



# Merry Christmas

&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 10, 2018

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As I look back on 2018, I see how God has used us to help change the lives of so many kids. Within the walls at West Central Regional Juvenile Center and at Red River Alternative Learning Center God has brought so many kids into our lives. What an honor and a privilege to be able to build relationships with these kids, and to be able to love on them, and share Christ with them. To have a kid come up to you and say thank you for caring for them and loving them is one of the greatest joys that we get to experience. We hand out bibles to kids who request them every week at both facilities. To see the joy on their face when we tell them that this bible is theirs to keep is absolutely awesome. To be able to sit down and read scripture with them and point them to Matthew 11:28, John 3:16, and Psalm 139 is so amazing. Many weeks the kids come to us with many questions about the scripture they read during the week. God is working through His word to change the hearts and soul of these kids.



It is crazy to think that in two weeks it will be Christmas. Take time and look at the culture around you. With all the activities and commercials for the Christmas season, it is not hard to see where we are in our culture. We have lost sight of the greatest gift. I honestly cannot watch TV this season as the message that our culture is sending us has nothing to do with Jesus. Somehow, we think this is about us, about family and presents, about programs and vacation. In our ministry, we ask kids what they believe Christmas is all about. For the most part, they really do not know. Very few think it is about the birth of Christ. We live in a world that is hungry for the truth. Our kids are looking for hope and direction. There is no greater joy than to get the opportunity that God has given us to share Christ with these kids and we could not do this without your help. Thank You!



My favorite scripture explaining the Christmas story is John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, Who came from the Father, Full of grace and truth." Because of your love and support for our ministry, we get to go where the kids are. We have the opportunity to tell them that they have been created by an awesome God, who loves them, and created them for purpose.

As we get to know these kids and hear their stories, so many of them have absolutely no hope. A very high percentage of them have tried to commit suicide, multiple times. In Fact, Just a couple weeks ago, I talked to a young man who absolutely did not want to live any more. He felt safer locked up in the correctional facility than he did at home. His life was void of purpose. The simple answer of "Jesus loves you" just is not what he was craving to hear. However, I told Him that Jesus created him, knows everything about him, and He still loves him. This young man comes to chapel every week. So many times, I just ask Jesus to touch these kids. They are so broken, and I know that Jesus loves them more than I ever could. We pray continually that God intervenes in the lives of all these kids, that they would become 'New Creations'.

He felt safer locked up in  
the correctional facility  
than he did at home.

Our family is continuing to grow. Patty and I now have three Granddaughters. Noah and Lexi had a little girl on October 31, Lynette Audrey King. She is absolutely precious! We are doing foster care and are no longer empty nesters. Jared is the young man who moved in with us about a month ago. He is 14 years old and in 9th grade. The transition has been challenging, but each day our relationship seems to be getting better. Nate and Linda and there two girls are doing great. Chelsey has started a new job, and life is going well for her. Josh is still in Okinawa, Japan. We are not expecting we will have the opportunity to see him until July, when his tour is over. On Thanksgiving, we had all the kids together, with the exception of Josh. Holding all three of my Granddaughters was my highlight and a blessing from the Lord.

We thank all of you for your love and support for our family and this ministry. God has blessed us with some amazing Brothers and Sisters. We could not do with without you. As this year comes to an end and you think about year-end giving, please consider making a special year-end donation to Red River Youth for Christ. Together, we can continue to influence the lives of students in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Your gift will help continue ministry at the detention center, help cover program costs with ministry at RRALC, and ultimately impact the lives of the teens we work with for eternity.

May God bless you this Christmas season.

Mike & Patty King & Family

