



November 6, 2019

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

A lot has been happening up here in the North Country. School is in full swing, and we had our first snowstorm a couple of weeks ago resulting in our first snow day. We have had such a damp fall to begin with, and Patty and I have been dealing with water pouring into the basement. I also buried my suburban in the ditch during the snowstorm. However, through it all God remains in sovereign and in control, amen!

In September, we attended our regional YFC conference in the Twin Cities. The focus of this weekend was the life cycle of volunteers. I knew God was preparing me for the growth of our ministry as we continue to see God move in our ministry. One of my greatest struggles in this ministry is seeing the vast need in the lives of these kids, but not being able to spend the time needed with each kid. We need more people to help build relationships and share Christ with these teens one-on-one. So many of these kids have absolutely no one in their life. Luke 10:2 says, "...the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Since the conference, God has brought us three new ladies and a married couple interested in mentorship! Please pray with us that God would continue to send us workers, volunteers to be able to reach every one of these kids with the good news of Jesus.



We also brought a young man from the detention center with us to the regional YFC conference. God has been working in this young man's life, and has recently felt the desire to "serve more." I thought bringing him to the conference would be a great way to introduce him to YFC and the mission we have been called to. It was also a great way to continue to build our relationship with him and created opportunities to continue to pour the love of Christ on him. He asked lots of great question over the weekend. He feels God's calling in his life, but he is struggling with his old habits and lifestyle. He mentioned that he believes that the detention center is his mission field. Please pray for this young man, the war that rages in his life, and that he would chose Christ.

God has given us such favor at the detention center and we have so many opportunities to minister to the kids, but there is only so much that we can do as a team of two. We are currently doing bible studies on Monday evenings, Church on Wednesday evenings, and one-on-ones on Tuesday afternoons. Two of the three new ladies volunteering are now helping me with our weekly bible study. They have fallen in love with the girls and have taken over the study for the girls on Monday evenings. This has freed me up to do study for one of the groups of boys. We have five separate pods, or groups of kids that we could be doing bible study with. My hope and prayer is that we would continue to grow and eventually have a team of two that would be able to reach every group of kids there.



The first two years that we were in the detention center, we did not have a single kid contact us when they got out. Now in the last 8 months alone, we have had 5 kids reach out to us. I was contacted

a couple of weeks ago by a young man that I met about a year ago in the center. He is now in a group home here in the area. In fact, he and his caseworker showed up at the office randomly and it was so great to see him. He wants to meet with me weekly and study the bible! What an amazing opportunity to continue the relationship, mentor him, and help him in his walk with Christ. Continuing relationships or aftercare has been another one of those ministry opportunities that we have wrestled with. Working with minors, there is some serious red tape. We have contemplated how to remain connected even upon release. I know many YFC chapters have successful mentorship programs. We have talked about this, but just did not have volunteers and resources to put it together. Well, God showed up! A week after we got back from the conference a Husband and wife team called me. They said that God had laid on their heart to mentor a particular young man in the center. I knew this was all God as she had been his camp counselor this summer. This young man is actually the same young man we brought to YFC conference as well. We pray that Gods hand is on this new endeavor and that this couple can walk side-by-side through life with this young man.

I want to close by sharing with you a follow up from our last letter. Previously, I shared about a young lady that we have known for over two years. She has had many difficulties in her life and no family for support. Every time I talk to her, she expresses how she feels all alone. I focus on sharing Christ with her every time we are together. We have taken her to church, and have tried to be there for her every chance we get. Right now she is in a non-secure facility and it looks like we might get a chance to bring her home from time to time. Patty and I have tried to bring her home through foster care system, but that has been an uphill battle because she is a Minnesota resident and we are North Dakota residents. She wants to finish high school, go onto college, and become a nurse. I believe that Patty and I will be her mom and dad, but are unsure what that will look like at this time. We rest on God knowing that He can move mountains and can make a way when there seems to be no way. I ask that you pray for this young lady and all the kids just like her that we work with. They need Jesus to heal them and make them whole again. We ask that Jesus brings this young lady to our home so that we can love on her 24/7.

We love and miss all of you. As we enter into this Thanksgiving season, I find myself so thankful for all the love and support you have given to us. I want to thank each one of you for the prayers and financial support. We truly could not do with without you, and with your support, we continue to be the living church.

Mike, Patty, & Family

