



FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES

2023

CELEBRATION REPORT

MICHIGAN FCA
www.MichiganFCA.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Teammate,

Thank you so much for your faithful partnership in 2023! It was quite a year, as God continued to build on the foundation that He established long ago here in Michigan. Coaches, athletes, and those whom they influence will spend eternity in heaven because of your prayers and support.

This past year, our ministry theme has been "GREATER" based on John 3:30: "He must increase, but I must decrease." We are so thankful to be able to share the Good News of the Gospel with coaches and athletes, grateful that we are indeed united with Christ because of His life, death, and resurrection. God has blessed our ministry with some incredible opportunities within the platform of sports to show God's love and walk alongside coaches and athletes as they discover what it means to glorify God in all they do.

I pray that this Celebration Report is a blessing to you as together we give God all the praise and glory for how he is using FCA to impact lives. We also ask for your continued prayers and support, as we know there are still challenges ahead as we seek to reach EVERY coach and athlete.

What got us here won't get us to where we desire to go, but by God's grace, He will guide us in established steps (Proverbs 16:9). No matter how much we grow, our commitment to His Word and His Way remain unwavering.

God's Blessings!



Matt Diener | State Director
Michigan FCA
mdiener@fca.org



BY THE NUMBERS...

158

CERTIFIED MINISTRIES

Groups meeting regularly to
read the Bible and
encourage one another

1,472

CAMPERS

Praise God for the incredible
growth and opportunities to
reach athletes and coaches
with the Gospel!

29

STAFF

These are individuals who
God has called to ministry
roles having an impact in
their local communities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Our FCA mission is "to lead EVERY coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church." Our Michigan team has built strong relationships and God has opened doors to creatively reach the sports community through huddles and events. These times of fellowship are centered around opening God's Word and sharing His love with all who attend! We are thankful for the ability to partner with so many schools, churches, and organizations.

Huddle Ministry

These are student-led groups that meet before or after school. They consist of icebreakers or other activities along with devotionals or guest speakers to unpack what the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ. We've seen substantial growth into new school environments at the Middle School, High School, and Collegiate levels!

Forest Hills Eastern HS



Western Michigan Univ.

Fraser HS



Oakland University

NASCAR

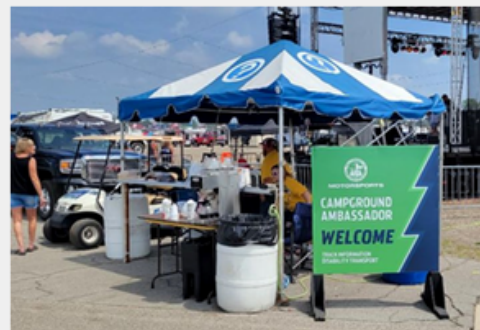


FCA MOTORSPORTS MINISTRY AT MIS

Praise God for this NEW ministry opportunity! God opened some incredible doors to serve the Motor Sports community, and we look forward to seeing where God will lead next!

From Eric Steinke, South Central MI Area Director:

Race weekend ministry was incredible! Hundreds of dozens of cookies were handed out, hundreds of people were prayed for/with, and the Gospel message was shared. 76 volunteers served thousands of fans by being campground ambassadors, ADA transportation drivers, and chaplains. About 155 attended worship at four different campgrounds on Sunday morning, at least 8 cases of Bibles were distributed, and about 4,000 of the FOUR wristbands with the Gospel message were given away. Heard some amazing testimonies, and met people wherever they were at to uplift and encourage and help out with prayer.



GOODNESS OVER GREATNESS

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: PARTNERSHIP WITH
SOUND MIND/ SOUND BODY IN METRO DETROIT

From Glynn Blackwell, Detroit FCA Metro Director:

Our collaboration with Sound Mind and Sound Body is in its early stages in the Southeastern Detroit area. Initially uncertain about how this partnership would unfold, we made significant progress. On July 17, 31, and Monday, September 18, we conducted comprehensive training sessions for over 1,000 coaches and volunteers who actively participated in the 3D training program. This training equipped coaches with a deep understanding of the principles of 3Dimensional coaching and emphasized the importance of identifying their personal "WHY."

One of our organization's key objectives for this year was to foster a cultural shift among coaches, encouraging them to engage in a pre-game tradition of shaking hands. **This aligned with our vision statement of "Goodness over Greatness".** Additionally, our FCA ministry aimed to establish connections with character coaches and individuals interested in becoming prayer warriors for the Sound Mind, and Sound Body organization. We are delighted to report that we had more than 323 sign-ups from individuals willing to assist in these roles.

Furthermore, 19 coaches committed to completing the online courses offered by the 3D Institute, demonstrating their dedication to enhancing their coaching skills and knowledge.



"The Sound Mind Sound Body Foundation is exceptionally grateful for the leadership, guidance, and support of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and the 3D Institute. The resources, training sessions, and, most notably, the love of Glynn Blackwell, Tim Morton, and Mitch Hull have been invaluable to over 1,000 volunteers in the Metro Detroit community. We pray that God will continue to bless our partnership to empower our youth leaders."

-Curtis Blackwell | Founder & President, SMSB
(pictured to the left)

2023 FCA SUMMER CAMPS

1,472 CAMPERS | 17 CAMPS

2023 was a year of incredible camp growth, including attendance of more than 450 athletes at the FCA Sports Camp at Spring Arbor University! A new Leadership Camp was launched in December 2022, and several new partnership camps also allowed Michigan FCA to reach communities in a unique way. Through these efforts, FCA impacted campers and coaches from the elementary to the collegiate level. Every camper received a Bible and the Gospel was clearly presented to all in attendance, with many choosing to profess faith in Jesus Christ for the first time or re-dedicate their lives to following Him!

