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Summer Newsletter

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Summer 2025

STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As summer settles in, we're looking back on a powerful and deeply meaningful season of ministry filled with unforgettable moments, powerful conversations, and stories of transformation. God has been so faithful. Over the past months, we've seen God moving in the lives of students in real, tangible ways—drawing teens to Himself, opening doors for life-changing conversations, and giving hope where it's been desperately needed.

We're celebrating all that God has done, but we're also saying a bittersweet goodbye. After three incredible years of faithful service, William and Carmen are heading back to Virginia to be closer to family. His impact at Liberty Middle School and in the detention center has been profound. William built trust, showed up consistently, and helped hurting kids see their

value in Christ. His impact will last far beyond his time here, and we are incredibly grateful.

But God's not done! Inside, you will get to meet two of our newest hires, Ben and Natasha. They began at the beginning of April and already, God is using them in incredible ways. We're also excited to announce that Noah will be joining our team as of June 30th to take over Middle School Ministry. Noah brings a contagious passion for youth and a clear calling to walk alongside students through life's pivotal moments. We can't wait to see how God will use him in this next chapter. It is so fun to see God expand this team.

And yes—it's peach season again! Our Peach Fundraiser is back. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year—and it's more than just selling fruit. When you buy or promote peaches, you're not just

supporting us financially—you're helping create space for teens to be seen, heard, and introduced to Jesus.

To all of you who give, pray, and partner with us—thank you. Your generosity is what keeps us going. Because of you, we get to show up, stay present, and speak hope. As we look toward a fresh season of ministry in the fall, would you consider making a gift today? Your support lays the foundation for real, lasting change in the lives of students.

Let's continue this mission—together. Lives are being changed, and the best is yet to come.

Greg Everett
Executive Director

YOUTH FOR CHRIST PRESENTS

DUSTIN NICKERSON

RED RIVER YOUTH FOR CHRIST'S

**COMEDY
FOR A
CAUSE**

TRY NOT TO LAUGH!

**THURSDAY NIGHT
NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

PRESENTED BY

Eid-Co Homes
Est. 1951

GOLDMARK

THIS COULD BE YOU!
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE

DETAILS INSIDE



Prayer Requests

Recent prayer requests from and for our youth:

- My mom's cancer.
 - For me and Jesus to make big moves together.
- Grandma's surgery recovery.
 - My GED test to go well. My mom's mental health.

God Will Not Forsake His Children

Danielle and I went in to do Bible study and two boys walked in, one being Jacob. He had a downcast face and seemed very discouraged. He wasn't participating or talking much. He would just keep repeating, "God doesn't care! He will forsake us!" We steered away from the lesson and we decided to walk him through some verses. I walked him through the Bible showing him God will not forsake His children or leave them. His whole demeanor changed from beat down to listening and responding. He began asking questions. The staff member in the room even picked up a Bible and started following along with us. When it came time to close, Jacob prayed to close our session. It was so cool to see the Lord work on his heart right in front of our eyes! ~Ben Talley

"...after that we start jail summer school."

One girl from the center said while telling a story causing us to giggle. Summer school is bad enough for most kids, but 'jail summer school' certainly had the ring of something worse!

See You Later Lawyers

Hey everyone! I'm sure some of you reading this already know, but there are some that may not. After lots of prayer and sought-after counsel, Carmen and I believe it is time to close this chapter in Fargo. With that being said, I will no longer be with Youth for Christ as of June 11th. We are moving into my parents' house in Virginia to pay off debt/become more financially stable. Once we reach that point, we will buy a house in the upstate of South Carolina to move closer to family and begin our own. We both believe God's hands are in the closing of this chapter and the opening of the next, and we can't wait to see how God uses us next! ~William Lawyer

We are so grateful for the last 3+ years God has used William on our Youth for Christ team in the lives of teens, and are excited for them as they move on to this next chapter of life. Keep reading to learn more about how God has provided additional leaders to continue to build Biblical foundations in the lives of teens. ~The YFC Family

"May I have a Bible?"

The sweetest words from teen boys at the West Central Regional Juvenile Center.

