

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all the others." Romans 12:4-5

## Grateful For So Many Glimpses of God's Grace of Belonging in 2025

### Liberty in Liscomb 2025



Our cousin, Dynette the Mayor, asked the whole family to be Grand Marshalls as descendants of some of the original settlers in Liscomb. I think the thought of **belonging together** on that hayrack got many of us to drive many miles to take a couple laps in Liscomb. It's a blessing to **belong** in family that cherishes our history.



Staying in host homes on RAGBRAI is an experience of sweet community from late afternoon until the early morning. Introducing my fellow Old Cranks to my friends (Beebouts above) is delightful. New friends we stay with seem to be hand picked by God for us. I'm grateful to witness all the communities coming together as they host us. I love **belonging** on a team and wearing jerseys together (even if they're too tight!) And I love that sense of belonging as we ride with 10,000 others for a week as we enjoy Iowa together.

An amazing thing happened in June. My old friend, Gina, who I have known since jr. high, invited me to Gina's Weekend. We didn't know each other, but were all friends of Gina's from different times in her life. She arranged a fun weekend and invited us to be together for two and a half days. We trusted Gina and said, "Yes, I'll come!" Gina knew each of us belonged to Jesus first.. Who knew such **belonging** could exist amongst strangers!? Gina did :)



# Belonging in Christian Educators



We take road trips whenever possible when traveling to the Summit in July because we make some memories, hear each others stories, and enjoy just being on the road together. Mary and Steve from Marshalltown, Sonia from Ames, Brittany from Blair, NE and I, continue to cheer each other on knowing we **belong** to each other as we follow Jesus as fellow ambassadors in IA/NE.



Fall is time to go to my friends' classrooms and pray for the Lordship of Jesus over every area they will use. We pray that each child knows they **belong** and extends the same to the other kids. We pray for **belonging** for new teachers. It was a joy to pray over Brittany's new classroom. Below is See You At the Pole at Gilbert with several friends who teach there.

We had our annual Teacher Camp on Dee's porch with drinks & food. There were many places to go sit in solitude with God, and there was a sense of **belonging** as they came back to share. What a joy to hear these teacher's hearts and prayers as they prepare for another new start in their calling as Ambassadors in their schools.



## Belonging as Partners in the Gospel

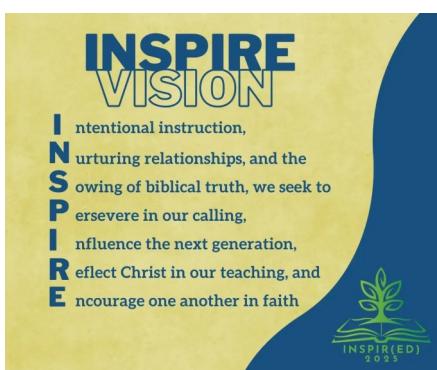
"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in your will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus..."

Philippians 1:2-11



I was able to partner with Barb in Cedar Rapids in August by doing an Immanuel Journalling workshop for her staff at Isaac Newton Christian Academy. This encourages teachers to remember they **belong** to God and He is with them in a very real way. There were many good tears.

I love being on an AWAKE team. Ambassadors Working As Kingdom Educators. We set up, eat together, stay in each others' homes, prepare food, facilitate the day, tear down, clean up, eat another meal together, talk about what God did, and affirm one another. **Belonging!**



Inspired –Life is an Iowa based ministry that is led by my good friends, Tim Boettger and Rebecca Johnson (amongst several others.) Rebecca invited me to present Immanuel Journalling through an optional workshop for teachers who work in inner-city Christian schools throughout Iowa. They need some specific support for their unique calling. I was honored to partner with Rebecca, who directed the conference. It was a beautiful thing to see these teachers praise the Lord together at the end.

Sonia and Carly had a special session for Christian educators at the Music Educators Conference at Iowa State before All State. The future teachers were excited to learn about CE.



