



12 Ordinary Men

I have often said that a group of athletes coming together to form a unified team, commissioned to play basketball for the glory of God, is much like Jesus' first disciples. Jesus chose a diverse group of young men to help usher in His kingdom work on earth. His motley crew of 12 with various vocations and temperaments were transformed into men of faith (with the exception of one who was ultimately replaced with a man of faith). But that is exactly how God's economy works. He takes the weak and oppressed and changes them from the inside out into strong, liberated individuals.

I witnessed this firsthand with my team that participated in the 2024 FISU America Games. It was clear from the beginning of my recruiting that God would be bringing together the team He had already chosen. I had over 80 potential athletes, but when it came down to it, 10 athletes, one assistant coach, and one videographer were God's pick for this experience.

In all my years of recruiting and assembling basketball teams, this group of young men was the most diverse and broken I have ever coached. Within the first 24 hours we were together, it became apparent that this was a unique group. One guy opened up about his family situation, addictions, and heartaches, and from there, it was as if the floodgates were released. These men were so vulnerable



Prayer Requests

God's Provision for upcoming new year

God's wisdom concerning possible projects

Praises

Safe travels to and from Colombia

Opportunities to share the gospel

Please Note:

All end of the year special donations need to be postmarked by December 31 for 2024 tax deduction.

Kelly + Jody Combs

3242 Village Park Dr.
Waco, TX 76708

kelly@sportsreach.org

jcombs6@gmail.com

sportsreach.org



The Global Service Network is our donation processing platform



and honest about their life situations. They knew God had intervened in their lives and brought them on this journey to experience Him in deeper, more meaningful ways.

The vulnerability continued when we made two trips to a nearby prison. Inmates wept when some of our athletes shared their testimonies. It was a very powerful time for both our guys and the inmates. And that was before we even left the US. Once we arrived in Colombia, we were able to connect with athletes from 15 countries representing 12 different sports! We also had the privilege of interacting with local kids while conducting two camps. It was a joy to see these grown men loving on the local children!

The games challenged our team both physically and spiritually, but our guys rose to the occasion. Three of our five games were extremely intense. We kept our composure and remained true to our mission to play for the glory of God. Although we did come home with the gold medal and the championship trophy, our best two dunks had nothing to do with basketball: two of our guys decided they were ready to obey Jesus and get baptized, while others made a commitment to go deeper with Jesus and asked the team to keep them accountable.

I am incredibly thankful to God for allowing me to be part of His kingdom work! Thank you for your part as well! I pray you get a glimpse into what God is still doing in our day-to-day lives – drawing people from every tribe, every nation, every social status, and every past into a living, growing relationship with Himself! Jesus started with 12 ordinary men, and His work is still multiplying!

**With all our love and gratitude,
Kelly + Jody Combs**