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 plates
 - 12 or 16 oz plastic cups
 - Fruit snacks, granola bars (NO NUTS), or any kind of pre-packed or individually packaged snacks
- Cases of bottled water
 - Cases of juice boxes, bottled juice, or sports drink
 - Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682

"Big move, Jesus! Big move!"

One of the girls from the Juvenile Center said after seeing excerpts from The Passion of the Christ movie for the first time.



A New Bible Study

Our team recently started a new weekly Bible study with a new pod of boys at the West Central Juvenile Center. It was so cool to see how we started with two, over time have doubled, and are continuing to grow. One of the boys had lots of questions, so we asked if he would like to learn more about Jesus. He said yes, so now we are meeting with him weekly one-on-one to help him know his loving Creator. So cool to see God at work! ~Tanner Drath

"My heart's not in the best shape"

One young man rawly admitted during a Bible study.

Interested?

For the past two months, Heather has always walked away as soon as she saw me enter the pod for Bible study. She will join us for craft activities, but never for church or Bible study. Recently, she came over and sat with us, responded to questions I posed and even had a prayer request. I am hopeful she has dealt with whatever was holding her back previously and she will continue to join us. ~Kim Danielson

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
Benjamin Talley
Natasha Deplazes
Noah Jedlicka
Tim Brown
Tanner Drath

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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.

- **Rage Baiting:** Inducing a conversation or sharing controversial information to entice an argument.
- **Lagging It:** Feeling so tired that you feel like you're lagging behind. To be out of it and not wanting to do anything at all. Based on what happens when a video game or internet connection moves slowly, momentarily freezes, or lags.
- **Having Motion:** To make progress, whether small or large, often referring to lifestyle improvements or success. The assumption that if someone has motion, they are a good person, are doing good things, or are improving.
- **Brain Rot:** Negative mental effects of watching repetitive, addictive, trivial, unchallenged, or low-quality material online to the point it's said to affect mental function.



End of the Year Mischief

We concluded the Moorhead ALC year with an entertaining roster of games, bringing lots of laughs. From being spoon-fed pudding through a nylon to a relay race balancing a ping pong ball on a spoon, it was an amusing bonding experience. The event ended with the winning team getting to pie a YFC staffer in the face. Danielle was the unlucky recipient of the whipped cream pie, but it was a delight to see the kids getting messy, laughing, and simply being kids.



Thank you, thank you to Faithbridge Church for providing 2,684 individual snacks during their March snack drive.



Meet Noah

Noah is our newest teammate. Learn more about him in our next Newsletter.



Celebrating Baptism

This spring, YFC Staff and Pastor, Tim, had the honor of baptizing one of the young men he had been mentoring from the West Central Regional Juvenile Center. Several of our team had the honor of attending this celebration and praying over him. We celebrate this amazing life transformation through Christ.



"We look forward to this all week!"

One staff member from the juvenile center said while leading us in for our weekly church night.

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 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

Dakota HS Graduation Celebration

With the growing YFC team this past year we've been able to have even more of a presence weekly at Dakota High School and it's been fun to see the relationships grow.



God's Got You

God provides - In the last month at YFC, God has miraculously provided exactly what each of our teen parents needed through nonprofit organizations and people just like you. Each week, a different mom or dad shared a need they had, and within days, that exact thing was donated. Everything from a tutor, stroller, formula & diapers, clothes, food, or a crib. In Matthew 6:25-34 we are reminded not to worry. "God's got you" was the theme for the Parent Life program this month. Thank you for praying for our teen parents and their babies. ~Tasha Deplazes

YOUTH FOR CHRIST PRESENTS

DUSTIN NICKERSON



RED RIVER YOUTH FOR CHRIST'S
COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

THURSDAY NIGHT
NOVEMBER 13, 2025
7:00-9:00 PM
(DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM)

TICKETS ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER

TRY NOT TO LAUGH!