I'm glad to **belong** to a group of Iowa Staters who pray for campus every Friday from 12-1. Students, faculty, staff, and campus ministers. We are spurred on my Bob, retired faculty, who brings chairs to campus to pray for anyone who wants to sit down with him.



**Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Iowa State =  
Belonging to Christ, Each Other, and the World God Loves  
No Matter Where We Live**



Ella broke my heart when she told me she was in the transfer portal. But, I learned to accept it and four of us gathered to pray her out of Ames to the University of Maryland. She's



Wyatt was so open as a college student that he really helped me learn how to empathize with the emotions student go through. I was so grateful to be invited to go to his wedding in Nashville and hear his dad pray with a heart for Jesus.



Jasmine was truly a ministry partner when she was at Iowa State. Grace and she led with love. Now I consider them like family. Glad to drive to Wisconsin to celebrate her wedding.

Each semester I am aware that some new athletes are ready to step up and lead with scripture, their testimonies, prayers, love, and teaching others. So, we gather and I ask big questions and pray. We have had a great semester since this study about being One-Team at ISU.



I love having FCA students in my back yard. These students will soon be gone. So, I rarely take my time with them for granted. These very busy people are humble and desire to serve. Most of them have their own ministry on their team.

# Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Iowa State = Belonging to Christ, Each Other, and the World God Loves



One of our favorite annual activities is our Thanksgiving meeting. I bring the Iowa State Athletics Directory and student-athletes sit around a table together and write thank you notes. We love blessing people who don't expect thanks!



We like to have FCA in homes because it draws different people to be there. Nate Carr shared about the power of the Holy Spirit with this group.



We were invited to have a table at a day conference called She Coaches hosted by Erica, the Ames HS track coach. Many athletes and coaches were encouraged to hear about the joy of integrating faith and sport.



We took our FCA meeting to the Ballard High School FCA. Most FCA meetings roll the same way with a Welcome, Warm Up, Work Out, and Wrap Up. It was our joy to do it!



# 2025 Mid-Iowa Fields of Faith at Huxley (Ballard) Oct 8

25+ high schools

1000+ student-athletes

15 Ballard volunteers

oneTeam

800+ pork loins meals

4 sets of 9 Square Games

43 Iowa State Cyclones



1000 gospel bracelets given out

14 ISU small groups

6 musicians in the amazing worship team

2 amazings sound techs

10 bags games

5 counties invited



Dozens of parents/adults

700 Chick Fil A chips, buns and misc. things donated

500 cookies, waters donated by Fareway of Huxley

800 marinated pork loins donated by Fareway

11 sheets of plywood to protect the track



## We Belong In His Kingdom



Ten high school students shared powerful, honest, mentor-affirming, truth speaking, Biblical testimonies or read scripture in front of their peers and other schools they compete with. It was a joy to watch and listen to these courageous, influential, humble and vulnerable leaders from Ames, Ballard, Gilbert, Nevada, and Roland-Story. We are so blessed in this area to have veteran, Jesus-following, adult FCA leaders in all of these schools. Their impact is deep and wide in their schools, communities, and generations to follow. What a beautiful way to spend their lives—speaking the truth about Jesus and how it relates to our lives.



I'm grateful for Tamin Lipsey coming out all four years he has been at ISU. He doesn't have a team surrounding him at Fields of Faith like the women's basketball team does, but he comes to speak about Jesus even if he is the only one.

Sofia, the swimmer from Italy is our leader here. She didn't know of any other Christian swimmers on her team so she led on her own as well. As she prays, I believe God will bring her a ministry partner on the swim team.



Rachel Joseph and Carson Hansen took time to prep and deliver the gospel.



I love seeing these high school students witnessing college athletes supporting each other



We're grateful for our MCs Alec Cook and Audi Crooks for leading the night..

God loves you  
Sin separates you  
Jesus rescues you  
Will you trust Jesus?



So much belonging at Fields of Faith!

