

Athletes in Action

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“Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:23-25

Happy 2016 from the Keefer clan! After spending a treasured time with both of our families over Christmas break, we are off and running here on campus in the New Year. The first weekend back from the break we invited our students from Michigan and Eastern Michigan to what we called “An Evening with Athletes in Action”, a dessert designed to help them see a bigger picture of what God is doing through AIA across our country and the world. Mark Householder, the president of Athletes in Action, even traveled up from Ohio to address our students. “Put your ‘yes’ on the table for Jesus” was his encouragement to the students, as he exhorted them to be involved in God’s Kingdom work wherever they go after graduation. An invitation was also made for our students to be a part of the many different aspects of ministry that AIA is doing. Many of our students have never thought about how AIA exists on other campuses across the country, or that we work with professional teams, have marketing, finance, media and events departments. The positive feedback from our students on the evening was so fun to hear...one student said she went straight home to check out AIA’s website and learn further about the ways she could invest her life for the Kingdom through our ministry. Speaking of websites, our digital strategies department has just launched a new version of our website with the hopes of being a greater voice for the gospel in the world of athletics. As you browse the web, please consider checking out what the new website has to offer: www.athletesinaction.org

Calling all freshmen!

A prayer focus of ours every year is for the sweet freshmen class. If you can remember back to your freshman year of college, you know it can be both an exciting, yet scary time. Thoughts like what if I don’t like college, what if I get homesick, what if I have a hard time making friends, what if I don’t measure up on my team, and what if my classes are too difficult often run through these precious 18 year-old heads.

Our hope is to come alongside the freshmen in this transition, loving them and pointing them to Christ. This year’s freshmen class has been so fun to get to know. God has brought a good handful of believers in this year who are trusting Him to stand strong in their faith throughout their college years. There is also a group of freshmen who have been consistently coming to our weekly meetings who we look forward to getting to know better this semester.

The picture to the right is of a recent freshman party we hosted where over 25 freshmen student athletes came to eat pizza, get to know each other and play games. To be honest, we didn’t know how the evening would go or who would be coming, but God surprised us with a great group of students! Please be praying for these sweet freshmen to excel still more in their faith, and be used by God to reach out to their peers.



A Sweet Sendoff

In December we said good bye to Steph, one of our graduating seniors. It has been an absolute joy to have had Steph be a part of our ministry...to watch her come to faith in Christ her freshman year, to witness her greenhouse growth in Him, and then to have her be a part of our staff team last semester. As she was leaving she handed me a sweet note of encouragement. We wanted to share it with you because as she thanks me for my involvement in her life, the thank you also goes to you for making it possible for us to minister here!

Sarah,

I will never forget the first AIA weekly meeting I ever went to. Sitting in a discussion group with you, listening to you tell your story and speaking straight to my heart as if you knew what I needed to hear. That ultimately is what kept me coming back and led to me eventually accepting Christ and my life completely changing. You are like a second mom to me and are definitely one of my hardest goodbyes, but I know you will forever be a part of my life and forever a part of the story God wrote for me. You are the woman in my life that I strive to be like and I will forever be grateful for these 3.5 years we had in the same city! Thank you for pouring your life out for me and all of us girls here at Michigan. I love living life alongside you! I love you Sarah. Thanks for teaching me what a godly woman looks like and lives like!

Love, Steph



Our staff team last semester: Colby, Sarah, Steph, Macy, Bruce & Diane



Above: A group of students stayed after our meeting the other night to spend time praying for the ministry here...yay!

Left: Jason Hanson, the former Detroit Lion Kicker, who played 21-years in the NFL, came to speak to our students in December. His message of what really matters most in life was a huge hit with the group.



Please pray...

...for the freshman class. Pray for those who are already believers to stay strong in their faith. Pray for those who are far from God to be drawn to Him.

...for the two AIA Winter Retreats we will be attending in Chicago (1/29-1/31) and Ohio (2/5-2/7). Pray for last minute recruiting, safe travel and changed lives.

...for us to find rest in the Lord amidst a very busy start to the semester, and for Jesus to remain our first love.

...for our kiddos to passionately love God.

You are such a blessing to us. Our thoughts drift to you often, overflowing with gratitude to our Lord for your faithful partnership!



Our sweet (and sassy!) Moriah turned 7 on New Year's Eve. Above...can you tell who didn't want to be in the picture? :)

