



Greetings Church Family and Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

For those of you who don't know, my name is Tanner Drath. I initially thought I had everything figured out: I planned on being a math teacher, principal, librarian, or, ironically, a school counselor; however, God had other plans for me. On September 30, 2022, I was born again while attending Harvest Baptist Bible College in Fort Dodge, Iowa. My initial motive in attending was to heal from my past instead of being directed toward going into ministry, even though that was the Lord's leading for me in the future. By believing in what Jesus did for me, I not only received my healing, but I also met my Healer. I am not exaggerating when I say my life completely changed; because of His grace, I now want to tell everyone what Jesus did for me!

I am a sophomore at Masters Baptist College in Fargo, North Dakota, studying to be a pastor. I recently went on my first mission trip to Paris during the Olympics, where a team of nationwide church members, including myself, witnessed to many lost people. As many of you know, I had to overcome some things no child should have gone through. Unfortunately, not everyone can be surrounded by loving and caring people who will support them, such as I had. As many others can relate, I didn't know what I was doing when I went to Bible College. All I knew was I wanted to help broken teenagers find Jesus and comfort the unsupported. Not knowing how soon He would call me to this form of ministry, I began praying about finding a job involving ministry since I knew this was what God had called me to do. I came across an application for Youth for Christ, and after much prayerful consideration and time, I applied.

What is Youth for Christ? Youth for Christ is a ministry that actively pursues 11-19-year-olds who are walking through pivotal moments in their lives. A pivotal moment could be anything from navigating a new school, dealing with a family breakup, becoming a teen parent, to spending time in juvenile detention. Much of their ministry is to at-risk teens. These young people often feel overlooked, and it's their passion to make them feel seen, heard, and valued. YFC is a place that sees, hears, and celebrates young people for who they are. They get to know a kid's story, and as they do, they share their life and story with the ultimate goal of connecting them to God's story.

Unfortunately, we know that the world is getting dark, and the worst part is that young teens see this "darkness" as morally acceptable (Matthew 6:23). Because we live in a broken society, there are teens who are viewed as "at risk" because of their lives at home, family abuse, or even their own poor life choices. YFC's goal is to help them navigate the troubled waters of their identity, specifically aiding in finding their identity in Christ. YFC looks to meet them

where they are without negative judgment, to be a mentor they can look up to, and to help them discover who God wants them to be.

Although I truly believe God has called me to help lost teenagers, I can't do it alone. James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." I need your prayers and want to invite you to partner with me in this. My prayer is that God continues to mold me into the man He has created me to be a guide to help these teenagers. My second prayer request is that I see teenagers give their lives to Christ. Finally, my last prayer request is that my team and I be wise as serpents yet harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16), and that our light would make an impact in the lives around us.

Secondly, I want to offer you the opportunity to consider partnering with us financially to continue and expand what God is doing through YFC. At YFC, staff are missionaries to this generation and, because of that, rely on the generosity of God's people to serve. I will be a missionary with Youth for Christ and need to raise a portion of my funds to live on. My goal is \$1,500 or more per month. I ask you to prayerfully consider giving if the Lord leads. Any contribution, monthly, quarterly, yearly, or one-time gift, would be greatly appreciated.

I plan to regularly inform you about the ministry and what God is doing. I appreciate your prayers and support and look forward to seeing what God is going to do through this ministry I am joining. If you are in the Fargo area and would like to hear more, I would love to have coffee with you and do just that. Thank you for being a part of my journey, and I'll update you more next month.

Sincerely,

Tanner Drath