verses and answers all our follow-up and digging-deeper questions. It's rather an odd situation, but she says she is curious about religions and enjoys visiting with people about what their beliefs are. *-Kim Danielson*

"I'm sorry, Mom. I love you, but Youth For Christ is here. I have to go."

The closing of a phone call overheard at the detention center. This is significant as many times kids only get one call a day.

Pregnancy

Many of the kids are so fascinated with my pregnancy and ask all kinds of questions. While at first, I chuckled, now I've grown to see it as such a conversation starter and an opportunity to have all kinds of difficult conversations with kids. Many youth don't have a safe person to discuss whatever they want, no matter how uncomfortable the topic. I've definitely learned to be an open book and feel so honored that kids trust me enough as a safe place to ask anything. On a lighter note, here are some of my favorite questions I've been asked:

- *Can I call you after you have your baby to hold it? I've never held one.*
- *What happens if the baby starts coming out feet first? Do they push it back in and flip it around?*
- *Can I touch your belly when the baby starts moving? When will that be?*

It's also sparked conversations with the teen moms I've started connecting with. A lot of parents are given unsolicited advice, but not many are asked, "What's worked for you?" While sometimes it's humbling to listen to a much younger mom's advice, it's so life-giving for them. *-Danielle Beyer*



Giant Uno! Good luck hiding a hand this size



Good Clean Fun

At the detention center, with the guys' groups, as an attention grabber, Will and I found a game to start with. He asked for three volunteers and hands shot up. Will selected three residents and pulled three bowls and a giant bag of regular M&Ms from our bag. Instantly, chaos arose from the rest who didn't get selected or chose to volunteer. Will poured three small equal bowls. He said he was going to count down and it would be a race to see who could eat them the fastest. Excitement grew as he counted, "3, 2, wait, wait, wait. This is too easy. You can't use your hands, so everyone put your hands behind your back." Not fazed, the three placed their hands behind their backs as Will counted again, "3, 2, wait, wait, wait, this is still too easy." He then pulled a bottle of ketchup from the bag and began squirting a little over the top of each bowl. The room was in an uproar. There was a commotion of conversations between residents and staff with so many faces made. Will again counted down, this time making it to 1, and the kids began the race. We handed out treats to the winners that were deemed "worth it." With the first group, Will even tried a few in his own bowl, proving "It wasn't that bad." Sometimes just being silly and laughing together is so healthy and memorable. *-Danielle Beyer*

From Comfort Zone to Growth Zone

As the year came to an end, I challenged everyone at Liberty Bible Study to close in prayer at least once before the year ended. The first few weeks, there was lots of silence, and I would have to call on someone new to "get their week out of the way." However, in the last couple weeks of Bible study, some of the girls happily volunteered to close us out in prayer. It is always such a blessing to see God move in students' lives and get them out of their comfort zones and into their growth zones! *-William Lawyer*

Prayer Requests

Here are a few prayer requests from and for our youth:

- To have better days and keep my head up.
- To go home and that my family and friends stay safe. I'm tired of hearing all the time about someone dying.
- For my mental health.
- My mom and my brother.
- That I find a placement.
- That my pass goes good with my grandma and that my mom heals from chemo.

Our Mission

YFC radically loves and brings hope to teens by 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

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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.

- **Bruh:** Modern version of bro (*Most used word by kids at Liberty MS*)
- **Fax No Printer:** a strong sense of agreement, "That's the truth" or "You're absolutely right"
- **Rizzler:** someone exceptionally skilled at applying rizz; an expert seducer or charmer
- **Fanum Tax:** The theft of food between friends.
- **NPC (Non-Playable Character):** Someone who doesn't think for themselves or acts very predictably.



Giving Credit to God

I have seen good growth in both faith and trust from one of our Moorhead ALC young adults. In our last meeting, she was very open and positive about her relationship with and need for God. She gave Him praise for the positive growth in a peer relationship and keeping her focused on a brighter future. She was also very committed to fulfilling a debt and reached that goal.

