

May 2022



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End Of Year Recap

Hey friends, I hope this letter finds you well as it's been a while since I've shared with you. College students moved home last week and because of that, I want to share with you some of the highlights of this semester! This will definitely be a longer prayer letter than normal, as I'm basically putting three letters into one, so here's a little table of contents in case you want to jump to something specific:

1. Baptisms! Including several of my youth group students!
2. Fellowship of Christian Athletes' first year at BGHS/BGMS
3. Serve BG - a local service weekend that I co-led
4. Huddle - a group of 3 guys I've been discipling for the past year and a half
5. August & Rivers - an update on our boys (and some cute pictures of course)
6. Prayer requests - 6 ways you can be praying for me & our ministry at H2O.



Baptisms!

On April 24th, we celebrated baptisms at H2O! There were 10 people who decided to publicly declare that they want to follow Jesus that were baptized that Sunday. I

always love hearing their stories of how God has worked in their lives and how they want to spend it following him. We had a lot of college students get baptized, but this time around, baptisms were extra special for me as we had 3 teenagers get baptized as well (Ethan and Averie pictured above, Robert not pictured)! It's such a privilege to be able to walk alongside these students and see them make this bold proclamation of faith. Averie (left) shared how she was such a shy kid and how knowing Christ has given her so much more confidence. Recently she's taught lessons at Fellowship of Christian Athletes and at youth group to 20 of her peers and is only a freshmen! It's super cool to see 2 Timothy 1:7 come to life through the way the Spirit is transforming her, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."



Fellowship of Christian Athletes

This was our first full year of Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Bowling Green Middle School and Bowling Green High School. We had an incredible leadership team of 7 high school students that I worked closely with to launch FCA this year. Within a couple of weeks, they totally took it and ran with it. From leading lessons to bringing breakfast and inviting all of their friends to join them at 7 am on Wednesday mornings, this group did an amazing job leading FCA this year. We saw so many new students come and have seen an impact made on the school and even on the administration. Several administrators have joined us for FCA at various points and one even shared with me that "seeing these kids' faith has made me want to start going back to church." It was such a blessing to work with our awesome group of student leaders and to see the impact that FCA had in its first full year in Bowling Green!



Serve BG!

As a church this year, we've been really trying to help college students and city members (non-college students) connect. We have 3 services and most of the college students attend the on-campus service, while most city members attend one of our services at our downtown church building, which can create a divide in our

church. This year we wanted to focus on some ways to bridge that gap and to make our church feel more like one church. Serve BG was an at-home weekend service trip that my co-worker Lacy and I led in March to help bridge that gap. We wanted an opportunity for college students and city members to naturally rub shoulders, so we spent Friday night & most of the day Saturday serving our community!

On Friday night, we were going to serve the local schools by cleaning up outside, but ended up getting a lot of rain & had to change plans. We stayed in and did a lot of projects in and around the church. Then on Saturday, we spent the morning helping The Nest, an incredible organization that provides free childcare for any moms enrolled in college. They also intentionally share the Gospel with these moms and train them up with tons of skills to help them in life. Then on Saturday afternoon, we went door to door collecting canned foods to restock BG Christian Food Pantry so they can serve people in need. While doing that, we were able to engage with some of our neighbors and have intentional conversations with them about their lives, our church, and Jesus. It was cool seeing the families and students in our church serve side-by-side and it was great to be able to help our community in so many ways that weekend!



Huddle

The 3 guys pictured above have been a part of my huddle the last year and a half. Huddles are the vehicles we use to disciple our student leaders - these students get put in a group with a staff member to walk alongside them for the year as they lead ministries on campus and pour their lives out for others. It's been a ton of fun walking alongside these guys through tons of life change. When we started our huddle last January, they were all single guys and now life has changed drastically for all of us. Luke (far right) got married last summer and is expecting a baby next month, Gabe (between Luke and I) got engaged earlier this year and is getting married in August, and Nolan (far left) got married in January and bought a house basically next to ours!

It's been a huge privilege to lead these guys as we sharpen each other in our walks with God and have become great friends over the year. They've helped me grow so much in my faith and I hope I've helped them do the same. We talked about a ton of things during our time together, but because of their seasons of life, we spent a lot of time talking about glorifying God through marriage and how to best love, serve, and lead our wives (or soon to be wives). It was really great to be 1 life stage ahead of them so that I could help them prepare for that step of life. Nolan and Luke will continue to live in BG and will stay involved on the city side of H2O while Gabe is moving to North Carolina after he gets married to start a new job. I'll have a new huddle next year, but these guys will forever be my friends and people that push me closer to the Lord.





August & Rivers

August (more hair) and Rivers were born on April 6th at 9:02 and 9:04 am. They weighed 6 lbs 15 oz and 6 lbs 10 oz respectively and both were 20 inches long. Since then, we've been adjusting to the life of being twin parents. It's certainly been challenging, but it's been a joy getting to see them grow, learning their personalities, and getting to be their parents. We're a little sleep deprived (please forgive me for a few typos), but are doing really well as a whole. August is our little firecracker - he's about 10.5 pounds now and let's you know what he wants and when he wants it. If he doesn't want to be in his swaddle, he will kick and scream until he works his way out or you give in and let him out. Rivers is about 9.5 pounds now and is super patient - which is a huge blessing when you're trying to feed them both at the same time. He's pretty calm and calmly lets you know when he needs something. They both love going on walks and car rides and fall asleep the second you start moving with them. We didn't realize how different twins would be from each other, but it's been super fun to see their personalities and to get to be their parents!

PRAY

Your prayers are so important. I truly believe that prayer is powerful and would greatly appreciate you spending some time in prayer for one or all of the things on this list! Also, if there are ways I can be praying for you, please let me know!

- Pray for Marin and I as we continue navigating life with twins and all the challenges that come along with that

- Pray for college students as they are home for the summer that they can continue to grow in their faith and get plugged into solid churches
- Pray for Gabe as he moves, Nolan as he navigates home ownership/marriage, and Luke as he prepares for fatherhood
- Pray for continued favor for FCA in BGHS and BGMS and for more students to be reached by this ministry.
- As middle schools and high schools let out, youth ministry will ramp up. Pray for our summer ministry, including our mission trip to Charleston, WV and our leadership camp, Super Summer.
- We will be inviting kids to move up to their new grades at the beginning of June. Pray for those heading into Preschool, 1st grade, 4th grade, 7th grade, 9th grade, and 12th grade to transition well as they will be moving into new areas.

Thank you so much for your support of my ministry. Your financial gifts, prayers, and encouragement go a long way to make all of this possible. I've been at H2O for 2 years now and I wouldn't be able to be a part of all that God is doing here without you.

-Tom



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