



Greetings, Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

'Tis the season to be joyful, falalalalalala. So many crazy things have happened in just a month. I have finally figured out how to juggle a full-time job along with all my other responsibilities—especially schoolwork. Man, I really appreciate calendars! Recently, I got myself a new car. I found it on Facebook Marketplace, but don't judge me; it was a great deal! Although I'm experiencing minor car problems, this vehicle might just turn me into a mechanic! That's a dreadful thought! Driving around in North Dakota during winter feels like skating—only, fortunately, the skates have traction and brakes. With this new car, I can do more than ever for the ministry!

Firstly, things are going well at Dakota High School. We recently got together and taught the teens how to prepare a Thanksgiving meal; it turned out delicious! The kids are starting to open up more as well, and I plan to be at Dakota more often now that I have my own wheels. For instance, they have game days on Mondays, which would be a perfect opportunity to get to know them better. The best part is they will be in their element, so they should feel comfortable talking—unless they become overly competitive.



*Serving Christmas Lunch at Dakota HS*

Then, there's Liberty Middle School. It was kind of funny; there was this one girl who seemed a bit upset. She said, "Where were you!?" because I've only been able to go to Liberty on Fridays. She mentioned, "I changed my lunch schedule because you weren't there." Honestly, that story still makes me chuckle. Besides that, I've been hanging out with other teens there, and they're trying to reach out to me outside of school.

Then, I have Moorhead ALC. Unfortunately, that girl from my last letter hasn't come back. At least I had the chance to share the gospel with her. I remind myself daily that it's my responsibility to sow the seed, but Christ will take care of the rest. Perhaps one day, she will return. Another exciting thing is that one girl wanted to get involved in youth groups, which is fantastic! I connected her to a church, so we'll see what happens. Today, while I was at program, about 50 teens showed up, which was amazing. We asked them if they had heard the Christmas story, and no one raised their hands. It's really surprising how many people haven't heard about the birth of Christ, and it was such a blessing to be part of that.

Now, brace yourselves. I am participating in another new ministry, where I have the privilege of working with kids in the detention center. For those who don't know, that's Juvie. This ministry is vastly different from the others. I visit for about an hour (and I hope to go more often now) to conduct a Bible study with them. Two weeks ago, we discussed the difference between trusting God and trusting others, emphasizing that God will never let us down. I used a GPS metaphor, which was funny because one teen shared a story about how he and his friend were driving, and the GPS said, "Turn right," but there was no road—only a ditch. They humorously replied, "No, GPS!" We helped them understand that only God can be relied upon because He knows what we need and is always faithful. However, it was hard



*Dakota Eats Christmas  
Treats Edition*

not to feel sad while we were praying; one kid prayed to God, asking if he could visit his mom for Thanksgiving. Some of these kids don't have the privilege of a family Thanksgiving or even a family to celebrate with. I am excited to see what God will do in the future and look forward to investing in their lives.

I want to thank you for your support through this journey. Your encouragement means a lot to me, and this wouldn't have been possible without your help. My new prayer request is for openness so that the teens feel more comfortable sharing with me and that God uses me to positively influence their lives. There's a saying: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Please pray that my heart for these kids continues to grow, so they can see Christ's love in me. Another prayer request involves my driving. I've never driven in the snow before, and it's terrifying, especially in a big city like Fargo. Just pray for safety and that I continue to grow not only in my knowledge of God but also in my love for Him.

Once again, thank you for your prayers and financial support. I will keep you updated, and I hope you enjoy the Holidays!

Merry Christmas!!

Tanner Drath  
Youth For Christ Ministry Staff

