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Fall 2026
STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

What an incredible summer! As we look back on another successful peach sale, we want to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who purchased peaches, volunteered, spread the word, and helped make this year's sale such a success. We are so grateful for your generosity and support!

But here's the thing: It's never really been about the peaches. It's about the kids!

Every box of peaches sold helps make it possible for Red River Youth for Christ to reach teenagers with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Your support opens doors for us to build meaningful relationships with young people, walk alongside them through life's challenges, and remind them that they are loved, valued, and never alone. That's what makes the peach sale so special. It's more than a fundraiser; it's an investment in the lives of teenagers right here in our community.

This summer, we had the privilege of leading two wonderful Rebalance classes with young people at the detention center. Through Rebalance, we help teens better understand their emotions, make healthy decisions, build positive relationships, and discover their potential. More importantly, these classes give us opportunities to

build trust, offer encouragement, and demonstrate Christ's love to young people who need to know their lives matter.

And we're just getting started!

We are thrilled to have launched a new Rebalance class at Moorhead ALC during the school day, and in the coming weeks, we'll begin an after school class at Liberty Middle School. These new opportunities allow us to connect with even more students and provide a safe, encouraging environment where they can learn, grow, and experience genuine belonging.

Our programming is in full swing, and we couldn't be more excited about what God has in store for this school year. Thank you for making it possible for us to show up, build relationships, and share the hope of Jesus with the next generation. Please pray for protection for us and our students, as there is a real sense of spiritual warfare as we enter this fall.

Mark your calendars for Comedy for a Cause on November 12th, 2026, for another unforgettable evening of laughter, inspiration, and community! We're excited to welcome nationally recognized comedian Mike Goodwin, who has appeared on America's Got Talent, Dry Bar Comedy, and Amazon Prime, for our annual fall fundraiser.

This is more than a comedy show. It's an opportunity to gather with friends, enjoy a fantastic night of laughter, and hear about the incredible things God is doing through Red River Youth for Christ.

We would love to see you there! Purchase your tickets, invite your friends, and consider sponsoring this special evening. Your participation helps us continue reaching teenagers throughout our community with the life-changing love of Jesus.

As we begin another exciting school year, please know how much your partnership means to us. None of this ministry work happens without you. Thank you for your generous financial gifts, your constant prayers, and your unwavering belief in the youth of our community. Your partnership means more to us than words can express. Together, we are seeing lives transformed, hope restored, and a generation impacted for Christ.

With deep gratitude,

Greg Everett
Executive Director

MIKE GOODWIN
Thursday, November 12th, 2026
Tickets On Sale Now
DETAILS INSIDE

PRESENTED BY

Eid-Co
Est. 1951 *Homes*

Joe & Sandra Payne

GOLDMARK

Prayer Requests

Recent prayer requests from and for our youth:

- To graduate early
 - God, Thank you for everything and you being here by my side
 - To be a better person and stick to my goals
 - For my adoption to go through
 - Healing for my injured leg
- To graduate and get into dental school
 - To get into CLIPS (a specialized program at West Central)
 - For my mom to write back (West Central youth)
 - For my brother- better choices

Email us at info@redriveryfc.com to join our prayer team.

He Got Saved!

I was teaching on Proverbs Chapter 4 at a recent Thursday Bible study, and the topic of the condition of the heart and how to change came up. Dean* mentioned that he had been trying to change and wanted lasting change. I offered to talk further with him about that if he wanted, and he said he did. We met the following Tuesday. He said he had been working to change. I shared how we can't experience true and lasting transformation in our core without Jesus. I explained how God works in our hearts, desires, affections, and the circumstances we go through in life. We must turn from the selfish and wicked things we do so naturally and turn to Him to change our nature to a new one. I said it is like a glove. The glove is made in the image of the hand but without the hand is dead and not useful to the maker. However, with the hand, it is useful and can glorify the maker and be used. Like us, we are made in the image of God, but without the Maker filling us and equipping us with His Spirit, we are not useful to bear fruit. We must repent to become spiritually alive and live with Him as our Lord and Savior. I said, "Do you want to go to the LORD, confess, repent, and receive Him into your life?" He said "Yes!" He received Jesus and got saved that day! ~Benjamin Talley

Smells Like A Home

Tasha and I took a fleece blanket that needed tying with us to Bible study with the girls in the juvenile center. (Note: Some of the girls are able to participate in a program where they go to Micah's Mission and volunteer by serving a meal. When they have tied enough fleece blankets to fill a large bag, they take the bag and donate the blankets to the homeless who need them.) While we discussed the parables we were studying that day, two of the girls worked on the blanket. One of the girls is someone who sometimes has trouble sitting still for very long. However, that day, she worked on the blanket contentedly while listening to the Bible readings and participating in our discussion. As they finished the blanket, she commented that it smelled like a home. "You know how you walk into a home and dinner is cooking on the stove? That's what it smells like. I like it!!" I shared that the blanket was sitting on my kitchen table that day and my husband had put a roast, potatoes, and carrots in the crockpot that morning. I'm sure the fabric picked up the aroma of the food cooking. How easily we take the comfort of home for granted. Your generosity allows us to share more than blankets. We pray these simple acts of kindness help the girls experience God's love and discover the eternal home He lovingly offers to all who come to Him. ~Kim Danielson



Our first Moorhead ALC release time started with 41 kids!



