

Athletes in Action

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“Come near to God and he will come near to you.”

James 4:8

Happy fall! Wow...I'm not sure about where you live, but the leaves here in Ann Arbor have been absolutely magnificent these past couple of weeks! I think my kids might be getting *slightly* annoyed at me continually pointing them out as we drive. It's like my eyes can't get enough of the colors, and my heart is moved to praise God for His masterful creativity. Maybe it's those spontaneous times of praise that have gotten me through the past month as Colby has been out of town on various different ministry trips :) As I have been holding down the fort here with the kids, God has been gracious to give me significant times of ministry, not only with my six key disciples at home, but on campus, as well. Continuing from last year, I have been meeting every other week with around ten of the football coach's wives for bible study. They are such a dear group of women to lead...hungry to learn about the Lord, and never given to a dull moment! Also, these past few weeks a couple of students from campus have initiated with me to come over and hang out after the kids go to bed. Sometimes I can buy into the lie that my stage of life is so very different than theirs that I don't have much I have to offer them. But, during those late night visits, God reminded me how much people feel loved as you simply listen to them and encourage them with His Word. I was reminded that even though it has been close to twenty years since I was a student myself, the girls on campus today are still dealing with the same core issues...wanting to be accepted & loved and finding purpose in life. As I type this I am thankful once again for the privilege it is to point college students to Christ and prayerfully set them on a course to worship Him for a lifetime. Thank you for being in this with us!

Lenses Institute

This month, I (Colby) spent a week in Atlanta, GA at the Lenses Institute. The Lenses Institute exists to continue the development of Athletes in Action staff as we seek to be cross-cultural learners and ministers in the diverse and strategic world of athletics. The Institute seeks to help us tackle the challenges of seeing, loving, and serving people the way God does.

It was an extremely rich experience as we visited the new Civil and Human Rights Museum and Ebenezer Baptist Church (where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr pastored) and learned from leaders at Blueprint Church. Two things stuck out to me above many profound things we discussed during the week. First, as human beings, we have great value because we were created in God's image as the pinnacle of His creation. I can forget the significance of this reality as I have conversations with people. Second, Jesus came and sacrificed Himself for people of all nations! If we fail to love and communicate well with all people then we fail to communicate the complete message. I'm so thankful to work for an organization that values all cultures!



This is a picture from a women's game night I hosted this month. Steph (on right) is one of our student leaders and she invited Brooke (on left) a freshman on the track team to come that night. Brooke had such a fun time and you could tell she appreciated the chance to get off of campus and laugh with everyone. It is always our prayer that we can reach the freshman class and provide them an alternative to the typical college lifestyle.



“My name is Adam and I am a Christian at the University of Michigan.” That is how the Michigan wrestler introduced himself at an event where some students gathered to hear a few of our student-athletes speak. Colby has been discipling Adam (pictured on the left with Moriah) for about a year now and one of the areas he has been growing in is seeing his identity in Christ as the core of who he is — he’s not Adam the wrestler, or Adam the engineering student, but Adam the adopted son of God. It was so encouraging to hear him share that night about the difference Jesus has made in his life to allow him to view himself not by what he *does*, but rather who he *is*. The freedom that comes from that truth is amazing. We are proud of Adam for the steps he is making in his faith, and for openly sharing about that on campus.



Here are a few of the women on Michigan’s soccer team who are meeting regularly for bible study...led by their seniors! We are praising God for the fruit He has borne on their team!



One of the fun ministry times I had this month that I mentioned earlier was being the “substitute” bible study leader for this group of lovely ladies. (Dee, our other AIA staff woman, usually leads this group of our leader women, but she was out of town.) What a joy it was to sit down with them, study the Word, and encourage them in their faith. God is using each of them in significant ways on their respective teams.

Please pray...

...for the twelve different bible studies that are taking place this fall throughout our AIA ministries at Michigan and Eastern Michigan. Pray that God would use His Word to change lives.

...for the baseball player and men’s basketball player and who recently received Christ. Pray they would be men who walk with God for a lifetime.

...for our staff and student as we follow up with many students who have shown interest in our ministry. Pray for lots of opportunities to share the gospel.

...for energy and strength for us as we are beginning to feel weary with the fast pace of the fall ministry.

God is on the move here, and we hope you are encouraged to see the students He’s working in and through. Your generosity makes that happen...thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Jackson and Jaydon have been enjoying this awesome fall weather...we can hardly get them to come inside at night!



Mikayla turned 11 this month...where did the years go??