



THE PENTONS' PROGRESS

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

Volume 33

October 2009

As always, October was exciting with so many great opportunities!

A New Strategy



Ryan's New Promo Pick

This fall we are transitioning into a new strategy for our evening "Comeback" events. As we do more and more events out of Ohio, we realize that the platform as an former OSU football player doesn't go nearly as far everywhere as it does in the Buckeye State. It is certainly enough to be noticed as a speaker and get school assembly bookings, but it won't bring a huge crowd back in the evening to hear the Gospel. The platform of music, however, crosses all geographical boundaries. Over the last couple years, Ryan has been able to play a supporting role while he honed his skills as a performer. It is evident by the students' response that he is definitely ready to be the main draw at our evening events. Our new strategy looks identical to the old as far as the assembly goes, but when the students are invited back, they are invited to a concert where Joel shares the Gospel instead of a speech where Ryan plays some music. Please pray for God's blessing and much fruit!



Test Run In WV

Joel and Ryan had their first test run for making Stand Your Ground a national ministry for FCA. They spent three days in West Virginia where local FCA staff member, Keith Tyler, kept them busy with six assemblies and two of our Comeback events. The trip went well and a lot of kids were impacted. Joel and Ryan also learned a lot about what works and what doesn't work out of the state of Ohio. Maybe the most encouraging thing that they took home was a new found confidence in their school assembly program. After a few slight adjustments, Joel and Ryan feel they can win over almost any crowd and leave an impact that will bring many kids back in the evening to hear the Gospel.

The Whole Family In KY

In mid-September, the whole Penton family was able to travel together to Elizabethtown, KY. Joel had 3 assemblies in 2 days and we spent 2 nights there. He said it was nice to come back to his wife and son instead of an empty hotel room. I also enjoyed getting to see him instead of spending two more nights apart. However, I don't think our hotel room neighbors appreciated the late-night crying! Most importantly, the assemblies went really well and Joel was able to influence many students. Kentucky is becoming a frequent destination for our ministry. Please pray God will continue to open doors down south and the Gospel will make its way into the lives of many Kentucky students!

Until next month ,

-Bethany Penton

Please Pray For...

- God to be glorified in everything we do
- Our New Strategy
- Our "Comeback" Volunteers (see below)

Message From Joel

Teammates,

As we jump around from community to community, we rely in large part on volunteers to make the "Comeback" events happen. This can be a big challenge but it can be an even bigger blessing. Often the people who help out planning and executing events are strong, growing Christians who are plugged into a good church but, for whatever reason, they don't have much experience in outreach and evangelism. It is great to come along side them and help them influence the students in their community. They get to identify themselves with the event before hand in promotion as well as be at the event and help with the follow-up effort. Through this process, we can sometimes see people becoming emboldened in there faith right before our very eyes. What a blessing it is to work side by side with other members of the body of Christ to impact students all over the Midwest. Please pray for us as we seek out people to labor with us in the Gospel. Pray even more for our volunteers. Pray that God would strengthen, equip and embolden them for the work of the ministry. Pray that our event with them would be merely a spark that starts a raging fire for the Lord in their community and their owns lives of reaching others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

- Joel