



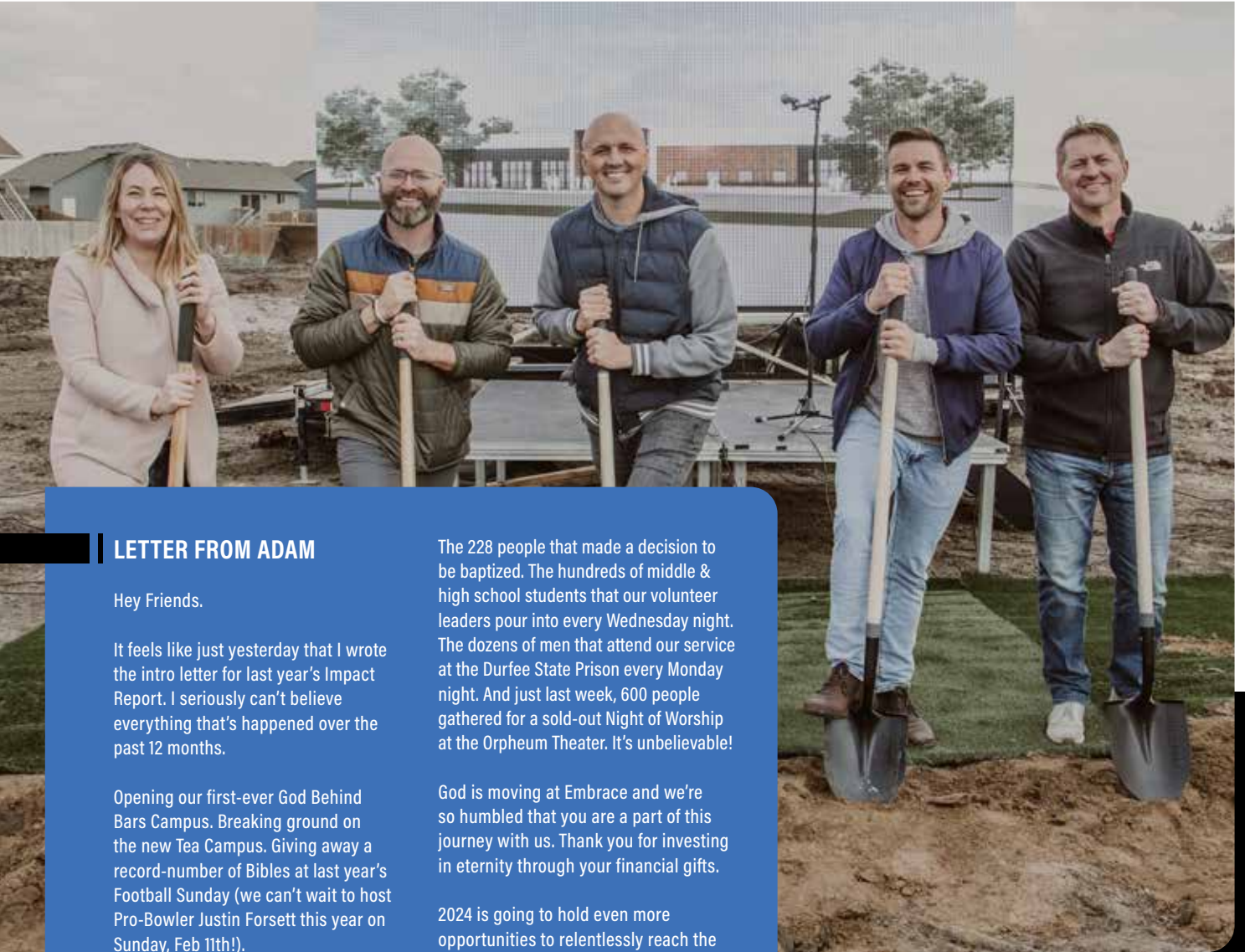
EMBRACE

Relentlessly Reaching The Next Person For Jesus.

IMPACT REPORT

2023

CHURCH



LETTER FROM ADAM

Hey Friends.

It feels like just yesterday that I wrote the intro letter for last year's Impact Report. I seriously can't believe everything that's happened over the past 12 months.

Opening our first-ever God Behind Bars Campus. Breaking ground on the new Tea Campus. Giving away a record-number of Bibles at last year's Football Sunday (we can't wait to host Pro-Bowler Justin Forsett this year on Sunday, Feb 11th!).

But more than anything, it's the stories of life change that bubble up constantly.

The 228 people that made a decision to be baptized. The hundreds of middle & high school students that our volunteer leaders pour into every Wednesday night. The dozens of men that attend our service at the Durfee State Prison every Monday night. And just last week, 600 people gathered for a sold-out Night of Worship at the Orpheum Theater. It's unbelievable!

