



CASEY FAMILY PRAYER UPDATE

I felt deep joy and the power of the Holy Spirit while I was in Pennsylvania this week. Kutztown University is about an hour away from Philadelphia. There are over 5,000 people that live in the quaint little university town. It is surrounded by Amish farms that grow wheat and corn on the rolling hills. Walking for hours on the country roads deepened my communion with God while I was fasting and praying. I felt God with me as I viewed the stone houses and barns that are a reminder of some of the earliest parts of our country's history.

Athletes from the cities of the mid-Atlantic region piled on to campus on Monday. There were over 1,000 coaches and athletes that represented the inner cities and suburbs of Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York, Syracuse, and Delaware.

God moved in powerful ways through the FCA staff, the college athletes, the coaches, and the nightly chapel services.

I preached four nights in a row and spent time in prayer with athletes afterward. I prayed with many athletes that wanted to receive Jesus for the first time as well as athletes who had friends commit suicide this year, parents divorce, or were struggling with identity. I also spent 45 minutes on the second night leading the staff in conversation with ten athletes who were upset that homosexuality is a sin. It was edifying to stand firm on God's word and show a tenderness that helped the athletes want to stay for the rest of camp.

My conference calls for Church went really well. God provided the space for me to be effective during my absence from the Church. It was encouraging to hear the voices of my brothers from our elder meeting, and our exec team meeting. Our preaching team call got me excited as I listened to the men and women from our church staff pray and give input for this Sunday's sermon.

The best part of the week came on the last day. I took a 10-mile walk through the Amish countryside. I felt the Holy Spirit with me and we talked for a long time. His peace, presence, and contentment during this time made me long for heaven. I was able to sing and worship God while breathing heavily under the sun and getting passed by Amish farmers with their horses and carts. I prayed for the salvation of my children in a focused way on my walk. Later that evening, after I



preached at the last chapel, my heart was very discouraged. I was hungry, sick of fasting, and ready to go home. I called Stephanie and expressed my frustration. She said "I have some encouraging news for you, Salem prayed to receive Jesus today!"

Praise God! He is so faithful! Stephanie has been walking our 9 year old, Salem; and our 7 year old, Cora through the book of Romans this summer. On the same morning that I was praying for our kiddos, Stephanie was intentionally working through Romans 6 with them. Later that day, at Kauffman Gardens, Salem prayed to receive Jesus. Thank you, Jesus! My heart is full.

Thank you for your prayers. They were powerful and effective.

Marcellus Casey

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