



MONDAY MEMO

Division of Religion and Philosophy

... you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:5



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Sports Provide Amazing Platform for Ministry

By Scott Burson, Assistant Professor of Religion

During the first weekend of April each year, the eyes of the nation turn to the NCAA Men's Final Four. This year's feel-good story is Michigan State. The Spartans advanced to Monday night's championship game with a victory over Connecticut in the semi-finals before an NCAA post-season record crowd of 72,456 at Ford Field in Detroit, less than 90 minutes from the Michigan State campus.

The current economic crisis has hit the city of Detroit with full force, but an infusion of an estimated \$50 million into the local economy this weekend provides a very welcome boost. But perhaps the biggest boost to the area has been the Spartans' surprising run to the title game.

Despite sky-rocketing salaries and the bad behavior of some high-profile athletes, sports can play a healthy, redemptive role in society. The success of our favorite teams can galvanize communities like little else. It allows us to transcend our problems and differences, and unite in a hope-filled common pursuit.

But sports can do more than provide temporary solidarity and diversion. Athletics can also serve as a poignant microcosm of life. When players choose to play for the team instead of individual glory, we see the value of personal sacrifice for the sake of a greater common good. When a player swallows hard and hits two free throws with one second on the clock to win the game, we are witnessing thousands of practice hours paying off. When we see a player battle through pain and fatigue, we see courage and tenacity illustrated in dramatic fashion.

It is true that these powerful moments are lost on some fans who choose to simply focus on the final score. But many others leave inspired and re-energized to cultivate in their own lives the disciplines and virtues that have played out before their eyes.

As Christians, we can thank God for the ways that sports galvanize communities and for the life lessons that can be learned by participants and fans. But if our appreciation of sports stops there, we are missing perhaps the biggest benefit of

 **Look for us on facebook!**

This group is intended for members of **IWU's Division of Religion and Philosophy** - past, present, and future. It's a place for students to connect with other students and professors. We will also post upcoming large events (mostly the required ones and a VERY few that we think might be of special interest to members). You already receive the Monday Memo, so we don't want to bog you down - just another place to connect!

Obviously, the way facebook is designed, we cannot "facebook invite" you to join the group unless you are already our friend. We have made an attempt to invite as many as we could. We welcome you to search for us and join on your own. You are welcome to invite others.

You are also more than welcome to post questions, general comments, and pictures that relate to our division.

On a side note: Intercultural Studies and Intercultural & Community Development have also recently created groups. If you are a major or minor in one of these areas, you are welcome to search for and join these groups.

athletics, namely, the opportunity to present the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

The universal language of sports transcends religious, cultural, ethnic, and political boundaries. Groups such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Upward Sports Ministries, Athletes in Action, and *Sports Spectrum* magazine exist to use the universal language of sports to share the universal love of Jesus Christ. These groups realize that through athletics we can build bridges and relationships that can lead to presenting the gospel in word and deed.

Students in IWU's sports ministry major are training for a career in this field. They learn how to start, manage and promote a sports ministry. Most importantly, they learn how to use sports as an avenue for sharing the love of Christ with children, parents, players and fans in a variety of settings.

If you love Jesus *and* sports, you're not alone! Consider how powerful and rewarding a career in sports ministry could be. Stop by or send me an email. I'd love to talk to you about the opportunities available in this strategic ministry.

New Testament Trivia

Where in the Bible can you find a story about a graveyard full of dead bones that come to life?

_____ : ____

Be the first to email the correct answer (*including the reference*) to melissa.fipps@indwes.edu

Past winners:

Tyler Murphy
Joel Liechty
Michael Berens
Jody Heintz
Adam Buehler
Joel Higginbotham
Jewel Reed
Phil Williams



First Annual Divisional Food Drive Competition

SIFE welcomes all divisions to take part in the First Annual Divisional Food Frenzy food drive to help collect donations for the Marion Food Bank. The winning division will receive the Golden Can trophy to be displayed proudly in their division.

- March 27th – April 9th
- Collection Points located in each participating division
- Opportunity to give back to those in need in the Grant County community.

SIFE – Changing the World

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

For more detailed information visit our [site online](#) or stop by the Religion office. *Indicates new entry this week.

Part Time Ministry & Practicum Opportunities

Volunteers

Church Plant Volunteers – Transformation City Church – Milwaukee, WI

Children's Ministry

Associate Children's Director – Red Cedar Community Church – Rice Lake, WI

Children's Director—Harmony Christian Church—Elwood, IN

Worship

Worship Leader – Liberty Grove Baptist –Anderson, IN

Youth Ministry

*Salvation Army Summer Camp – Hidden Falls Camp – Bedford, IN

Youth Ministry Coordinator – Faith Chapel UMC – Huntington, IN

Youth Minister/Worker – Troy Gospel Tabernacle – Troy, OH

Full Time Ministry Opportunities

Worship Pastor

Worship Leader – new church launching – Valparaiso, IN

Worship Arts Director – Hanfield UMC – Marion, IN

Associate Dir of Arts Ministries – Good Shepherd UMC – Fort Wayne, IN

Youth/Worship Ministry

Youth Minister – St. Luke's UMC – Indianapolis, IN

Youth/Music Pastor—First Wesleyan—Rapid City, SD

Youth Director – Clear Lake Presbyterian Church – Houston, TX

Children's Ministry

Children's Minister – Olive Branch Church of God – Roann, IN

Miscellaneous

Summit Team Member (full-time staff) for LeaderTreks

Missions

Church Plant Volunteers – Transformation City Church – Milwaukee, WI

Short-term Missions trip – Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Internships

*Salvation Army Summer Camp – Hidden Falls Camp – Bedford, IN

Youth Ministry Coordinator (possible internship) – Faith Chapel UMC – Huntington, IN

Youth Intern – Cross-Wind Ministries – Logansport, IN

Children's Ministry Internship – Marion 1st UMC, Marion, IN

Youth Internship – Wesleyan Church of Fairfield – Fairfield, IL

Internship – The River – Minong, WI

Camp Internships - US

Summer Intern of Children & Youth – Parma Heights Baptist – near Cleveland, OH

Summer Youth Pastor/Intern – Lisbon Wesleyan Church – Lisbon, NY

Student Ministry Intern—Monticello UMC—Monticello, IN

Various brochures/informational CD's/etc. in Religion office

Youth Intern—Grabill Missionary Church—Grabill, IN

Children/Youth/Christian Ministries—NewPointe Community Church—Dover OH

Children's Ministry Summer Intern – Ellsworth Wesleyan Church – Ellsworth, MI

Student Worship Intern – River Christian Church – Noblesville, IN

Intern Program—Community Wesleyan Church – Detroit, MI

Intern Program—Central Wesleyan Church – Holland, MI

Pittsburgh Project – Pittsburgh, PA

Youth Practicum/Intern—Covenant United Methodist Church – Fort Wayne

Youth Practicum/Intern—Lakeview Wesleyan—Marion

Worship Leader Internship—River Oaks Community Church – Indianapolis, IN

GPA Calculator

http://www.image-ination.com/test_maker/gpa.html

Investigating Seminars?

Check out this website:
<http://whichseminary.blogspot.com>

Check out our webpage:

<http://cas.indwes.edu/Academic-Divisions/Religion-philosophy/>

Wesleyan Ministry Opportunities Website:

http://www.wesleyan.org/doc/employment_r1/