



transforming college students
to transform the world



CCO Ministry To Students and Athletes at Penn State University

with Will Gigante and family

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November 2011

Dear Family and Friends;

Happy Belated Thanksgiving! We had an unusually quiet one this year! Spencer gave himself a concussion (by running into a doorframe) right before and had a hard time recovering so our plans changed for Thanksgiving. We were able to provide a Thanksgiving meal to an assistant coach and his family instead of them coming over for lunch, which turned out fine all around.

“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

This verse has been on my heart so much this month with all of the chaos that has been going on around here. I'm sure you've read and heard more than you ever want to. What I've learned through this is that 1.) Pride, Power and Greed showed their true faces. They are evil. We cannot serve God and them. Within a community such as State College, pastors, students, campus ministers and community members have been praying for a revival amongst the community and campus for years. Since I was a student, we've been praying for that. Well, the walls have been cracked and God can move. 2.) We all look the other way. And it is wrong. What does it mean to “love thy neighbor” and “who is thy neighbor”? A campus minister here said it perfectly when he spoke about the “good Samaritan”, it's not who are we obligated to be a neighbor to, it's who are we being a neighbor to? It hit me hard. Who have I been neglecting? 3.) We can get sucked into the ugliness and it consumes us. The first week I was an emotional mess. When Friday hit and Spencer's teacher said that he was not able to really focus all week, I knew it was because my emotions created an atmosphere of chaos at home. He had no idea what was going on, but knew something was. When we had students over, we talked about it all week instead of what good is going to come from it because God has redeemed the world! So, I had to separate myself from it and focus on God and what He is going to do through this!

God is doing amazing things here!

- There are 45 students (athletes) for Bible study with 25 attending regularly! Just last year at this time, it was around 7.
- We began weekly Sunday night dinners with the athletes from the athlete Bible study. It gives me an opportunity to meet students and for us to see where they are in their faith and what needs they have.
- We were invited to the hockey Thanksgiving☺. Will and Rocco went (& were a big hit), but because of Spencer's concussion, we stayed home.
- We now have scheduled dinners 3 nights a week and some in between.
- We had the opportunity to be blessed with help in reroofing our neighbor's house. It was a much bigger job than anticipated, but Spencer and Rocco thought it was the greatest thing to pick up shingles all day☺! We are blessed with friends and students who were willing to give up a weekend to help us.
- Will continues to meet with more and more students. It has been a crazy semester for him, but definitely a good one!

Thank you for praying and trusting God to do amazing things!

Love,

Will, Cheryl, Spencer, Rocco and Taylor

