

HEART plus SOUL

Ministry Update

March, 2008



AVOIDING A MUD PIT

Tug-O-War! Remember that big thick, scratchy rope, with two teams pulling against each other? In the middle of these two teams you would typically find a big messy mud pit! The goal was to pull with all your might and pull the other team into the pit. Due to my weight, in the sixth grade, I suddenly became popular and was quickly chosen to be on a team. I would take my anchor position at the back of the rope, dig in my heels, eat another Twinkie, and lean back with all my power...or weight.

I'm much older now and times have changed, but I'm still playing tug-o-war. Across from me, grabbing onto my life rope is a world of moral decline. As a parent, as a coach, as a person, I'm holding on to my moral beliefs, boundaries, and commitments. These beliefs come from my faith in God and the Bible, and that is what I hold tightly. Across from me, pulling on my rope is a world that cares less about morals, boundaries, and commitments. As we watch the news or observe the moral decline in athletics, we can feel the rope begin to slip through our hands and we sense that we are being pulled into the dreaded mud pit of life. **DON'T QUIT - DON'T LET GO OF THE ROPE!**

You are not alone; team up with other parents, friends, and coaches in your efforts to win the tug-o-war! That is why gathering in FCA Huddles is so important. Consider every moment you walk away from God like walking away from the rope. When you walk away, you have left your teammates on their own, to be pulled into the mud pit. Get back and pull with them! Grab the rope together!

Picture angels standing on the sides with megaphones shouting - "keep pulling!" Hear the words of the apostle Paul screaming, "Don't lose heart, don't get tired of doing what is good..." What about God? He is right there pulling with you! When you place your faith in Jesus Christ, God's very Spirit enters our life! We are new, "in Christ" and because of that truth, we are already victorious!

Romans 8:31 says, "If God is for us, who can be against us!" God is for us! God is holding the rope with you. He promises to give strength to the weary and tired. He is that massive 400-pounder, anchored to the back of the rope. He gives us hope that we will not lose. We can look across the mud pit and see our opponent - rebellion, disobedience, peer pressure, moral decay, negative attitudes, and anger - all pulling on the rope. But we look at God who is anchoring our rope, right next to us and we remember that if God is for us - it doesn't matter who is on the other side - we will win!

Your prayers and your support are daily reminders that we are not in this Tug-O-War alone! Thank you for being on our Home Team! Standing beside you gives us hope and encouragement to keep pulling!

Rex Stump, FCA Area Director

FRANK GLAZIER MEGA FOOTBALL CLINIC - NEW LIVES IN CHRIST! -

On Friday, February 15th, hundreds of football coaches attended the Frank Glazier Mega Football Clinic at the Hilton Hotel in Toledo, Ohio. Fifty coaches from Ohio, Michigan and Maryland came to a FCA sponsored luncheon at the clinic. The coaches had the awesome opportunity to hear from Coach Chris Bowers, Defensive Coordinator of the Defiance College Yellow Jackets. Coach Bowers did an amazing job and really poured his heart out to the coaches. As a result, five coaches gave their lives to Christ for the very first time! How amazing to see God work in the hearts and lives of these men. Please join us and pray for these new believers begin to grow in their faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Following the luncheon, FCA held workshops on "Building a Winning Program" and "Coaching the 'Y' Generation." We had more than 50 coaches come through the workshops and as one coach stated, "I stopped coming to clinics because it was all just x's and o's but this is the first workshop I have been to that gave me something practical to take back to my kids. It was awesome!" What a great day and a huge blessing for FCA to be able to give back to the coaches.

2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12	Buckeye Border FCA Golf Challenge Fund-Raiser
June 16-19	FCA/Wauseon Parks & Rec. Golf Camp, Wauseon, Ohio
June 17-19	FCA Volleyball Camp Wauseon, Ohio
June 23-26	FCA Sports Camp, Bluffton, Ohio
July 14-17	FCA Soccer Camp, Bryan, Ohio
July 18-20	Coaches & Couples Getaway Huron, Ohio
July 28-29	FCA/Defiance College Football Camp Defiance, Ohio

CAMPUS NEWS

Tinora Huddle and OGT

During the second week of March, high school students are facing the Ohio Graduation Testing. This early morning testing can be an intense time for students. The Tinora FCA Huddle is bringing some encouragement to these students by providing breakfast for their peers! Way to show love to the student body!

Evergreen Middle School Huddle

Vic Cales from Wauseon (Pastor and former football player at Bowling Green State University) visited Evergreen Middle School's FCA Huddle. Vic was surprised, as well as Huddle Leader, Glenn Christiansen, to see that over 154 students came to the meeting. That's half of the student body! Glenn reported that Vic did a super job of **sharing the gospel** to the students. Praise God for the opportunity to share the gospel with so many students at one time, on a normal school day!

Below: Vic Cales speaking to the Evergreen FCA Huddle.



AWARD presented to Defiance College Players

Defiance College student-athletes have earned a Community Service Award from the National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators and Jostens. Awards were presented at the NCAA Convention held recently in Nashville. Defiance College was the only Ohio school to receive recognition. The award was presented to eight Defiance football players accompanied by head coach, Robert Taylor, who spent several days in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans conducting restoration work on homes and helping at a Toys for Tots event. This group was the core of our FCA Chapel service for the football team. It was their idea, and their efforts to raise the money, drive 2,400 miles round-trip, work in rough conditions, just to show the hands of God in action.



It's a new year, and a new goal. This June, we are excited about our annual golf challenge, formatted similar to the Ryder Cup. Two teams of 30 golfers will have fun competing through the day, playing four different 9-hole "match play" matches, including best ball, a scramble, scotch (alternate shot), and a singles match.

The golf challenge is set for Thursday, June 12th, at Windwood Hollow Course in Edon, Ohio. Our goal is to see 60 golfers raise \$30,000 in pledges for the Buckeye Border FCA area ministries. All proceeds from this event will fund our camp scholarships and resources. This is the only fund-raiser we do each year, so pray for great weather.

If you would like to golf or make a pledge, contact the Buckeye Border Office at (419) 335-4472.

NEW STAFF

Ministry Opportunities Continue To Grow!!

Area Representative, Daniel Vandock, continues to minister to the athletes and coaches in Delta. This Spring, he will be serving as an assistant track coach, helping with Team Times with both track teams and the baseball team.

Continue to pray for Daniel as he still needs to raise \$25,000 to come on staff full-time. HOW will this happen? As author and teacher, Andy Stanley, has said, "**HOW** is God's department!" Daniel has a plan on raising his support, but we are trusting that God reveals His divine plan in raising Daniel's support. I encourage and invite you to be part of "God's How" in helping Daniel reach his financial goals.

As we minister to coaches and athletes, we have discovered that camps and clinics ran by FCA provide a great solution to training young people in their sport and in spiritual training as well. **Coming in January, 2009**, our office plans to hire another staff person to solely focus on the Camp Ministry. This person will develop camps and clinics for FCA in our area, as well as develop the National FCA Baseball ministry in NW Ohio. We welcome Josh Erd to the FCA Team! Pray for Josh and his wife Jamie, as they begin training, fund-raising, and transition into this ministry.

Do you have FCA Camps as part of your summer agenda? Don't miss these life changing events.



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