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Winter Newsletter

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Winter 2025
STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



Our Heart Is For

DISADVANTAGED

HUNGRY TEENS

HOPELESS & HURTING

TEEN PARENTS

OVERLOOKED

DISENGAGED

HOMELESS

AT-RISK TEENS



PROVIDED
AGAIN IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Share your heart by giving to



**GIVING
HEARTS
DAY**

More info inside



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Trust is the foundation of any strong relationship, especially with teenagers. It helps them feel safe, valued, and understood. When trust exists, they are more likely to share their thoughts, feelings, and challenges openly. Trust also builds respect and helps avoid misunderstandings. It shows teens that they can rely on you and that their opinions matter. Earning trust means keeping promises, being honest, and listening without judgment. Breaking trust can harm the relationship, so it's essential to work hard to maintain it. A trusting relationship helps teenagers grow confident, responsible, and ready to face life's challenges.

I am continually amazed by the level of trust we're building with students and the engagement in our conversations about Jesus. I think about our Thursday morning program with the kids from Moorhead ALC. I know many of their stories and struggles, and they keep coming back. Kids with every reason not to walk through the door of a church or hang out with a bunch of Christian adults, and yet every week, they return. Why? Because, as many

have told us, we are safe, real, and trustworthy, and I thank God all the time for that.

Every young person has a story. Some stories are joyful, filled with laughter and security, while others are a bit darker, filled with pain and uncertainty. Regardless, it's their story, and it matters. You have a story, and yours matters too. We believe all stories are meant to be stories of redemption. Why? Because we are all created in God's image, and He came to redeem us. These stories...their stories, our stories, and God's story are meant to converge. This happens in the context of relationships. At Youth for Christ, we equip leaders to engage 11 to 19-year-olds in authentic, Christ-sharing relationships. Young people can only experience true life when they are engaged in the lifelong journey of following Jesus. Jesus met people in the context of their stories. He shared life and loved others with unprecedented authenticity. We strive to do the same. We meet young people where they are, whether that's on a middle school campus, at a juvenile detention center, in a coffee shop, helping a kid

in crisis, or at a Thursday morning club. We model Jesus' relentless and patient love for young people. We don't pretend to have all the answers and can't fix every problem. But our leaders walk alongside young people through pain and heartache, as well as triumph and celebration, so they can experience true life. This is what we do. Will you join us?

February 13th is Giving Hearts Day. It's a single day, 24 hours, during which you can join us in making an eternal difference in the lives of teens through your generosity. Friends of YFC will match a portion of giving that day. We have a God-sized goal of \$70,000 and realize it can only happen with your help. Reaching that goal will allow us to bring on a new staff member or two to help us in this mission to bring hope to these amazing kids. Will you join us?

Greg Everett
Executive Director

Prayer Requests

Here are a couple prayer request for the Ministry:

- Wisdom as we navigate the very real potential of a couple new staff members.
- Volunteers interested in mentoring teens through our Thursday program.

Recent prayer requests from and for our youth:

- For my Grandma Linda in the hospital to get better.
 - To better comprehend what the Bible says.
- One of our young moms due March 12th.
 - My mom's mental health.
 - Grandma's hip surgery.

A Seed Of Curiosity

One Thursday, with the Moorhead ALC students, I was talking with a boy on the bus. We started talking about his school, and then he learned I also went to Bible College. I told him what I was learning about David's wild family. David had a son, Absalom, who killed one of his siblings and then went after King David himself. As I told him this story, he was shocked that stories like those were in the Bible, and his eyes revealed curiosity. He said, "I have never read the Bible before." I told him that the Bible is super cool and there are always new things people learn about it. I could see that I had planted a seed in his heart: a seed of curiosity. ~Tanner Drath

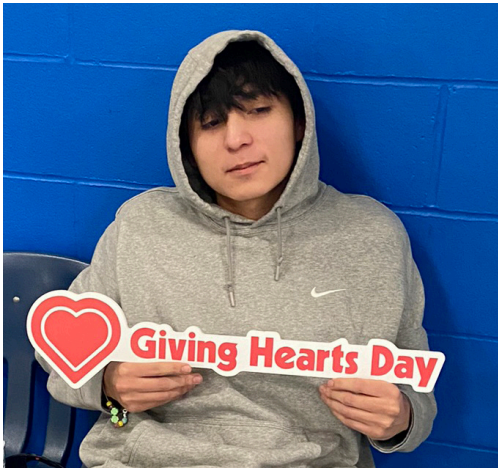
"Is heaven invisible since we cant see it?"

