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Summer Newsletter

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SUMMER 2026 STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For years, Youth for Christ has walked alongside young people through the ups and downs of life. We've always believed that every teenager deserves hope, a sense of belonging, and caring adults who won't give up on them. Today, we're excited to introduce something that will help us do that in an even deeper way: Rebalance.



So, what is Rebalance?

Rebalance is a relationship-centered mentoring and life-skills program designed for middle school and high school students. It helps young people build emotional strength, healthy relationships, confidence, and practical life skills so they can thrive both now and in the future.

In simple terms, Rebalance helps students "get back in balance" emotionally, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

Many teens today are carrying heavy burdens. Anxiety, depression, loneliness, family struggles, school pressure, and social media stress are affecting students at younger ages than ever before. Some youth simply need encouragement and guidance. Others are facing trauma, instability, or difficult life experiences that make it hard to trust adults or believe in themselves.

That's where Rebalance comes in.

Through trusted mentoring relationships, group activities, discussions, and hands-on learning experiences, students learn important skills like:

- Managing emotions in healthy ways
- Building positive friendships
- Communicating respectfully
- Making wise decisions
- Developing confidence and resilience
- Handling stress and conflict

• Setting goals for their future
One of the things that makes Rebalance unique is its focus on the whole person. We don't just want students to avoid negative choices—we want them to discover their value, purpose, and strengths. We want them to know they matter.

As we begin this new chapter, we are grateful for supporters like you. Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity make opportunities like Rebalance possible. Together, we can continue helping young people discover hope, resilience, and a brighter future.

We cannot wait to see how God uses Rebalance to impact students across our community.

Greg Everett
Executive Director

Fresh Peaches

Now Available
Dates & Details Inside

Featuring
MIKE GOODWIN
Thursday, November 12th

RED RIVER YOUTH FOR CHRIST'S
COMEDY FOR A CAUSE
TRY NOT TO LAUGH!

PRESENTED BY

Eid-Co Homes Est. 1951 GOLDMARK Joe & Sandra Payne

Meeting with Grace, Truth, & Compassion

The past four months have been filled with both challenges and answered prayers in Parent Life. Three new moms attended various Bible studies and cooking classes, one couple got married, a young dad joined the Army, and birthdays were celebrated. One afternoon, a 19-year-old expectant mother stared quietly at a small baby in utero model and asked, **"That's really what my baby looks like at 14 weeks?"** Alone, pregnant, and suddenly homeless, she had few places to turn. Yet God moved quickly. Through YFC connections, she found practical support, a job opportunity, many resources for her pregnancy, and God provided a more stable place to live. She has since declined mentoring & Bible study, but took a Bible storybook to read to her little one. Then this month, a 14-year-old joined Bible study and asked for mentoring. She shared that grandma is taking care of her little one right now while she is addressing heartbreaking challenges far beyond her years. Please pray for these young parents and their children. Many talk about feeling judged by both peers and adults. I'm reminded of Jesus' words: "Let him who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Lord, help us meet them with grace, truth, and compassion. God sees them, loves them, and continues to bring healing and hope one step at a time. *~Tasha Deplazes*

"I swore to myself I'd never pick up a Bible again..."

A girl shared how her parents had forced her to read the old testament. She went on to ask for a Bible during a Bible study at West Central Juvenile Center stating,

"I've changed my mind."

Have You Tried Reading the Bible?

We often ask kids this questions and here are some of their recent honest responses.

- "I've read the first 100 pages, but it's been a while."
- "I try to read it every day."
- "Yes, but I got distracted. It was hard to focus (started in Genesis)."
- "It really helps you through bad times and good times."
- "I like the new part (New Testament)."
- "Why is it so big?"

"I felt lighter after I was baptized."

A teen shared a part of their faith story with the group.



Stocking pantry shelves at "The Source," one of the school food pantries.



Practical Needs

Note: Please No Nuts

We're running really low on individually packaged snacks and also need some healthy snack options as we start our new Rebalance program.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ○ Granola Bars | ○ Cases of bottled water |
| ○ Skinny Pop | ○ Cases of sports drink |
| ○ String cheese | ○ Kid friendly cereal |
| ○ Mini beef sticks | ○ Crackers such as goldfish, cheese crackers, or triscuits |
| ○ Applesauce pouches | ○ Chips, salsa, & guac |
| ○ Yogurt tubes | |
| ○ Pickles | |

Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682.

