

Lori's First half of 2026

Christian Educators & Fellowship of Christian Athletes



I just took an early August bike ride through an empty Iowa State University campus which gave me an opportunity to reflect. I just finished my **30th year of campus ministry**. My roles have changed a lot. But I still love this place. A group of faculty, students, and campus minister pray weekly, by the campanile on Fridays, that our campus and the city of Ames would be a place of transformation from death to **life in Christ**. And, we often pray that the body of Christ will be seen as beautiful, loving, creative, and real as people study, play, hang out, and live together.

I just finished my **25th year at the House of SKA** (South Kellogg Ave.) Our backyard is still a refuge for others. I'm on my **49th roommate** and she's varsity for sure.

I moved into Maple Hall for the first time **50 years ago this fall**. I can still remember what it was like to feel homesick, awkward, and exhilarated by all the possibilities and new friends as a freshman. I'm still so grateful for landing in Friant House in 1976 so I can now have old friends!

It has been so much **fun** to get to know the kids of my friends who were at Iowa State a couple decades ago. They teach me about life as a college student now and I continue to learn every year. I pray with them and for them, that they have real **LIFE-giving relationships**.

I'm enjoying the America 250 celebrations and the **Iowa State Fair** did not disappoint.

Lake LaVerne continues to be a construction site and so is the lawn of Beardshear. The football team is in the construction zone as well as many other teams. **Nine of our ten FCA leaders portaled out of ISU or graduated, so FCA** (like Cy-Town) is also under construction.

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you (us) will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus!" Philippians 1:6

(I think He's coming in the clouds soon!)

Shana Wilson is a ministry partner for FCA. She had a great idea for an FCA Christmas Tree at a local festival of trees at her church. We were thrilled to post these testimonies for hundreds of people to see. Our student-athletes were grateful to participate in this **community outreach**.

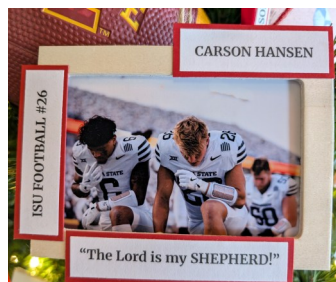
EQUIP with Clear Plan...

Sport and Culture

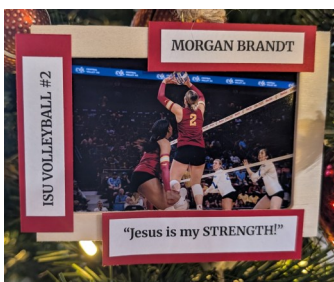
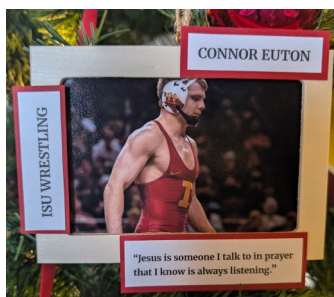
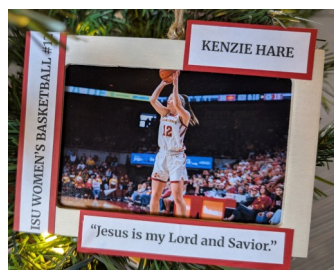
- Love (love covers a multitude of sins)
- Listening (slow to speak and quick to listen)
- Learning (ask great questions)
- Lamenting (empathize and show compassion)
- Leverage (He used his relationship with the Father for our benefit)
- Lead (*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1*)

FCA FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

In May I went to an FCA conference at Auburn University to talk **about D1 culture**. FCA leaders around the nation were hopeful about our opportunities as the sport world changes drastically. We point to a God who gives us our identity as loved, secure, and gifted apart from sports. The portal is just another way to send our students to those who don't know Him.



The Fellowship of Christian Athletes love to Christmas carol in their nativity story costumes. We are always touched by people's faces and sometimes tears when we sing out the **truth of Christmas**.



Our **multi-sport FCA huddle** met in a variety of places this past year, but it is easiest for the athletes if we meet in the room outside their dining center. Our Bibles open up and the fellowship is sweet.

