

“MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Romans 15:13



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES
ILLINI LAND**

Dear FCA Teammate,

Romans 15:13 is our prayer for you this Christmas season and into the new year! The truth, hope and joy of Jesus have transformed many lives this year, and there's work to do to reach more coaches and athletes with the Gospel. As you consider your end-of-year financial contributions, **please help us reach our \$60,000 goal!**

MEET ZANE

As of September 1st, Zane Richards has officially joined our staff team! He's a U of I grad, 2x All-American, and was a standout senior level wrestler — a gold medalist at the 2023 Pan American Games and the 2023 US National champion. He's serving as the Illini Wrestling Chaplain — discipling coaches and athletes and leading several investigative Bible discussions through the book of Mark. He's also building relationships with middle school, high school and club programs. We're excited to see how the Lord will use Zane to draw wrestlers to himself!



Zane serving at a Mahomet clinic



**LEARN MORE ABOUT
ZANE'S JOURNEY TO JESUS**

SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (SLP):

A highlight of the summer was our inaugural Summer Leadership Program (SLP) — a 2-month internship-type opportunity for college athletes focused on discipleship and engaging in ministry. Eight athletes participated and had an amazing experience. Each week, these students grew in how to share the gospel and their own testimony, how to study the Bible, and how to have conversations about tough questions within Christianity.

There was a clear hunger among these athletes to grow closer to the Lord through **“rightly handling the word of truth.”**
(2 Timothy 2:15)



“SLP was an unbelievable experience, and I am so grateful I got to spend my summer with FCA and with incredible people. I was able to grow closer to Christ and do it with family! SLP has shown me the importance of and how to seek the Lord.”

– Adalia McKenzie
Illini Women's Basketball



The SLP toured Litanía Sports Group in Champaign.



ILLINI MEN'S GYMNASTICS



Logan Myers, Illini Men's Gymnast

After completing the Summer Leadership Program, Illini Men's Gymnast, Logan Myers, felt compelled to start a Bible discussion for his teammates — a place where anyone from his team could enjoy dinner and learn about Jesus from God's word. The

study through the Gospel of Mark launched in September, and 8 men have been regularly attending. As they've engaged in the scriptures, they've talked through topics like, "What is repentance?" or "How can I know I am saved?" Each gymnast also took a FCA Athlete Bible and has begun reading on their own. Please pray that God would draw these men to himself through the reading of his Word! Also, pray for Logan as he has been a bold witness on his team!

COACHES STUDYING GOD'S WORD

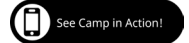
Currently, there are coaches huddles in Fisher, Mahomet, Monticello, Tolono, Tuscola, Champaign, Urbana, Rantoul, Parkland, and the U of I. Week by week, coaches gather to study God's Word and discuss how to apply the Scriptures to coaching and life more broadly. In the various coaches huddles, we've studied 1 Samuel, several Psalms, the Sermon on the Mount, Mark, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, James, and 1 John — as well as utilizing discipleship material like "360 Coach" and "The Core."



Mahomet Coaches Huddle

24 SUMMERS STRONG

Another incredible summer of FCA Day Camp! A joy to share the good news of Jesus with 765 campers, and to provide 105 high-school/college athletes the opportunity to lead. Praise God!



DEVELOPING LEADERS

The multi-sport campus huddles at Centennial and Central High Schools (among others) have been incredible this fall. It's a joy to develop student leaders and help train them to share the Gospel and to live out their faith on their teams and in their schools. One student recently expressed his gratitude for the FCA atmosphere and his desire to be intentional about finding Christian community as he explores college options. Such a privilege to provide space for student-athletes to explore the claims of Jesus and grow in Christ.



Central Huddle



Centennial Huddle

OUR NEED

100% of our funding comes from people like you. To begin 2025 on solid footing, **our goal is to raise \$60,000 in year-end gifts by December 31st.** Will you prayerfully consider making a special year-end gift 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 & Zane Richards
Illini Land FCA Staff*

P.S. Thank you for your partnership to help us reach our \$60,000 end of the year goal!



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or donate online at:
ILLINILANDFCA.ORG/YEAREND



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