

## Happy Spring, Friends & Family!

Six months ago, Kim (a YFC volunteer) and I walked into the pod. The metal door clicked shut behind us. Shoes and chairs squeaked against polished floors as a dozen girls shuffled in, pulling chairs up to the tables—some curious, some passing time, and **many genuinely excited for weekly Bible study.** Those are the ones who have been here a while.

**That's where we met S.** Her words were few, her guard high—you could see she had learned not to trust easily. Yet when snack bags rustled, everyone's eyes lit up. (**Thank you to all who give—those small things matter more than you know.**) One afternoon, I set out bright acrylic markers. Color spilled across the pages—pinks, blues, bold lines—and for the first time, **S. spoke: "Can you bring these again, please?" Week after week, through Bible studies, conversations, and quiet moments coloring, something shifted.** One night in December, after watching *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, we talked about hurt and healing. A simple truth emerged: hurt people hurt people—but healed people can heal people. We talked about owning our responses—E+R=O (Event + Response = Outcome)—and the heart of Christmas: Jesus coming to love, heal, restore, and make a way back to our Father in heaven. **We offered Bibles. S. raised her hand. That night, in her room—under dim lights and behind locked doors—she opened it... and met Jesus.**



Students I Mentor From Dakota



Food Pantry Volunteers At Dakota

By late January, the silence was gone. Laughter filled the room. Voices overlapped. Pages flipped eagerly. **S. was reading multiple Bible translations, using a prayer book, memorizing Scripture—even sharing her favorite story: "The one where they lower the man through the roof... it's kinda crazy."** We talked about prayer—simple, honest words: Help. Thanks. Wow. We studied Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5 and Luke 11 and talked about forgiveness—the kind that lifts heaviness and brings freedom.

This month, we watched *The Forge*. It sparked powerful conversations about purpose, adulthood, mentorship, and faith. It reminded me why these Bible studies matter—because we all need people who love us, encourage us, teach us and help us back up when we fall. That rare, love-you-no-matter-what kind of friend. Jesus is that kind of friend and it's important that we find a huggable version here on earth too. A Christian bestie. We've also been talking about "the dash"—the story of our lives between our birth and death. Many of the girls are stepping into new chapters: jobs, healthier friendships, greater responsibility, and pivotal decisions. **I asked, "In the last couple of months, has anyone decided to follow Jesus like Isaiah did in the movie?" S. sat up, smiling. "I have." My heart paused. "Tell me more..." "Well...**

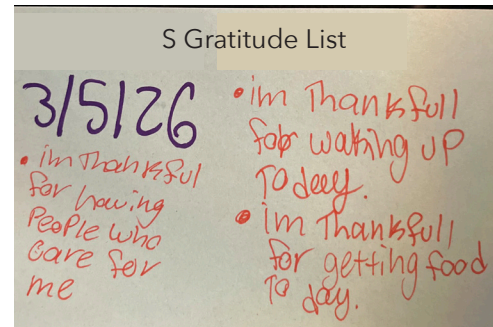


Cooking Club

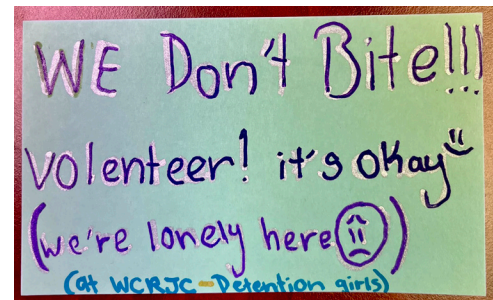
**you and Kim just kept showing up... and over the last couple of weeks—I decided.” Praise God!**

Looking back, it seems simple: consistency, coloring, Christian movies. But really—**it was God moving through you—through your prayers, generosity, and “yes.” S. now has hope, a voice, and a relationship with Jesus. Thank you for being part of her story and for helping me pursue my calling as a local missionary.** Every prayer and small act of kindness matters—and God gets all the glory.

**This month, would you join us in praying for more prayer advocates and faithful volunteers?** We are praying for six or more people willing to visit kids in the juvenile center for 1-2 hours weekly or bi-weekly. There are 60-70 youth (ages 12-17) there on any given night, and over 40 would love a consistent, caring adult—to talk, color, play games, do crafts, paint, or support a Bible study alongside a YFC staff member. **There’s a whole building of teens just like S.—lonely and hoping someone will show up.** The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. If you know someone with a heart for Christ and teens, please tell them. All skills can be taught. Please pray that God guides us to people seeking meaningful volunteer opportunities.



Notes From Girls At West Central



Be love. Be courageous. Be a great neighbor. What is God calling you to say “yes” to this month? **He has a mission and purpose for you. There are precious opportunities to love others with our time, talent, and treasure. Your life has meaning, and you can make a difference every day—right where you are.** God equips the called, no matter how big or small the task. Love well!

Next month, **I celebrate my first year as a missionary.** This season has shown me that in our weakness, God’s light shines brightest, and miracle moments happen daily. I pray for eyes and ears to see His will, His love, and His blessings. God is faithful. A student recently reminded me that even Moses, Jesus, and Paul felt fear, built community, and still acted with courage. Esther, Deborah, and Mary also stepped forward with both fear and faith. They all said “yes,” found people to walk with them, and trusted God with the rest.

**Thank you** for being prayer warriors and supporters in this YFC mission to reach at-risk youth with God’s love. **Please keep praying that youth would be curious and courageous—that the seeds of faith planted daily would take deep root and grow into lasting relationships with God.** Chad, the YFC team, and I are praying for you! Please call, text, or write and share how we can be praying for you.

If you feel called to join the financial support team, you can give online (simple, secure, tax-deductible):

<https://redriveryouthforchrist.givingfuel.com/giving>

Select ND - (Natasha Deplazes) in the fund drop-down or return the enclosed envelope.

**Remember: God loves you—always and forever, no matter what!**



Scan here to donate.



**Natasha (Tasha) Deplazes**

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*\*Note: Names of kid’s are changed or omitted for privacy purposes.\**