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**August Newsletter!**

1 message

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**UW Sports Ministry** <jen@uwsportsministry.org>  
Reply-To: UW Sports Ministry <jen@uwsportsministry.org>  
To: cceastford@gmail.com

Thu, Aug 22, 2024 at 3:45 PM



**Jen McCormick**

**Serving with UW Sports Ministry**

**August 2024**



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*UW Sports Ministry's vision is to see churches both in the United States and around the world using sports as an evangelism and discipleship tool.*

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Hello! We have had an amazing summer with churches and camps across the country and are so thankful and excited for the way God worked through and in this summer's Undefeated sports camps. It was a blessing to serve alongside each church in ministry to their community. We can't wait to hear how God uses our memory verse, Romans 8:37-39 throughout this next year!

**35**

**CAMPS**

**2745**

**CAMPERS**

**889**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**529**

**FIRST-TIME DECISIONS FOR CHRIST**

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## **What we've been up to...**

Our summer started in Lynchburg, VA on May 29th with arrival of our head and assistant coaches for our annual training week! The rest of our summer staff arrived on May 31st, and we dug deep into training.





Impact Church in Forest, VA hosted our training week camp, and we saw God come through in ways we could never have asked or imagined. Two weeks before our training started, we had 0 campers signed up; by the time camp started, we had 78 campers!





From our training week, our teams spread out across the country. I joined our team in the Chicago area, coaching Team 45 at CrossLife EFC in Libertyville, IL and Gurnee Community Church in Gurnee, IL. I had the privilege of being on a team again with Tarah - she and I served together last year in Texas and at her home church in Kansas. We've stayed in touch over the last year and have become good friends. We never thought we'd coach together again, so we soaked up all the time we had together this summer!

We had an amazing time at both of these Chicago camps, with incredible volunteers and campers. It was so fun to see the kids dancing and laughing while playing their sports and learning more about Jesus!

Our Bible lessons this year were from miracles that Jesus did. Thursday's lesson was on Jesus' death and resurrection. As I told the story to my Team 45 group, the kids were SO excited that Jesus rose! It was a deep reminder to me that we should all be living that way - not taking it for granted that Jesus died for us and rose from the dead, but living it out with excitement!

We made deep connections with our host homes as well as the camp directors and their families in Chicago, and so many of the volunteers. We've kept in touch with them, and it's been so fun to see how God has grown those relationships. I'm so thankful for our time there!







All of our teams came back together in Lynchburg, VA for the 4th of July week. A new church plant, Bedrock Madison Heights, hosted a 3-day sports camp and it was amazing to be a part of this church's first outreach to their community and to hear the stories of how God has been working in this area for Bedrock Madison Heights!

I had the blessing of finishing out the summer with the last week of camp at EFC Newport in Newport, RI! My New England heart loved being near the ocean for a while, and showing my teammates, Sam and Jenna, all of the RI beach must haves (like clam cakes!). I'm so thankful for our time in Newport, getting to know the campers, and especially our camp director and her family, our host home and all of the volunteers. Each camp is different and some camps are incredibly special. It's safe to say that the churches in Chicago and Newport have a piece of my heart!







My biggest takeaway from this summer was realizing again that God puts each of us in specific places at specific times with specific people for specific reasons. From our host homes to the churches, the campers to the volunteers, this summer's people stole my heart. It was so special to meet the churches and camp directors that I talk, email and text with all year long, to see their camps, get to know them personally, and share Jesus' love with them. I saw the hearts of the volunteers for the kids they work with, watched them hug, love, and teach them all. We were loved on by these people in ways that I never expected and certainly didn't deserve. God brought so many different people into my life this summer, and clearly orchestrated each introduction. I'm seeing what a blessing it is to meet and watch God work in the lives of His people!

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## What's coming up...



*Left to right: Tim Conrad (Founder and President Emeritus); Jen McCormick; Danielle Bradow; Cory Bradow (UW Sports Ministry President)*

It's crazy to think that 2024 camps are over! We are already launching into the 2025 sports camp season. Our theme for 2025 is Go the Distance, based on 2 Timothy 4:7-8. We will share the story of Paul's life and what it took to run the race for Christ and finish strong in spite of the challenges he faced. We're currently working on editing the Bible curriculum, setting the camp schedule, and all of the other things that come with getting ready for the next year!

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### What's in front of me...

Listening to: [Good Plans](#) by Red Rocks Worship

Reading: [All Hands on Deck](#) by Will Sofrin (I found this at a bookstore in Lake Forest, IL...not realizing I would be in Newport, RI later this summer, where this story starts out!)

Listening to: [The Bridge Church Sermons](#)

Reading: [Garden City](#) by John Mark Comer

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## Pray with us!

- For the campers, families, volunteers, and churches who attended/hosted sports camps this summer - that they would find ways to connect and continue the relationships built during camp.

We're praising God for each and every church and camper who was impacted in some way by sports camps!

- For our summer staff as they head back to college/regular life and start this new school year - that the lessons and things they took away from this summer would impact their lives and relationships with Christ going forward.
- For the UW staff as we dive into the 2025 camp season - we're already working on next year's curriculum and plans.

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## Supporting the Mission

My ministry with UW is sustained by individuals and churches through prayer and financial gifts. I couldn't do this work without you! If you already partner with me in prayer or financially, THANK YOU!

Final partnership goal: \$5,000/month

Current financial partnership: \$2,500/month

My goal is to increase my monthly support by \$1,000 before the end of the year!

This *could* look like...

1 x \$500/month donor

+ 2 x \$100/month donors

+ 4 x \$50/month donors

+ 4 x \$25/month donors

Would you consider partnering with me to share the Gospel message with kids and families through the universal language of sports?

Would you consider praying whether now is a time to increase your support?

If you know of anyone who would be interested in partnering with me, let me know (and feel free to forward this newsletter)! I would love to share more about our ministry.

**Partner with a one-time or recurring gift**



**Stay in touch! We would love to hear from you!**

Jen and James McCormick

128 Holly Hills Rd

Jonesborough, TN 37659

[jen@uwsportsministry.org](mailto:jen@uwsportsministry.org)

860.471.4316

*"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*Romans 8:37-39*



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UW Sports Ministry 4026 Wards Rd Ste G1 Lynchburg, VA 24502-0060 USA

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