Our first rebalance class at Moorhead ALC



Some of the beautiful tie blankets made by the Secure & Treatment Girls

Snacks Running Very Low

Note: Please No Nuts

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

- Granola Bars
 - Skinny Pop
 - String cheese
 - Mini beef sticks
 - Applesauce pouches
 - Yogurt tubes
 - Pickles
- Cases of bottled water
 - Cases of sports drink
 - Crackers such as goldfish, cheese crackers, or triscuits
 - Chips, salsa, & guac
 - Any kind of pre-packaged or individually packed snacks

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



Poem of Reality

"The delusion of power is a deadly lie to live with, we try to convince ourselves that we have control, and that we have power within us to change. Often, those around us fortify the delusion and hide the evidence of our powerlessness from us. Then in a rare moment of clarity, we come to see that we have made no progress, possess no power, and know of no path to follow. The fortunate ones discover that in thousands of remarkable ways, God has been reaching for us and revealing that He can help, that He can heal, that He can restore. Finally hearing God's truth and believing it leads every struggler from a place of hopelessness to the possibility of new life. This is the poem of reality.

In Psalm 119:29, the writer pleads with God, "Keep me from lying to myself." If we never stop to observe and take note of our patterns from the past, and our defective and deficient ways of coping in the present, we consign ourselves by default to another day of self-deception. The inventory, when compiled with honesty and diligence, is the beginning of facing the truth about our need to grow in character and maturity." ~A poem written and shared by one of our students

Students names have been changed or omitted 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

RRYFC Board

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- Shane Kosloske

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I'm sorry I never got to say bye to the group before graduating. I miss youth for Christ quite a bit I won't lie. Thank you for making it so enjoyable even when I had bad days.

A screenshot of the message

You Don't Always Know

This was a random text I got from a kid who constantly said she believed in God but had no interest in changing her lifestyle. She was always telling me about crazy parties and adventures. At times, I would feel so defeated, wondering if this girl was ever listening. I was very touched by this completely out-of-the-blue message. It gave me a chance to reconnect, and you never know the impact your kindness and listening ear can have on someone's life. ~Danielle Beyer

Reminders That They Are Seen

One day, a student came up to me and asked for a “knuck,” and I gave him a fist bump. It was a simple interaction, but it didn’t stop there. Since then, it has become a common greeting. Whether I’m helping out during lunch or walking through the halls, he’ll come over for a fist bump. It may seem like a small thing, but it's a reminder that relationships often start with something simple. That fist bump lets him know that he is seen and that I’m glad to see him. Over time, those little moments have helped build a connection and open the door to something more meaningful. Our fist bumps have turned into waves when we see each other, along with short conversations. What started as a simple “knuck” is a reminder to me to simply show up and acknowledge a student. ~Noah Jedlicka

Bible Verse Bookmark Crafts

The girls had asked to make bookmarks by putting Bible verses on cardstock and decorating them. They had a wonderful time, asking for Bible verse suggestions, looking them up, and sharing them with each other. We encouraged them to make one for themselves and then one for someone else. We ended up with a pile of beautiful bookmarks to share with people as a reminder that there are kids who don’t even know them and who care about them. ~Kim Danielson



"God is good, God is great. Thank you for this food & plate."

A catchy prayer a student recently prayed.

Peach Thanks

What a summer to celebrate! Because of your generosity, we sold 7,200 boxes of peaches. This creates opportunities to share hope and truth with teens. Thank you to everyone who purchased fruit and/or volunteered. We are especially grateful to Scheels Home & Hardware, Magnum Transportation, and our amazing volunteers for making this fundraiser possible!



Thankful for all our wonderful volunteers!

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.