Introducing Ben

What's up y'all, my name is Ben! I grew up in Memphis, TN. My wife and I were church planters to the Navajo people in New Mexico for a couple of years, then moved back to Memphis. I had a rough youth life in drugs, addiction, and sexual sin. However, I reached the end of my rope, and Jesus was right there for me with open arms. Because of my past, I was led to prison ministry. This is where I served when we returned from the mission field in New Mexico. I always figured I could reach these guys in prison who had reached the end as well. My wife and I moved out to Fargo, North Dakota, to work as church planters. I got a job at Youth for Christ after God showed me that I was always reaching the people who had already reached the end. He revealed that I could reach the ones He wants before they got to the breaking point and made a wreck of bad choices. At Youth for Christ, I will be working in the Juvenile Justice Ministry and the Moorhead Alternative Learning Center. I am stoked to see what God is going to do as I surrender to His leading.

~Benjamin Talley

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Eid-Co *Homes*
Est. 1951

GOLDMARK

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See our website for sponsorship opportunities.

Bethel Church Fargo
2702 30th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103



EVENT DETAILS
[www.redriveryfc.com/
event/concert/](http://www.redriveryfc.com/event/concert/)

"You see how chunky this book is...you want me to remember all this?"

One girl said confused as she held up her Bible. We were conversing over the importance of memorizing scripture and discussing the next week's memory verse.

Highlighted dates indicate fruit weeks.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Jun 2025	22 29	23 30	24	25	26	27	28
Jul 2025	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	8 15 22 29	9 16 23 30	10 17 24 31	11 18 25	12 19 26
Aug 2025	3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30

***Pickup times can change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please check Facebook and visit our website for any changes before visiting the truck.*

Summer Peach Fundraiser

Every summer, we bring in fresh, tree-ripened peaches, fresh Georgia pecans, and pears as a fundraiser to help support the ministry. We sell Tuesday-Friday 11-6 or until sold out in the parking lot of Scheels Home & Hardware on 13th (Please DO NOT contact Scheels). Your purchase of fruit supports our ministry to teens year-round.

We have 30 volunteer shifts per week for various jobs such as running the cash registers, carrying boxes for customers, and unloading cases of fruit from the truck. It's outside, during the summer, a lot of fun! This is the perfect opportunity for small groups, churches, businesses, and friends. If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping, please sign up and pass this along. The sign-up and more information about this fundraiser can be found on our website at: www.redriveryfc.com/event/peaches/.



If you have any questions, contact our office at (701)237-6682 or email info@redriveryfc.com.

"How do you ask for forgiveness and start a life with Jesus? I think I might want to give it a try."

One young man asked following a church/youth group session at West Central.

Introducing Natasha

Hello everyone! My name is Natasha Deplazes, but I go by Tasha. I feel so blessed to join this team mentoring teens. In my first two months, I have already seen God shine brightly through this ministry, the volunteers, and the teens. Praise God! I was introduced to YFC through peach sales many years ago. Then in 2023, I started volunteering at Dakota HS, helping teens learn to cook, and got to know the YFC staff a bit more. This winter, staff shared that they had many teens requesting Bibles, at-risk youth needing adult mentors and advocates, as well as a new program for teen parents. In January, I felt God was calling me to pivot careers and join YFC full-time. I've never done anything like this, but know all things are possible with God, gratitude, and love. For the last decade, I have worked at Christian bookstores and have been the GM of two restaurants in the West Acres Mall. The decade before that, I worked various part-time jobs while raising my two daughters, who are now 19 & 23. In the last 25 years living in Fargo, I volunteered with many non-profits and a couple of churches, helping with special projects, event planning, and fundraising. In college, I double-majored in elementary education and child development at NDSU and VCSU. To rest and recharge, my husband, Chad & I love to hike in nature, tent camp near water, bike, take mission trips to Guatemala, read the Bible, explore new places, and just sit in the sun. I'm also a plant lady with over 25 house plants, so I love Jesus' many plant-based parables, metaphors, and analogies. I'm so excited to till up the soil in the hearts of these teens, plant seeds of God's love, and nurture their faith to get deeply rooted in good soil so they produce much fruit. It's all in God's will and timing. God is the gardener who sees everything and prunes. Jesus is the vine. We must actively abide in both and act when the Holy Spirit pushes us out of our comfort zones. Massive growth lies just outside our comfort zones, and after careful pruning. I'm so excited to see what happens next in this YFC garden. Thank you for partnering with YFC and turning our mission into a reality. Your prayers, financial support, and time spent volunteering have an eternal impact.

~Natasha (Tasha) Deplazes

