



THE PENTONS' PROGRESS

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

Volume 36

January 2010

In January we faced snowy weather and thousands of miles to drive with events in five different states!

A Long Drive



The Moose rests up between trips

Near the end of the month, Joel and Ryan spent many hours driving in the Moose as they travelled to Iowa and then Georgia. It was the debut of our ministry in both states. First, they had a stop in Osage, IA for a couple school assemblies that we plan to follow-up with concerts in the spring. Then it was onto Danielsville, GA where they experienced an especially warm welcome (literally). We were fortunate to be able to set up an assembly and concert all in one day at Madison County High School in Danielsville. After the event, one student wrote on his response card,

"I really love the music that Ryan sang. Joel is an excellent speaker and he spoke to me so much. I realize now that God has been tugging at my heart."

How awesome! Joel and Ryan definitely worked hard this month, but thank goodness that we are constantly encouraged by quotes like these from our the exact group of people that we are attempting to reach!



Back Home



Ryan plays for a home town crowd

In January, we were finally able to hold one of our Concerts in Joel, Ryan and Emily's hometown of Van Wert, Ohio. We held assemblies for the high school and middle school earlier in the year so it was great to capitalize on the outreach opportunity. However, we were a little nervous about how the turn out would be. We feared that people in the home town may be so familiar with both Joel and Ryan that they wouldn't have the "star quality" draw like when they breeze into a brand new place. However, we were blown away when about 300 people filed into the auditorium for the show.

After listening to Joel's explanation of who Jesus is and what He has done for us, one student simply wrote:

"I really want to get to know Jesus."

That's what it's all about! What an enormous privilege to be able to proclaim the name of Jesus to people who don't know Him!

Until next month ,

-Bethany Penton

Please Pray For...

- God to be glorified in everything we do
- Safe Travel
- Spring bookings

Message From Joel

Teammates,

"I never thought about it like that," is one of the more frequent comments that we receive after our events in conversation and on response cards. It always warms my heart to hear those words because of my own faith story. I grew up in a Christian home, where I attended church and Sunday school with my family regularly. Throughout my childhood I thought that being a Christian consisted of attending church and trying to be a good person. During my freshman year of high school I began attending a youth Bible study where my eyes were truly opened. For the first time, the Gospel actually became clear to me. I realized that I was a selfish sinful rebel against God, deserving eternal punishment. But God in his grace sent Jesus to pay the penalty for my sins by dying on the cross. I realized that only by putting my faith in Jesus could I be forgiven and reconciled to God, being born again by the power that raised Jesus from the dead. I had heard all the elements my whole life but one day, as a freshman, in that Bible study it just became clear. I probably would have said, "I never thought about it like that."

God Bless,

- Joel