

Dear Saints in the Lord,

We finally took a trip to the Badlands and to Montana! It was awesome! God took us on a tour of all the work He created. He creates and changes things. Praise Him! Change comes to us all in many different ways. God is definitely doing work in me!

I've always loved Ps 37:4 "Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires." It shows how God changes your desires as you desire Him. In the New Testament, He shows how He does the same thing. Php 2:13 "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." God is so good! We are shaped and molded like a lump of clay. While the shaping and pounding doesn't feel good at the moment, the end result is going to be awesome. I am just like the annoying kid in the back seat on the road trip screaming, "Are we there yet?" Let me fill you in. Deborah is at the salon working harder than ever before! She is learning new skills and taking on a whole new kind of client. Please continue to pray for her.



I am still working in CLIPS. Mike has left CLIPS. He was the one I was discipling for a good bit and teaching systematic theology. He got the opportunity to go study theology at a Christian college and athletic medicine. Praise God! I talked to him just the other day! Gage has left. He has gone to start his sentence in a jail upstate. I was discipling him for a while, and he was doing really well. Pray he stays close to the Lord! We have some new faces in CLIPS. Some are only in there for a couple of months. I have been bringing lunch to the CLIPS boys for a long time. I have always been praying to get a Bible study started in CLIPS for the boys, and we just started one this summer. It has been a rocky start. I have been approached by the boys with all kinds of questions from evolution and dinosaurs to Odin and other religions. They didn't even know Jerusalem was a real place until I told them. Please pray for me as I maneuver through these questions of faith and get to the heart of the issues. It has been a blessing to see these young men grow. Jake is one who got a job making \$20 an hour doing landscaping! That was an answer to prayer. Praise God! I love coming in on Wednesdays and seeing their faces light up when I bring in food. It is awesome! They are all getting jobs, getting diplomas, GEDs, and overcoming. I am so proud of them!



Visiting the Badlands

In detention, A-Pod was full of level one boys. Level one means they have lighter sentences or are hitting their goals. They said they wanted to go through Revelation, so I started going through Revelation with them. They loved it! I started by showing them a timeline of events in history; they were amazed! In B-Pod and C-Pod, they said they wanted to go through Proverbs, so we did. Folks, they are eating it up! God's word is so good! Thank y'all for praying for us. I was going to do a church service this week, and I really wanted to go to A-Pod and B-Pod to see some of the boys in A-Pod, but it was C-Pod's night for church. I asked God to just work it out, hoping we would get to go to A-Pod, and lo and behold, they mixed the pods, so A-Pod and C-Pod were mixed. I got to see A-Pod boys that night! Prayer works!

There are two seasons out here: winter and construction. Construction season usually brings warmer weather, and that warmer weather brings you guessed it, PEACHES!! It is our biggest fundraiser of the year! We had two

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

semis of Georgia peaches earlier this summer, and we just finished four semis of Colorado peaches. We get the truck on Monday or Tuesday, and we sell them in about a week. Colorado peaches are our biggest seller. God has been so good to us! Peach sales help to raise money for our new ministry, as well as grants, for Rebalance.

I talked about Rebalance before, but I will tell you more. Rebalance is a program for teens that teaches social-emotional learning through the fruit of the Spirit! It teaches emotional regulation, self-awareness and self-esteem, social skills, resilience, problem-solving and decision-making, a positive school and work environment, reduced risky behaviors, academic and occupational success, and prevention and early intervention. Who doesn't want these things for their kids who deal with trauma? It consists of games and a time of lessons and discussion. It introduces the principles of the Fruits of the Spirit without outright calling them that, making it more universally accepted in all environments. The program helps improve mental health and helps them manage their emotions. It has an 88% Behavior change success rate. We are at the Juvenile Center, running the program with both secure and non-secure girls. We are coming up on our eighth class, and we have seen awesome things! The students are loving it! It has worked out great so far. We plan to start it at Moorhead Alternative Learning Center this school year. Lord willing and the Creeks don't rise, we can start it in Liberty Middle School. We are praying for an opportunity to run it at Dakota High School. That is what we hope for! We still plan to run our other Bible studies and programs as well. Rebalance takes 3 hours to run a class per week. Right now, we run it twice on Monday; that is six hours. Then we have our other Bible studies. Rebalance is a way to introduce students to Biblical principles and then invite them into our other Bible studies and events during the week!

I am doing four Bible studies a week. One on Revelation, two on Proverbs, and one on John. Then I have Rebalance on Mondays until the school year starts. Hopefully we will be in the schools with Rebalance by then. I am hanging out with CLIPS guys. I pray I am able to continue doing check-and-connect with Moorhead students this school year. We plan to resume our meetings at Bethel Church this school year.

Northland is our Church now, and we are serving there. Deborah and I were excited to go to camp with the teens this summer, and we had a blast with them. The teens are so fun to be around! The camp was in the Black Hills. It was beautiful! Deborah has been doing a lot of multimedia and tech stuff for the church as well as working with the Youth! God is and has always been at work in our hearts. We just want to remain open and honest with each other and with Him as He guides us no matter where we go! Please pray for Deborah and I as we tackle the things in ministry in our jobs. Pray we are sensitive to God's leading and His voice as we serve Him out here. Pray for contentment for us, for discernment, for peace, and for His Presence and favor over our lives and ministry. If God so leads you to partner with us and join us in this ministry, whether by giving a one-time, weekly, monthly, or yearly gift, as the LORD leads. Know that we love you all and are praying for you all every night! Please pray for us. We need your prayers! May God bless you richly and walk with you closely!

In His Grip,

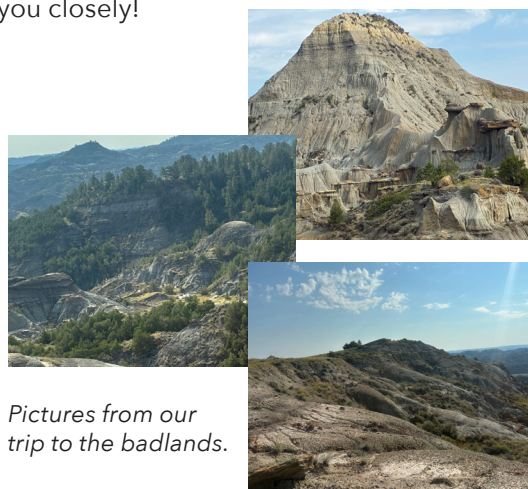
Benjamin A Talley



The peach stand with a crew of volunteers.



Scan here to donate.



Pictures from our trip to the badlands.