

Dear Friends and Family,

Hurray! It's May. Spring brings long-awaited sunshine on our skin, walks in nature, bike rides, bright red tulips, lake days, sandals, and picnics. Chad and I set a goal to explore a new park or walking trail every week this summer. Did you know there are over 150 parks and over 100 miles of walking trails in the FM area? So many free places to explore. Rivers Bend Park in West Fargo was a great find last week. Locals, if you keep going past the pond and take a right, there is a trail in the woods back to the river. At Orchard Glen Park, the sweet-smelling apple blossoms have started to put on their dainty show of white, pink, and magenta blooms, too.



Last week, Youth for Christ kicked off the 1st school picnic with all the students and staff at Dakota HS on bright green grass, under clear blue skies. Students prepared the classic picnic spread. What a blessing to see them confidently cooking for a crowd. The sweet sound of laughter while playing yard games, roasting s'mores, and bonding outside of school was priceless.



Some of the students from the grilling crew at the first picnic.

May is a busy month for us here at Youth for Christ. We host several all-school picnics, teacher appreciation meals, and graduation parties in addition to all the normal weekly faith activities. In the last couple of months, we created an art night and a game night. If you are crafty or enjoy board games or card games, please consider volunteering just 2 hours, once a month. It's fun, there's snacks, and no prep is needed.

So far at YFC, my favorite "God moment" was reading the bible with a small group of teens at the West Central Juvenile Detention Center. After studying Matthew 19:16-26, two boys really connected to Jesus' words and bravely asked for Bibles. In a world where digital distractions are everywhere, it's both moving and

meaningful when students begin asking for Bibles. Whether sparked by curiosity, a search for truth, or a desire to deepen their faith, this simple request represents something profound: a yearning for connection, purpose, and spiritual understanding. When a student asks for a Bible, it opens the door to dialogue, guidance, and the possibility of transformation. It's not just about receiving a book—it's about beginning or continuing a journey of faith. Putting the gospel in eager hands is one of my top life goals and this experience affirmed that YFC is the right place for me. In April, so many kids were eager for Bibles that we actually ran out. Please take



a moment to pause and pray for all these teens cracking open Bibles and our team walking the journey with them.

Thank you also for praying for the Parent Life program I've been building. There are so many answered prayers, so I want to highlight a few for you.

- ✓ 4 moms attended the first small group gathering outside of the schools and they want to keep meeting this summer too. Thanks to generous support they were gifted toddler Bible storybooks for Easter.
- ✓ Inside the school, tutoring has been a game changer. Attendance is up and one of the moms even got an A in math. The rush of pride, shift in confidence, and motivation to graduate was restored. They are realizing they are capable of much more than they gave themselves credit for.
- ✓ On a Friday night, one of the moms had mentioned that she didn't have a stroller for her 1-year-old daughter. The following Monday morning I met a woman who had a nice pink stroller for her. God provides!



More good news for locals. The long-awaited peach tradition continues. Georgia peaches are scheduled to be juicy and tree-ripened by the end of June. See our website below for details.

Thank you so much to every single one of you who prays and supports the YFC ministry. Knowing how much you believe in me and this ministry humbles me. I invite you to consider investing in YFC if you currently don't. We can't do this without you! Every gift has the potential to change a life for eternity. My goal is \$2,000 per month. Please consider joining the monthly partner team by using the QR code below, going to <https://redriveryouthforchrist.givingfuel.com/giving>, and choosing ND (For Natasha Deplazes) in "the fund" or mailing back the enclosed envelope.



Prayer Team



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More About RRYFC

With love and gratitude,

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