

“He must become greater; I must become less.”

JOHN 3:30



FELLOWSHIP OF
**CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**
ILLINI LAND

Dear FCA Teammate,

Jesus has transformed many lives this year, and there’s more work to do to reach a **GREATER** number of coaches and athletes with the Gospel. As you consider your end-of-year financial contributions, **please help us reach our \$50,000 goal!**

MEET JOSH

We’re so excited to welcome Josh Parr to our staff team — a U of I grad and former standout Illinois baseball player with a passion for sharing the Gospel and making disciples! He’s co-leading the college huddle (U of I/Parkland) with Sara Hurst and has hit the ground running engaging U of I coaches, discipling athletes from previously unreached teams and challenging athletes to investigate Jesus for the first time. Josh’s wife, Julie, also a U of I alum and former Illini soccer star, has been equipping some Illini Women’s Soccer players to live out the Gospel on their team.



Josh, Joanna,
Julie & Hannah



This summer several Illini football players gathered to investigate the claims of Jesus through the book of Mark. Three players indicated they’d like to follow Jesus, and several were encouraged to take their relationship with Christ more seriously.

God is on the move in college ministry! 70+ U of I and Parkland student-athletes have been diving deeper in their faith each week through encouraging and challenging messages and small group conversations. Beyond the weekly multi-sport huddle, there are several team-specific Bible studies taking place each week as well! Check out a few recent quotes from college athletes:

“When we try to lead our lives, we find temporary happiness. When God leads, we find lasting joy and purpose.”



*“I realized that instead of running from my problems, I needed to run to my **Father** who could solve them.”*

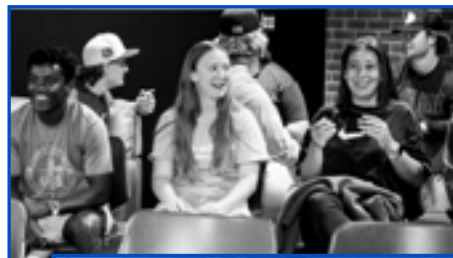
*“It’s hard to be fearful and grateful at the same time...focus on **gratitude**.”*



*“When you know your **identity** in Christ, you don’t have to worry about your status with the world.”*



*“Your **mission** field is where your feet are.”*



COLLEGE MINISTRY

FCA BASEBALL

Baseball ministry has exploded this year! In addition to serving as chaplain for Urbana and Franklin Middle Schools, Calvin has seen God move in powerful ways through the Parkland and U of I Baseball teams. This fall, 24 Parkland and 21 U of I athletes have been gathering weekly to go through The CORE – 8 fundamentals of the Christian faith. So far, 11 players have trusted in Jesus and those who haven't yet are eager to learn and ask questions. Praise God! Looking forward to what the Lord has in store for high school baseball season this spring!



Madden Schurvinske (Parkland Baseball) and Jake Swartz (U of I Baseball) served as Day Camp coaches.



Parkland Baseball

23 SUMMERS STRONG!

Another incredible summer of FCA Day Camp! A joy and privilege to share the good news of Jesus with 702 campers.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS!



Sometimes challenges in ministry force us to be flexible. Our Tuesday Tailgate with the Centennial Football team has given us a great opportunity to discuss topics like grace, forgiveness, and belief.



Zane Richards, USA Sr. World Wrestling Team Member, who has been very involved with FCA was baptized this fall, and his Illini teammates came out in support.

The Mahomet Jr. High all-campus huddle has exploded this fall. Under the leadership of FCA volunteer, Ryan Remole, and a student-leadership team, 60+ student-athletes gather weekly to discuss who Jesus is and how that relates to their lives as competitors.



We continue to engage coaches with the gospel, equip them as disciples of Jesus, and empower them to make an impact for Christ in their sphere of influence.

For example, in several Coaches Huddles and weekly meetings with individuals, we are leading coaches through the "360 Coach" curriculum. This Christ-focused, practical material helps them develop a Biblical approach to coaching the heart, mind, and body—all with the goal of enabling them to daily pursue God's transformational purposes as they coach.

OUR NEED

100% of our funding comes from people like you. **We need to raise \$50,000 by January 1st** to continue engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes! Can you give an end of the year donation to help us continue resourcing coaches and athletes and expand ministry opportunities? Every gift matters!

Grateful for you,

Robbie & Liz Gwinn, Sara Hurst, Shannon Caughey, Delandis Beck, Calvin Bertrand, Jessica Ingold & Josh Parr
Illini Land FCA Staff

P.S. Thank you for your partnership to help us reach our \$50,000 end of the year goal!



Simply return this envelope or donate online at:
ILLINILANDFCA.ORG/YEAREND



Donate Today!