



Northwest Washington Fellowship of Christian Athletes

“Uniting Our Passions for Faith and Athletics to Impact the World for Jesus Christ”

Updates - June 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Wow! Where does the time go? Another school year has come and gone. Time for an update about what has been going on with Northwest Washington FCA. There are many great things happening but only so much room in a newsletter so here are a few highlights.

School Huddles Ministry:

There were active huddle groups meeting at Ferndale High School, Vista Middle School, Lynden High School, Lynden Middle School, Meridian High School, Meridian Middle School, Nooksack Middle School, and Bellingham High School. Each of these huddles include coaches, teachers, and/or community members meeting with and leading high school leaders who are the ones who actually lead their peers during huddles at their schools. In several cases, the high school leaders are also going down to middle schools to lead huddles and engage the middle schoolers.



Huddle Spotlight:



The Ferndale FCA huddle is a thriving group. One of the faithful adult leaders is John Shaw. We asked him to put together an update and this is what he had to say; “We are alive and well in the Ferndale FCA huddle! We handed out over 40 “Growing with Christ” books and have been using the book to guide our huddle. The cool part is that some of the Young Life kids and local youth groups have asked for and are using the same “Growing with Christ” books. Most are doing them in “Quads”, which are small groups of four, diving into the 13 chapter study.



What we have learned is that 30 minutes in the FCA huddle is not enough time to cover 1 chapter of the "Growing in Christ" book. The Lord put it on my heart to coach a small group of boys who wanted to meet outside of the huddle in the "Quad" style. I invited who the Lord put on my heart: 2 seniors, 1 Junior, 1 Sophomore and 1 Freshmen. All said yes to the invitation and we just finished all 13 Chapters from the "Growing in Christ" book. This style of discipleship was off-the-charts for all who were involved. To see the boys' growth in 15 weeks or so, has been a true thrill. Those boys are all launching their own "quads" using the same "Growing in Christ" book and inviting new boys that they can lead. Glory to God!

These "FCA" quad boys have 13 verses memorized from the book and can answer questions that the chapter covers - like Salvation, assurance of answered prayer, assurance of victory over temptation, and assurance of guidance. Putting Christ first, Strength, Giving, Church, Witness and Worship. Is that not a gift from the Lord!

Our huddle has been consistent at around 25 students, with three adults. We have been doing a once a month meal, fellowship and prayer. The greatest victory has been the boys quad outside of the huddle.



Coaches Breakfast

The City of Lynden had a pretty amazing high school basketball state tournament experience with three state titles! The Lynden Christian Boys and Girls teams each won state titles as well as the Lynden Boys. As a spectator of the tournament, the wins and championships were impressive. But what was more impressive was watching all the student athletes from Lynden, who played with great passion and sportsmanship, representing their teams, schools, and communities well with their attitudes. We couldn't help but notice that when the going got tough, the



girls and boys from the Lynden schools did not lose their cool but treated opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect. These teams embodied the attitudes of their coaches, each of whom have been impacted by FCA in some way. We asked one of the coaches, Coach Brian Roper of Lynden, to share how FCA has impacted them and this is what he had to say,

“There are a lot of great ways I see FCA at work in our county. There are two that are most visible for me. One is the huddle group that meets in my classroom on Tuesday mornings. It is completely student-run. Student athletes get together and share a passage that relates to sports and their lives. They discuss real-life challenges and offer each other encouragement. As a fly-on-the-wall I am probably more encouraged by what they say than the students themselves.

“The other place is the monthly coaches breakfast where anywhere from ten to twenty coaches focus on growing in grace and coaching with eternal goals. I always leave that breakfast time with a renewed purpose to focus on investing into players’ lives and to coach with goals beyond just winning games. As one coach once shared, ‘we may be the only Bible our players ever read.’ ”

Brian Roper
(Lynden High School Boys Basketball)



Camps

Santos Gallegos, the Lynden Girls Wrestling coach will be taking a group of 9 wrestlers to FCA Camp in Nampa, ID in late June. Santos has been to FCA camp many times. He and his teams have always had a very positive camp experience, making FCA Camp one week of the year that they really look forward to. This year, the girls worked really hard to fund their way to camp through yard sales, selling flower baskets, and doing yard work. We are really looking forward to checking back in with Santos and his wrestlers to see how God worked in and through them at camp this year.



Prayers and Needs

There is a current job opening for an Area Director for Northwest Washington. Please pray that God will identify the right person to come and fill that role. Please also pray for the coaches, community members, and athletes who invest their time, talent, and treasure to keep FCA going strong here in Northwest Washington.

Praise Items

We have a lot to be thankful for and encouraged by when we step back to take a look at how the Lord is using FCA. His guidance of the ministry is evident and, as always seems to be the case, He is at work in ways that we don't expect. The area for Northwest Washington FCA includes Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties. For many years, the ministry has focused most of our efforts in building up Whatcom County. One of the reasons for this is that there is a lot of opportunity in Whatcom County and all of the board members and staff call Whatcom County home. When the last area director moved on, the ministry in Whatcom County was at a place where it was somewhat established. During this time of transition, a couple from Anacortes reached out to FCA and inquired about an area representative position. After several months, they were able to raise the support they needed to come on to FCA as full time staff! They are now at work to develop and grow the ministry of FCA in Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties. On top of that, the Coaches and Huddle ministries continued to thrive this past year and we are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for the ministry as we move forward. Thank you for prayers and financial support. To God be the glory.

Financial Support

We are so very thankful for those who faithfully contribute in support of this great ministry. Your donations are what make it possible to do things like buy Bibles and other resources for the student athletes and also provide support for certain events. Remaining financial contributions are being directed into a pool of funding to help hire and support the next Area Director. **If you would like to sponsor a Coach's Breakfast or Student-Athlete Huddle at a local school, please let us know!**

If you have any questions about the ministry of FCA or would like to help in some way, please reach out to any of the following individuals serving on our local interim leadership team.

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For regular updates and more information about the Northwest Washington Fellowship of Christian Athletes go to: www.nwestwafca.org

Thank you for your faithful support, prayers and encouragement!

Ron Frank

Fellowship of Christian Athletes
PNW Region VP of Field Ministry