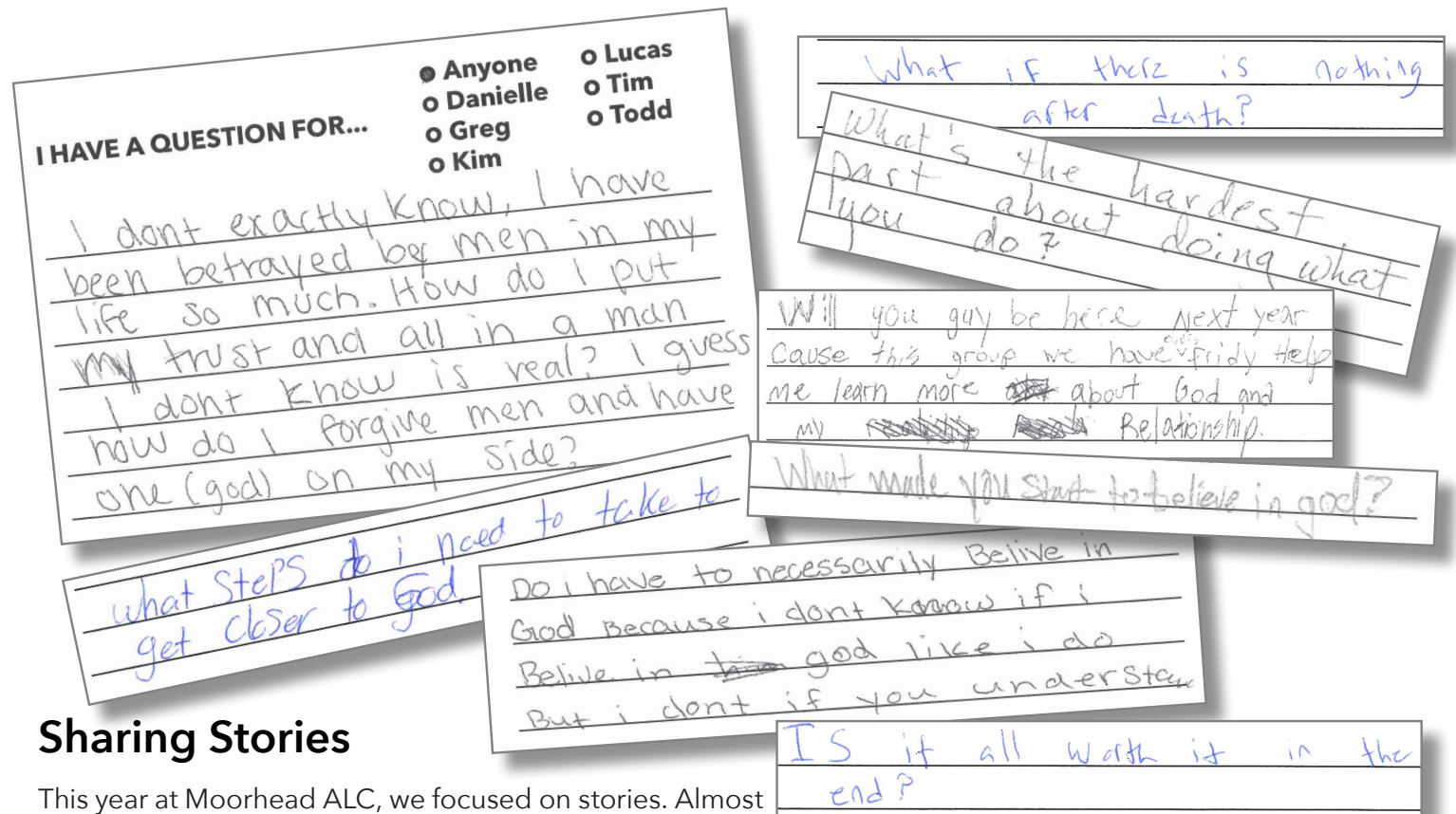
A wonderful thing to see is her willingness to accept a hand-up. She looks forward to the time in her life when she can pay it forward. God is doing mighty works. ~Sue Kressin



Your generosity raised \$60,365 on Giving Hearts Day, February 8th! Thank you for being a Giving Heart and making this our **best Giving Hearts Day EVER**. Also, Special thanks to Trap Hogs BBQ who helped provide this year's delicious YFC Meals to Go. **Thank you** for your support of this ministry through Giving Hearts Day!

Samson

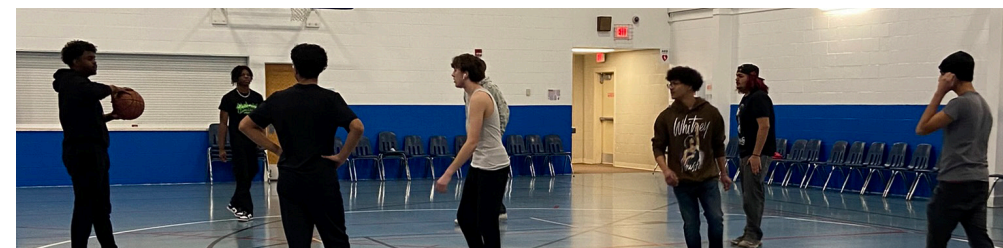
Samson has been one of my favorite stories to read and discuss with the boys at the detention center. The engagement is awesome despite the amount of reading (many struggle in reading). It gives us the opportunity to discuss how God uses broken people, show how our strength comes from God, and many more life lessons. In the last group we took through this story, only 1 of 9 kids had even heard of who Samson was. The reactions to when he got his eyes gouged out were as if they were watching an action movie. Many were stunned that a story like this was in the Bible. With one group, we got a little off-topic at the part when Samson was captured. When asked if they wanted to close or finish the story. They all exclaimed they wanted to finish and "See how this plays out." When asked why they thought God gave Samson his strength back, one kid responded, "I bet He (God) was like I'll give you your strength back one last time to do this for me and then you gotta go cause you broke our deal." Will asked how a good God would let so many people die. One kid quickly responded that they were worshiping other gods. It's often amazing how much they actually are paying attention. After taking the both guys' pods through this story, 7 Bibles were given to kids who requested them. ~Danielle Beyer