One girl asked following a program with the Moorhead ALC students.

Repeated Incarceration

I was leading a bible study on worry and anxiety with the girls at the detention center. *Tanya* was in attendance and is a girl who has been in and out of the detention center at least 5 times. The first time I met her, she seemed quiet and timid. She attended our Bible studies but didn't say much. The next few times she was at the center, she seemed more defiant and got up and declined to join us for bible studies. During Tanya's current incarceration, she has been more open, attends most Bible studies, and responds to questions. She has stated she wants to stop the cycle and move forward with her life. On this particular day, there were three interruptions in quick succession. Normally, the girls will seem to lose interest if there are interruptions (med distribution, staff change, temporary lock-downs, etc.). However, on this day, all the girls, including Tanya, returned to the discussion after each interruption. It was heartwarming to see her determination to participate. Tanya is also working on earning a set of Bible tabs for indexing the books in her Bible. She has memorized the first 10 books of the Bible and is working on the next several. Please keep this young lady in your prayers as she has addiction and home life issues to deal with and is only in her mid-teens.

~Kim Danielson
Students names have been changed for privacy



Practical Needs

Note: Please No Nuts

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

- Paper Products (Plates, spoons, & forks)
 - Cases of bottled water
 - Cases of juice boxes, bottled juice, or sports drink
- Fruit snacks, granola bars or any kind of pre-packed or individually packaged snacks
 - Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682

10th Treatment Home

One of the girls was really struggling in the process of juvenile detention and treatment. "This is my 10th treatment home. I feel like this don't work for me. I'm not here to be anyone's friend, I'm just here to do my time." William asked why she shouldn't look for ways to get something out of her time in detention instead of just "doing the time." He suggested that if she had the attitude that she wasn't going to learn anything, then she wouldn't. Her response was that in detention, they learn that they need to respect staff and others, and they learn discipline, but when they go home, there isn't anyone to reinforce that. At this point, a West Central staff member spoke up and said, "The system was not set up to teach you what your parents were supposed to teach you. You don't know what you don't know." She talked about how both her parents died when she was young, and she had a lot of experience with being a kid 'in the system.' We love it when even the staff engage in our discussions. ~Kim Danielson

"You ask really great questions."

A teacher reflected complimenting one of our staff on how much she learned about a rather quiet student from listening to our conversation.

Focusing On the Beautiful Things

Working at Dakota High School has been such a blessing. There are so many kids there with different personalities and perspectives on life. There was this one teenager who talked to me for probably about an hour straight (nobody ever talks to him). He has a darker perspective on life and is fascinated with morbid things. Fortunately, I got him to see things in a brighter light; we started talking about his favorite show as a kid: Teen Titans Go! Although this isn't too big of a deal, it is a step in the right direction; I am helping him focus on things that are not morbid but the beautiful things in this world. I look forward to seeing how God will use me in this young man's life! ~Tanner Drath

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
Loving Relationships
Faithful Bible Teaching
Adults Who Empower
Collaborative Community Strategy

RRYFC Staff

Greg Everett
Danielle Beyer
William Lawyer
Tim Brown
Tanner Drath

RRYFC Board

Karen White
Brent Roeder
Shane Kosloske

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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.

- **Slap:** Something amazing or excellent. (E.g. These tacos slap.)
- **Glazing/Glaze:** To “glaze” someone means to feed them compliments that are so over-the-top that they come across as cringe-worthy or phony. While the goal to win someone over with flattery, it's often unsuccessful because they can see right through it.
- **Mid:** Average/Unimpressive. (E.g. The food at school was mid today.)
- **What's up Brother:** Trend from YouTube where you point your pointer finger up in the air and say "What's up brother" typically to close friends.
- **Periodt:** Finished/all done. (E.g. I don't want to hear another word from you periodt.) The "T" is there for finality.

Prayer

“Hey, it’s my birthday, and I was wondering if you could pray for me?” One young man asked after I finished sharing one Thursday at our Moorhead ALC program. “Of course, I would love to,” I responded and proceeded to pray for him aloud. Previously, I had only had a few brief interactions with him. I felt so honored that he felt safe enough to ask. I don't know many teen boys who ask to be prayed over on their birthday. It is so cool to be a part of how God is moving in these young people. ~Danielle Beyer

Car Ride Conversations

I’m coaching 8th-grade basketball this year at Liberty Middle School. There is a boy who wouldn’t be able to play because he wouldn’t have a ride to and from practices since he leaves school early due to poor choices he made earlier in the school year. The school reached out if I knew anyone that could help in this situation by giving the boy a ride. My eyes lit up when I read the email, and I quickly responded that I could give him a ride. To the school, this is just providing a way for a boy to be able to play basketball. However, this has given me an opportunity to have thirty minutes five days a week one-on-one with a boy who doesn’t know Jesus. The basketball season may not be very long, but his eternal salvation is lifelong. Please be praying for our conversations as I continue to pour into him eternally.

