

December 15, 2011



News From the Common Ground

“Whatever a person is like, I try to find a common ground, so that he will let me tell him about Christ.” 1 Corinthians 9:22 NLT

Sports Crusaders Expanding Into the Southern States

Among all the great things that God has done through this ministry this year, another new ministry has been born! Let me introduce to you Brandon Allee. Brandon resides in Longview, Texas with his wife Stacy and two children Miller and Nate. Brandon will serve as the Coordinator of Southern States. He will recruit students and churches for Sports Crusaders camps in Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Brandon is native to Missouri and has served with Sports Crusaders as a summer staff missionary in 2003 and more recently as a team leader in 2007. Our vision for many years has been to expand into all 50 states. Over the past several years we have sent Missouri teams to these states to conduct camps. With work that God is already doing in these

southern states, our vision is becoming reality for the southern states. Brandon has answered God's call on his life to join in that work. We have every confidence in God and His appointment of Brandon to this task. We are honored to have him as part of our staff. Please pray for him and his family through this journey. Also pray for the ministry there that we will be open to "God's" plans for it.

Tricia Alberts, Executive Director



A Note From Brandon

First, I want to say hello (officially) to everyone. My family and I are very excited about joining Crusaders. This is something that I feel God has been working on for a long time. Everything definitely happens in His time and not ours. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." Sports comes in all forms, from cheerleading to water polo. Each one has its place within the wide world of sports.

Through the gift of athletics that God has blessed you with, you should be able to give God's grace to others through that sport. This is one reason I thoroughly enjoy Sports Crusaders. Since being here in Texas I have seen that sports takes precedent over a lot of things. The Dallas Cowboys are referred to as "America's Team" even though they

haven't won a NFL championship since 1996. That should tell you right there where sports stands in Texas. I feel Crusaders can make a big impact down here and will only grow in the years to come. Please pray that churches/organizations will be open and that students are willing to serve here in the South in the summers to come. If you need to reach me then please call/text my cell at 903-331-9954, or email me at brandon@sportscrusaders.org. I would enjoy hearing from you. Thrilled to be aboard.

Brandon Allee, Recruiter & Coordinator for Texas Camps



Camp P82 Gets a Permanent Home

God has been working many ways over the last few months with Camp P82. Last summer was a wonderful success with three full weeks of camp. There were a total of 29 campers ranging from the ages of 8-13. God worked mightily in the life of some of the campers. There were some major spiritual breakthroughs as we saw faith challenged spiritual barriers broken.

God has been faithful during the fall season in preparing a permanent place for the camp to be established. He has made available 30 acres for the camp to be built and

ran on outside Rocky Mount, MO. Near the Lake Ozark area. It is exciting to be a part of and God has been so faithful to provide a permanent location for the camp! In January dates for the summer will be established, and work will begin in developing the camp for the next year.

In addition, the camp website (www.campp82ministries.com) will be updated and we will also be hitting the ground running for opportunities to share about the camp, opportunities to be involved and ways to support what God is doing with it. We also want to see some

weekend camping opportunities as early as March where campers from last year will be invited to come out once every 4 to 6 weeks and camp on a Friday and Saturday. This will provide a tremendous opportunity for follow-up and discipleship as well as a strong lead in to the full camp weeks of June and July. We plan on setting a goal for 5 weeks of camp this summer. Please be in prayer for this ministry as God is using it in a powerful way to reach at-risk kids through the arena of outdoor sports and recreation. Blessings,

Cory Casey, Director of At Risk and International Ministries

Merida, Mexico 2011

July 2 – 8, 2011, six girls and four boys set out for Merida, Mexico on behalf of Sports Crusaders to conduct camps and play in a basketball tournament. The names of those nine who went are as follows: Tricia Alberts, Kevin Shelton, Kris Cook, Erik Gustafson, Cameron Stoner, Miranda Walker, Amy Palmeri, Hannah McGennis, Sarah Cline, and myself Mary Miller. The trip was amazing and very productive. While we were there we got the opportunity to have camps in four different locations and the numbers were crazy every time we went somewhere we had 100 at least. Then we would play games after our sessions and we played with some of the high school interpreters who helped us with our camps. We had the opportunity of sharing our testimonies at the games during halftime and our first day in Mexico when we attend church in multiple locations. Each one of us shared and got to see some amazing things while we were there. We saw many come to faith through the faithfulness of the students and leaders who

shared their testimonies and it all came to the glory of Christ. This is a testimony from Miranda Walker on what the trip meant to her:

