

# Athletes in Action

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"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Greeting from the Keefer's! We received news today that a dear supporter passed away this month. He was a man of great faith, who inspired us with his dependence upon the Lord and deep prayer life. Most certainly he could say along with Paul that he fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the course. When I think about the lives of those who have gone before me in the faith, my soul is stirred to press on and to keep contending for the faith — yearning to know God more intimately, and taking the message of His grace and truth to others. This year we have studied the book of 2 Timothy with our student leaders, and it has been a joy to watch them grasp these same truths and desire their lives to matter for eternity. As I was wrapping up our bible study with the leader women this week, I asked them to tell me things they always wanted to remember about the book of 2 Timothy. I heard things like how they don't want to be ashamed to testify about our Lord Jesus Christ, how they want to take the things that they are learning and entrust those to faithful people who will teach others, how they want to fan into flame the gifts God has given them, and how they want to keep the faith for the entirety of the years God gives them on earth. I am grateful for the year we took to comb through Paul's words to Timothy, letting the truths penetrate our hearts. And I am excitedly looking forward to next semester already because I wonder how God will use these students to make an eternal impact in the lives of others on this campus. Thank you for investing here with us. May we all fight this good fight together.

## Saying Goodbye to Seniors

There are many great things about campus ministry, but the one thing that we are not too fond of is saying goodbye to our students as they graduate. After investing in them and watching them mature over four or five years, these students can become like children to us.

We reserve a night at our final weekly meeting to honor our seniors and give them a chance to each share about what God did during their years at Michigan, as well as pass on advice to the underclassmen. This is always one of my favorite nights of the year because not only do we get to hear from the seniors, but we open up the floor afterward for anyone to

share words of affirmation with those that are graduating.

A theme we heard this year from both the seniors and those who were affirming them was gratitude for someone reaching out to involve them in Athletes in Action. The seniors could point to an upperclassmen that came alongside them as a freshmen. And then many of the underclassmen shared about how these particular seniors were the ones who involved them in the ministry and modeled a life of faith to them.

We will continue to pray that God raises up students who will not only leave a spiritual legacy here, but will also leave a mark wherever it is God may take them next. Will you join us in that prayer?



A few of our seniors...Madison, Darius, Sarah, Reagan, Sione

## Serving in the D

For those of you not from Michigan, around here Detroit is affectionately referred to as the “D”. Since moving here almost six years ago, our hearts have been drawn to the city and the needs there, and we have been asking God how we can best serve.

A couple of years ago we were introduced to a church in the heart of Detroit who is doing some incredible community transformation work. Mack Avenue Community Church and their non-profit organization MACC development offer everything from literacy programs for kids, free legal advice for

those in need, permanent and affordable housing for those in the community and a sports program for inner city kids.

This month we were able to take a group of student-athletes to partner with MACC to serve at their soccer outreach, and then help to restore a home of one of it’s church members. What a blessing it was to see our students come alive as they served in the city! Our prayer is that exposures to community transformation programs like these will spur our students to further pursue service in their futures. To God be all the glory!



Mikayla, Me, Austin, Robbie



Sione and Brad helping out at the concession stand. Robbie loving on one of the players.



Colby, Brennan and Nicky...with Jairus, Moriah and Mia!

*“Hey summer soccer buddies. For those of you who weren’t at the meeting today we’re trying to have more opportunities to bond as a group outside of soccer. I’ll be here taking classes during the spring and wanted to know if anyone would be interested in joining a weekly bible study. It doesn’t have to be super serious or anything, just a time where we can chat about things other than soccer or school and maybe do a devotional, nothing crazy.”*

This is a text that Nicky, one of our faithful student leaders on the soccer team, sent out to her team this week inviting them to join her in a bible study for the next few months. I am SO proud of her for taking a step of faith with her team like this. Hopefully this will only springboard into continued ministry there in the fall!

Please pray...

...for our seniors as they graduate. Pray God will provide them with solid Christian communities as they move to new places.

...for wisdom for Nicky as she leads the soccer team in bible study. Pray God would use His word to change lives.

...for our staff team as we evaluate this year and plan for the fall. Pray for wisdom and unity.

...for our passion for Jesus to grow ever more.

*We hope you know how grateful we are for the eternal investments you are making here! May God bless you richly!*



We were thankful for some time this month to get away to the Smoky Mountains with Colby’s family during our kids’ spring break!