God is moving at Embrace and we're so humbled that you are a part of this journey with us. Thank you for investing in eternity through your financial gifts.

2024 is going to hold even more opportunities to relentlessly reach the next person for Jesus and we're so glad you're along for the ride.

GRATEFUL.



NEW TEA CAMPUS - JUST MONTHS AWAY

In April, we broke ground on the new Tea Campus and the work site has been a hub of activity ever since!

In the next few weeks, the pouring of floors will be complete with a special addition - prayers & special notes written by attendees of the current Tea Campus will be added to the cement before it's finished. Next up: framing the interior of the building and then electrical work.

We're on track for an August launch date and can't wait to share the progress with you in the coming months.

NEW GOD BEHIND BARS CAMPUS SHINES A LIGHT INSIDE MIKE DURFEE STATE PRISON

A long-time dream came to life in November with the launch of a God Behind Bars Campus inside the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD.

Each Monday evening, Chuck, Embrace's Durfee Campus Pastor, and a team of volunteers travel to the prison for an Embrace service and message. Each week, Chuck and the team report back on conversations with the men - how the services have been encouraging and uplifting them.

We're praying the Durfee Campus is just the beginning of our weekly prison ministry. Please pray with us that God opens doors for future opportunities with local prisons & penitentiaries.





“Serving at Durfee has been an experience I could have never expected. Meeting the men and participating in the weekly service with them has provided a whole new context to me for what it means to relentlessly pursue the next person for Jesus.”

- Mike, Durfee Campus Volunteer

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

It's hard to put a number on what God has done at Embrace over last 12 months, but here are a few highlights:



We've grown by **584** people on Sunday mornings, year over year.

30

people completed the Here I Am Leadership class last spring.



1 family helped with adoption costs through our Adoption Grant.

\$60,000 was given away as part of Reverse Offering in December.



8

Run Projects approved this year.



527

students sponsored
at 3 Embrace Mission
Haiti schools.



107

infants & toddlers dedicated or
baptized across our three campuses.



189

adults were poured
into at our Heart of
Dating event last fall.



8

Network Churches reached throughout
Minnesota & South Dakota.

OUR FAVORITE DAY OF THE YEAR

The Adult Baptism Sundays we hold twice a year continue to be some of our favorite days of the year. In 2023, **238 people** took the step of getting baptized.

We thank God for each and every person and can't wait to see how God works in and through their lives in the years to come.



REVERSE OFFERING

In December, we gave away \$60,000 to our people to “go do Jesus stuff.” Now in its fourth year, we continue to be amazed by the creative ideas people find to bless the strangers and neighbors around them.

Here’s one of the many stories:

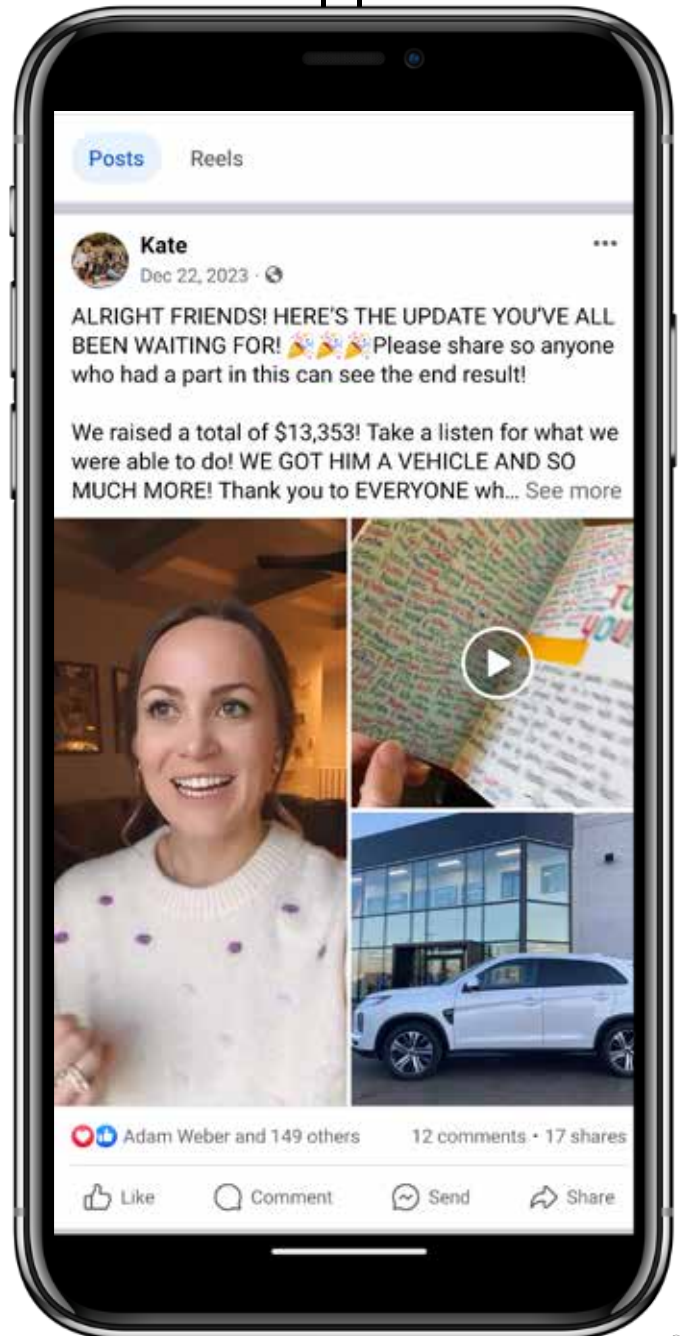
I see a man walking to work at the same time every morning when I take my daughter to school. He made an impact right away because I noticed he had a significant limp. I first saw him in August and thought when the weather changed I wouldn’t see him walking, but I did. Finally, the Thursday after we received the Reverse Offering, I dropped my daughter off at school then flipped around, (and kinda cut off his path if you will!) walked up and introduced myself.

