



Dear Friends & Family,

I can't help but thank God as I reflect on 2024, it truly has been the best year yet. From the birth of our little girl, Lucielle Paige Beyer (or *Little Lucy*), to the relationships with young people that have grown beyond measure, to all the big ways God provides for this ministry this year has been truly the most eventful yet. In May, we received news that we would have to move offices in the fall. In June, we were given the end of August as the date. Our summer peach fundraiser left us a window of two weeks in July to move, assuming we could find a place. Of course, those two weeks were also during my maternity leave. Not only did God provide a great space for us, but it's only three blocks from our house, a great location, and a space that fits our needs. In December of 2023, we abruptly lost a staff without notice, but in September, we gained a teammate, Tanner. At the end of June, I had Lucy but then proceeded to go in and out of the hospital either with her or myself for 10 of her first 12 days. When I returned to work in August, I learned the daycare Lucy was on the list for abruptly decided not to take any new families, but I've been blessed to bring her with me two days a week and help from my boss's wife, my mom, and a college girl the other three. Cody is now laid off for a few winter months, buying us a little more time. While I'm still looking for something affordable and permanent, I am certain God will provide as he has already in so many ways. This is just the start of the mountains and valleys in 2024.



Lucielle Paige Beyer

Being pregnant was an icebreaker all on its own with kids. From traditionally deemed uncomfortable conversations to the growth opportunities with our parent life ministry, pregnancy was a blessing in so many ways. Many kids don't have a safe adult who cares, much less one to discuss anything they want with them. I feel blessed that God has called me and created opportunities for tough conversations. In 2024 alone, we've met with and/or provided resources for 17+ teen parents. While my husband and I navigate life with an infant as two established adults, I can't help but sympathize with these young people, many of whom are raising their own child as well as siblings or parents, all while going to school or working. They are truly miraculous young people, and I enjoy the parenting journey alongside them.

At Dakota High School, opportunities are endless. Our Wednesday community lunch program continues to be a staple and is referred to as "*Good Food Wednesday*." We've joined the once-a-month cooking program called Dakota Eats, where we break up 30 kids between 4-5 stations, prepare and cook a dish and/or meal together, and then eat together. This life skill program we get to join is wildly popular and an excellent opportunity for conversations along the way. I've built a good relationship with the family room coordinator in the teen parent room and have had opportunities to meet new young parents through her. We also have school staff continually inviting us to more and more activities and events as opportunities to build relationships with young people. In a world where certain topics or language within the walls of a school are so regulated, it truly is an act of God the doors He is opening.

At the Moorhead ALC, our release program was moved to Thursdays this year as the school went to four longer school days and Fridays off. Many of the kids work, giving them an extra day to work and pushing to get them there one less day but keeping them longer was the carefully calculated plan. Again, God provided the details, and we've been able to continue our off-site programming at the same time, at the same place, just on Thursdays instead. Last year, we averaged 20 students with six staff/volunteers; this year, we've been averaging 40-46 with four staff/volunteers. Just last week, I had a teenage boy come up to me after I finished talking upfront and share that it was his birthday, and he was "wondering if I could pray for him." This is just one example of the questions kids are asking. The growth and discussions have been unreal, and God is moving in big ways.

The West Central Regional Juvenile Center continues to flourish faithfully with conversations and opportunities. We average 6 days a week there with staff and volunteers, and the kids soak up every moment of attention we give them. From kids pleading with me to adopt them to sharing the message of Jesus Christ with many for the very first time, I've left the center barely holding it together on more than one occasion. I love experiencing the Bible through their eyes as they contemplate "Jesus, who is that?" and "He rose again, like came back to life? And then what happened? He died of old age?" Many would take these teenage responses as smart remarks, but knowing these kids, these are questions of genuine intrigue. I've been challenged by their questions on many occasions and had to agree to return with answers after researching and seeking counsel. The stories are endless, so I hope you take the opportunity to ask me about them sometime or read our newsletters to hear the latest laughs.

Personally, this year I've also struggled with the postpartum crisis of wanting to raise my baby and not pay someone else to do it, but also knowing that I'm exactly where God wants me to be and daily balance on His line of provision. While so much of this ministry we don't get to see the fruits of first-hand, this year has been so encouraging (*or maybe God's just opened my eyes to see the mini milestones in kids' lives*). Regardless, the glory is His, and I constantly thank Him for the opportunity to be a part of this ministry and the chance to connect teens with His story.

Some things you could join me in praying for:

- Affordable childcare for Lucy.
- A new job for Cody. (*He's looking for a change*)
- More staff and volunteers as the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

These are just a few of the stories and a glimpse of the many ways God is working through this ministry. I am so thankful for your prayers and support! Thank you from everyone here at Red River Youth for Christ and the students we love! Your thoughts, prayers, and support are truly a gift!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Danielle Beyer
Special Projects Coordinator



Lucy is 5 months!



Program with 46 Moorhead ALC Students

