YOUTH FOR CHRIST RED RIVER®

GIVE LIFE TO YOUR STORY

Hey Everyone,

I hope you are all having an absolutely wonderful, sun-filled summer! As the season winds down, my heart overflows with gratitude, and I am so excited to share some of the incredible things God has been doing through Red River Youth For Christ. First, a major milestone: I officially hit my one-year anniversary with YFC! Looking back to last July, when I jumped right into our annual peach fundraiser, I am completely blown away by God's faithfulness. To everyone who has donated, prayed, encouraged me, and championed this ministry over the past year, THANK YOU! You are a huge part of every story I'm about to share. And speaking of peaches... wow! This year, we sold a whopping 7,200 boxes of peaches over 6 weeks. Praise God!

Some of the many volunteers & YFC Staff at our summer peach fundraiser.

The peach fundraiser provides a huge financial foundation for our ministry throughout the year. It is such a joy to see how God provides through our community's love for delicious fruit! But what makes that provision so meaningful is what it allows us to do be present with students, build relationships, and create opportunities for them to encounter Jesus.

Because of that support, we've been able to run our 12-week Rebalance program every Monday for students at the Juvenile Detention Center. We ran programs with two different groups of teenage girls from 1:00–3:00 PM and 4:00–6:00 PM, and the program wraps up on August 31st. If you haven't heard of Rebalance, it gives students a break from their stressful routines while teaching practical life skills like calming down, managing emotions, making wise decisions, and building healthy relationships. Tasha, Ben, and I get to walk alongside these girls as supportive, caring guides rather than as strict teachers. Because of your support, these students have a space where they can feel seen, heard, and valued. Our time together includes games related to each week's theme, calming techniques, RoundTables®, and conversations about topics such as Influence, Boundaries, Forgiveness, and Honesty. We finish by setting a SMART goal for the week. But the best part is the hidden foundation.

Every life skill we teach connects beautifully with the Fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. While we meet these students where they are and use everyday language, our ultimate hope goes much deeper. Jesus is the goal. By consistently showing these students love and walking alongside them, we hope they begin to experience what it means to be known, valued, forgiven, and loved. When Rebalance ends, we will invite students into ongoing Bible studies. We are praying that the walls that have begun to come down will continue to come down, and that these students will eventually look beyond the people serving them to discover the One who makes this kind of love possible, Jesus Christ.

Our Liberty Middle School Campus Life Bible study also took an exciting summer detour! We traded our early-morning conference room for Friday mornings at Bully Brew Coffee Shop, meeting from 10:00–11:15 AM since June 12th. The relaxed atmosphere has been perfect for deeper conversations, connection, and practical Bible teaching. My co-worker Danielle and I have been so blessed by the student who actually spearheaded this summer group. Her dedication during the school year kept attendance strong by constantly inviting her friends. Her vibrant personality and passion for Jesus have made this summer such a joy. We studied The Cause Circle and talked about how Jesus calls us to seek and save the lost through Prayer, Care, and Share. We looked at the friends who carried the paralyzed man to Jesus and were reminded that while we cannot change someone's heart, we can be the friend who brings someone to the feet of Christ.

As we finished our summer Bible study on August 21st, it was bittersweet because this student is moving on to high school. While I will miss having her in the middle school, I am excited to see what God continues to do in her life.

In the middle of August, I traveled to Estes Park, Colorado, for a YFC training at the Rocky Mountain YMCA. This is a 12-month leadership experience for new YFC leaders, in which we meet both in person and over Zoom, complete weekly assignments, and learn from trained facilitators as we grow alongside our cohort. I was there for the program introduction and to meet the eight other YFC leaders I'll be sharing this experience with. We spent three days laughing, getting to know one another, exploring Estes Park, eating some great BBQ, visiting the Stanley Hotel, and hiking one of the many mountain trails.

