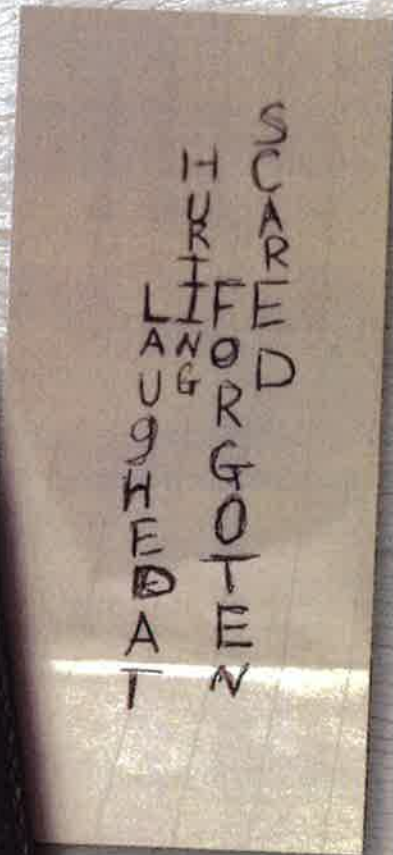




# STORIES

FROM THE JOURNEY  
FALL, 2018 EDITION



*In His kindness God called you to share in His eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, He will restore, support, and strengthen you, and He will place you on a firm foundation. All power to Him forever! Amen.*  
1 Peter 5:10-11

H U R T L I F E A N O D U G G H E D A T  
S C A R E

Adam, a Campus Life student, gave his leader the acrostic (to the left) at the conclusion of club last week. A leader mentioned as we wrapped up that Adam has been confiding in them his suicidal thoughts for a while. He regularly asks hard questions about his identity, self-worth and purpose. Adam wants to know why his biological parents gave him up for adoption, why he was abandoned, why he feels so lonely and desperately craves belonging.

Friends, these questions that our team faces and the pain they read from that note are from a seventh grade boy.

Isn't that difficult to imagine? On top of the silent struggle, Adam has to endure relentless bullying from his peers about his race.

Again, this is a 7th grader! Shouldn't his biggest worry be getting home on time after a long bike ride with his friends or playing football in his neighborhood?

The truth is Satan doesn't care about age. He is a ruthless murderer. He wants to see Adam's life killed, stolen, and destroyed. Adam, like many students we serve, is in a battle for his life and the battle for the souls of kids is real. As crazy as this may sound, we are thankful to stand in the middle of their battle at their side. For it is in the middle of the battle that Jesus is found! He is Life! He is the Hope that kids need! Yes, He is present and working on the front lines! As scripture says in 1 Peter, after we have suffered for a little while, Jesus will **restore, support, strengthen, and set us on a firm foundation!** The **LIFE** Adam seeks is found in having a personal relationship with Jesus.

I admit, the suffering we see these students endure is heart wrenching. Yet, this verse gives us hope! Through your faithful generosity, we are seeing fruit in the lives of our students. **This is only possible because of the abundance of friends like YOU!** God is using your prayers and gifts to make it possible for our team to be in the middle of the battle so when students like Adam show up there is a friend to greet them, walk with them and speak truth during the hard seasons of life.

**Friends, thank you!**

God is using your faithfulness to restore, support, strengthen, and set students, like Adam, on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ! Amen.

Giving life to their stories with you,

Mark Moyer, Executive Director



## Jefferson Campus Life

Abbi Sager, Campus Life Staff

Life is challenging. People are mean, classes are hard, and life seems to be on the offense against us. Add trying to graduate high school while balancing hormones and it's just crazy! At the beginning of the year, a student's father passed away. Overwhelmed with grief, he struggled to keep his grades up and ultimately ended up failing senior year. He is now having to do senior year over again. It's hard

enough having to attempt graduation once but now he's facing round two. Through all the struggles of losing a parent and repeating a school year, he is still making strides in his health and happiness because of the support and love from Youth for Christ. He now wants to show his appreciation and devotion to Youth for Christ by continuing to be involved with YFC and give back even after his graduation. I can't wait to see where God leads him and our programs as we continue to build deeper relationships with students! Thank you for being a part of our team and please pray for continued connections with hurting students!