- o **ASMR:** Stands for Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response. It's slang for anything weirdly satisfying or relaxing. Something that gives you chills or goosebumps. (i.e., Dude, the crunch of these chips. ASMR!)
- o **Vibe:** A mood, emotional energy, or feeling. Here are some of its uses.
 - o **Vibing/Straight Vibing:** Hanging out, relaxing, feeling good, in the moment, connecting with someone, chilling out, or having fun.
 - o **Vibe Check:** A standard of “vibes” someone has to “pass”. Often used as a joke to justify why you don’t like someone using nitpicky critiques. “He thinks frogs are gross. Immediately fails the vibe check.” (Axis, A Parent's Guide to Teen Slang, March, 2026)
 - o **Vibe Match:** Checking if two individuals share the same energy, personality, or mood.
 - o **Vibe Killer:** Somebody who ruins the positive energy or fun.
- o **W Dude:** The short version of win or winner and an influential, successful, stand-up, admirable, or winning guy. Example from the story in which it was shared. YFC Staff: Why do you think Jesus died on the cross for our sins? Middle school boy response: To be a W Dude!

"The Action Bible you gave us actually made me want to start reading the (full) Bible too."

A student shared during a recent Bible study.



A Divine Reset Reaching 3 Generations

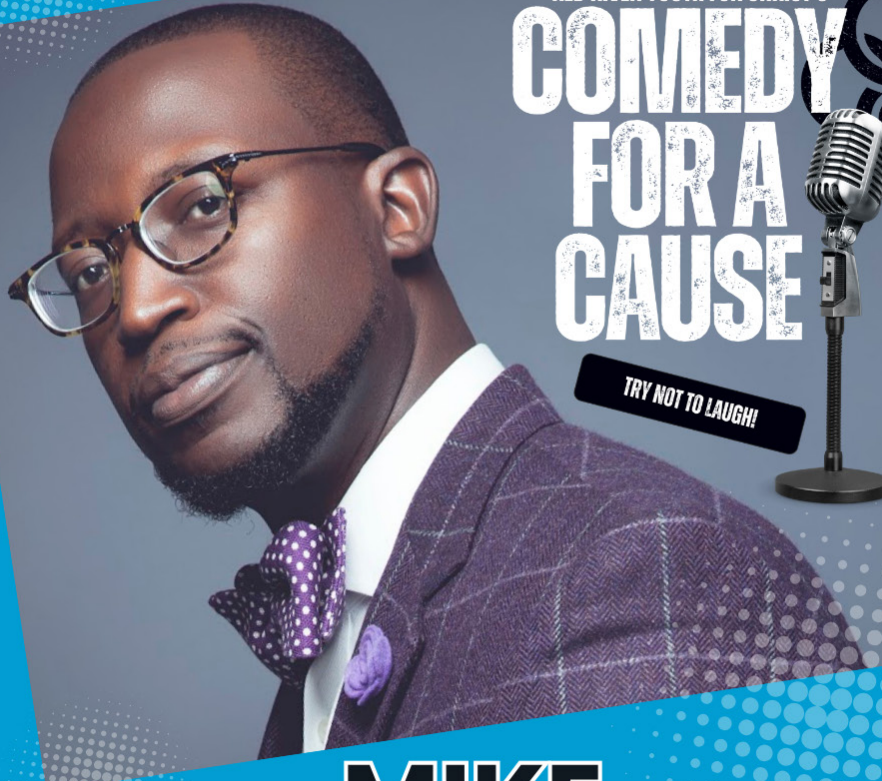
B is a young mom who participated in both Bible study and Rebalance this summer. From the beginning, she leaned in. During our round-table discussions about honesty, emotions, boundaries, and forgiveness, her pencil moved quickly across the page as she took notes. She listened closely, asked questions, and encouraged the other girls. “Breathe.” “Lock in.” “Remember to journal.” “You got this.” Her words became little reminders of hope around the room. It was beautiful to watch B grow—not only in her own confidence and coping skills, but also as someone willing to cheer others on.

When we asked B for feedback after Rebalance, she shared, “I feel like the group really helps our whole pod practice working together. The group calms everyone down and has a positive impact on pod dynamics. I enjoyed learning all the coping skills such as: mustache breathing, butterfly tapping, and visualization. I also enjoyed spending time together as a community. I appreciate how the leaders were engaged and supportive. We need more opportunities like this.”

God is the author of the greatest comeback stories in history. When the pen is in His hands, the possibilities are endless. B’s story illustrates God’s faithfulness unfolding in real time. Reaching three generations at once. As B’s faith began taking root, it started producing fruit. One afternoon, B received a Bible storybook for her young son. I wish you could have seen her face. Her eyes lit up, and her excitement was impossible to miss as she talked about reading it to him during their next visit.

B had also been praying earnestly that God would heal her relationship with her mom and give her the courage to share her new faith with her. Then, during her last furlough, her prayer was answered. With warm tears rolling down her cheeks, B shared the news: her mom had gone to church with her—and even bought a Bible for herself. Now they are both reading God’s Word and talking together on the phone.

