



"...where people grow strong in the Lord." Eph. 6:10

## Watch For Details On Our Family Activity Center Grand Opening

It has been 5 years in the making as we prepare to celebrate a Grand Opening of our Family Activity



Center. It is nearing completion of its final phase that was started in October. Watch for details on this. However, the building is not the goal – loving people in the name of Jesus is the goal and

seeing them grow strong in the Lord. The building will help us do this better. Here is one example from Coach Todd. Stand Firm,  
Scott Bowers, Executive Director

## Reflections From Volunteer Basketball Coach Todd Kuramoto

This started as a way for me to put up or shut up. I've challenged some guys in my men's group to show our discipleship in practice.

We've supported LGM in picnics and Christmas events, but the next step is in **RELATIONSHIPS**.

So, I decided to help the 6th-grade basketball team. I was asked about being the head coach. Not being shy of my basketball knowledge (nor my ability to learn on the "job"); and being blessed to not carry too much angst when in over my head, I said, "Sure, why not..."

*Some of the realities of coaching in Price Hill:* **Turnover.** During the season, I lost 6 kids who started with the team or were added and then left the team. I had 8 to start and ended with 9.

**Devotionals.** I tried very hard to make these as relevant as I could. At various times, we discussed: Fruits of the Spirit and related it to people we knew who exhibited these Christ-like characteristics and how it made us feel. We talked friendships, like Jonathan and David's and how it felt to know someone has your back. EGO - "Edging God Out" and the dangers of being self-centered were discussed. The Lord's Prayer was recited often.

*Other things encountered:*

**Attention span and expectations.** I prepared a practice plan with primary themes and drills. In retrospect, I'd create more games



to reinforce drills and things I wanted them to accomplish. Practice never went as planned. Practices were about 1.5 hours each and it was a challenge to keep their attention.

**Skuffles.** At least three times, a fight could have broken out. These could have escalated into an outright brawl involving parents and kids. We were lucky and should think this through more with prayer. I should have been better prepared and as I said, I/we were fortunate. **Turnout.** Rarely did we get everyone to practice. Sometimes we barely had 5-6. One practice we had one player.

*What I hope "my kids" received or learned during the season:*

**Unconditional love.** While there were times I felt I had to keep them accountable for their actions by enforcing consequences or repercussions, I made sure that any kids called out were also encouraged/loved afterwards.

Expressions like, "I/we need you to be a leader and you're great at..." While it's a team sport, I tried to individually address every single player each week with some words of encouragement.

**Attitude and Effort.** I was and always will be happy to see kids win and make shots. I did the Griddy (aka victory dance) more than once when

someone made a 3-pointer in practice. I was careful to make sure nobody was watching. I chastised them when scrimmaging the 4th-graders (which they always wanted to do), "Don't crush the spirit of the 4th-graders." They played hard and competed. Sometimes their attitudes were difficult to rein in and I had to look skyward (to the Lord) for help to not just grab kids by the collar at times to let them know what I thought of their attitude.

*For the Coach - What it meant:* **God loves team sports.** The Apostles were sent out in pairs. I will gladly coach by myself again. But, it'd be fun to have another person to help and offer ideas.

**I love sports** and I think I'll get better at coaching the important aspects beyond winning. Loving your teammate, respecting all involved (other team, coaches, referees, parents). I'll do my best to be available to help. It's far easier to serve in a capacity where there is some passion. While not gifted, I am passionate about sports and I feel the good Lord nudging me.

**I was blessed beyond belief.** At no point was it a struggle to show.

**Kids are kids.** I hope they felt love; I definitely felt their love. It's what we're called to do and kids are so vulnerable, especially with most not having both parents living under one roof. We are all God's children.



Transformed lives changing individuals, families, neighborhoods, and generations for the glory of God.

Devotional: Lessons in 'Thank you' Scripture: Genesis 12:2

**From Chaplain Chris:** This promise of God to Abraham gets at the heart of God and how He wants His people to live in this fallen world. As Christians, we are blessed by the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ to be a blessing to others.

Sometimes we are unaware of the extent of the impact our blessing has on the lives of others. When we walk by faith in sacrificial giving, trusting God with the results, He does amazing things that we may not see or consider. The special opportunity to write thank you letters with the kids in our youth

program gave me new insight into this.

With Tauren Wells music playing in the background, these kids reached into their hearts and loaded cards with sweet words and thanksgiving to adults whom they have never met before.

God is so creative with how He can multiply blessings. May we all re-commit ourselves to walk with this perspective, eager to bless others with anticipation that the multiplication is coming- all to the glory of King Jesus!



April/May/June2022

LordsGymMinistries.org  
Info@LordsGymMinistries.org  
Ph: 513-621-5300  
P.O. Box 5099  
Cincinnati, OH 45205

**SAVE THE DATE:** Community Awareness Breakfast, Thursday, Sept. 29, 7-7:30 a.m. (breakfast) , 7:30-8:30 a.m. (program), Kenwood Country Club

- GO** to people in need in Greater Cincinnati neighborhoods.
- CREATE** safe places.
- DEMONSTRATE** God's love in practical ways.
- DECLARE** the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- DEVELOP** disciples of Jesus Christ.
- ENCOURAGE** self-responsibility.

Serve With Us: "Iron sharpens iron..." Proverbs 27:17

Ministry Partner Highlight

Men In Balance has partnered with LGM for two years. The faith-based men's group meets monthly to talk through various issues and challenges Christian men face.

MIB is heavily involved with LGM's summer picnics in the park and most recently the youth sports programs. Group leader Joe Wiseman said: "This has opened so many of our men's eyes to what a value service is and the fact that serving is what we are called to do."

MIB is making a difference at LGM and serving others is having a real affect on MIB members' lives.

Consider a Financial Gift

You can make a difference. Please consider donating to Lord's Gym Ministries to help us continue serving the Cincinnati and Covington communities. Fill out the form below and mail it back to us or donate at [www.LordsGymMinistries.org](http://www.LordsGymMinistries.org). Monthly support is greatly appreciated.

I would like to contribute to the following program(s) (circle):  
Lord's Gym STORM FAC As needed Youth Resiliency Ride  
We accept major credit cards (circle): Visa Master Disc. AmEx  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp.:\_\_\_\_ Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. code:\_\_\_\_  
Pay 3% Fee? (circle) Y or N  
\_\_\_\_Interested in planned giving \_\_\_\_My company will match  
Email:\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Lord's Gym Ministries, P.O. Box 5099, Cincinnati, OH 45205