Hiking with my cohort group

Views from my Colorado Trip

I also made some great friends through carpooling to and from the airport. The three of us spent a lot of time together throughout those three days, and even though we serve in different locations—North Dakota, Central Minnesota, and Northeast Pennsylvania—I feel like I built something really special with them. It was encouraging to connect with people who understand the work I do and who I can continue to stay connected with throughout this year. The trip was also a great time for reflection. Being surrounded by the mountains and God's creation reminded me that God is the one who ultimately does the work. I can show up, build relationships, teach, pray, and share the Gospel, but I cannot change a student's heart. That is God's work. My job is to faithfully show up and trust Him with the results.

As summer winds down, we are already gearing up for the new school year, which started August 27th at Liberty! I am excited for what God has in store this year with Rebalance at Liberty and the ALC in Moorhead. I'll be back at Liberty continuing 1-on-1 mentoring, lunch monitoring, and Rebalance. I am also thrilled to continue working with the same group of students through my 1-on-1 mentoring. Being able to walk alongside them for another year gives us the opportunity to continue building trust and strong relationships. My lunch monitoring schedule is also staying the same as last year. This is one of my favorite times of the week because I get to catch up with students, meet the brand-new 6th graders, and build relationships with students right where they are. I'll also continue Rebalance, starting it at the ALC in Moorhead, and help provide programming for students at the Juvenile Detention Center every other Wednesday night through Church. That means more students to meet, more relationships to build, more opportunities to listen, more opportunities to open God's Word, and more opportunities to point students toward Jesus.

When I look back at this past year, I don't just see programs or numbers. I see students who have trusted us enough to open up, students who have grown in their faith, students asking deeper questions, and students beginning to understand that they are loved and valued. I think about the girls in Rebalance learning how to slow down and make better decisions. I think about the student who brought her friends to Bible study because she wanted them to know Jesus. I think about the students I've been able to walk alongside through mentoring and the simple moments during lunch where relationships are built.

These are the reasons I believe this ministry matters. And this is why I'm asking you to consider partnering with me as we head into the fall. Your support is not simply helping fund a program. Your support helps me be there. It helps me walk into a school and sit down with a student who needs someone to listen. It helps create spaces where students can experience genuine Christian community. It helps provide programs like Rebalance where students can learn practical skills while building relationships with caring adults. It helps create opportunities for students to hear about Jesus and ultimately encounter Him. Whether you are able to give $10, $25, $50, $100, or whatever

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God puts on your heart, every gift matters. You don't have to give a large amount to make an impact. When people come together and each gives what they can, God can use that generosity to accomplish something far bigger than any one of us could do alone.

Haning out with my cohort group

I also want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has been praying for the students, the ministry, our staff, and me. I truly feel those prayers. There are days when ministry is hard, when I need wisdom, and when I simply need God to give me the strength to keep showing up. Knowing that I have prayer warriors standing behind me and this ministry is one of the greatest blessings I could ask for. Please continue praying for the students, their families, our schools, our staff, and for open doors for ministry. Most importantly, pray that students would come to know Jesus Christ and that the Holy Spirit would move in their hearts. Because at the end of the day, it's about Jesus. It's not ultimately about Rebalance, Bible studies, mentoring, or lunch monitoring. Those are the ways we build relationships and create opportunities. The goal is that students would know the love of Christ, discover their identity in Him, experience His grace and forgiveness, and choose to follow Him. So, as we head into the fall, would you prayerfully consider making a financial gift today to help me continue this ministry? If you feel led to give, I would be incredibly grateful for your support. Whether it is a one-time gift or something you feel called to give monthly, your support helps me continue to show up for students and create opportunities for them to encounter Jesus throughout the school year. Thank you for praying. Thank you for giving. Thank you for encouraging me. Thank you for believing in what God is doing through Red River Youth For Christ.

I truly could not do this without you. I am so excited to see what God is going to do this fall. There are new students to meet, old relationships to continue building, new doors for ministry to walk through, and countless opportunities to share the hope of Jesus. Thank you for being part of this journey with me. If you feel led, I would love for you to partner with me today as we step into another school year of ministry together. I can't wait to see what Jesus does next!

Thank you,

Noah Jedlicka