



Dear Saints in the Lord,

What's up, y'all! Well, Thanksgiving is over, and the Holiday Season is here fast. If y'all would pray for my family, the holiday season is always very hard on us. I lost my parents a couple of years ago, and it's hard to lose your parents around holidays. God is our great comforter and sees us through every year. He truly is our ALL in ALL. Let me take some time to fill you in on other things to pray for and what our Great God is doing! Our church plant, Northland Church, is doing great. We are about to start the Chronological Bible Series and a Youth Group. Please pray for us, as we are growing so fast. And what would this letter be if I did not mention my beautiful bride, Deborah, and what she is up to? She is running crazy. She is learning how to do hair extensions and eyelash extensions and excelling at it! She also just got evaluated at the salon and got a raise! Praise the Lord! Things have been a bit crazy for me. It's been like catching chickens! Comedy for a Cause is over, and everyone had a blast!



Our team with Comedy for a Cause
Comedian Dustin Nickerson

I have been having so much fun getting to know these youth! Their struggles are real, from homelessness, poverty, drugs, mental illness, trauma, abuse, or crime. They all need Jesus and a friend to stand by them, not to condemn them, but to love and offer guidance. I think they keep coming to our events and participating in our programming because they desperately need and want those things. That is why we do what we do. No one is outside God's saving power. There was a boy named Ted* in secure detention, whom I was telling no one was outside God's saving power, and no sin was too great to forgive. It was as if I said people had wings or something; he just had such a hard time believing me. He thought murder was unforgivable. I shared that if we also hate someone so much that we want to kill them, that is the same as committing murder. He thought that was impossible. Then, seeing who said it, he piped down. I wish all people had that attitude toward the words of Jesus! There was

another kid named Steve* who really was begging for a sign from God. He wanted to get a sign from God and know God was real through a tangible event rather than just the Bible. I shared how that event was the cross, and that He speaks in these last days through His Son, and the Bible speaks of Jesus. I am currently meeting weekly with Steve to walk him through his questions and doubts. Please pray for me in this endeavor. I want him to understand what God has made known through scripture and creation. Now, not all of these boys want to study the Bible, but they welcome the relationship through playing cards, talking about music, or watching a good movie in the pod. I love getting to know these boys. I sincerely want to see them grow and come to know Jesus in a genuine relationship with God. I have to learn that it just takes time: sowing the seed, seeing it watered, growing, and harvesting. I can get impatient sometimes, but the Lord is teaching me to hang on and watch Him work.

In the ALC, please pray for Kenny*. I have been helping him stay focused on his studies and school. He says I am the chillest one at YFC and easy-going. I don't know if that is a compliment or what! LOL! He has been great! Pray he finishes his classes; he has 5.5 more credits to go, but has a lot of family issues, and his "friends are dragging him in all the wrong directions." Have you ever met a student who you thought, "Focus, Daniel Son" (The Karate Kid), LOL? He is very challenging. I really have to put on my thinking cap to help him! I am in desperate need of the Holy Spirit. It has been a blessing to work with him and students like him. Pray for Kenny! Lane* is another one I am working with. When I first started at the ALC, he kept me at a distance. I would see

Note: Names of kid's are changed for privacy purposes.



him with his friends, and he would completely ignore me. Now he acknowledges me. I say, "Hey," and he will walk clear across the room to shake my hand and say, "Hey." That is a big thing! I love our talks, and seeing him strive in school is a blessing. I love being at the ALC. I get to work with students who are searching and willing to come and meet with someone as goofy as me. It is a privilege to see these students work through challenges, and I pray they finish strong.

Along with the ALC, I am involved in the CLIPS program at the detention center. It has been going really well! The Pastor of Northland, Tim, started the weekly CLIPS lunch, and I picked it up. I bring food to these boys who are being reintegrated into society. One boy, Mike,* I started discipling and teaching him to defend his

faith after reading the book "The Case for Christ." He is doing well and is a little missionary in CLIPS. Although there is nothing little about him, he is the tallest and biggest one in there LOL! As I get to know the other boys in the program, I see that they begin to see there is hope for their future. Rad* is another kid I am working with in there. He says he is agnostic and open. Every time I come in with food, I make a point to talk to him. He usually is the one I talk to the most; the rest are stuffing their faces. A lot of the boys who go to the CLIPS come from the Treatment pod in the detention center. I do a Bible study every week in Treatment, and Church with them every other week. Please pray for the Treatment boys, as there is a Muslim boy in there trying to stir up things with some of the boys in my Bible study. I have been doing Bible studies on the reliability of Jesus, His life, death, resurrection, and the Bible. These studies have helped, but it's hard, I only get a couple of hours with them, while the other boy lives there. Ed* is in Treatment, and he is a boy I have counseled and spent some time with for months. I did a Bible Study on the Prophecies Jesus fulfilled, and he was amazed by how many came true. I gave Him a copy of the Bible Study he asked to keep to help him. He said he wanted to teach it to others, #JesusWinning! There are a lot of new boys in Detention. I did a Bible study on 'Why does God seem Silent...Why does God hide? I was thinking I would have a lot of negative things said against God, when really it was the opposite. They understood. "It seems as though God is hiding when we are in sin; we just need to go to Him in repentance." I thought, man, you guys are right on! I love spending time with them; some come for Bible study, and some play cards. Sometimes I teach, some days I play cards, some days I do both. I don't want them to see me as just being there to teach. I want to be in their lives and share Christ whenever the opportunity arises, and that could be when teaching or when playing a game or when watching TV. These kids are a blessing to know.

Please pray for more God moments. Please pray for receptive hearts. Pray God moves in their lives and changes hearts. Please pray for Deborah and me that we are encouraged and strengthened as we pursue ministry by the Word and by His Spirit. Pray against the evil one and his schemes against our work. Pray for our comfort and lifting of our spirits as we approach the holiday season without family. Praise God from whom all Blessings flow.

As we enter the Christmas season and the year comes to an end, please consider supporting Red River Youth for Christ. As a non-profit organization, we depend on partners like you to fund this ministry. The lives of teens are directly impacted because of contributions from people like you. Please prayerfully consider making a financial year-end gift to invest in the lives of teens. It could literally change their eternity. Donations can be mailed in the enclosed envelope, or you can donate online at www.redriveryfc.com by clicking the "Donate" link at the top of the page and selecting "BT" from the dropdown. Thank you in advance for your generosity and prayers.



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In His Grip,

Benjamin A. Talley