Scan the QR code to watch our full camp recap video from the Spring Arbor Sports Camp!



CAMP TESTIMONIALS

Praise God for His work in the lives of these campers!

"I began to feel the joy of knowing Jesus is by my side on the court and off. Knowing I'm not playing for myself but playing for Jesus makes me feel better and more determined to keep going!"

- Tary, Basketball Camper

"This camp helped me find my identity in Christ. I've never felt closer to Him than I do now."

- Chloe, Soccer Camper

"The preaching was great and I loved the way they were able to tie sports into it and give different examples of how we can continue to grow in our faith and glorify God through it."

- Trinity, Softball Camper

"Camp helped me connect with Jesus and I became a new Christian"

- Zariah, Archery Camper

NEW CAMP IMPACT

"This past Summer, 2 new camp ministries were launched by Greater Flint FCA Director, Ken Carver. Perhaps the most exciting part is that each camp involved a unique partnership! A youth basketball camp partnered with South Baptist Church, and a volleyball camp involved a collaboration with Arsenal Volleyball Club. These opportunities allow FCA to engage with new families as we look to serve with excellence and share the Gospel using the vehicle of sport.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Northwest
Michigan

From Jen Yost, NW Michigan FCA Area Director:

God has been doing incredible things through FCA in Northwest Michigan! There are currently 20 FCA Huddles meeting in our area schools, and there has been so much growth in many of our existing Huddles. We have 2 prospective FCA staff working to join us as Area Representatives- Rebekah Cotton in Traverse City, and Chloe Cook in Gaylord. As God grows our team, we continue to trust that He will provide the resources and volunteers needed to reach every coach and athlete in our region. We are praising Him as many of our youth are hearing the Good News of the gospel for the first time! FCA allows us to meet coaches and athletes where they are, and it has been powerful to witness countless changed lives.

MINISTRY IMPACT STORY: CASSIE (GAYLORD HS)



Hi, my name is Cassie and I am 17 years old. I live in Gaylord and I have loved to play softball my entire life. Two years ago, I got the privilege to attend FCA Camp at Spring Arbor University for the first time and I can truly say it was an eye opening experience that definitely changed my life. I learned many things about myself that summer not only as an athlete but as a child of God. I realized that week that I was much more than just a softball player, and my identity went far beyond what my classmates thought of me. I was loved and wanted by God in Heaven, and He and He alone would determine my worth and my identity. I left that week as on fire for God that I had ever been in my whole life and I wanted to share it with the people around me. I fell in love with the idea of sharing Jesus to my peers and school and connecting with people I didn't know at my school. So this year we were able to achieve just that by starting a FCA Huddle in Gaylord High School. I am so honored and grateful to be able to be given the chance to lead and share my experiences with others and grow in my faith at the same time. I am so excited to see where this journey will take me and how many players' lives we can impact, not only in our sports teams, but in our schools in Northern Michigan!

**WANT TO SEE MORE
INCREDIBLE STORIES
OF GOD AT WORK?**

Testimony Tuesday is an initiative started in 2023, with a purpose to be intentional about collecting and sharing the stories of lives transformed by Jesus Christ. These may be personal faith testimonies, impact stories, or the sharing of biblical truth. Check out the QR code on the right to learn more!



CELEBRATING OUR TEAM!

The Lord continues to call laborers into the harvest (Luke 10:2)! We celebrate the teammates who have faithfully answered the call and their impact has immediately been felt in the field! We are also excited for staff who have been called into new ventures for FCA in Michigan, following God's lead with purpose and passion.



Mike Tison Moving to New Role as FCA Outdoors Director in Michigan!

After spending the past 2 years serving in a Collegiate ministry role in SE Michigan, we are excited for Mike answering God's call to lead FCA Outdoors in Michigan. Mike has had a speaking ministry at outdoors and game dinners, and brings a wealth of experience with various camps and events.



From Mike:

"I'm excited about the possibilities and all of the people I come in contact with and share with are fired up about the ministry. The vision is there and the need is there, I just need to put the key pieces in place."

[Learn More:](#)

www.MichiganFCAoutdoors.org



Llynette Kincaide Field Ambassador - Metro Detroit

Serving with FCA these past four months has truly been a joy and answered prayer. Experiencing the Lord's love and goodness move through the coaches, athletes, volunteers, and staff from this year's FCA Sports Camp and within SMSB; training and games have left me speechless as the vision and mission of FCA unfolded. I look forward with excitement in serving the Metro Detroit area and seeing how the Lord will continue to move mightily through the coaches and athletes.



Meet Some of
our Newest
Teammates!



Brian VanWagoner Area Representative - Lakeshore FCA

After I first talked to Matt Diener about FCA back in October 2022, my wife said, "sign us up, what are we waiting for?" We cannot stop praising God for what our lives have been like since then, and the relationships that He has provided with FCA staff, coaches, athletes and supporters. The Lord has opened so many doors for ministry since coming on staff in May 2023, and we've already seen lives impacted by Jesus Christ! To Him be all the glory!
1 Timothy 1:12-17



Inside: 2023 Celebration Report

Lives changed through the vehicle of sport!

Michigan FCA

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michiganfca.org

OUR GAME PLAN



VISION

To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.

MISSION

To lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.

VALUES

Our relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork, and Excellence.

STRATEGY

We seek to make disciples through our strategy of engaging, equipping, and empowering coaches and athletes to know and grow in Christ and lead others to do the same.

ENGAGE (1 Thessalonians 2:8): We engage coaches and athletes through genuine relationships sharing our lives and the Gospel.

EQUIP (Ephesians 4:12): We equip coaches and athletes to grow in Christ through God's Word.

EMPOWER (2 Timothy 2:2): We empower coaches and athletes to engage and equip others to know and grow in Christ.