The summer of 2011 was a great one because I spent it with Sports Crusaders doing missions through basketball. I was blessed



with the opportunity to go to Merida Mexico and teach Christ through basketball to the kids there. It was such a fun trip and I know God was

working through us. I always seem to tell myself that anything I do is worth it if one person comes to the saving faith in Jesus Christ and this trip was no different. I had been telling myself this, as I experienced new things and met new people and on Sunday, our first day there, God let me see it happen. I have been learning Spanish and asked to borrow one of the Spanish Bibles we had brought to give away, then I ended up in a church where Kevin (one of the team leaders) preached in English. I was a bit

disappointed at not having the chance at following the sermon in Spanish, but I didn't realize that God wanted me to have that bible in my bag. After the service we went visiting and saw one girl come to Christ! Amazing, and I just happened (by the great plan of God) to have that bible in my bag to give to her. After that moment I knew that no matter how the rest of the week went I had done what God needed me to and thankfully He wasn't done. It was a great mission trip and if God calls me on another I will be there.



Save the Date

**Hoopfest : March 30 & 31
Springfield, MO**

**Cardinals Game: June 16
Cardinals vs. Royals**

Sports Crusaders Live

Sports Crusaders Live has moved :



Tuesdays 10-10:30am

AM 630 KJSL (greater St. Louis area)

www.sportscrusaders.org (streamed on the internet)

NEW DAY & TIME

Schedule your Camp Now

Available Camp Dates for 2012

Cheer: June 11-15; July 9-13, 16-20, 23-27

Volleyball: June 18-22; July 9-13

Soccer: June 25-29; July 16-20, 23-27

Basketball: June 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29; July 9-13, 16-20, 23-27, 30-Aug 3

Would You Like To Join Our Summer Staff?

- **10 Weeks of total commitment to the ministry (May 29-Aug 3)**
- **Experience 1 week of intensive leadership and sports ministry training**
- **Work closely with a team of 3-4 other college missionaries**
- **Lead 8 weeks of Christ-centered sports camps for children and youth of a variety of ages and backgrounds (week of July 4 off)**
- **Travel to and from locations in Missouri and surrounding states**

Contact Tricia at: tricia@sportscrusaders.org

2011 Internship

Since becoming a crusader I never would've imagined that I would be in the place that I am now. I have served 3 full summers with Sports Crusaders and the spring before my third summer I served as an intern for Tricia Alberts, the Executive Director, to fulfill a graduation qualification for my degree in Recreation Management from Hannibal-LaGrange University. Let me tell you serving in the office as the intern/semester missionary, through the Missouri Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board, has opened my eyes to a whole new side of Sports Crusaders that I knew existed but didn't know how intricate it really was. The first thing that was different was sending

out support letters to have a salary just like the fulltime staff does everyday of their careers. The next thing I was involved in was the recruiting part of the process. Meeting with the students and hearing their stories and why they want to get involved with Sports Crusaders and telling the ones we asked to be team leaders my story was an experience I will never forget. Then finally I got to see all the prep work go into shipping out the boxes to the churches, the host trainings, and the scheduling part of the camps that I thought was the easy part. After seeing all this I served the summer and then returned back to the office after the summer was over to finish out my semester. After the

summer it feels like a huge deep breath that has been let out. We had staff retreat which we reviewed the summer and talked about the theme for this upcoming summer, and now getting back into the swing of recruiting, scheduling, and booth work. I have seen the full circle now and I appreciate all that Sports Crusaders has done to let me stay and see this through but most of all I thank God for putting me in this position because let's face it if He didn't want me here it wouldn't have worked out so nice.

Mary Miller

Sports Crusaders
On Mission Through Sports

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Sports Crusaders Needs Your Help

As we close out what has been an incredible year of ministry, we find ourselves with a budget shortfall. The shortfall is the result of numerous things but primarily because the requests for ministry exceed realized revenues. After much prayer as a staff and board, we feel God telling us to inform you and all of Sports Crusaders friends, believing that God wants to use you to meet this need.

One thing you can be sure of: Sports Crusaders continues to be a good steward of the ministry that God has given us. Sports Crusaders is winding down what has been an incredible year. Camps saw many kids

come to Christ as we have seen every year of Sports Crusaders' existence. New ministries touch the lives of at-risk children who desperately need to know God's love. Summer staff members are back in college after a rewarding summer of spiritual growth and character building as they led sports camps and shared Christ's love with campers. Many of them will return to serve again. Many more will respond to the call to church leadership as they move further into adulthood. Sports Crusaders staff and board of directors rejoice in God's faithfulness as He blesses the results of the ministry.

As the calendar year nears its end, would you consider making a gift to sports Crusaders to help us? Our goal is to start 2012 without any debt and our budget operating in the black. We cannot accomplish this without you. Please pray and ask God what part you can do.

Contributions may be made payable to Sports Crusaders and mailed to:

460 S. Summit Dr

Holts Summit, MO 65043

Board & Advisory Council