I also would like to say thank you to anyone that has donated to YFC. One of my conversations after practice with this boy was about dinner because he said he was hungry as we drove to his house. I asked him what he normally eats, and he responded, “I don’t know, I have to see if we even have food for me to cook because we can’t buy any more food until my mom gets paid again”. My heart broke in that moment as I began to think about when I was his age and how hungry I was after practice, and I couldn’t imagine not knowing if I would have food when I got home. All of this is to say there is a need right here in our backyard, and I appreciate those who donate for us to be able to help kids like him be fed not just spiritually but also physically as well. ~William Lawyer

Theological Questions

After our discussion with the Moorhead kids and playing a few games, a girl started asking questions about Christianity, which is fantastic! She even asked theological questions, such as “Why do we have to believe to go to Heaven?” Even though she is not a believer, she is searching for answers. Unfortunately, we didn’t have much time to discuss this. I told her I cared about her thoughts and that I wanted to continue this conversation. She responded that she could see I was open to this conversation and, therefore, was willing to come again. This shocked me because I didn’t know she was planning not to come back. I’m just grateful that we were able to be a Christ-like example to her, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds! ~Tanner Drath

Concert for a Cause Night of Worship With Sean Curran

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Concert for a Cause Night of Worship with Sean Curran. It was an awesome night of worship and a glimpse of what God is doing through this ministry in the lives of teens. Thank you again to our event sponsors, but especially our Presenting Sponsors Eid-Co Homes, Goldmark, Hanson-Runvsvold Funeral Home, and Life 97.9. This event would not have been possible without you.

P.S. If you weren't able to attend, but want to hear a couple stories from the night, visit our website at: redriveryfc.com/stories/



Dakota Grocery Games

Since we always cook and serve lunch at Dakota, school faculty asked us to be a few of the judges at their Dakota Grocery Games. Since we always cook and serve lunch at Dakota, the faculty asked us to be a few of the judges at their Dakota Grocery Games. For this event, 3-6 students got 2 lbs. of ground beef they had to use. They then got 3 minutes to pick out 5 items from the school food pantry. They were then given 45 minutes to create their dish. Upon completion, we scored them on taste, presentation, and the story. Since this fun event was similar to a TV cooking show, they had to come up with some story of where the recipe was from. This could be a truth or a tall tale. I was struck by one of the group's Korean Beef Stack (pictured above). The girl shared that growing up, her family didn't have much food, so her mom would make dishes with basic ingredients and call them fancy names. While some of the stories were fictional, some of them had elements of truth and showed a glimpse into the lives of these youth. ~Danielle Beyer



GIVING HEARTS DAY

Your gift to Red River Youth for Christ on **Giving Hearts Day, Thursday, February 13th**, creates opportunities to reach youth in the juvenile detention center and schools in the FM area.

Would you please consider partnering with us in reaching youth at pivotal moments? You can go online to givingheartsdays.org and choose Red River Youth for Christ to make your secure online donation. **You can either do this on Thursday, February 13th, or by scheduling a gift anytime between now and February 13th.** Checks dated and delivered by 5 PM on February 13th will also be accepted. The most exciting part, **friends of RRYFC will currently match your donation of \$10 or more up to \$22,200!**



Stop by our office (1790 32nd Ave S Suite 1, Fargo, ND 58103) to grab a delicious smoked pulled pork lunch (includes but, chips, beans, and a cookie). Suggested donation \$10. Available 10:30 AM-1:30 PM or while supplies last. To ensure you don't miss out, reserve your lunch now on our website by scanning the QR code or going to redriveryfc.com/event/giving-hearts-day/.



"I've been in and out of so many placements, when I find a home I don't know what do."

One young person confided sharing their constant experience in and out of facilities.

What Changed?

