



December 10, 2019

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I cannot believe that another calendar year has come and gone. I think the older I get the quicker time goes. I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas. This is truly a great time of the year for sharing Christ with the lost in our culture. Our world is so preoccupied with themselves and our stuff that we forget the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that you take time this Christmas season to share Christ with someone who needs to hear about the love of God.

It is hard to believe Christmas Day marks 3 years in the detention center for us. Every time I walk in there, I thank God for opening this door for us. He has given us great favor with the staff and administration. There are many kids within the center we are allowed to take off campus. To be able to have these kids outside the facility we have to obtain permission from staff and their caseworkers. At times it can be very challenging, but many of the case workers are very much on board with what we are trying to do. Because of this great access to kids, we have been able to build some amazing relationships. Even more amazing is when the kids contact us on their own when they get out. These kids need Jesus to heal them and save them.

In the last few months, we have started a second Bible study on Monday evenings. Two ladies have stepped forward and are doing a study with the girls in secure, while I am doing a study with one of the boys pods in secure. We have two more pods we would love to be able to expand to reach with the Bible study small groups on a consistent basis. It is awesome to see these kids not just reading their Bibles at study, but also reading them during the week. We have given out over 150 bibles within the last year alone. Many times at the end of the study, the kids will have questions about other scriptures they read on their own that week. Some of these kids are just so hungry for the truth. It is so awesome to see God speaking to them through his word. Please be praying that God would continue to bring us volunteers, as the goal is to be able to have the capacity for a weekly Bible study in every pod.



Last week we started our Christmas series for church within West Central. We talked about Mary and Joseph, this week we will focus on the shepherds, and finally we will conclude with our traditional Christmas service. Most of us look at Christmas as a joyful and exciting time of the year. We think of family, gifts, and of course Jesus. However, for most of these kids it is a very sad and lonely time. They have no family, they are lonely, and many get depressed. Many of these kids have no one at home and no one comes to visit them. When we look at the first Christmas, the birth of Christ, we see a lot of lonely people as well. Many outcasts from the mainstream culture, but Jesus Christ shows up in their world and changes everything. That is the hope that we share with the kids. We get to bring them the greatest story ever told, the story of our savior, Amen!

One young man, who regularly attends our Bible study and church service every week, shared with me that his pastor came to see him a couple weeks ago. He recently shared that during this visit, he gave his life to Christ! This past Sunday, while he was home on furlough, he got baptized. One of my

greatest prayers for these kids and this facility is that satan and his demons would have no domain in this place. I pray that the Holy Spirit would dwell here and the kids and the staff would be able to experience peace in their lives that only Christ can bring.



Our program at Red River ALC is going great this year. We have a great mix of new kids as well as kids that we already have relationships with. With the new kids, we are beginning to really build that trust with them which sometimes takes months to build. Our goal is to build relationships with them; we want them to know that we love them and are here for them. I remember Josh McDowell telling us that "Truth without a relationship is meaningless". If these kids know that we love them by being there for them and walking through life together, they will share their life with us. As we share our story with them, we get the awesome privilege of tell them about how Jesus has saved us and is the reason we are there for them.

I want to close by sharing with you how our young lady, Abby, is doing. Right now, she is in a group home where she will be for about a month. Then she will be going to a transitional home created just for her. Yesterday, Patty and I drove out to see her and take her to church. After church, we went out to lunch and then took her shopping. She is so grateful when we do things like this for here. She hasn't had anyone there for her for years. We are trying to be a mom and dad to her. We do not know where this is going, but I do believe God has brought all of us together so that He will be glorified. Please pray for Abby, and all the kids we work with. All of their stories have a common thread, they need Jesus to heal and save them.

We thank all of your 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 this without you. As this year comes to and 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 Red River ALC, and ultimately impact the lives of the teens we work with for eternity.

Have a Merry Christmas, and may God bless you this season.

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."

Mike, Patty, & Family

