

Hello friend,

It has now been over a year since I began working here in Three Hills! This small milestone has brought with it so much growth as I reflect on how God has challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and learn to trust His guidance over this past year. I am seeing more and more why it is important to not let my words be empty, but to fill them with action and truth—not only so that I will live out of a healthy place where I do what God asks of me but also so that the youth will see what God is doing in my life and how He is changing me for the better.

We have also officially opened the centre and begun running our drop-in programs! Thank you for being a part of the journey so far and being invested in the lives of these young people. I am so grateful to be able to share with you the ways that God is at work in the relationships I have cultivated thus far. This past weekend, I was talking with two guys about if they feel equipped and comfortable sharing their faith with others and it opened up a conversation between them; one had shared his faith with the other and through that the other had decided to give his life to Christ. The new believer continued to tell his friend that recently he had seen that the way he was living did not fall in line with what he had told him about living for Christ. **He was so genuine in giving his friend correction that it was clear that he wanted him to understand the influence his life has for the kingdom of God.** It is incredible to get to see how God is calling these youth to take their relationship with Him seriously and invite others to evaluate the pressures and influences that are currently directing their lives.

Leading by example is definitely the latest challenge that God has been leading me through in these last few months. It has mostly stemmed from specific connections with some guys talking about the different areas in their lives that they want to improve. One youth mentioned how he wanted to start reading his Bible more, and I decided if I was going to hold him accountable to his reading then it would be good for me to read the same book as him. So we have begun to read a couple different books over the last month, and it has been good to see how willing he is to admit when he doesn't do it and when he makes excuses as to why he is not spending time reading. It has really opened my eyes to all of the excuses that I make when I have not spent time with God. I always think that I just did not have the time, but then I am reminded of all the free time that I have spent on my phone or watching Netflix. **I have been encouraged by how well he has taken to correction as I challenge him on his excuses. It spurs me on to do likewise.** I find encouragement from Proverbs 15:31-32, "Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding." This passage reminds me that I do not have all the answers and I am prone to making mistakes, so I need to continually humble myself and accept corrections for my failings.

This past year, I have had to step into many uncomfortable conversations and grow in my capacity to mediate conversations between youth in conflict. I see how quick-tempered and easily provoked these boys are towards each other. **Through these conversations and in seeing how they deal with conflict, I have begun to understand why God wants me to be willing to own up to my shortcomings and gain perspective so that I can gracefully confront others.** This is an area that He definitely wants me to grow in as I consider how important it is to teach and lead by example as a person who is calm and patient through conflict.

Would you be willing to take some time every Monday evening this month to pray for the youth that come into the drop-in—asking that God would encounter those who join us and encourage them through us so that they will trust in Him and find hope? Thank you for your continued support, I could not do this without you!

With gratitude,



**Luke Capton**

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