

Greetings,

“This is my command: Love each other”

Just the other night we had the opportunity to have some friends over to eat with us. I had met Ryan while I worked part time at Qdoba in 2014. We both enjoy watching and playing sports, which allows us plenty of opportunities to talk. Shortly after starting at Qdoba, employees were hearing that I moved to Sheridan to pastor a new church. I heard many different remarks during this time, anything from people opening up right away to them telling a dirty joke about pastors. Ryan and I had many interesting conversations during this time as well. Ryan simply came up to me and said, “Just so you know, I don't do that religious stuff.” Fair enough, I guess. It was a great 11 months working and loving on the employees and Ryan during which time I built some great friendships and trust with them. Living life with a purpose in our everyday life is so important to the vision of Real Life.

“Real Life's purpose is to help people understand and experience God's truth”

As we help people understand God and the grace and mercy He provides for us, Real Life has chosen this year to love on the people in our lives who are far from God and need a safe place to call “home”. Our theme verse for 2016 is “This is my command: Love each other,” found in John 15:17. Real Life is taking this and simply referring to it as, “One Friend Matters”. Every person matters to God, and what we are focused on doing is loving ONE person that is in our lives already.

Ryan and his wife came over so our families could laugh, eat, and talk together. We didn't have an agenda to share the gospel or call them out on their sins, but to simply LOVE. We have seen Ryan and his family leaning into “church” by trying to get Sundays off and by attending our Christmas Eve service (it's an awesome start). On Feb 20th there were other Real Life families that did this same thing as we all joined together for a “One Friend Matters Meal”. We are providing opportunities to invite our One Friends to different events happening throughout the year to build relationships and show love in real ways. These aren't projects but friends that we hope will meet Jesus in 2016 because of Love.

Real Communities, our main ministry that we encourage everyone to be a part of, recently multiplied from 3 to 6 groups to provide more room for us to invite our “One Friends”. Our Real Communities are a place where we invite people to come and hang out, eat, study the Word of God and also serve in the community once a month. We have had some amazing stories of new families coming and new service projects taking off over the last four weeks. We are excited to see where God is going to take us in these groups and in the new groups that multiply from these six.

Last September 20th we launched our Sunday Gathering at the Wyo Theater right on Main St. in Sheridan. It is an awesome opportunity for the groups to get together and celebrate Jesus. We have found a rhythm with our set up and tear down crew. Our Kidz Life Ministry has had great results when it comes to enjoying their own singing, crafts and time of learning all in a safe and fun environment. Our hope is that we provide an upbeat experience that provides people the chance to connect with God.

God has been at work here in Sheridan and we thank you all for your support and prayers as we continue to meet new people and continue to love the people God has already brought into our lives. You can keep up with what is going on at Real Life by checking out our website ([www.RealLifeSheridan.com](http://www.RealLifeSheridan.com)) or by liking us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/reallifesherdan/](http://www.facebook.com/reallifesherdan/)).

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