I originally started fundraising with my Reverse Offering money to buy a bike or electric scooter. Then fundraising became so much more that we aimed for a vehicle. In total, we raised \$13,353 and with the help of a local dealership were able to get him a reliable used vehicle.

I ultimately got in contact with him from his employer’s logo on his clothing. Something I haven’t shared yet is that he and I have stayed in touch. I discovered from getting coffee with him that he had been working 107 hours per week (legitimately) for over a year just to make ends meet. He was riding a city bus to work and walking from there, and most months couldn’t afford phone minutes. Because of all the connections that were made, he got a new job that pays more and allows for better hours and time off to spend with his child which is absolutely incredible!

I’m honestly really grateful that the Lord was at work in all of this. Without Him, none of this would have been possible.

- Kate from our 57th Street Campus



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE THRIVING!

One of the biggest areas of growth over the past year has been at our middle & high school ministries on Wednesday nights. Each week, hundreds of students gather for worship, small group time and of course, a crazy game or two.

Here are some of our favorite highlights of the year:
439 students attended e/y in one night - the highest attendance ever!

46 students were baptized.

260 students attended a weekend retreat.



2024 is off to a great start for our students as 100 high school students (it's sold out!) head to Camp Castaway in Detroit Lakes, MN on President's Day weekend.

"My son has grown so much from going to e/y! Every time he gets in the car afterwards he tells us everything that you talked about and what it means to him. I can't thank the leaders enough for taking time to instill the presence of Jesus & God and the impact it's had on our family."