Sharing Stories

This year at Moorhead ALC, we focused on stories. Almost all of the staff and volunteers shared pieces of their stories, and we had an overwhelmingly positive response. During the second to last week of the year, kids anonymously wrote down questions they had about anything (Life, God, our stories, something that's been on their mind, etc.). The last week all the leaders sat in front of the kids as a panel and read and answered their questions. While we figured we would get lots of goofy questions, almost all the kids took it seriously and had great questions. Here are just a few...

- *I don't exactly know. I have been betrayed by men in my life so much. How do I put my trust and all in a man I don't know is real with me? I guess, how do I forgive men and have one (God) on my side?*
- *What steps do I need to take to get closer to God?*
- *What if there is nothing after death?*
- *What's the hardest part about doing what you do?*
- *Will you guys be here next year because this group we have every Friday helps me learn more about God and my relationship.*
- *What made you start to believe in God?*
- *Do I have to necessarily believe in God? Because I don't know if I believe in God. Like, I do but I don't if you understand.*
- *Is it all worth it in the end?*



Project Serve

As the school year ended, we got to help 3 schools celebrate and kick off the summer by providing lunch for the teachers and staff. For the past two years, we've provided lunch for the teachers at Liberty Middle School, ALC in Moorhead, and Dakota High School to support and thank them for their work with students. This is a simple but meaningful gesture that the staff and teachers appreciate and look forward to. God has favored our YFC chapter by allowing us to minister in some of our area schools. This is not a privilege we take lightly. Please pray for our schools and our staff as we minister to staff and students. ~Tim Brown

"There is no way she looked THAT good."

One young man blurted out while we were reading Judges 16:4-30, about Samson & Delilah.

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

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

www.redriveryfc.com/event/concert/



Concert for a Cause Night of Worship Featuring

SEAN CURRAN

PASSION Worship Leader

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS:



THIS COULD BE YOU!
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Sponsorship opportunities still available on our website.

Grandma

The girls have taken to calling Sue and me "Grandma". We feel this is an honor as the kids generally speak of their grandparents with great respect. Many of the kids are being raised by grandparents or have stories to tell about how they went to church when Grandma and Grandpa were around. ~Kim Danielson

"That's tattletaling!"

A girl stated when reading verse 46 of John 11:1-53 where some told the Pharisees Jesus healed Lazarus.

Craving Relationship

As many of you know already, my wife Carmen teaches 6th grade at Liberty Middle School. While it has been so cool to be doing ministry work where she teaches, something even cooler happened this year. Her team of 6th-grade teachers came up with a creative way to get kids to complete assignments. When they completed things in class they would get "Money" where they could buy snacks and knick-knacks. But if the kids saved up "money," they could share a meal with a teacher and spouse of their choice. Four students (on two separate occasions) decided to combine their money and eat "Lunch with the Lawyers." It was such a cool experience to be able to share that ministry moment with the kids and my wife. It goes to show how important relationships are as the students chose to eat lunch with two old folks instead of getting candy, chips, sugar, and many other things! It was very eye opening as these kids crave attention and love from trusted adults. ~William Lawyer

Highlighted dates indicate fruit weeks.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Jun 2024	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						
Jul 2024		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Aug 2024	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
Aug 2024		4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Pickup times can change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please check Facebook and visit our website for any changes before visiting the truck.

Peaches- A Fundraiser For Life Change

Every summer, Youth for Christ brings in fresh, tree-ripened peaches, fresh Georgia pecans, and pears as a fundraiser to help support our ministry with teens. We sell Tuesday-Friday 11-7 or until sold out in the parking lot of Scheels Home & Hardware on 13th (Please DO NOT contact Scheels). Your purchase allows the lives of students to be impacted throughout this area.

We have 30 volunteer shifts per 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 a lot 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, please sign up and pass this along. The sign-up and more information about this fundraiser can be found on our website at: www.redriveryfc.com/event/peaches/.

If you have any questions, contact our office at (701)237-6682 or email info@redriveryfc.com.



YFC is Hiring

We are looking for a mission-minded ministry staff member or two who are in love with Jesus and feel called to work with at-risk, high-risk teens. We are seeking an individual who will help give leadership to our ministry at Red River ALC & Dakota High School; recruit, train, and mobilize a team of caring adults; and be a community leader as they invest in young people. There will be an emphasis on developing our Parent Life ministry at Dakota or where needed. This is a full-time position but we are open to a couple of part-time people.

You will be a part of a team committed to going wherever teenagers are in their community, diving into the messy world they live in, and offering the hope that comes through Jesus!

Dakota High School Grad Celebration

