



"The Heart and Soul in Sports"

The Champion...



JUNE 27, 2009

HONORING AND SERVING THE FCA COMMUNITY

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It has come to my attention that I forget to share-- I am so sorry. Thought mom cured me of that problem but guess we never stop learning. I truly do apologize and will do my best to be more intentional and deliberate about getting what our Lord is doing through FCA in the bay area to you so you can give of your time, talents, and treasure in a more exact manner.

April 16 Huddle Leaders at the Rays game

Invited all huddle coaches and their spouses to the Rays game for a special appreciation meeting prior to the game. Ben Zobrist spoke to the group and did a wonderful job of thanking them for the impact that was being made in the hearts of the students and their families. As he closed in prayer, you could see through the huddle leaders' eyes that Ben had really placed the appreciation he had for their efforts right on their hearts. They were ready to reach the world as he left to go start at second that evening. We announced to the group the FCA night (May 16) at the Trop, answered the questions, ate some popcorn, and left for our game seats. Had a great evening of food, fun, and fellowship with so many of the huddle leaders.

May 16 FCA Night at the Trop

Sold 100 tickets between both counties. Chamberlain High School Huddle Leader Gary Jones sang the national anthem. Great time of fun, fellowship, and fantasy stories were told. Several Pinellas County coaches brought students to the game. Raised \$900 for FCA Huddles!!! Thank you, for your attendance and donations.

Graduation Programs

Sometimes we are surprised when we least expect it. In the first two graduation services we attended, Debbie and I noticed that the Valedictorian was a FCA huddle member in one service and the Salutatorian in the other was an FCA member. Then noticed another and started making calls to the huddle leaders in Hillsborough County. Of the schools that we contacted and that knew who the special honors were given to, our FCA huddle members and one FCA huddle officer represented three valedictorians and four salutatorians.

Guess I need to change who I borrow brain from.

E-mail Received from Huddle Coach at Sickles High School

Blessings!

The end of the school year is finally here and now begins a time of refreshment for those who work in the school system-public and private. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year by praying and interceding for administration, faculty, staff, and students involved in the school community.

I will give you a brief update on Sickles High School, where my husband, George and I, teach, coach (my husband), and sponsor a FCA club.

Our school year opened with the Annual Jericho Walk and many students from different

denominations and churches, united with intercessors, youth pastors, and teachers and staff to cover all the Sickles territory and claiming it, once again, for Jesus Christ.

As the school year opened, the FCA club was involved in a "10 days of blessing Sickles High School" project. The FCA leaders were trained for this project and spent individual and corporate time in fasting and praying and asking God to bless everyone involved with Sickles High School and the community around the area. The time of blessing began with an official blast of the trumpet as the Lord directed. (Numbers 10) Students infiltrated the school with Christ's love, one day at a time during 10 days.

Following this time of blessing, the students prepared for the FCA Night of Worship. We were again, blessed beyond words, as the administration allowed us to hold it in our own auditorium with very little cost involved. Churches and ministries came alongside to support this worship night and we saw close to 400 gather together on the first day of Spring to shout praises to the King and declare that He is Lord over Sickles, all schools, our families, our community, our city, and our nation. The offerings from that night were donated to local Tampa ministries as a seed back into our community.

The FCA leaders finished the year by blessing all the graduating seniors. Three years ago, as I watched the movie "Facing the Giants" the Lord stirred my heart as a challenge. "Is it possible that what happened in that movie, can happen in the public school system?" was my question to Him. His response is evident in our school.

Yet, the revival that God is doing in our school can best be described by this example. A relatively new believer who is also an FCA leader walked over to a teacher towards the end of the year and asked her forgiveness for the way he had treated her three years ago when he wasn't a believer. He told me that every time he saw her, he felt so uncomfortable that he knew something had to be done. This young man, was able to share this testimony with the rest of the group during our last meeting. Also, a teacher led another young man to the Lord during his lunch period in a classroom. The Lord impressed in my heart that this is true revival!

I am certain that there are other stories like this all over Hillsborough County and nearby counties. Once again, thank you for all your prayers for us this year! There are days that we can truly "feel them" as we try to be light in a sometimes dark place. Please continue to pray for us during the summer- that the Lord will give us creative ideas for next year and that we will continue to sit at the Master's feet where the fountain of living water never runs dry!

May the Lord bless you in your ministries for all the lives you have touched this school year with your obedience in prayer and support.

In His Name,
Melisa Arroyo
FCA Huddle Coach
Sickles High School

Outback Bowl Summer Splash

Over the June 5-7 weekend the Outback Bowl held their annual event called Summer Splash. During the 3 day event we had the honor of playing golf with some sport celebrities. Jon Gruden, the new football analyst for ESPN's Monday Night Football and of course our past Buccaneer Head Coach, Steve Spurrier, former Gator and now South Carolina Head Football Coach, Ron Zook, former Gator and now Illinois Head Football

Coach, and Wayne Fontes, former Buccaneer assistant coach and former Lions Head Football Coach, were in attendance. After some "FCA" discussions on Friday, Coach Spurrier (on Saturday) brought some folks over to me to answer some "churchy" questions they had. Sunday morning I did the chapel for the event and had 28 in attendance. After a weekend of golf, sun, and party that is a huge group. About 1,000 Outback Bowl sponsors/guests were in total attendance.

