

Hey everyone!

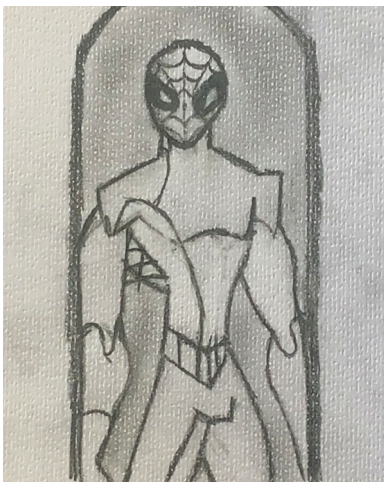
It's been a while since I last sent a letter, and there are so many cool things to report. First, I want to say something about Youth for Christ. Have you ever done something at work and forgotten it was work? I have that often, because I love investing in these teens, and seeing their faces light up always makes me smile. For those of you who don't know me, I am a very energetic and enthusiastic person, and this helps me easily start conversations with teenagers.

Many different life changes have happened. Around Christmas break, it was decided by the YFC Team and I that I should cut back to part-time due to being in school 20+ hours a week and trying to work full-time. Soon after Christmas break, God was showing me many different things about my life, including my character. After much prayer and counsel, I decided it would be best to take a break from Bible College to focus more on my relationship with God and be more independent. I found I cared more about my GPA than my quality time with God, which impacted my spiritual life. With all my new free time later on, I decided to pick up a part-time job in the hotel business. This part-time job was selected as it does not overlap with Youth for Christ.



Game Night Candy Land. Who knew it could be so much fun?!

At Dakota High School, I got involved with their food pantry called the "Source." For those of you who don't know, about 50% of these teens are homeless, meaning they are not living with their parents, so they are either couch surfing with their friends or they are sleeping in their car. Because of this, the high school gets many boxes of donations, such as food and clothing. I thought it would be a cool idea for the teens to take part in helping organize the pantry. This is a double win as they need community service hours to graduate, and this program helps free the teacher's time. Additionally, it is a great way to cultivate relationships with these teenagers and show them God's love for them.



My Drawing of Spider-Man.

Another new program we started for all our kids was "Art Night" once a month. These kids are super talented, and let me tell you, so much fun! I even started drawing Spider-Man and it isn't turning out bad either! Art Night inspired me to want to start a game night! These programs will help us stay in touch with our kids during their summer lives as well as their school life. Our first night, we had three kids, despite crazy weather! I learned fast that Candy Land is a big hit with teenagers. Our goal is to build meaningful relationships with the kids outside of school, where we can talk to them more about God.

Something cool that happened recently was that a teen wanted to go to church with me! God has really opened my eyes not only to the spiritual needs of these kids, but also to the love they are deprived of. Not all of them have heard of Christ, and some who are trying to follow Him are struggling to be Christlike. God has placed a personal

burden on my heart to disciple these teens and to help them navigate through life.

At the Moorhead Detention Center, we have seen super cool changes! I have one girl, who got so excited about discovering an answer in the Bible, she goes, "I am coming to Bible Study every time!" She has been true to her word! She would come to the Bible Study with a handwritten list of questions she had from reading the Bible, and we would go through them together. Her excitement and enthusiasm have made one of her friends excited to learn as well. Her friend also got someone else excited about the Bible, the point being made, learning about the Bible is becoming contagious! Growing up, it is easy to be fed answers rather than think for ourselves, and this is no different for teenagers. What we try to do is not give them answers, but rather help them discover it for themselves! This shows them that they are intelligent and capable of answering their own questions, and a little secret.... It makes them more curious about the Bible!

Proverbs 14:31
Is it sulking the poor
a sin?

Genesis Adam names Eve
Are women
and men
equal?

1 Corinthians 9:22 | 1297pg
Can you explain
the race analogy

Matthew 15:25 | 1075pg
What does it mean?

Handwritten questions from youth.



A few of our first art night artists and creations.

Finally, at the Alternative Learning Center, we like to do things called "Story time," where a staff member will sit down and be interviewed by another. The staff member will talk about their life story and what brought them to the Lord. It's been so cool to see all the teens flock around a staff member after they share either questions or encouraging words. This has made me realize something quite valuable: they not only want to share how they feel, but they also want you to share as well!

It's important to note that not all seeds that are sown produce immediate fruit. God has not called us to be producing fruit, but rather we are to sow seeds and be good stewards over what He has given us. You can take part in this as well, any help

is beneficial! Whether it be praying for us and the teens we work with, and/or if it be financially. It doesn't have to be a big sum of money or anything crazy, every little bit helps me near my \$1,500 monthly goal. Thank you to everyone who has generously given a few monthly and a few one-time gifts to the ministry here at Youth for Christ. Please consider joining me as a Monthly partner as God leads you. Donations can be given online at <https://redriveryouthforchrist.givingfuel.com/giving> and selecting "TD" or through the enclosed envelope.

I hope you all have a great day, and I can't wait to continue to share what God is doing!

Sincerely,

Tanner Drath
Youth For Christ Ministry Staff