- Nikki, e/y parent

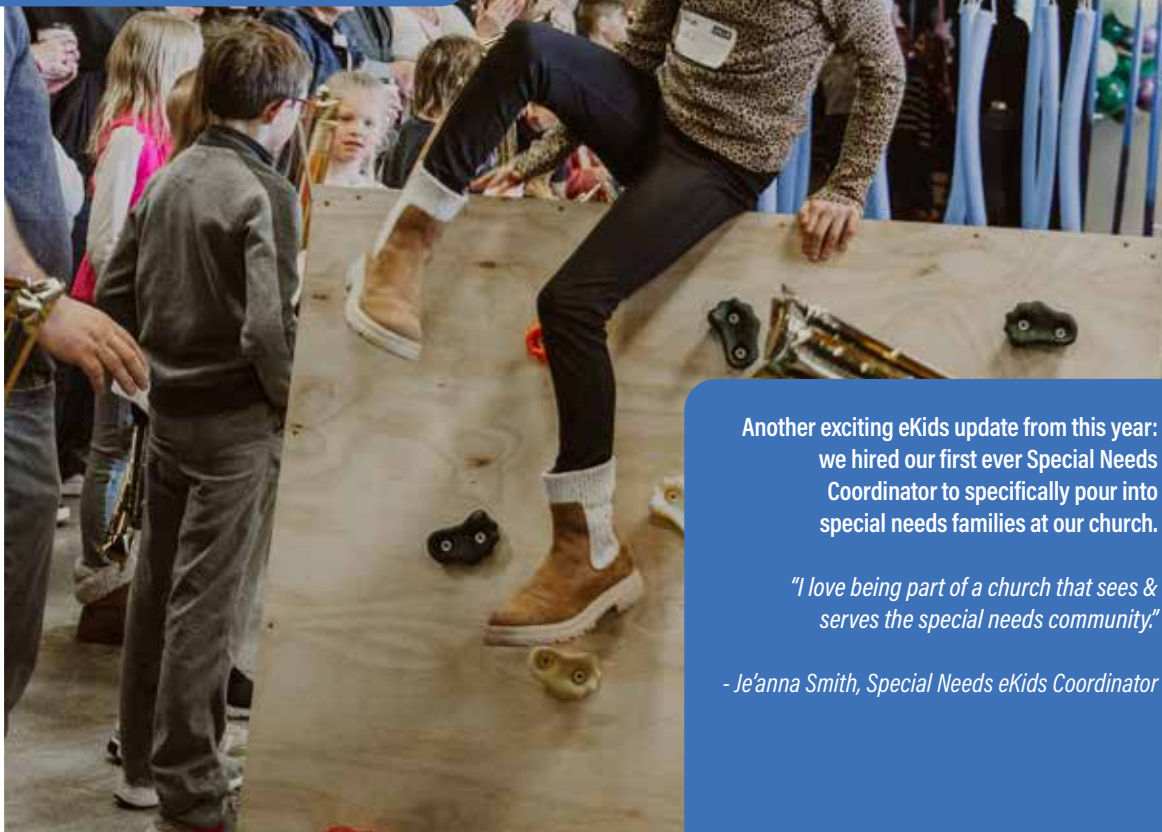


BIBLE PARTY FIRES UP KIDS FOR READING THE BIBLE

Receiving a Bible for the very first time is a milestone moment in a kid's faith journey. We want that day to be as special as possible for the kids that we care for, so every spring we throw a party for our 3rd grade students who receive the first Bible.

In 2023, we gave 98 kids a Bible! Their parents and other Embrace families cheering them on as they completed an obstacle course on their way to pick up their very own Action Bible.

Our next Bible Party is Sunday, February 25. If you have a 3rd grade student, sign them up at iamembrace.com/bibleparty.



Another exciting eKids update from this year: we hired our first ever Special Needs Coordinator to specifically pour into special needs families at our church.

"I love being part of a church that sees & serves the special needs community."

- Je'anna Smith, Special Needs eKids Coordinator

A large church interior with a speaker on stage and an audience seated at round tables. The room is dimly lit with warm string lights hanging from the ceiling. The audience is seen from behind, sitting at dark round tables. A man in a grey shirt and blue jeans stands on a small stage at the front, speaking into a microphone. A large projection screen is visible behind him. The overall atmosphere is intimate and focused.

GROUPS: MAKING A LARGE CHURCH FEEL SMALL

Last year more than 700 people participated in a group or community building event at Embrace. To say our people are hungry for opportunities for connection and growth is an understatement!

Not only do groups help people grow in their relationship with Jesus, they help a big church feel small. This is where connection and growth happen -in community, with people who want to follow Jesus with you.

In the New Year, we're continuing to make groups a priority as well as helping people understand the MANY options available. If you've been feeling the tug to get into community, check out iamembrace.com/groups for a complete list of current groups and other resources.



BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE, ONE BOOK AT A TIME

Each Fall, Embrace does a church-wide survey to gather feedback on what people love and areas we can improve. One thing was clear from this year's survey: you love the books of the Bible series we do twice a year!

In fact, nearly 70% of people who took the survey said they read along with the Bible during the series. We were blown away!

At Embrace, we love the opportunity to physically put the Bible into our people's hands and read together as a church (with Adam's notes providing clarity and humor along the way). It's amazing to see parents, teens, small groups and people who join us online from other states following along with the books of Esther and Ephesians.

We'll be starting a new series on 2 Samuel in just a few weeks on Sunday, February 17th. Be sure to grab your copy!

WHERE DOES MY DOLLAR GO?

Every dollar you give to Embrace goes to relentlessly reaching the next person for Jesus.

15[¢]

KIDS & STUDENTS

All the people and supplies to bring our weekly lessons to life & tech to create a warm and encouraging environment for kids & students to build a relationship with Jesus. Plus dozens & dozens of Adventure Bibles for our elementary students!

7[¢]

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Providing resources & care for our 9 network churches, helping to launch new church plants, funding for Run Projects and being the hands & feet of Jesus in Sioux Falls and beyond.

14[¢]

CARE & CONNECTIONS

Providing one-on-one care & connection by our pastoral staff. Creating experiences for people to find community & connection through large and small groups and events.



Whether it's the music you worship with, the My Story video you watch, sermon hand-outs, copies of the Bible and special books like Esther & Mark, or the cup of coffee in your hand, Sunday mornings are all about growing & becoming more like Jesus.

25[¢]
SUNDAY WORSHIP
& EXPERIENCE

From youth on a Wednesday night, to groups during the week, or an open seat for someone to hear about Jesus on a Sunday morning, our facilities are tools God uses every single week!

39[¢]
FACILITIES &
OPERATIONS

*Numbers above reflect 2023 operating budget and don't include any campaign or restricted gifts.

