



Come To My Heart, Lord Jesus

At Christmas time, we decorate with greater intensity than any other holiday. Wreaths, trees, poinsettias, lights, candles, wall hangings, and more! Each family has their own favorite decoration and traditional style of decorating. One of the most beloved decorations is the nativity scene. Joseph, Mary, animals, and shepherds, all gathered and facing towards the center of the scene where the manger and baby Jesus are placed. It's not always the brightest or most brilliant of Christmas decorations. It is more of a sentimental and touching decoration that reminds of the true meaning of Christmas.

As special as the nativity scene may be, it also presents a picture of the sadness of mankind's state of the heart. The nativity scene reminds us that Jesus was born in an uncomfortable place and unconventional manner, because there was no room in an inn. In the Christmas carol, 'Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne' we sing, "Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown, When Thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room, For Thy holy nativity."

The next four verses speak to Jesus having no place to stay, even referencing Matthew 8:20...But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

Because every house and inn were full, because every bed was taken and slept in, Jesus was born in a stable. It doesn't seem right that Heaven's royalty, God in the flesh, should come to earth and not be welcomed in. But that's the story of God's love and man's inability to recognize grace and mercy.

How full have our lives become? Are we over scheduled with work, hobbies, or habits that clutter our lives, leaving no room for Jesus? When we look at our daily schedules, do we have room for Jesus? Do we prioritize building our relationship with Him, devotional time, and worship?

The chorus in the carol continues, "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee." Can we sing that song with conviction and honesty? Is there room in our hearts for Jesus? Or do we need to declutter our lives and hearts? Is there sin to be confessed or habits to be ceased? How can you make room for Jesus this Christmas? Don't wait until December 25th, and don't make it a one-day event. Making room for Jesus is a life journey, not a holiday season.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers for the ministry of FCA. We are witnessing each week students and coaches who make room for Jesus in their hearts! Your partnership matters! We hope and pray that you have a blessed Christmas celebration!

Rex Stump, Area Director

MERRY
Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of the Buckeye Border FCA Staff – Merry Christmas! We praise God for His amazing love and grace. This is a beautiful time of the year and we are so thankful for friends like you, who care about the ministry of FCA and our staff. God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas Season!

Rex & Jenny Stump, Mindy Cross

Calendar Year-End Cut Off for Receipting 2023 Contributions

In order for contributions to be receipted for 2023, checks need to be dated 12/31/23 or before, and received in our office with envelopes postmarked by 12/31/23. Any donations postmarked after 12/31/23 will be receipted for the 2024 year.





CELEBRATING CAMPUS MINISTRY



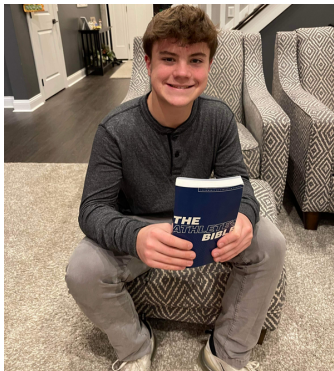
Making An Impact One Person At A Time, One Team At A Time

FCA seeks to engage, equip, and empower our students and leaders with the Good News, so that they can effectively impact their teams, campuses, and community. We know students and coaches are living out their faith on a daily basis. But this month, let's be encouraged by the boldness of two particular students who are living out their faith.

Briggs Fiser, a middle school student, attends FCA Camp and helps at his FCA Huddle at North Central Middle School. Recently Briggs has felt compelled to invite another student to FCA. That sounds common, right? But Briggs noticed that this particular peer could use some encouragement. Briggs soon discovered that he also needed a Bible. One of our FCA Chaplains (a local pastor) quickly supplied Briggs with a Bible to give to his friend. All it takes is a caring heart, and the boldness to reach out and invite someone to Jesus! Look around, your peers are seeking...maybe they need Jesus. Invite them to FCA and ask if they need God's Word.

Meanwhile in Montpelier, a senior by the name of James Camper is boldly stepping out to encourage and inspire his team. James attends Solid Rock Church and FCA on Wednesdays, as well as the deeper study on Thursday mornings. James plans to work construction after graduation, but he is not waiting to start building big things! Feeling compelled to do something, James courageously decided to lead his basketball team in prayer...after the game...midcourt...with the other team! James asked permission from his coach, and now he is inviting not only his team, but the opposing team as well. He shared that "it's time to let the light of Jesus Christ shine!"

Both Briggs and James are doing what many other students are doing in their schools and communities! Praise God! Cheer these young people on, as they strive to live out their faith, shining bright for Jesus in a dark world.



Briggs Fiser reminds us to share God's Word.



James Camper leading his team and opponents in prayer.



Pray for James and his team as they plan to circle up and pray after each game.

Year-End Giving

Like any 501©3 nonprofit ministry, FCA is sprinting towards the finish line this December! Many of our Home Team donors financially give on a monthly basis, but there is a large percentage of people that give at the end of the year! The year-end gift is often what propels this ministry forward. Our office is sprinting to the 2023 finish line with hopes of raising \$43,000! A huge goal! Please pray for us as this will help us PURSUE our goals of hiring new staff, providing resources and meeting our strategic plan goals for 2024. Along with prayer, please invite others to help us reach our goal!

If you, another person, business or church has been blessed this year and would like to make a "Year-End" donation to the ministry of FCA, you can:



- Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit:
www.bbfc.org/year-end

- Send your tax deductible gift to:
Buckeye Border FCA
1111 Arrowhead Trail • Wauseon, OH 43567

Please make checks payable to **FCA**.

