



June 12, 2018

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I want to start by thanking the Lord for His faithfulness. As of June 1, 2018, I have been on staff at Red River Youth for Christ for 15 years. It is pretty crazy to think about it. All the kids that the Lord has brought into our lives, and all the opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ with these kids. What a humbling thought that Christ saved us and called us to love the outcasts of our society.

I also want to extend thanks to all of you who have prayed for and supported us from day one. Words cannot express our love and gratitude for walking in this ministry together. Furthermore, thank you to those of you who have joined us along the way and supported us in this ministry. To God be all the glory!

As I think about the amazing door that God has opened for us at West Central Regional Juvenile Facility in Moorhead, I am humbled to think that we get the opportunity to share our lives and the Gospel with these kids. There are some common patterns that are consistent through almost all of these kids' lives. One, is that there is no solid home or family life. Two, is that they have tried to physically harm themselves in some way. One example that just sticks with me in particular is a young lady who swallowed staples, more than once. So many of these guys and girls have self-harm scars all over their arms and legs. I read to them Psalm 139 continually. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;" (Psalm 139:13-14a). I try to help them understand how special they are in the eyes of Jesus. In addition, many of these young men are fathers. They want to be a good father, but really do not know what that looks like. I encourage them to spend on-on-one time with me on Wednesday nights so we can talk about what a godly father looks like. Not just the men, but many of our young ladies are mothers as well. My Heart breaks for not just these kids, but the cycle that continues with kids having kids and no solid foundation in their lives.

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I am starting a mentorship with a young man who is staying in a group home. He has no Mom or Dad in his life and has been placed quite a few times, but none of the placements have worked out. He is just one of many we work with that have no family structure in their lives. No one to love them, take them by the hand, and walk through life with them. We pray that this mentorship leads to a lifelong relationship where we can love on him and continually point him to Jesus.

June 5th, we wrapped up our school year at Red River Alternative Learning Center. We built some very solid relationships with the kids and shared Jesus with them every week. We also have a

remarkable relationship with the administration. For example, the superintendent asked us if we would take their kids for the last day of school. Of course, I jumped all over that. I rented a bus and we did an all-day field trip. We started by taking them to the Church, where we do our regular Friday program, and fed them spiritually by talking about who they are in Christ. Then we moved on to a service project helping them give back to their community. We collaborated with the school's resource officer and went to a vacant lot to pick up garbage. From there, we move to a park where we grilled and fed them physically. After all this to celebrate and have some fun, we rented out the Fargo Theatre and watched a movie. We watched one of my all-time favorites, Here Comes the Boom. It was a great day and I hope and pray this could grow to be an annual event with the ability to have the kids on last day of school.

Our family is expanding! We have two grandbabies on the way. Nate and Linda are expecting at the end of this month and Noah and Lexi are expecting the end of August. We are also excited for Chelsey as she will be moving to Grand forks soon and will be closer to us. Josh is doing well in Okinawa, Japan and is engaged with plans to marry when his tour is up a year from July. To top it all off, Patty and I are applying for our foster care license. Even with the kids gone there is never a dull moment. Please keep us ALL in your prayers!

Like I have said many times. We get to do what God has created us to do and that is be the hands and feet of Jesus and share Jesus with these kids. Honestly, there is no greater joy than to see a change of heart in just one of these kids and we could not do this without you. Thank You!

We love you and miss you so, so much. Take care and God Bless!

Mike & Patty King



P.S. We are planning a trip to Wisconsin on Labor Day.

