

Athletes in Action

Colby and Sarah Keefer 4695 Sycamore Dr, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

937.902.1767 colby.keefe@athletesinaction.org

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937.681.6533 sarah.keefe@athletesinaction.org

“May the Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

2 Thess. 2:16-17

Happy end-of-the-summer! Like most every family in America, we are saying to ourselves “where did the summer go?”. Back in June when the kids got out of school I remember the daunting feeling of wondering what the heck I was going to do with them all summer. Now, I am overwhelmed with the thought of how we will ever get back on a schedule with bedtimes and bus stops. As I think about it, I am thankful that the Lord continually changes our circumstances in life because then, in those uncharted territories, I see my need for Him and His grace all the more. I want to be someone who doesn’t “do” life on my own because if I live that way, I am missing out on the mystery of seeing God work in and through my life. Life becomes about what I can accomplish, and I miss out on the incredible daily blessings that a life of dependence brings. So, as we enter a new school year in our home and on the college campus, we look to God to produce eternal fruit in the lives of our kids and in the students we are privileged to meet this year. Thank you for being in this battle with us. We often receive notes and emails from our supporters saying how they pray regularly for us, and you have no idea how much that means to us! To God be the glory for the things HE will accomplish this year!

Returning Leaders!

You may remember stories from a leadership group we had over the summer made up of students from Michigan and Eastern Michigan who were working around the area or taking classes. The group was generally around 8-10 people and we focused on studying Biblical stories of people sharing their faith in Jesus Christ. After the studies, we would take the initiative with people to start up conversations about spiritual things to learn their stories and see if they would like to hear more about Jesus. The group had an amazing summer and grew in their confidence in having conversations about Jesus.

This week, we assembled a group of returning students, many of whom were involved in the summer leadership group and the excitement for the fall was contagious. We were able to share some vision with them about the importance for them, as leaders, to remain closely connected to Jesus (a reminder I often need as the demands of life’s details try to steal away my time sitting at the Lord’s feet) from John 15 and then share about the opportunities they had as leaders to impact their teams and their campus. There are 31 varsity teams at Michigan (not to mention club teams) with over 900 student-athletes, and 19 Varsity teams at Eastern Michigan with over 500 athletes! What an opportunity for our student leaders to have an impact! We challenged them to consider committing to a fall leadership group that would meet for their personal growth but also meet with our staff during the week to learn ministry skills to follow up with new students, as well as have

meetings with teams on which we don’t currently have students involved. How powerful it will be as these students take the step of faith to stand before teams to share about our student organization and impact that Jesus has had in their lives.

Pictured to the right are several of the students who came to our meeting this week. They all made time before school began to begin to put plans together to trust God to use them!



Our last month in pictures...



I was able to have a few of the girls from the summer bible study over for dinner. Nicole (far right) invited her teammate Paige (between Mikayla and I) to come over, as Paige had just been asking about AIA earlier that day. It was so fun to meet her and we are hoping she'll be able to be involved in our ministry this year.



This is a group of our students who traveled to Saginaw, MI for a concert and outreach event to youth of that area. Our students set up a booth to talk with youth about their faith and answer questions the youth might have for them. Many of the AIA students who went had been involved in our summer leadership group that focused on having conversations about Jesus!



Earlier this month our staff team headed Up North in MI for a 4 day planning retreat. We took a couple of students along to babysit the kids during our meetings and had a great time together brainstorming, planning and praying about the upcoming year. I left the week feeling so en-



couraged and excited about what God could do in the lives of students this year! On the left is our team ...Lee & Michelle, Colby & I, Dee, Bruce & Diane. On the right is Mia hanging out with one of the students we brought with.

Please pray...

...for the freshman classes at Michigan and Eastern Michigan. Pray their hearts would be open to growing spiritually when they are in college, and that God would lead us to those who are ready to hear the gospel.

...for our returning students to be able to quickly plug back in to the ministry here. Pray they would be burdened to reach out to their friends and teammates with the love of Christ.

...for our kick-off party on Sept 3rd. Pray many would come and have fun!

...for wisdom and balance in our lives as we start the craziness of what the fall semester always brings.



Our kids were honored to all be in Colby's cousin's wedding last week. So fun to watch them walk down the aisle and to see Colby officiate his first wedding!

As another school year starts we are mindful that none of this would be possible without your consistent support. YOU are our biggest teammates in all of this and we are eternally grateful!!