

Athletes in Action

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“Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.” James 1:17-18

Hello again! This is such an exciting time of year for us on campus — all the students are back, bible studies are up and going, there’s an excitement in the air at our weekly meeting, and we are having the opportunity to stand up in front a bunch of the athletic teams to talk about Athletes in Action. In fact, last week we were able to meet with three of the teams here at Michigan including the women’s basketball team where one of the players who is involved in our ministry shared about her experience in AIA and encouraged her teammates to check it out while they have the opportunity in college. From that meeting about half of the team indicated on their comment cards that they were interested in learning more about God and the things we have going on on campus with AIA. It is such a privilege to hold one of those comment cards in your hand and to know that it represents someone’s soul, and to realize that we have the incredible opportunity to present the amazing news of Christ to that person and prayerfully see God set them on a course of pursuing Him for the rest of their lives! During their college years, these young men and women are being bombarded with so many ideas and philosophies that compete for their allegiance. Our prayer is that they see the hope, joy and purpose that a life spent following Christ brings. Thank you so much for being in this battle with us! Your partnership is making a difference here!!

Weekly Meeting Momentum

Every Wednesday night you can find us tucked up in the training room above the Michigan swimming facility for our weekly meeting. About 50 student-athletes have been coming this year to hang out, get encouragement from the Word, meet new people, and have fun! The picture below is from a recent weekly meeting where one of Colby’s former Michigan football teammates and ex-NFL star, Ian Gold, came to share (he’s the one pictured standing in the middle with the white shirt).

Ian spoke with such passion about God’s love for us and His desire for us to follow Him completely. Colby and I both commented to each other afterward that if there were any non-believers in the room they either must have thought Ian was completely whacky, or they must have left feeling intrigued about what Ian possessed inside of him that they didn’t :) There were lots of students that stayed afterward to chat with Ian and I saw him praying with and ministering to many of them.

God has raised up a number of students we feel are leaders that come to the weekly meeting, and we have challenged them to see their time there not only for themselves, but to reach out to others. We have begun something we call “Ten for Eternity”, where our student leaders come early each week to spend ten minutes looking for new people who walk through the door and then have intentional conversations with them. I have watched new people walk in, be approached by one of our leaders, and have the look of nervous anxiety on the faces replaced by looks of relief that somebody noticed them. Will you pray with us that God continues to bring new faces through the door?



Say What?

For those of you who have been with us for a while now (let's say more than 14 years!), you will know that before I was Sarah Keefer, I was Sarah Jackson. Well, look to the picture on the right and meet the new Sarah Jackson that showed up here at Michigan to play on the soccer team this fall! I had to ask twice when I heard that was her name, and told her we had to get a picture together :)

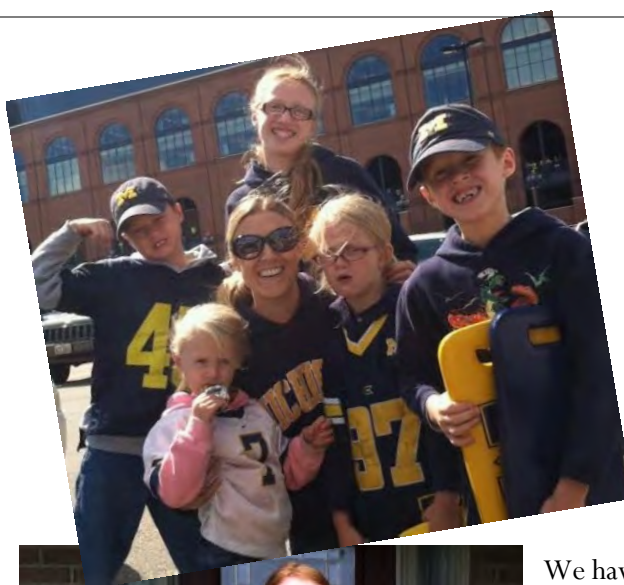
Looking at the picture makes me think back to when I was a freshman at Michigan, wide-eyed and ready to take on the world. I am forever grateful for Bruce, our AIA staff (who is still here!), who opened my eyes to the gospel and introduced me to his Savior. My life has been changed for eternity ever since.

We get excited to think of all the Sarah Jackson's that are out there on our campus...young freshmen who are trying to find their place at Michigan. We pray that God would give our staff and students

many opportunities to love them well and share the good news of Christ with them. In fact, Sarah came to our weekly meeting because her soccer upperclassmen (who are some of our student leaders) invited her to come. This was after they had been leading a soccer bible study that started in their preseason where 19 of their teammates came to the first study! Wow...to God be all the glory for the things He will do this year!



The picture to the left is of Colby with two of our student leaders, Adam and Darius. There is a group of twenty faithful leaders who are meeting each week to study the book of James and to learn ministry skills to reach out to their friends and teammates. Go God!



Please pray...

...for God to continue to bring new people to our weekly meeting. Pray they would experience Christ there and would get plugged into AIA on campus.

...for the meetings we are having with different teams to tell them about AIA. Pray the coaches would be receptive to us coming. Pray students would be interested in getting together to talk further. And most of all, pray for opportunities for the gospel to be shared!

...for God's Word to penetrate our student leader's hearts as they meet weekly to study it.

...for Jesus to be our first love.

...for wisdom in parenting our six kiddos!



We have 4 kids in the same school this year: Mikayla (5th), Jackson (3rd), Jaydon (2nd), and Moriah (kindergarten). Can you tell who wasn't excited about the 1st day of school? :)

I hope you can sense our excitement about the new semester...and we hope you are excited, as well! God is using YOU to make a difference HERE, and we are eternally grateful!