I have the opportunity to mentor students at Liberty Middle School. Last year, I had the opportunity to mentor a boy, and when we met, he would give push-back. He finally asked the principal if we could no longer meet, and after a few weeks, we no longer were meeting. Fast forward to this year, 7th grade, for this same student. That same principal came up to me during lunch and said, "This boy would like to start meeting with you." I laughed and asked what had changed from last year to this. She told me that he said, "Mr. Will is cool now, and I want to meet with him." This is just a great reminder that if you continue to show up, kids take notice, and it makes a difference even if you don't know it. *~William Lawyer*

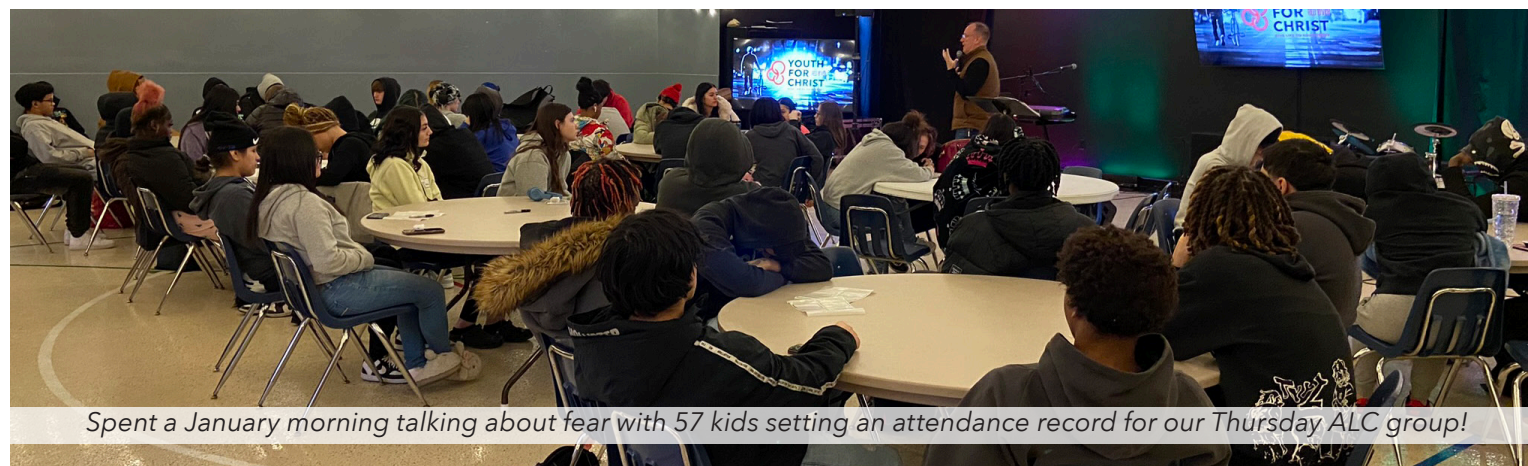


His First Time Hearing About God

I went into West Central for church on a Wednesday night like any other Wednesday before. We got all of our supplies together and headed up three floors, through the metal doors, to the Secure-boys pod. It was the first of two stops that night. We are currently going through the "Fruits of the Spirit," and this lesson was on "Peace." As we went through the lesson I always allow the kids to ask any questions they have or comment what they thought of what we had just learned about. There was a boy I had never seen before. He raised his hand and as he began to speak I could feel goosebumps come over my body. This boy, who is somewhere between the ages of 14-17, began to explain how he had never heard of God before; he also opened a Bible for the very first time that night. As he continued to talk I could almost see a change in his mannerisms. He began to say hearing about this God gives him hope and a purpose for this life. No decision for Christ was made that night, but I know God is stirring something up in this young man! Please be praying for him and our team as we continue to build a life changing relationship with him. **Matthew 24:14 "And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come."** *~William Lawyer*

"If God's son Jesus came to earth, who are God's parents? Like who created Him?"

One teen asked processing questions following a program with the Moorhead ALC students.



Spent a January morning talking about fear with 57 kids setting an attendance record for our Thursday ALC group!

Marathons

2025 is off to a fantastic start! This January marks three years since I began working with the CLIPS program at West Central Juvenile Detention Center. The journey has had its share of ups and downs—moments of victory as well as setbacks. But one truth has stood out: effective, lasting ministry is a marathon, not a sprint.

One of our primary goals is to build trusting relationships with the residents so we can support them on their faith journeys beyond just the "program time." Recently, I was honored when two residents asked me to meet with them for one-on-one sessions each week. If our initial conversations are any indication, this promises to be an exciting and "interesting" season of ministry.

I ask for your prayers—for both me and the residents—as we continue this journey. Reflecting on my time with CLIPS, I'm reminded of the words in **Galatians 6:9 "Let us not grow weary or become discouraged in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap if we do not give in."** *~Tim Brown*