*Abbi Sager*

## Mentor Life

Arika Mason, Mentor Life Director



Fall is approaching and many transitions are in full swing for mentor and their mentees. Whether it is adjusting to new school schedules, activities, homes, or family situations – changes are occurring.

Some of these changes are joyfully welcomed, while other changes are painfully hard. Tanja was removed by the Department of Human Services from her mother's care in December 2017. Tanja's mentor family graciously welcomed her into their home, and she has been embraced like a family member. In the coming weeks, Tanja will likely move back with her mother. This is the transition that we have all hoped for and prayed for, and yet,

it will also be hard. Please pray for Tanja, her family, and her mentors during this season of change.

My family is also preparing for an exciting transition. We are expecting our 4th child, our first daughter, in October! We are so thankful for God's provision of another baby and are praying for a safe delivery. During my maternity leave, I will continue to support the mentors and mentees through phone calls, texts, and emails. Thank you so much for your support of me and my family during this season of change.

I am so grateful for you and God's continued mercy and work in this ministry. Thank you for the many ways you are supporting this ministry, the mentors, the youth, and their families. I appreciate your partnership in reaching youth for Christ.

*Arika Mason*

## Springville Campus Life

Kayla Biegler, Campus Life Staff

This school year has already been incredibly challenging, yet fruitful here in Springville. We have had 8 new students join us already! We are already finding that with more souls comes more stewardship.

We started a new practice at our Campus Life this year. The students have 10 minutes to journal each week and can put a response in the "Crap Can". This can is for the good, the bad, and the ugly. Every student is required to put a slip of paper in the Can. They can write something good, something they need, something they simply want to get off their chest, or just leave it blank.

Here are some of the responses.

"I feel alone."

"I feel like I have ruined my chances with God. I feel stuck."

"Why does it have to be so hard with my friends?"

"I would rather hurt than feel nothing."

"No body likes me."

These students are lost and clearly hurting. They have felt the consequences of so many sinful behaviors, travesties, and physical or mental disabilities. This exercise with the students has kept the reality of the spiritual battle in front of us, and allowed us to engage the students in a new and powerful way.

Our club offers hope, healing, and times of refreshing to these students because we offer Jesus Christ and the hope he gives. Thank you for helping us make this possible! We must press on in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the city of Springville. We cannot do this work without your support! We thank God for you always!

*Kayla Biegler*



## Roosevelt Campus Life

Megan Pratt, Campus Life Staff

During Campus Life, we are currently teaching on having a "balanced life" and what it means to have balance mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Through this series, Roosevelt Campus Life has grown in size and depth. Students are asking honest questions about God such as: "Why is it important to have a balanced life?" "How can God affect your social life?" "Do you have to be spiritual to have a balanced life? What does that look like?" We are excited to dive into these questions with our students and that is made possible by the faithful giving of our ministry partners. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to present the gospel, play fun games and dig into deep topics with students! As we continue to grow in our number of students at Roosevelt, we are inviting more ministry partners who will provide time, resources and prayer for our ministry. Contact me at [mprattyfc@gmail.com](mailto:mprattyfc@gmail.com) to learn how you can get more involved!

*Megan Pratt*

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## Kennedy Breakfast Club

Riley Bailey-Hantz, Campus Life Director

I am so happy to introduce myself to you all! I have only worked alongside you all in this role for a couple months now but oh the stories I could tell! I have heard students open up at breakfast club about not having many friends whether it be from being new to school or having an old soul that doesn't quite fit in. I have observed the ways God has led passionate volunteers to our ministry to serve snacks and tackle hard questions in small group. I have seen resources come together to provide camp experiences and beautiful land offered for epic paint war experiences. I have a lot of stories I **could** tell you but I'm more excited about the stories that are still being written. The volunteers we have yet to plug in, the students who are awaiting Christ's love and the donors who are prayerfully anticipating the construction of God's kingdom in Cedar Rapids. **The harvest is indeed plentiful and I am excitedly anticipating what God is leading us towards.**



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