

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Introducing Jake Grass

The New MRYFC Executive Director

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce myself and share briefly the journey the Lord has led me on to be here at Mesabi Range Youth for Christ serving our King Jesus Christ in this capacity. I'm Jake Grass and have been married to my wife Lindsay (Takala) Grass from Cherry for over 18 years. We moved to the Range six years ago raising our family in Iron, MN, across the highway from Lindsay's family's century dairy farm. We have four children: Madeline 12, Kaylee 10, Jeremiah 8, and Lydia 5. We are all actively involved within our church family at North Star in Hibbing, where I also serve as an elder. Our family enjoys hunting and fishing. We partner with the 17 Feet Closer Youtube channel to share our hunting experiences and mentorship of youth through those experiences. Madeline shot her first buck this year and Jeremiah his first turkey this fall! We also raise pigs and the kids show them at the St. Louis County Fair and MN State Fair.

I was previously employed as a District Manager for ALDI Foods from 2003-2021 opening and leading grocery stores initially in the metro and later across northern Minnesota. In early 2021, the Lord confirmed for me to give notice to resign my position with ALDI and begin training a replacement so that I could become more available for what He was leading me into next. Shortly after that transition, He made known His calling for me to go into full-time ministry, setting me on a trajectory of pursuing pastoral ordination within the Missionary Churches through their Pastoral Leadership Institute. God-willing, I will complete the program the end of summer 2023.

My desire is for the Iron Range to be awakened and transformed by the power of the Gospel of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This parachurch ministry at YFC has such a wonderful opportunity to bridge the gap to bring genuine Christ centered relationships for adults walking in obedience from their love relationship with Jesus to the youth that are far from the Lord across the Iron Range. I'm encouraged to see God moving in and amongst His Church bringing many small "c" church congregations together in love and unity as the Body of Christ under the banner of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The body of Christ is joining together to be the Bible our community may not yet be reading. Jesus is transforming the Iron Range!

Please reach out to me at 651-249-6583 or jake@mesabirangeyfc.org so we can get to know one another!

A New Vision for MRYFC

Exciting New Expansion to the West Range

For more than forty years, MRYFC has been pursuing Christ-centered relationships with students and seeing Jesus transform lives on the Iron Range. Nearing the end of 2022, our board of directors began prayerfully seeking a new executive director, eventually leading to Jake pursuing the opportunity and beginning with MRYFC in January. At the same time, God was uniting three other churches to purchase a facility in Hibbing. Less than a block away from Hibbing High School, this location will be utilized as the MRYFC Ministry Center beginning as soon as this summer. We are excited to see the expansion of MRYFC to the West Range, reaching Chisholm and Hibbing. God has been planting dreams in the hearts of our staff regarding the West Range for over a year, and He has been providing the means to see those dreams come to fruition.

With the new site in Hibbing and our current site in the Quad Cities, we desire to provide at each location:

- A safe space for 11-19 year olds to gather
- Open after school until 6pm multiple days a week
- Free hot meals served
- Genuine Christ-centered discussions on social-emotional learning
- Planned activities to facilitate genuine connections and trust
- Christ-centered relationships between youth and trusted adults



Scan
here to
give



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO SEE
OUR FAMILY
HUNTING
VIDEOS!



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Pray: Unite with us as intercessors, lifting the request to the father through Jesus to continue transforming the Iron Range.

Volunteer: We are looking for 40 additional hours of volunteer time each week to fulfill the needs at both ministry sites.

Give: Our ministry is dependent on faithful support of people who believe in the ministry we are doing. This new endeavor to expand needs approximately \$130,000 in new financial support to fund the initiative. Consider partnering with us for a one-time or monthly support to further the kingdom of God across the Iron Range.

218 Youth Conference

Awakening Unity Amongst the Next Generation



In 2020, God gave me (Bethani) a vision of students uniting together as one under Christ. From there we worked to build upon an idea that had come up two years prior; a conference joining all the youth groups in the 218 area code. Several youth pastors came together as a team to see the vision come to life, only to be halted by a global pandemic. Three years have passed, but the vision God placed in my heart did not go away. Finally in the winter of 2022, a small team began working on developing the new 218 Youth Conference. The goal is to bring together students from all spiritual (or non-spiritual) backgrounds to unite them under one God so that they can learn to effectively reach those in their families, schools, and communities. I have strived to make this event free so that we can minimize the limitations that hold students back from traditional conferences. We are excited to see what God does through the unification of the next generation here on the Iron Range.

OUR THEME FOR THE 218 CONFERENCE IS "AWAKEN" BECAUSE WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO WAKE UP, SHAKE OFF THE DUST, AND WALK IN THE LIGHT. WHILE WE WERE ONCE IN DARKNESS, NOW WE SHOULD LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT. WE DESIRE THAT STUDENTS WILL BE THE CITY ON A HILL FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM, THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST WHERE THERE OFTEN IS NONE.



Addie's Additions

Perspectives of a pastor's kid

My favorite thing about growing up as a pastor's kid is cheering on those around me. I love to encourage them with a loud "YAY!" no matter what. My mom and dad teach me every day that loving others is the best, and part of that is being in the bleachers of their lives, yelling as loud as I can. No matter the day they've had or the mistakes they may make, we choose to be there for them. It's just a bonus that they give me hugs and candy in return. I love my teens!



Leaving a Legacy Proclaiming Jesus



This last weekend, we spent time with family and said goodbye to my great uncle who had passed away. At 86 years old, he had dedicated his life to serving his country and serving those around him. He left a legacy of strong faith and dependence on God. On the same day we said goodbye, I said hello to my friends' two day old newborn, a child who had been prayed for for two years. Their family is beginning a journey to leave a legacy, raising up their child with the knowledge that God sent his son for us so we could have eternal life, the same message my uncle preached his whole life. What kind of legacy are you leaving? No matter your age, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ impacts many generations. Consider today your legacy.

How can you help with the 218 Conference?

PRAY FOR THE EVENT: UNITE WITH US THAT GOD WILL AWAKEN NEW PASSIONS IN OUR STUDENTS.

VOLUNTEER: WE NEED ADULTS WILLING TO PRAY WITH STUDENTS, SUPERVISE, AND SERVE FOOD.

Contact us:

info@mesabirangeyfc.org

Scan here to donate:



or mail a check to

PO Box 474 Virginia, MN 55792