Never underestimate the difference you make or the lives you touch. B, her mom, and her son normally live hours away from the Fargo-Moorhead area, but God brought B to West Central this summer—to be encouraged, empowered, equipped, and most importantly, to encounter the love of Jesus. What looked like an unwanted detour at a detention center became an opportunity for a divine reset. ~Natasha Deplazes



RED RIVER YOUTH FOR CHRIST'S

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

TRY NOT TO LAUGH!

MIKE GOODWIN

Thursday, November 12th, 2026

Bethel Church, Fargo

\$20 GA

\$300 SILVER SPONSOR
8 RESERVED SEATS

Purchase Tickets At

www.redriveryfc.com

7:00-9:00 PM (Doors open at 6:00 PM)

PRESENTED BY

Eid-Co Homes

Joe & Sandra Payne

GOLDMARK

Please join us for our annual fall fundraiser event. This year's comedian will feature Mike Goodwin. Mike has appeared on America's Got Talent, Dry Bar Comedy, Lifetime, BET, Amazon Prime, TBN, Daystar, USA, the Word Network, and Circle TV, and has been featured on SiriusXM, the That Sounds Fun Podcast Tour with Annie F. Downs, and the USO Europe Comedy Tour. This event will give our community the opportunity to see and hear about what God has been doing over the past ministry year while enjoying lots of laughs. For more information call 701-237-6682 or go to www.redriveryfc.com.

A Bible For Mom

The girls love the Bible index tabs that we have available to give them occasionally. It's a rather tedious task to apply all the tabs. However, one of the girls really enjoys applying them. I had a set I hadn't attached yet, so I asked if she'd be interested in helping. She was, and the result was far more precise and neat than I would have been able to accomplish. Another girl asked for a set and a Bible because she wanted to gift it to her mother. She wanted her mom to be able to read the same things she is learning during our Bible study groups. I found a used Life Application Study Bible at a thrift store and gave that to her to give to her mom. She was so tickled to be able to give her mom a Bible and to have the tabs attached. She didn't care that it was used. You would think she had been given a brand-new leather-bound Bible the way she responded. My prayer is that she and her mother study the Bible together and form a closer bond through their shared faith. ~Kim Danielson

Small Steps Daily

As we've studied in the book of James recently, it has been a joy to watch God give youth "aha" moments and help them apply His Word to everyday life. One girl shared that James 1:22-25 is her favorite passage because mirrors now remind her to take small steps each day in both her faith life and treatment program. Just a few months ago, she struggled with nearly constant anger, hopelessness, and giving up after making mistakes. In YFC Rebalance classes this summer, she learned resilience, replaced "all-or-nothing" thinking, practiced 30+ calming techniques, and set attainable weekly goals. Praise God! ~Natasha Deplazes

Guilty By Association, But Set Free in Christ

Calvin* was with some friends who made some very poor choices and, by association, landed himself in a secure detention cell at West Central. When we met, he was not very open to Christianity, even though he admitted to reading the Bible some. When I came into the pod for Bible study, he would listen but not say much. As time progressed, he began to join us, asked great questions and answered often, asked for a Bible, and we became friends. He is such a bright and respectful kid, always saying "yes, sir" and "no, sir." He said he was interested in learning about Revelation and other topics. He told me about his visit home, cried, and shared that his dad was his only encouragement. Calvin* has grown so much since I first met him. He said the other day, "I am going to have to call off the wedding with my fiancée. She is hanging out with my friends that got me here (West Central Juvenile Center), and I know I can't hang out with them anymore." His willingness to make difficult changes and distance himself from relationships that could pull him back into old choices is a powerful sign of his growth. He is reading his Bible and every book about Christ and apologetics I share with him. I don't know what the Lord has in store for this young man, but I pray the Lord grows Him and uses him to do great things! ~Benjamin Talley

One of the summer Bible studies

"Thank you for the book! The truth about Jesus is all starting to make sense!"

A student thanked Ben for sharing the "Case for Christ" book. He went on to say,

"It makes me want to read the Bible and I really want to get to know Jesus."

Liberty Middle School Bible Study Experiences Growth

God is moving at our Liberty Middle School Campus Life Bible study! What started with 7 students on our first Monday grew to 10 kids—mostly 6th graders—by our next Monday gathering. During our first session, kids explored Proverbs and Matthew, and a school staff member offered to pray for us by name every week. By our second Monday, the group tackled whether we can trust the Bible through Psalm 119, 2 Timothy, and 2 Peter. As student numbers keep growing, we are building a space where kids ask honest questions, invite friends, and encounter Jesus! ~Noah Jedlicka

"Was Judas a true follower of Jesus who made a poor choice, or never a believer?"

A student questioned during a recent Bible study about being dependable.

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