



THE PENTONS' PROGRESS

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

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We got to share the gospel this month in the sub-zero temperatures of North Dakota and the sunny weather of Florida.

Chillin' in North Dakota



Joel got pertty cold. You're darn tootin'!

In early February, Joel and Ryan made the 14 hour trip to Wahpeton, ND for a Middle School Assembly and then a Concert. We didn't know what to expect for the concert since we had never been to the area before and we were only able to book an assembly with the middle school. To our surprise, more than 300 people showed up for the Concert! That number is astounding considering the Middle School itself only has 300 students. Here is a quote from a 13-year-old student who came to the Concert, "This has gotten me thinking about Jesus. Thank you so much for coming all the way to North Dakota!"

Sleepy in Iowa

After the concert in North Dakota, the guys drove through the night to Cedar Rapids, IA for a high school assembly. Joel and Ryan were running on about 2 hours of sleep each and the wives at home were praying for them to make it there safely and give a good performance. Boy did God answer our prayers! Joel said the assembly was 'one of the most exciting of the year' and Joel and Ryan got to spend some serious quality time with the students.



They had two, 1-hour Q & A sessions after the assembly, an hour long workout session with some other students and later that evening they met a group of athletes for dinner at Buffalo Wild Wings! We are planning on revisiting Prairie in April for a Concert and we have high hopes for a big impact because of the great time spent with the students and the awesome assembly.

Sweatin' in Florida



Joel shares the gospel in a FL school

Each February, we head down to Fort Walton Beach, FL for a few days to take part in the Danny Wuerffel Trophy festivities. Joel has had the privilege of speaking in the area the last three years in a row and this year we got an even more exciting ministry opportunity. John Watts, a Wuerffel Trophy committee member was able to set up four school assemblies and two concerts in the Fort Walton area. So instead of flying as he typically does, Joel drove the Moose with Ryan all the way down to Florida a few days early. The events went very well and we already making plans to return next year and hit even more schools in the area. Here is a quote from a 17-year-old who attended one of our Concerts, "Thanks for coming and speaking, my little brother has been struggling a lot and I am praying for him and have been for the past 3 years. He rededicated (his life to Jesus) tonight!"

Until next month ,

-Bethany Penton

Please Pray For...

- God to be glorified in everything we do
- Safe Travel
- The ability to pursue a ministry of significance (see below)

Message From Joel

Teammates,

One of the talks I often give to young athletes is about living lives of significance. I share that when people face adversity in sports and in life, they adopt one of three mentalities. Sometimes people will adopt a mentality of surrender - They attempt to avoid adversity altogether and just give up. Others adopt a mentality of survival - Attempting to minimize the adversity they just hold on for dear life. I encourage student to reject the first two mentalities and adopt a third, the mentality of significance. One who lives a life of significance, sees adversity as an opportunity to learn, grow and do something that could not have otherwise been done without the adversity. Though I have given this advise to countless young athletes, I often find myself tempted to fall into an attitude of survival. When the drives are long and there isn't a whole lot of time to sleep, or when the crowd doesn't seem responsive and I wonder if I'm making a difference, and sometimes it is tempting to just hold on and survive. Please join us in praying that when adversity comes, we will see it as an opportunity to pursue significance for the glory of Jesus.

God Bless,

- Joel