



## Your weekly news & updates

### This week in the Eastern Iowa FCA Newsletter:

- Huddle Happenings: Coe College FCA & CR Wash FCA
- Everything Starts With A Serve
- Eastern Iowa FCA Job Opportunities
- Devotional: Unshakable Hope
- Pella FCA Sports Camp 2019 - July 8-12th

To view and celebrate how God is ministering through Eastern Iowa FCA visit our website!

## Huddle Happenings

### Amazing Baptismal Night For 10 Coe FCA Students

Recently 10 Coe College FCA student were baptized at the first ever Salt Company baptismal held at Veritas Church in Cedar Rapids. 100+ were in attendance to witness and celebrate.



[Click To View Baptism Video](#)

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**Guest Speaker Zack Blickens Sings for Cedar Rapids Washington Students**



## Everything starts with a serve

Think about it: No other action a person can take leaves as profound an impact on another as serving. It's a basic, essential part of the daily Christian walk.

[Read more](#)

[www.christianpost.com](http://www.christianpost.com)



**FELLOWSHIP OF  
CHRISTIAN  
ATHLETES**

*The heart and soul in sports®*

Eastern Iowa FCA is currently looking for two qualified individuals to fill Area Rep positions who have a heart to serve coaches and athletes through the FCA Ministry. One Area Rep will serve the Cedar Rapids metro area and the other will serve the Iowa City metro area. Responsibilities will include growing the FCA Ministry to and through coaches in an assigned area and working with staff and volunteers. As a spiritual leader, guided by God and devoted to Jesus Christ, the Area Representative will model the FCA values of Integrity, Serving, Teamwork and Excellence in dealing with staff, volunteers, athletes and coaches. A heart for coaches would be essential. The positions are faith-financed and require support raising through the FCA funding model. For more information, please email FCA Area Director Carl Gonder at [cgonder@fca.org](mailto:cgonder@fca.org) or visit <http://teamfca.org/> to learn more about career opportunities with FCA.



**DEVOTIONAL**

### From "Unshakable Hope" by Max Lucado

Will God do what you ask? Perhaps. Or perhaps he will do more than you imagined. He knows what is best. Stand firmly on this promise: **"When a believing person prays, great things happen"** (James 5:16 NCV). You are never without hope, because you are never without prayer.

A dramatic illustration of this promise is found among the Christians of Russia. For eight decades of the twentieth century, Christians in Russia experienced systematic persecution from the communist government. Schoolteachers would hold up a Bible and ask kindergarten students if they had seen such a book in their homes. If a student said yes, a government official would visit the family. Pastors and lay people were imprisoned, never to be heard from again. The government required pastors to visit their offices once a week to report on any new visitors. Pastors were required to present sermon topics for approval.

This was the world in which a man named Dimitri practiced his faith. He and his family lived in a small village four hours from Moscow. The nearest church was a three-day walk, making it impossible for them to attend church more than twice a year.

Dimitri began to teach his family Bible stories and verses. Neighbors got wind of the lessons and wanted to participate. When the group grew to twenty-five people, officials took notice and demanded he stop. He refused. When the group reached fifty people, Dimitri was dismissed from his factory job, his wife was fired from her teaching position, and his sons were expelled from school.

Still he continued. When the gathering increased to seventy-five people, there wasn't enough room in the house. Villagers squeezed into every available corner and closed in around windows so they might listen to this man of God teach. One night a group of soldiers burst into the gathering. A soldier grabbed Dimitri and slapped him back and forth across the face. He then warned Dimitri to stop or something worse would happen to him.

As the officer turned to leave, a small grandmother stepped in his path and waved a finger in his face. "You have laid hands on a man of God and you will not survive!"

Within two days the officer was dead from a heart attack.

The fear of God spread, and one hundred fifty people showed up for the next house meeting. Dimitri was arrested and sentenced to seventeen years in prison.

His jail cell was so small that he needed only one step to reach each wall. He was the only believer among fifteen hundred prisoners. The officials tortured him, and the prisoners mocked him. But he never broke.

Each morning at daybreak Dimitri stood by his bed, faced eastward, raised his arms to God, and sang a song of praise. Other prisoners would jeer. Still he sang.

Whenever he found a scrap of paper, he scribbled down a verse or story from memory. When the paper was completely filled, he took it to the corner of his cell and affixed it to a damp pillar as a sacrifice to Jesus. Officials routinely spotted the papers, removed them, and beat Dimitri. Still he worshipped.

This went on for seventeen years. Only on one occasion did he nearly recant his faith. Guards convinced him that his wife had been murdered and his children were wards of the state.

The thought was more than Dimitri could bear. He agreed to renounce his faith in Christ. The guards told him they would return the next day with a document. All he had to do was sign it, and he would be released.

The officials were sure of their victory. What they did not know was this: when believing people pray, great things happen.

Believing people were praying for Dimitri. A thousand kilometers away, that night his family sensed a special burden to pray for him. They knelt in a circle and interceded passionately for his protection. Miraculously, the Lord allowed Dimitri to hear the voices of his loved ones as they prayed. He knew they were safe.

The next morning when the guards came for his signature, they saw a renewed man. His face was calm, and his eyes were resolute. "I am not signing anything!" he told them. "In the night, God let me hear the voices of my wife and children and my brother praying for me. You lied to me! I now know that my wife is alive and physically well. I know that my sons are with her. I also know that they are still in Christ. So I am not signing anything!"

The officials beat him and threatened to execute him, but Dimitri's resolve only increased. He still worshipped in the mornings and posted verses on the pillar. Finally the authorities had all they could take. They dragged Dimitri from his cell through the corridor in the center of the prison toward the place of execution. As they did, fifteen hundred hardened criminals raised their hands and began to sing the song of praise they had heard Dimitri sing each morning.

The jailers released their hold on him and stepped back. "Who are you?"

"I am a son of the Living God, and Jesus is His name!" Dimitri was taken back to his cell. Sometime later he was released and returned to his family.

You'll likely never find yourself in a Russian prison, but you may find yourself in an impossible situation. You'll feel outnumbered and outmaneuvered. You'll want to quit. Could I ask you, implore you, to memorize this promise and ask God to bring it to mind on that day? Write it where you will find it. Tattoo it, if not on your skin at least on your heart: **"When a believing person prays, great things happen" (James 5:16 NCV).**

Prayer is not the last resort; it is the first step. God has power you've never seen, strength you've never known. He delighted in and answered Elijah's prayer. God delighted in and answered the prayers of Dimitri and his family. God delights in and will answer ours as well.

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## Upcoming Events

# Mark Your Calendar!



# LET'S GO

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

July 8-12, 2019  
2019 Pella FCA Sports Camp

Watch this year's Camp Hype Video Below



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STAY CONNECTED

