



Merry Christmas

HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 6th, 2024

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 Season, let's remember what Christmas is all about: Jesus coming to earth so that 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 so we all can celebrate.

Mentoring at Liberty Middle School continues to go strong. William started the year with no kids initially assigned to him while the school waited for permission from parents and as they decided who needed it. The really cool thing, though, was that kids from last year started reaching out to William one by one, asking when they would get to meet with him again. So that is where he began. Now, his plate is full with those kids and new ones assigned to him. Another exciting thing has been this year's Bible study with the kids on Monday mornings. Six to eight kids have been meeting every week before school starts.

Ministry at the detention center continues non-stop. We continue to see a lot of overlap with kids from other areas of our ministry ending up in the detention center. It saddens us, 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. God is moving, though. We see a genuine hunger for God from so many kids. For many of them, this is all brand-new. Questions like, "After Jesus rose, did He die of old age? How do I pray?" These kids are open, hungry, and longing for adult interaction. One of our volunteers, Earl, goes into the center weekly to work with the boys in treatment and secure. Earl is over 80, and the boys love their time with him. You are never too old to make an impact!

God has been moving mightily at the Moorhead Alternative Learning Center this year. We wondered how ministry would go this year with Moorhead moving to a four-day school week and our club time moving to Thursday mornings. Well, did God surprise us! Last year, we averaged 20-25 students. This year, we have been averaging 40. We have spent the fall talking about choices, what to do when life doesn't go as planned, how to disagree without being a jerk, and, this last time, talked about forgiveness. The kids have been so engaged and open to looking at life through the lens of Jesus. A couple of weeks ago, a group of girls pulled Danielle over to their table and said, "Can we ask you some questions about God?" We see moments like this a lot. Most of these kids would never walk through the door of a church. Many have every reason not to, but we have found that when we provide a safe place for them, take an interest in their lives, make a connection, and are not afraid of questions and pushback, they keep coming back.

Our work at Dakota with the community lunches, Dakota Eats program (a time when we partner with kids to teach them how to cook), game days, and special events continue to provide opportunities to build relationships and share the love of Jesus. By the time you read this letter, we will have had our annual Christmas lunch with the school. We love hosting that and helping provide Christmas to some kids who will not experience that during this season.

We feel incredibly blessed to work with the students we do, and God continues to present us with amazing opportunities. I am genuinely excited about what God has planned for YFC's future and eager to share that you have the opportunity to partner in these impactful stories. These stories wouldn't exist without the contributions of supporters like you 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 and champions like you, who help us reach teens through your support and prayers. You make it possible to bring hot meals to kids who need them. You make it possible to go into the detention center multiple times a week and walk alongside kids whose only hope is Jesus, and you help us get God's Word into the hands of kids who are desperate for it. **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

Operating this ministry requires about \$750 each day, which covers ministry expenses such as transportation, bibles, food, program costs, office costs, and staff salaries. Approximately one-third of this amount is generated through our fruit sales, while the remainder is provided through the kindness and generosity of individuals, businesses, and churches like you. Your support is essential to our work.

As we conclude this year and prepare to welcome a new one, we invite you to consider making a special year-end contribution to Red River Youth for Christ. Your support is essential for us to continue our ministry. Your donations empower our staff to walk alongside students and be present for them. Your kindness will create safe spaces for students to explore difficult questions, connect with God's narrative, and experience profound love. The impact of your investment in their lives will resonate not only today but also bear fruit for eternity. You can send your gift using the enclosed envelope or contribute online at www.redriveryfc.com by selecting the "Donate" link at the top. If you're interested in donating stock or cryptocurrency, don't hesitate to get in touch with us for assistance.

We are grateful for your dedication to sharing the true Gift of Christmas with this generation. As a partner and champion in RRYFC's ministries, you are vital to 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 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!

Greg Everett
Executive Director

P.S. We cannot wait 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 Dalvin's story and Earl's experience in the detention center.

