



September 14, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

It is so hard to believe that we are back in school already, even though every school schedule looks a little bit different. Even between North Dakota and Minnesota there are varying degrees of restrictions regarding capacity. With so many unknowns even at this point, we pray that God gives us the opportunity to be on the alternative campuses. We desire to be able to love on these kids and point them to Jesus.

We have had a great summer and have been able to spend a lot of time with kids. Since mid-June we have been able to resume face-to-face ministry in the detention center. We are once again doing church on Wednesday evenings, have two bible studies going, and are spending a lot of time one-on-one with kids. God has blessed us with so many opportunities to be with kids.



The Peach Costume for our summer fundraiser has become a youth favorite.

I told you in my last letter, that one of our biggest challenges was building new relationships with kids at the detention center. This is especially difficult after retuning in person and having so many new faces. With one group of young men from the secure pod, we are building a solid trusting foundation. Recently at Church, we have had great feedback and interaction. We are hoping to resume bible study again with these secure boys. The boys seem to be open to the idea again and we just need to connect with the team on a new schedule.

Our other group of boys from the secure treatment pod, has been more of a challenge. It is not uncommon for them to walk out during church, and it has been difficult to get them to interact. They are a very tough group, but we pray that our consistency and that the Holy Spirit will soften hearts and break down walls. These are some very angry young men, but we know that Christ loves them and so do we.

The two bible study groups that have resumed weekly meetings have been going great. Sue and Kim have been meeting with the secure girls' group and Becky and I have been meeting with the non-secure kids. The girls are truly growing in their relationships with Jesus. They are memorizing scripture weekly and you can see the excitement in their eyes when they talk about Jesus. Most of the girls confess their love for Jesus. The kids in non-secure are typically a little younger and not always as mature. This mixed group of both guys and girls sometimes make it challenging to keep on topic. However, we are getting to know all these kids' stories well and the stronger our relationship, the more impact the truth has on their life.



One young lady who has been in the juvenile center for a year and has had some ups and downs. She has done an amazing job keeping it together through it all. It is hard to imagine not seeing the sun or breathing fresh air for over 7 months. She

has been growing in her faith and I have talked to the secure supervisor about the possibility of taking her to church on Sundays. The supervisor loved the idea and said that we would have to get the permission of the judge. I then talked to this young lady about the idea and she was beyond excited about the idea. We told her she would have to write a letter to the judge and explain to them who we are, what we do, and the idea of Patty and I taking her out to Church on Sundays and spending time with her. Patty and I have done it before with many kids, so we have a positive track record with the facility and this type of outing. All of the center staff were excited about this idea as well. Just over three weeks ago, we got a very excited call from her that the Judge granted us permission to take her to Church. We have taken her to Church these last three Sundays and words cannot explain how excited she is to be out and at Church and with us. This was truly an answer to prayer. She is continuing to grow in her love for Christ by leaps and bounds. She is one of the young people I meet with weekly one-on-one. We are currently studying through the book of John. Please pray for this young lady and her upcoming court date at the end of this month.



*Who can say no to the ice cream truck?
Our team: Greg, Mike, Danielle, & Kim*

Our young lady that was staying with us sporadically is now in a facility in Northeastern Minnesota. Patty and I miss her very much, but because of her behaviors the local facility she was at could no longer handle her and provide the necessary care. We try to talk to her a couple times a week by phone, but it just isn't quite the same. She misses us very much, but she knows that we love her. This new facility has an intense treatment program for her and that is what she truly needs. Our greatest prayer is that Jesus would heal her, and she would get the help she needs. I know that many of you have been praying for her and I thank you. We ask that you continue to lift her up in prayer.

I believe the hardest part of this calling is when the Lord brings us these kids and we see the hurt and pain that they carry. Pain from the abuse in their lives, and we know we cannot fix them. We know that only Jesus can, and that He will for many of these kids. The hardest thing I have ever done is to have to let them go. We cannot accept Jesus for them. Many of them have not even hit their rock bottom or turning point yet, but we know that Jesus loves them more than we ever could. This is where I find my peace. I ask for your prayers for these kids, our team who love on these kids, and want to thank you for being a part of this amazing ministry that Jesus has given us.

Thank You & God bless,

Mike, Patty, & Family

