

Life STORIES



New Personalities

So far, **104 kids have played at least one game in our floor hockey league this year.** Now there's a few that just loiter and hang around the league, but they are above that total! **Within those 104 there are 41 new students that we have never had contact with before!** Word seems to have gotten out to some younger students and they are jumping at the opportunity to be involved with us! **We're very happy that we've been blessed with these young people and it's been a blast getting to know these new faces and personalities!** Can't wait to see what else we learn about these great young people!

There's a new group of kids including three foster kids. Two of them are playing, and one of them is just loitering around and hanging out. **We've only just discovered lately that hockey is the only chance these students get to see their older sister.** They get visits, but this program gives them a common ground to meet up (they don't attend the game school). Struggles that most people don't understand, finding ways beyond "visits" to see and hang out with your family. **We're blessed to provide this safe space for these students to building both their given and chosen families.**

It's not lost on us the amazing privilege it is to be back to normal this year. These last two years were a hard roller coaster of emotions. It's hard to believe we were still masking this mite last year! We hoped things would go back to normal, but here we are. **Hope really mattered when it seemed like life was never going to be normal again, but here we are with hope fulfilled (and growing)!**

Newness is Good

This season has been so drastically different with the addition of Jeff (our Director) to our team. After two years of trying to keep things together within our program and organization it feels great to hand over the reigns. **Jeff loves Jesus and leads well. We're incredibly happy he's here serving with us.**

As far as support goes, things have moved around, but **we're still sitting at that 90% number, with a float to carry us through the next 18 months!**

We literally survive off of your generosity. **Thank you for the gifts you give us to keep this ministry sustainable!**

Evan & Becca

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. - John 1:4-5

New Opportunities



Some events on a typical Wednesday

Lately I've gotten the chance to hang out at the local Christian school here in Saskatoon. **Every Thursday at lunch I hang out with the grade 7-8 boys where we play a few games then chat about life.** So far it's just been building trust and getting to know each other, but we've had quite a bit of fun and I'm curious to see where it goes from there!

This is actually a little out of my comfort zone. **It's been years since I've worked with Christian kids that have a basic knowledge about Jesus.** It's a drastic change from the inner-city kids and their rough edges. **I've had to remember to communicate a little differently, but it's a great challenge and these boys are a blast.** Junior high boys are a great group of humans. They are excited for everything and haven't decided they're too cool yet. As long as you stay away from anything alluding to fart jokes, you can usually have a pretty productive conversation.

Apparently these boys are a little low on male influence at the school and they've been well... disrespectful boys. I'm hoping after trust is built I can challenge them to be better, loving and serving like Jesus did rather than living for themselves. Some really wise guy once said it's by losing your life that you ultimately save it. **I'm just hoping that these guys will ultimately see that I'm in their corner. We can grow together, we can be better, together.**

Also, this is our cute baby.



New "Dadvice"

Did you have parents or at least a guide that would teach you a thing or two about life? For example, work ethic, did someone actually show you the value of hard work? Did someone wake you up and send you to school? Anyone ever teach you how to load a dishwasher? Did someone ever just say the words "it's ok, you can do it?" **Did you have just one older person that obviously looked out for you?**

If you didn't you'd understand that common sense, is not common sense. Every morsel of common sense is taught. My nephew once put his hands on the exhaust of a running dirt bike. That's how he learned that piece of common sense. Our students continually surprise us with their lack of common sense, it makes you realize how much is actually taught. **The problem is, when it's learned the hard way, it's a very costly lesson and that's where most of our students start.**

Years ago we did a series called "Lessons from the Father" we've rebranded into "Dadvice." We're following the book "Father Fiction" by Donald Miller. **In it he discusses this secret knowledge other people seemed to have that he did not. Later in life he realizes that a lot of it came from father figures, something he didn't have.** He shares the learning he's done the hard way as well as the healing found in Jesus.

We want our kids to know we love them. We want to build them up and help them succeed. Hopefully we can help them avoid some of these problems, or at least encourage them when they fail. **Life is hard. Hopefully we can make that difficulty just a little easier or at least less scary.**



A couple opening draws from this year's action!