God At Work, Not Just With Youth

"I've recently gotten into the Bible again," one of the West Central Juvenile Center staff members shared with me. I asked what he meant by "again." He said, "I've been away from God for a long time, and I've recently come back. I've accepted him into my life and been studying the Bible." The conversation started with a question about Bible translations, and when he opened his Bible, I noticed it was the same one as mine. He shared that he used to be an atheist and turned away from God. He came back to God after realizing he had lost everything and didn't have anything. He went on to say he is confidently following Christ and "wouldn't go back for anything. I've noticed that the comforts that Christ gives, like the peace, the joy, patience, all that, I wouldn't give that up for anything." *~Benjamin Talley*

"That's a big tetanus risk!"

One youth chimed in seriously as we read about the nails that pierced Jesus.



Danielle & Kim traveled to celebrate the graduation of a teen that relocated to outside our radius. The smile alone was worth the short trip to the small celebration.

Students names have been changed for privacy

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

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2 Young Men & A Clothing Brand

Mike* and Gerald* have been working toward starting their own Christian clothing brand, and just a couple weeks ago they created their very first shirt. It turned out amazing! I was blessed to get one of the first shirts they released. The creativity and vision these young men have is incredible. These boys are truly talented and gifted, and it's inspiring to watch them step into the gifts God has placed inside of them. I constantly remind them that they are made for so much more and that God has an incredible plan for their lives if they will continue to open their hearts and trust Him fully. They are capable of doing amazing things, and I believe this is only the beginning. *~Benjamin Talley*

Your Mistakes Don't Define You

One of the most meaningful parts of this year for me has been the opportunity to walk alongside students consistently through Check & Connect mentoring meetings. During one of these meetings, a student and I walked around the school together, talking about life, relationships, and mistakes.

At one point in the conversation, the student shared a story about a mistake someone in his family had made. That opened the door for a deeper conversation about how everyone makes mistakes and how growth comes from learning, reflecting, and moving forward rather than staying trapped in shame or embarrassment. We talked about how mistakes should never define a person's value or future.

Later in the conversation, the student started asking questions about relationships and confidence. It became an opportunity to encourage him toward healthy perspectives on respect, kindness, and treating others well, rather than trying to impress people or force connections.

What stood out most was not one huge breakthrough moment, but the growing trust that has developed over consistent conversations throughout the year. These moments remind us that mentorship often happens through ordinary conversations where students feel heard, encouraged, and guided in healthy directions during important stages of life. *~Noah Jedlicka*

A Devotional?

Kim and I were doing a youth appointment with two girls. One of the girls pulled out a devotional she had been given and asked, "How does this work? Like, how do I use it?" We walked through a couple of the devos, starting with the scripture and teaching her how to look it up in her Bible. We then talked through the story, and prayer. It was fun to see how teaching her how to use a simple devotional was so empowering to her. *~Danielle Beyer*

Recent Questions:

- When will Jesus come back?
- Is earth between Heaven & Hell?
- How do you obey the sabbath?
- Can we study Revelations?
- I want to learn about David. Can you teach us about David?
- Why did Esau eat the stew?
- Am I going to heaven?

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.

- **Edges:** Styling the fine, short, baby hairs along the hairline & using gel to design them into flat waves & swirls to frame the face.
- **Crash Out:** When someone becomes so overwhelmed by emotions that they act irrationally, destructively, or dangerously. It's often used when a person is on the verge of making a bad decision because they're upset, hurt, angry, or mentally exhausted. I.E., "If I fail this test after studying all week, I might crash out."
- **Ops-** (Spelled "ops," "opps," or "opp") short for opposition or opponents. Anyone you dislike or disagree with, or an enemy or threat. I.E., "We had ops between us." Or "Don't trust him; he hangs with the ops."
- **Main character/main character syndrome/main character energy** - When someone either is, thinks they are, or behaves as though they are the most interesting or central person in a situation due to how they dress, speak, or behave. "I'm wearing these cow-print pants to the grocery store. Main character energy." (Axis, A Parent's Guide to Teen Slang, March, 2026)