Highland County - Startup Banquet – Monday Night June 8

Starting a new FCA area, staff and board – multiple churches and pastors in attendance, country barbeque setting, prime rib, green beans, and homemade chocolate ice cream. Pastor Ken Smith emceed, still had new stories and jokes. Country singer (Danny Ray Harris) had just won a national award did a great job getting the crowd involved – stomping and singing. My West Virginia roots were screaming to let loose. Danny told the crowd they needed to get in their wallets because back at his home town in Alabama they auctioned an Elephant shaped chocolate cake that said Roll Tide for \$800 at their FCA banquet, so that Gator helmet with Tebow needs to start climbing north of two grand or it was going to Alabama with him. Current bid was 450 moving at 20 bucks each bid. The helmet remains in Highland County after 5 guys went to the ATM. Robbie and his father, Bob Tebow, spoke – great job by both – especially Robby, Tim's older brother. About one hundred and fifty in attendance and they raised/cleared just over \$20,000 for their FCA Start Up meeting.

6/19-21 Coaches Time Out Conference – Howey-in-the Hills

Nearly 200 Coaches and spouses enjoyed a weekend of challenging messages, break out sessions and some exciting topical discussions. Topics Included: Enriching relationships, improving communication, managing finances, maximizing your coaching platform and developing a relevant personal faith. We are excited for the coaches who attended from our area--four couples from Hillsborough, three from Pinellas and two from Lakeland.

"This was my first time at a coach's conference and I was really impressed by the quality of time that was given to building up the relationships between the husband and wife as well as coach and athlete. I feel an outstanding job was done empowering the coaches to be Godly leaders at home and at school."

Conference attendee

6/23-26 Multi-Sport Camp held at Southeastern University

The facilities at Southeastern are incredible, and their staff's hospitality made our 300+ in attendance feel right at home. All week I heard student athletes brag about the food and how full they felt. That is not how I remember sports camp. (Yes, there were sport camps when I was in high school.) Teams and individuals trained and competed in baseball, soccer (Boys and Girls) basketball (B&G), tennis (B&G), cheerleading, volleyball. Next year we are hoping to add swimming, golf and girls' softball, plus the huddle leadership program. Each sport was led in coaching by a college level or above coach with college athletes assisting as coaches and room/huddle leaders. An example-- high school baseball players getting hands on coaching, teaching and spiritual leadership from college level coaches and players. Their room (huddle) leader is from the same group of college players they practiced with all day. This type of impacting and influencing is only happening in FCA SUMMER CAMPS.

We only had 8 teens attend this camp from the Tampa Bay area and they have returned as different teens. One young basketball player borrowed my cell phone after an evening service to call his mom, dad, and grandparents (that he lived with) to apologize for his language and attitude over the past couple years. In his tears, he was promising to change friends and to be obedient from this day forward, with no more lies. No doubt it was the presence of the Lord that convicted and forgave throughout the camp week.

However, it was the three friends standing with him and praying with and for him as he made those three calls that made the difference. Teenage athletes holding each other accountable with love, and tears, this really can and does happen. Next time you see me, ask about when his dad called back. He did not know his son was at FCA camp.

With the changes in Florida FCA staffing, this camp and the two football camps at Webber are now part of the responsibilities of our area. So please, I plead with you, start praying now that we can be used to benefit the Lord's presence and not harm in any way what He is already doing. There is physical room for growth, (plus another week has been offered us) we are excited about some more godly sport coaches that are available, we are asking for more student athletes to attend and scholarships funds to help the campers.

**For camp pictures please visit: www.westcentralfloridafca.com
For camp videos please visit: You tube and Tangle**

The camp days started at 6:45am;

- 7:10 Light workout and stretching (lead by cheerful cheerleaders)
- 7:25 Quiet Time with God
- 7:45 Breakfast
- 8:30 Team Meeting – Morning Chapel
- 9:45 Practice
- 11:45 Team Builders
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Practice
- 5:45 Showers/Free Time
- 6:30 Supper
- 7:15 Huddle Meetings
- 8:00 Evening Team Meeting – Evening Service
- 9:30 Fun time – Huddle Competition, American Idol Contest, etc
- 11:00 Lights Out

Calendar of Events

- 7/6 - 10 Leadership Camp held at St Simon's Island, GA Currently 29 from Tampa Bay
- 7/7 - 10 Small School Football Camp held at Webber University Currently 5 from Tampa Bay
- 7/15 -18 Large School Football Camp held at Webber University Currently none
- August 1st Semester Sports Kick-off Classic
- 10/14 Fields of Faith – Chamberlain High School (tentatively)

Exciting News is Coming!

We have two candidates for new FCA staff positions in Tampa Bay who are preparing to start raising funds. One would be working in our coaching side of the ministry and the other in the campus side. We are hoping to find enough faithful donors so we can add both as full time staff before school begins in late August. Be in prayer and loosen up the wallets because we are gonna be making lots of chocolate cakes shaped like Bucs, Bulls, Falcons, Terriers, Chiefs, Cowboys, Warriors, Gryphons, etc.

If 'bama can, we can do better!!!!

Only in FCA can you get a Bear-trained quarterback and a Bulldog-trained guard for chocolate cake.

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