

WORD ON THE STREET



One of the Christmas highlights for Jennifer and I since we arrived in Hutchinson has been our Deacons Christmas Outreach. The joy of shopping for different families is such a blessing and really brings us to the heart of Christmas giving. Last Wednesday night our Youth Group shopped for 6 needy students in the USD 308 district at Ave A. I tell our young people that they are making someone have a Christmas they never expected. Giving is what Christmas is about just like God demonstrated a long time ago in the city of Bethlehem, when He gave us the gift of His Son, Jesus. We can all give, sometimes it may not seem much but it makes a difference. We should always be thinking of what God has given to us and how can we share the blessings we have received with others. I have just read an article that really made my heart feel warmer. Now, I am not trying to jump on the Taylor Swift bandwagon I assure you and by the way did you know that she is dating Travis Kelce? Just threw that in incase you had missed that. But Taylor has been on this record-

breaking Eras Tour but little is spoken of the giving that she has put in place because of the money this tour has generated. In this article that I read her agent spoke about how Taylor wanted “to make a positive impact” in the communities along her tour route. I love how this low-key generosity is helping to define who she is. Most recently she gave all her truck drivers a \$100,000 bonus at the end of the American leg of the tour. But the impact in communities has been her greatest legacy. She has made generous gifts to: The Arizona Food Bank Network, Tarrant Area Food Bank, Feeding Tampa Bay putting 125,000 meals on tables, Houston Food Bank, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Gleaner’s Community Food Bank Detroit, Greater Pittsburg Food Bank, Food Bank of the Rockies, Seattle Food Lifeline and Second Harvest of Silicon Valley which will help feed an average of 500,000 people every month. I love that she is using her fame and finances to make a difference.



So, that brings me back to our Deacon Christmas Outreach program. We may not have the finances and resources that Taylor has but what we have which is substantial is changing the lives of so many families and students Christmas after Christmas. This Christmas we have been able to help up to 150 individuals because of your generosity, wow! Doesn’t that make your heart full and doesn’t it model the very thing that God wants us to be, “Generous Givers?” God held nothing back when He gave us the “Gift of His Only Son” and so we have to be willing to give. It’s Christmas, let’s make Jesus known!!! We need to get as excited about Jesus as we do when the Chief’s win. Christmas signifies a number of many things for me; love, giving and family. But most importantly it reminds me of when Jesus Christ was sent to Earth to become man, living among us to fulfill God’s salvation plan. What does Christmas mean to you? Take time and reflect on the beautiful memories of all the Christmases you have experienced. Christmas is a time to really give thanks to God and reflect on this treasured gift to us, Jesus. It was a gift given through true extravagant love and should not be taken for granted but cherished every day. So, let us celebrate Christmas everyday by honoring the gift given to us by our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.