



THE PENTONS' PROGRESS

Your Monthly Newsletter For The Community Ministry of Central Ohio Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Volume 39

April 2010

April included trips to two fellow Big 10 states: Michigan and Iowa

With the Wolverines

Joel took his assembly presentation to the forbidden state of Michigan twice this month. You may be wondering how in the world he gets booked up in Michigan; I have wondered that myself. Fortunately, we believe that Joel has broken into the realm of national school assembly speakers. In many cases, he is actually booked based on the school administrator's desire for a quality presentation and not just because he is a former Buckeye football player! When he is in different states, Joel does tweak his talk a little bit, but very little of the presentation depends on his status as a Buckeye. This April Joel spoke to Parchment HS and Andrew G. Schmidt MS both located in the southern third of Michigan (thank goodness!) Unfortunately, in these particular schools we weren't able to set up a concert to share the gospel. However, these assemblies do function to expand our ministry in three ways:

1. increase funding which will enable us to reach more students
2. expand Joel's platform which will serve the same purpose and
3. directing students to www.youtube.com/joelpenton where Joel shares the Gospel and answers FAQ's via video.

With the Hawkeyes



Prairie HS Concert. Can you find Joel and Ryan?

The second Big 10 state we visited in April was Iowa. This return trip was very exciting for us as it included 2 concerts. In February's

Issue I mentioned a great but sleepy day in at Prairie HS Grand Rapids, IA after an all night drive from North Dakota. We were able to partner with the school's FCA and hold an awesome concert with nearly 200 students in attendance. The number of students who trusted in Christ for the first time was an exciting 25!



Concert in Osage, IA

Also If you remember even further back, I mentioned in January's issue a trip to Osage, Iowa. These assemblies went really well and we had a huge response from the students wanting Joel and Ryan to "come back to Osage!" (via Facebook and MySpace). Unfortunately, the local churches weren't interested in partnering with us to hold an outreach. However, this did not stop the Community Ministry Gospel Train! We were determined to get the gospel to these students who obviously were excited to hear more from Joel and Ryan. We contacted the school and reserved the gym ourselves. Then, jumped on Facebook and asked students to spread the word about the event. Finally, we prayed that it wouldn't be a disaster while Joel and Ryan travelled 683 miles to Osage, Iowa! Amazingly, the Lord brought 180 HS and MS students to an event that was only known about through Facebook and word of mouth! Here's a quote from one of the students,

"Your story had a huge impact on me and truly inspired me a lot!" Praise God!

Until next month ,

-Bethany Penton

Please Pray For...

- God to be glorified in everything we do
- Safe Travel
- A Strong Finish (see below)

Message From Joel

Teammates,

We have entered May which means the school year is coming to a close. Things usually start to slow down at this point because schools don't hold as many assemblies at the end of the year. We always welcome the slower pace because we are usually exhausted and longing for the summer by this time of year. However, this year is a little different. We are just as tired and anxious for the summer as in years past but our May is much busier than normal. As I write this note, I am preparing to speak at 17 events in 4 different states over just the next 17 days! It should be fun and exciting but I suspect it will also be physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually challenging. Please pray that I will be able to bring great focus and enthusiasm to all of my upcoming engagements. Pray also for Bethany and Joel 3 while I am away.

Send us an email sometime to let us know how we can pray for you. Thanks so much for your prayers and support!

God Bless,

- Joel

