



FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES

Winter Newsletter 2026

Katelyn Odegaard <kmerrell@fca.org>



Happy New Year Everyone!

With the new year here, I have enjoyed getting to reflect on all that God has done this last year. What a faithful God we serve! He has truly done abundantly more than we ever could've asked or imagined. I am excited to share some stories of what God did last semester and already this semester :)

Huddle Ministry

The on-campus huddle ministry is going GREAT. God is at work on these campuses drawing students to himself. We are currently on **8 campuses** as we just planted our eighth huddle last week at Santa Cruz High School!! We are STOKED!

Our current huddles include...

Watsonville High School
Monte Vista Christian School
Anzar High School
Aptos High School



Soquel High School
San Lorenzo Valley High School
Scotts Valley High School
Santa Cruz High School

Keep praying for Harbor High and Pajaro Valley High School! Those are the last 2 remaining public high schools we are not on yet in our county. Pray for open doors and for athletes and coaches who want to start FCA.

I included 4 God stories from campus huddles below that I am excited to share with you all. I hope they encourage your hearts like my heart has been encouraged.

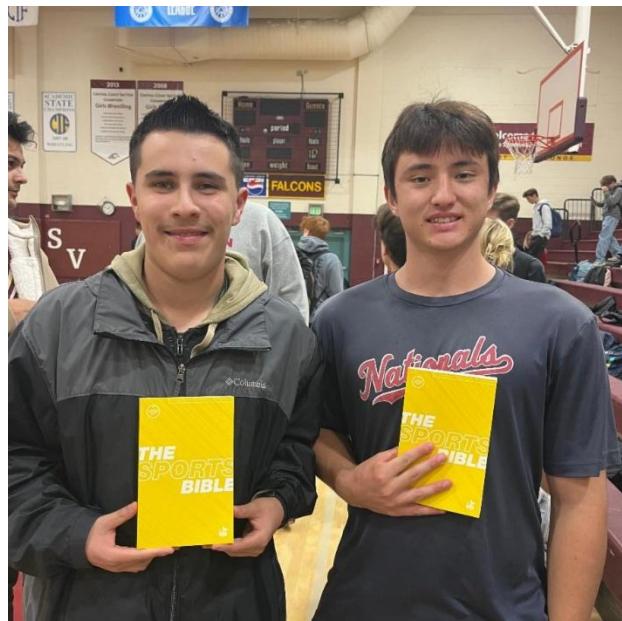
God Story 1: Anzar High School



By God's grace and leading we planted the huddle at Anzar High School at the beginning of the fall semester thanks to one of our volunteers, Monica Jo, who is a cross-country coach at Anzar who had a heart for her students to hear about

Jesus. Anzar is a small high school of about 220 students. Over the course of the semester, the huddle has continued to grow week by week with the last huddle of the semester having about 53 students in attendance. This is about 25% of the student body! At that same huddle we also gave out 7 bibles to students who had never had a bible before. Please pray for Anzar High's huddle that they will continue to grow and that more and more students will hear the good news and come to Christ.

God Story 2: Scotts Valley High School



After a year of being on Scotts Valley High's campus we have seen the Lord continue to faithfully grow the huddle and give us favor with students. At one of the huddle's last semester, we had an FCA speaker come and share the gospel and two baseball players stood up and said they wanted to follow Jesus! Their baseball coach is involved with FCA and he was the one who invited them to FCA that day. Because of his invite, these two boys are on the life changing journey of following Jesus! This is just a beautiful reminder that if the Lord puts someone on your heart to invite to church, a bible study, an FCA huddle, etc. DO IT :)

God Story 3: San Lorenzo Valley High School



I had the wonderful opportunity to speak at San Lorenzo Valley High's huddle right before break about Christmas. I talked about how Jesus came to seek and save sinners and then I challenged them to read the Bible. The Holy Spirit was truly at work that day as 5 students came up afterwards asking for Bibles. I talked to one boy afterwards who grabbed a bible and he said he'd been coming to FCA for months now, but that he does not come from a Christian family. He said that this was his first Bible and that he was super excited to read it! His name is Michael. Please be praying for himself as he encounters the living God through his living and active word!

God Story 4: Santa Cruz High School



Many Christians across Santa Cruz County have been praying for years for the Lord to move on Santa Cruz High School's campus and this year the Lord opened a door for the gospel to go out. God put it on our student leader Lily's heart to start FCA at her school. She had heard about FCA at youth group and learned that a bunch of other campuses had FCA and thought, "My school NEEDS this!" After preparing and praying last semester, we launched the first huddle at Santa Cruz High School last week! There were 12 students who came, plus our two student leaders. When I was talking to my grandma she said, "Well 12 is a great number. That's how many Jesus started with, and it only grew from there." Our student leaders were SO excited and we are praying that the Lord will continue to bring more and more students.



Equipping Volunteers

As we have expanded to more schools, we have needed more volunteers to help run the ministry. It is crazy to think that **year 1 we were at 3 schools, year 2 we were at 6 schools, and year 3 we are at 8 schools!** God has grown this ministry in big ways and has been faithful to bring alongside some awesome ministry partners and volunteers that we are so thankful for.

Soquel High Morning Bible Study

I have been leading a weekly morning bible study before school for the Soquel High students. This group of students have been so encouraging as they have been faithfully waking up early to get in God's Word together. They are all eager to learn and grow in their faith and to see their friends come to know Jesus!



Last semester we gave out about 40 bibles!



Coaching High School Soccer



I have had the privilege of coaching my second season of high school soccer at Monte Vista Christian School this winter. It is such a joy to be out on the field pouring into these girls and getting to coach and play the sport that I love. Our coaching staff is mindful to put God first in all that we do, which has been such a special environment to be a part of. The head coach has me leading devotionals for our team every Monday to set the tone for the week.

In FCA, we talk a lot about the influence a coach has on their players, for better or worse. After one of the devotionals one of my players came up to me and said, "Thanks Coach! I'm so thankful we get to start practice in God's word. The devos always hit home. I'm also thankful we have coaches who truly care about us. It makes me actually want to be out here, you know?"

Also, I get to bring Titus out to every practice and game and all of the girls love him haha. It is a joy to coach with my son by my side and big shout out to Dane for supporting me in coaching and for coming out to almost every practice and game to help out :)



Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Thank you all for your support of me and my family in this ministry with FCA. I cannot thank you all enough for your prayerful, financial, and emotional support of me in this ministry over the years. I am entering my sixth year of ministry with FCA and it truly is a blessing that I keep getting to serve in these ways

If you would like to join my prayer text group, please let me know.



"But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts."
1 Thessalonians 2:4

Santa Cruz FCA | P.O. Box 10515 | Salinas, CA 93912 US