

SCORE MINISTRIES – 2023 Summary Report

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As many of our supporting churches request an annual update and several send their own report forms, we have found it efficient and effective to consolidate requested information from various reports into one document that we send to all our partnering churches. This has allowed for greater clarity while providing a timesaving measure for us. However, if you have your own report that you desire us to complete or need further information, please let us know and we will oblige.

Ministry Overview:

At the end of every year, we seek to provide an annual overview and ministry update to our supporting churches. Currently, we have 18 churches in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Florida that provide ongoing prayer, support, and encouragement for us. THANK YOU for partnering with us! Additionally, about 50 individuals contribute each year to help us meet our budget needs.

*For those unfamiliar with our ministry, the purpose of **SCORE Ministries** is to Share Christ through Outreaches, Resources, and Encouragement. The primary, but not exclusive, focus of these efforts is in the world of sports to athletes, coaches, families, and other personnel from the high school through professional levels. As a parachurch ministry, we view our role as an extension of local churches, like your church, into these unique communities.*

2023 Ministry Highlights:

• **BASEBALL CHAPEL:**

- Weekly chapels at the ballpark for stadium workers, visiting team, the Tigers, and the umpires. These are provided for players, coaches, team personnel, and others around the game of baseball.
- Beyond Chapels, focused discipleship studies during the season with major league players on the Detroit Tigers. Made use of the ***Growing Strong in God's Family*** study book that is part of the Navigators 2:7 Series.
- Continued oversight and ministry to major and minor league players, families, and team personnel in Detroit, Toledo, Erie, Grand Rapids, Lakeland, and the Dominican Republic. Visits and regular communication provide recruiting, training, and accountability to the 11 volunteer (English and Spanish speaking) chapel leaders in these locations.
- A presence in Lakeland for Spring Training provides the opportunity to building relationships and discipleship with players and personnel at the major and minor league

levels. A typical Spring Training allows for weekly Sunday chapels at the major and minor league levels, an organizational-wide weeknight dinner with Bible study for major and minor league players, personnel, wives, and girlfriends, and many one-to-one connections.

- Praise God for the partnership and assistance of a Spanish-speaking man from Jeff and Karla's home church to serve in ministry to Spanish-speaking players, personnel, and families in Detroit.
- Karla and a former player's wife host a dinner and Bible study once every homestand for wives and girlfriends of players.
- One of the young, single players on the Tigers lived in the basement at Jeff and Karla's home for the season.
- We are thankful eternal decisions made for Christ and decisions to live for him that were made among those at the major and minor league levels this season. As an example, one of our major league players received Christ during one of our Bible studies. A month later, his girlfriend trusted Christ. She wrote, *"thank you so much for meeting with us this evening. You helped me understand so much. I feel so much peace and happiness. I have accepted Jesus as my Savior and I am so grateful."*
- We are grateful for the continued favor and accommodations from the Detroit Tigers' organization. Relationships continue to grow with several leaders.
- For more information on these ministry endeavors, please check out BaseballChapel.Org & CallingForChrist.Org.

- **HOME PLATE 2023 Outreach:**

- On Saturday, June 10, over 3,350 people participating in **HOME PLATE 2023** saw God's goodness and His answer to prayers. God provided beautiful weather for this outreach event where players from the Detroit Tigers and the Arizona Diamondbacks shared their faith in Jesus Christ.
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed in a bold and simple manner. Testimonies from current Tigers **Michael Lorenzen** and **Kerry Carpenter**, Diamondback **Nick Ahmed**, MLB Umpire **John Libka**, retired Detroit Lion **Jason Hanson** were interesting and powerful. Each person clearly explained when he trusted Christ and shared Scripture as part of his testimony.
- To close out the program, retired Detroit Tiger **Frank Tanana** boldly and compassionately shared God's plan of salvation. 66 people (33 adults, 12 teens, 21 children) indicated receiving Christ as Savior and another 474 people (354 adults, 83 teens, 37 children) renewed a commitment to live for and serve Jesus Christ. 249 church and community groups from Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario participated in our 37th year of **HOME PLATE** outreaches.
- Next year's date will be Saturday, June 22. With COVID restrictions behind us and the improving trajectory of the Detroit Tigers, we hope to grow toward the mark of 9,000 people from past years. More information about this program and a link to view the 2015 and 2020 events can be found at [**HomePlateDetroit.Org**](http://HomePlateDetroit.Org).

