



February 26, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we proceed into the new year, we praise Jesus for the lives that He is changing through this ministry. He continues to bring more volunteers and is giving us more opportunities to point kids to Jesus. PRAISE JESUS for the changed lives we are seeing.

There are five separate groups of kids in the detention center that we try to reach out to on a consistent basis. There are three pods for secure males, one for secure females, and one for shelter care. In the secure pods the guys and girls are completely separated and rarely interact. We now have Bible studies in 3 of the 5 pods every week and have 4 different church services over the course of two weeks. I lead a Bible study with one of the secure boys' pods. We have had good participation, and at times have had the whole pod for study. Many of these young men are even taking their Bibles to school and reading them during the free read time that they get. I crossed paths with one of the teachers who was so overwhelmed and thankful to see these young men reading their Bibles. It is a beautiful thing to see young men hunger for His Word.

2 Corinthians 5:17
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has gone, the new has come."



One young man that has been at the facility for quite some time, realized that he needed more help to kick his addiction problem. He personally requested to go to a 90-day treatment facility and left a couple weeks ago. I told him before he left that I was extremely proud of him. He is a young man that has been reading his bible every day and growing in his relationship with Jesus. He told me that he knows that this is what God wants him to do. This is an amazing statement from him, knowing his full story and where he was when I first meet

him. We had a volunteer donate a life application study Bible we gave to him. It has really helped him grow deeper in the word. Please be praying for this young man as he continues to write this new chapter of his story.

One young lady we will call Jill, I have gotten to know over the course of the last 6+ months. We have had many one-on-one conversations, so I have gotten to know her story quite well. Jill has had so much abuse in her life and is in the center for very serious allegations. She struggles with doubt and is always worrying. They keep extending her court date out, and she is starting to lose hope. However, she comes to the Bible study faithfully and reads her Bible daily. With the new year, we started doing a memory verse of the week at church. This encourages the kids to bring their Bibles to church, find and highlight our verse of the week, and then memorize it during the following week. They get a special snack for memorizing the verse. The very first week we started this, Jill was the only one who had the verse memorized. She also has every week since, and we are so proud of her growth.

About a month ago we started doing a Bible study with the non-secure kids. We have both guys and girls for this, and it has really helped us get to know their stories better. This week in non-secure our topic of study was faith. Many of the kids asked



how they could grow their faith. I talked about how I start every day with Jesus in prayer and in His word. One of the detention center staff added, "It's like putting on the full Armor of God before we start each day." We immediately went to Ephesians 6 and talked about the battle that we are in, and



how to prepare for it. After the study one of the young ladies lingered and wanted to talk to us. She shared with us how last week she was having a tough day and wanted to quit. She went back to her room and opened her Bible and it open to the Psalms. She started to read it and it brought a peace over her and gave her hope. The look on her face was priceless! For us to be able to reassure her, that Jesus loves her and is there for her, is what this is all about. It is truly an honor and a privilege to come along side these kids and walk with them to Christ.

Lastly, I want to share the story of a young lady we met in the detention center we will call Sarah. From the center Sarah went to treatment and is now in a foster home in the area. She attends one of the alternative schools in the area and has been attending programing we do there for about a month. Last week she told one of the school counselors that she wanted to grow in her relationship with God. The councilor informed me of this, and I had the opportunity to sit and talk with her. Sarah is still clean but wants that relationship with God that she had while in the detention center. She is one of a handful of kids at this school that we originally met inside the detention center. What an amazing opportunity to continue our relationship with Sarah and these other students. We hope to be able to contact her foster mother, have the opportunity bring her to Church on Sundays, and continue to love her and point her towards Christ.

Thank you for your love, continued prays, and financial support. We ask for prayer as we continue to build teams to reach these students. Pray that God would continue to surround this ministry with passionate leaders. Please keep these kids in your prayers also, as God is working on the hearts of teens like Jill and Sarah and so many more. Thank you for continuing to be part of this team, and together we can reach far more than could ever be imagined. Thank you!

Mike, Patty, & Family