I was glad to introduce them to my party moose for one of our final meetings. We always end up around the campfire browning some treats. No one from this moose ride will be here this fall. **Please pray that the Lord would bring new leaders from every sport to reach in to their teams with the love of Jesus.**





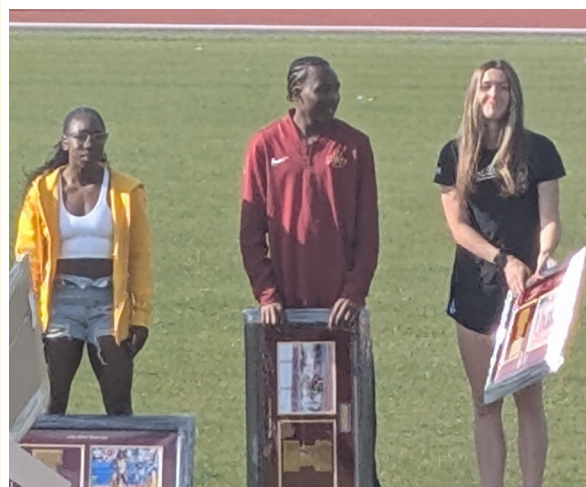
As much as I love these moments around the campfire, I'm very aware that they won't last. So, all of us who work with the athletes know that being with them in ways that allows for reading the **Bible together**, talking about **their personal questions, relationships, lives, and praying for them individually** serves them best for the future.



I loved working through the book, Knowing God alongside Morgan and Faith on the volleyball team with my ministry partner, Shana. We both love modeling that working together is how the body of Christ works. **Being on the same team with parents is a joy to me.** It was great to get to know Karlee's mom as Karlee served as a leader in FCA and on the softball team.



Celebrating our student-athletes through senior recognition and graduation is an important part of my life here. I believe strongly that **celebration is part of the Kingdom of God.** I treasure the time that I get to know each individual and hope they take that delight out into their own ministry where they will help others come to know the love of God.



It is one of my greatest delights to **celebrate with these spiritual sons and daughters** their new jobs, marriage, and new lives coming into our world!



International Friendships and Ministry Partnerships through Christian Educators

"What are you up to, God?" came out of my mouth as I went back to my hotel room (in April of 2025) after having the most engaging meal with my new friends, Kaya from Australia and Rachel from New Zealand. They invited me to take a road trip the next day to southern Albania before our international conference for Christian Educators started the next day at the beach resort on the Adriatic Sea. What a joy it was to adventure in the country I so longed to revisit since 1992. The following day, my team of 4 US Christian Educators shared the AWAKE Experience with 100 teachers from 16 other countries from around Europe. We were overjoyed when 30 teachers chose to be trained to become facilitators in their own countries. And, we were surprised to receive invitations to go to other countries to help facilitate. CE has sent US teams to Portugal, Czech Republic, Zambia, and I got to go to Australia and New Zealand in April 2026.



Albania April '25



Australia/NZ April '26



Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, July 2026

We will be together again in MN and IA in late Sept. 2026!



The sights are fun, beautiful, and entertaining, but the real memories are made with people. I loved meeting **Christian educators from the South Pacific** and realizing we share so many of the same challenges.



Kaya and Rachel hosted me with generosity and great joy in their home countries. Being their road trip buddy as they met with Christian educators gave me an opportunity to see the need for encouragement for educators everywhere. Theirs was **personal and powerful**.

Christian Educators (July) 2026 Leadership Summit

Colorado Springs @ Glen Eyrie



International Panel

(L-R) Heather—
AWAKE Director,
Honza-Czechia,
Rachel-New Zealand,
Kaya-Australia,
George-Zambia
There are many more
invitations coming to
serve internationally.

Participants of the Summit all agreed that the presence of internationals at our Summit broadened our vision for what God is doing in us and through us. Friendships easily developed as they shared in hiking, eating, praying, playing, and all the activities we love. Educators heard about plans to cover Europe, Zambia, and the “under-resourced” with transformational training and heart changing professional development. Our CE ministry is preparing to send out educators into the places where encouragement is most needed. One of the things I heard Rachel and Kaya say was **“we found our tribe!”** And I remembered when I said out loud to myself, **“Lord, what are you up to?”** So often, He is up to **building friendships for the Kingdom.** I love it when that happens.