- **Miscellaneous:**

- **Golfers' Bible Study** – Through a variety of connections, Jeff established and leads a weekly ZOOM Bible study for amateur golfers who are searching and/or growing in a relationship with Jesus. Up to 15 men have participated in studies in the gospel of John, Romans, James, and Philipians.

- **Bay Harbor Men's Study** – Jeff co-teaches a ZOOM Bible study for men associated with the resort community of Bay Harbor, MI. The study continues to grow with 25-30 men now participating weekly in studies that have included Genesis, 1 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the book of Revelation, the Incarnation, Evolution/Creation, and the Trustworthiness of the Bible.
- **World Religion Classes at Area Public High School** – Last year, Jeff was invited to share about Christianity to several World Religion classes at the public high school where he graduated. This involved full freedom to share his relationship with Christ and the Gospel. He was permitted to distribute any materials he desired. This same opportunity occurred in December of this year on a greater level in speaking to 4 classes totalling 210 students. We made available copies of Josh McDowell's ***More Than a Carpenter*** book for students.

Budget & Finances:

We praise God for His faithfulness in providing for our livelihood and ministry needs through the support of churches and individuals like you. These needs were met for this past year. Thank you. We are grateful for our partnering churches and individuals who are able to adjust support levels to keep up with cost-of-living increases. This relieves the pressure of always raising additional support.

From time-to-time, a donor needs to reduce or eliminate support due to financial circumstances. As we enter 2024, we know of some contributors to our ministry who are this category. We appreciate any contacts or referrals of churches or individuals who may desire to partner with us.

Personal Updates:

We appreciate your prayers for us along with our three adult children and their families. Jeff and Karla celebrated 42 years of marriage this past year. Karla continues working as a fitter/tailor at Nordstrom. We are grateful for good health and energy to pursue what God has for us.

Our son, **Matt**, serves with a federal law enforcement agency out of their Detroit office. He and his wife, Chelsea, and their 3 children live within a mile of us.

Our oldest daughter, **Kim**, her husband, Max, and their two sons live in Lexington, KY. Max manages a Chick-fil-A owned by a friend of his. Max and Kim hope to own and operate their own Chick-fil-A back in the metro-Detroit area in the future.

Brittany, our youngest child, currently lives in West Palm Beach, FL and serves as the Executive Project Director at a large multi-campus church. She will be married to Colin this coming January. Brittany will relocate back to the Detroit area as they establish their home here.

Prayer Requests:

- Continued access and favorably reception in the unique environments where we share God's Word.
- Planning and logistics for **HOME PLATE 2024** at Comerica Park on Saturday, June 22. Pray for travel safety, weather, and spiritual impact of the Gospel being proclaimed at this event.

- We have several openings for chapel leaders (English and Spanish) for Tiger affiliated minor league teams in Toledo, Erie, and possibly additional locations. Pray for God's leading in filling these openings.
- As a praise and prayer request, we have been remembering back to 9 Detroit Tigers for whom we have been able to provide pre-marital counseling and officiate at their weddings. We have maintained fairly close ties with 8 of the 9 couples. By God's grace and goodness, all these marriages continue to thrive. Couples and families are established in biblical churches around the country. Please pray for unity and growth as these couples and families go through various stages of life.

We are emailing this report out to pastoral and mission leadership contacts in our database for whom we have email addresses. Please share with others in leadership, serving in missions, and your church body as you deem appropriate.

Thank you for your partnership with us! Your prayers, financial support, and encouragement are very meaningful and appreciated. Please feel free to contact us at anytime with any questions or concerns. While we are always grateful for speaking opportunities at our supporting churches, please also know of our availability to visit to provide an update and report to your missions and church leadership. We are grateful for you!

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