Dakota HS Graduation Celebration

"I never felt love like I do here at Dakota High School! There's no love where I'm from in Uganda. I'm going to miss you all so much. Thank you for everything." With tears in his eyes and gratitude overflowing from his heart, Jamal* made a point to thank every volunteer, teacher, staff member, and the principal during the YFC graduation reception. His joy was contagious, and his family shared it too. Moments like these remind us that the message of **God's LOVE is shining through.** Thank you to every YFC supporter and to those who baked treats, sliced watermelon, and served behind the scenes. God uses small acts of love to make an eternal impact. *~Tasha Deplazes*



Highlighted dates indicate fruit weeks.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Jun 2026	21 28	22 29	23 30	24	25	26	27
	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Jul 2026	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Aug 2026	2	3	4	5	6	7	1
	9	10	11	12	13	14	8
	16	17	18	19	20	21	15
	23	24	25	26	27	28	22
							29

***Pickup times can change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please include all contact info, check Facebook, & visit our website for any changes.*

Summer Peach Fundraiser

Every summer, we bring in fresh, tree-ripened peaches and fresh Georgia pecans 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. Your purchase of fruit supports our ministry to teens year-round. For more information or to pre-order, visit our website.

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, and a lot of fun! This is the perfect service 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 info 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.



"Why was Jesus sentenced to death?"

A young man asked reading the heading above John 19. When YFC staff suggested we should read the verses to find out, he replied with,

"Actually, I need to be enlightened before I start reading."



Hey Ben, I got accepted to college! I am going to college!

I've been discipling Mike,* a young man I originally met at the Juvenile Center, for several months now. During that time, I've watched his hunger for theology and the study of God's Word grow tremendously. His zeal and desire to go deeper in his faith have continued to increase.

Mike has faced many challenges in life that could have easily held him back, yet he has shown incredible resilience and maturity through it all. He has always desired to further his education and pursue Biblical studies, but for a long time, he never believed it was truly possible.

After applying to several colleges and hearing nothing back, he assumed those doors had closed. But we serve a big God. Recently, Mike received the news that he has been accepted to Bethel University, where he will study Biblical studies and athletic medicine. He starts this August! God is so good! ~Benjamin Talley



Featuring

MIKE GOODWIN

Thursday, November 12th



RED RIVER YOUTH FOR CHRIST'S
COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

TRY NOT TO LAUGH!

Bethel Church, 2702 30th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103
7:00-9:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)
Tickets on Sale in September

PRESENTED BY

Eid-Co Homes
Est. 1951

GOLDMARK

Joe & Sandra Payne

THIS COULD BE YOU!
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
See our website



EVENT DETAILS
www.redriveryfc.com/event/comedy/

"You're the only people that made me enjoy seeing a Crockpot at school."

One Dakota HS graduate shared at the graduation ceremony, thanking YFC for hot meals this year. These meals address food scarcity & create community. Our teens are so thankful!

Can We Continue This Summer?

As the school year at Liberty Middle School wound down, one of our final morning Bible studies became a really encouraging reminder of how God has been working this year. We wrapped up a student-requested series discussing Revelation, heaven, and the hope we have in Jesus.

The atmosphere was full of laughter, honest questions, and meaningful conversation. We spent time talking about what heaven might be like, what it means that God will one day restore everything broken in the world, and how Jesus promises hope even in difficult seasons of life. As we read Scripture together, the students were deeply engaged and thoughtful in the discussion.

Near the end of the study, the conversation shifted toward summer break and what happens when school Bible studies pause. Students asked if we could continue meeting over the summer at local coffee shops to keep doing Bible study together. Seeing middle school students excited about continuing conversations about faith in the summer was incredibly encouraging.

Moments like this are a reminder that these Bible studies are becoming more than just another school activity. They are becoming a place where students feel connected, supported, and genuinely excited to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Thank you for helping create spaces where students can encounter hope, community, and the truth of the Gospel. ~Noah Jedlicka