It's my joy to serve on the CE PE staff to help my friends drop some of their inhibitions and take a few risks!



Many moments at the Summit pointed to Creation and the Kingdom of God



Iowans and Nebraskans know the benefits of a day-long road trip! We're one big team now: Steve-Marshalltown, Rachel- Ames, Brittany-rom Blair, NE, Jamie- Des Moines, me, Kindra-Omaha, Lisa-Gilbert, Michelle-Marshalltown. They join to make the total of **Iowa Summiteers in the past 5 years= 25!**



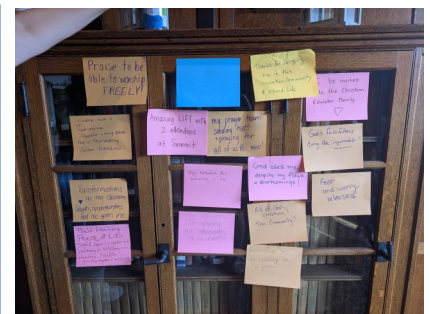
Prayer
over
teachers
and
administrators.



Participants at the Summit described the week as moving from:

- fear → boldness
- anxiety → peace
- isolation → belonging
- self-reliance → dependence on God
- shame → freedom
- uncertainty → clarity
- heaviness → lightness
- insecurity → confidence

being **God's beloved**, learning to receive affirmation, and becoming more confident in their identity as Christian educators.



Gratitude listed all over the room!



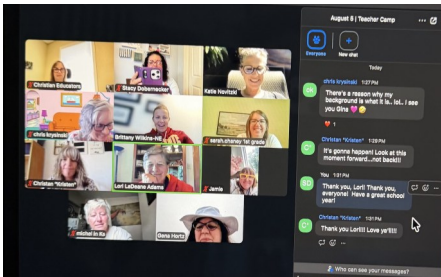
Many ways to cheer on Christian Educators



I was glad to go to Nebraska to help with their first **LIFT event!** Generosity abounded! The door to the right represents serving on an **AWAKE team** in St. Louis. We always build an “altar” to thank God for how He has worked in us and through us.



I love doing some summer staff training at Twin Lake Bible Camp in late May most years. I share teaching we use in Christian Educators and I share some time with the future teachers on staff. **Would you please join me in helping college students get connected with our ministry?**



I'm always so amazed whenever there is deep connection over Zoom and it actually happens quite often. I usually do two **On-Line Teacher Camps** each summer. They read an article, log-on to do a Bible meditation together, get introduced to a few resources, then have an hour and fifteen minutes alone with God. When the teachers return to the Zoom meeting, they share, listen, and encourage one another as if they are trusted friends.



I work alongside **Christian Faculty and Staff at Iowa State** as an **extension of Christian Educators**. *This past semester they hosted a lecture Mathematics for Human Flourishing: Seeing math as an opening to joy and wonder. “Math is a deeply human enterprise that can meet basic human longings, such as for beauty and truth, and can build virtues like persistence, creativity, and an expectation of enchantment.”* I'm on mission with these three at ISU and invited area **math teachers**.



Simon Estes is **one of Iowa's great Christian Educators**. His mother taught him to always forgive no matter how he was treated. Simon gives all the glory to God for his voice, his accomplishments, and his teaching at Iowa State University. What a treasure! He spoke at the Memorial Union in April.

More Memorable Moments Knowing It's All Done With God

I was thrilled to be invited to go down-hill skiing with my friends, the Nelson's, in West Virginia January 17th. I hit an ice patch while it was snowing and fell hard. I received a ride down the hill from ski patrol. This is what my clavicle looked like after surgery. But we're still waiting for that bone to fill in!



It was a very different winter with no cross-country skiing and my arm in a sling for a long time. But I had **tremendous help from friends and family**. I'm grateful that I was able to ride every day of RAGBRAI! It was a special day when we went through the Field of Dreams and talked with the original ghost players from the film!



Before I fell and broke my clavicle, moments like these were bringing me joy.



I'm so grateful for the time I get to spend with my friends' kids. They help me connect with future teachers but most of all, allow me to **connect with their world** for a few short years. I got to celebrate with the whole family at Zach Hollenbeck's graduation!

But after I broke my clavicle, moments like these **helped me heal**.

