

CHRISTMAS AT GRACE

Christmas at Grace was something really special this year. Across our two campuses, 13 services brought **5,863 people** together to celebrate Jesus—**554 of them at our Medina campus alone**. It felt like family from the moment people walked in the door. We loved welcoming **12 new families** into Grace Kids who chose to spend Christmas with us. Our church showed up in such a tangible way—baking and sharing **3,630 homemade cookies** that helped create a space filled with joy, warmth, and genuine hospitality. That was just one way hundreds of volunteers served those who came to celebrate Christmas with us.



But what moved us most were the new stories God was writing in real time. Across every service and venue, thousands heard the message of hope in Jesus, and the most incredible news of all—**89 people made first-time decisions to trust Him**. We're celebrating each of those lives and praising God for the eternal impact He made this Christmas. We're deeply grateful for a church family that continues to open its arms and make room for more people to experience the hope of Jesus!

KALAHARI

"Fight the Good Fight!" God has continued to use the Kalahari Retreat for 20 years - but this one was the largest Kalahari ever. Our two campuses brought 535 students and over 120 adult leaders to join with the record breaking 3100+ people in attendance this year! We brought 35 additional students over last year - which was nothing short of an act of God, as He moved obstacles left and right for us to exceed what we thought would initially be possible!



The Kalahari Retreat is always filled with opportunities for students to take their next step! Heading into the weekend, we had our first big celebration: that 42 students who we had no prior connection with were going to be attending the retreat. That means almost 10% of the students on the retreat were BRAND NEW! As the weekend progressed, the celebration didn't stop as we saw 25 students make the decision to follow Jesus, and 44 expressing an interest in going public with their faith through baptism. Praise God!

The weekend concluded with two of our very own students leading the retreat in a charge to take the message back home and change the world. Olley Krupp and Luke Starr boldly shared about how Jesus has changed their life and challenged everyone in attendance to proclaim, "I'm in!" to reach the people closest to them with the Gospel.



Something that the Youth team does not take for granted is how much our entire church rallies behind the Kalahari Retreat. We are so blessed to have a congregation that believes in the Youth! This year, a minimum of \$3450 scholarship dollars will be given to students in need of financial assistance - a number that is likely to grow over the coming weeks as we finalize the books. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for leading our church in supporting the next generation. Now - it's time to start planning Kalahari 2027!

The best is yet to come!

Pastor Nick