

Fans can be crazy, loud and enthusiastic especially when their team is winning. But the true fans (the real followers) are those who show up when the team is losing, when things are not going so smooth. *Like in sports, the same thing can be true in our spiritual walk with God.* It's easy to attend & brag on Jesus when everything goes great. But when things change? When life doesn't work the way we want, when our church makes changes we don't like, **are we a fan or follower of Jesus?**

Jesus had lots of fans, especially when he fed 5,000 with a fabulous fish fry. **But later in the same chapter Jesus exposes the "bandwagon" motives.** *"Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me . . . because you ate your fill of the loaves. (John 6:26).* Jesus distinguishes between those who are fans and those who are followers when he says, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life." (John 6:47-48)* When many of his disciples heard it, they said, *"This is a hard saying; who can listen to it . . . many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. (John 6:60, 66).*

I'm a follower of Jesus, but at times **I can be more like a fan than a follower.** Especially if *following means I need to endure something I don't like.* But as a follower, I can't escape from what Jesus wants me to trust Him to do: *"die to self," "turn the other cheek," "serve & not be served."* **Being a Follower of Jesus can be harder than being a fan but it's more rewarding!**

Street 2 Street



More than 1,000 inner-city teens participate in "Street2Street," an outreach of Athletes in Action. Street2Street began in 2005 to help reach New York City for Christ from the basketball court. It focuses primarily on teens living in poverty and engages faith followers who work on Wall Street to provide resources to create an excellent basketball tournament as a way to share the gospel."

Street2Street stands for "Christians on Wall Street reaching youth on the streets." The first event drew 125 teens, 20 who stood to receive Christ after the tournament. "Even kids sitting down were praying the prayer out loud."

The program has expanded to four states with nearly 400 volunteers. The emphasis is on the annual tournament, where participants play three-on-three games and are treated to jerseys, pizza and new nets for the playgrounds. Events conclude with a gospel presentation.

Many might not hear the gospel otherwise. In one league, more than half the players are Muslim. AIA is working toward discipleship for the long haul in these neighborhoods. **Tony Browne, a volunteer Street2Street coach is a great example of a follower and not just a fan of Christ.** He says, *"We're put on this earth to give to others. I live in a very rich, upper-middle class area. Five miles away is one of the poorest areas in the country. How can I not go and give of myself?"*

Equipping Missionaries to Teach God's Word

Dirke was in Newport News, VA May 18-22nd teaching a two week seminary accredited class on studying & teaching the Bible. He condensed it into one week by packing classes into both morning and afternoon. The majority of participants were Cru Military staff who minister to our men & women in all branches of the Armed forces.

The prior week Dirke was in Chicago attending meetings as part of Cru's National Theological Development team.



A fun group to teach!

Have a Phone? Share Your Faith!

We have a great app. for sharing your faith known as "GodTools" (godtoolsapp.com). It includes 32 language versions of *Knowing God Personally*, as well as other tools, to help any follower of Jesus communicate the gospel clearly and simply. Since the tool was updated six months ago, it has been opened in 179 nations.

One nation in the Middle East where it's illegal to follow Jesus, the app has been used about 100 times per month. **Only God knows the followers sharing their faith, but they're more than fans.**



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Gifts for Dirke & Lorna's ministry are payable to "Cru" or "Campus Crusade for Christ."
Give online: www.give.cru.org/0105923

Prayer & Praises

- We had a great time during Memorial Day weekend visiting with Danelle & Gordon who live in D.C. and Briana who came down from NYC.
- Pray those Dirke taught in VA this past week will put into ministry practice right away what they learned.
- Pray for wisdom as Dirke has been asked to help write a theological position on ethnic diversity.
- Pray several of the inner city athletes Lorna has worked with will be able to go to AIA's sports camp.

We hope to see many of you this summer:

- Chicago area (June 16); Twin Cities area (June 18-July 7)
- Duluth & Superior, WI & southwestern MN (July 8-11)
- Cru National Staff Conf. in CO (July 12-21)
- Dallas, Austin & Houston, TX (July 21-26th)
- San Diego & Oceanside, CA area (July 27-Aug. 6th).