

# Athletes in Action

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“Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.”

Psalms 115:1

Hello again! Wow, I am writing this letter after a full day of staff evaluation and planning meetings, and my heart is overflowing with gratitude to the Lord for the things He has done this year on campus here at Michigan! You may remember that we started out the fall semester with a new structure for our ministry on campus, not really knowing how it would go, but trusting God for changed lives. And by God's grace, as we look back on the year now, we can see His handprint all over the place! This past week I met for the last time with my Core group of women and we made a list of things we wanted to celebrate that God had done this year. I wish you could have sat in with us as we all shared story after story of God's faithfulness to move in the hearts of people. This letter is an attempt to capture some of those stories. We hope you are encouraged to see how God is using your prayers and finances to impact eternity...thank you!

## Answered Prayer!

The picture to the right is of Adam, a junior on the wrestling team, with our son Jaydon. For his three years at Michigan, Adam has desired for his teammates to know and pursue God and has been discouraged by his teammates lack of interest in spiritual things.

This year, however, as Adam has prayed and trusted God for changed lives among his teammates, he has been able to see signs of fruit. A few of them have come to a discipleship group Adam has been leading all year with some other student-athletes. And just the other day one of his teammates sat down with Adam one-on-one and Adam had a chance to clearly present the gospel to him...and he prayed to receive Christ! Needless to say, Adam is SO excited for how God is answering his prayers and looks forward to how God is going to continue to move and work on his team!



Back row: Bri, Nicole, Annie, Julia. Front row: Sam, Danielle, Kara, Abby

## New Relationships

The picture to the left tells a fun story of an unlikely group of women who have come to love each other this past semester. Abby, one of our Core leaders, started a discipleship group with a few of her basketball teammates, and somehow a few tennis girls started to come — two teams that usually don't have the chance to interact much.

Through studying God's word together each week, God created a neat bond among these women (some who are very new to the faith)...so much so that they scheduled a sleepover together in the middle of final exam week! Here they are showing off the artwork they made together that night. We are anxious to see how God will grow them even more in community and in faith next fall.

## New lives!

This picture captures probably one of our most treasured stories in all of our years on staff. Nicky, on the left, came to know Christ two years ago through our ministry and we have been privileged to have a front row seat to her transformation ever since. God has taken her shame from her past and set her free to worship Him and minister to others in a way that truly speaks to their hearts.

Since becoming a Christian, Nicky has been burdened for her soccer teammates and has shed tears many times over her desire to see them come to saving faith in Christ, as well.

I don't have enough space on this page to tell you all the ways God has used

Nicky this year, but suffice to say that where

there used to be much animosity toward God, Christians now outnumber the unbelievers in Nicky's senior class! Nicky led her teammate Missy to Christ a little over a year ago after Missy texted Nicky asking if she could come to her room and pray with her. And just last week another one of her senior teammates, Madi, asked to have coffee with Nicky, wondering what it was about God that has changed Nicky's life so much. After chatting for a couple of hours and talking through the gospel, Madi also prayed to receive Christ into her life!

Yet another one of Nicky's teammates pictured above, Lindy, stood up on our senior night to share about her journey with God and how Nicky has impacted her. Lindy shared about how as a child, the idea of God was rather scary to her, and then as she got a bit older He became like a parental figure, doling out rules and commanding obedience. Then as she entered college and began to make choices she wasn't proud of, she again began to fear God and His judgement toward her.

But now after talking with Nicky about faith and the Bible, she has come to see God as her friend and has developed a personal relationship with Him. In fact, she shared a story about how on Easter, instead of routinely going to church like she religiously did growing up on Easter, she decided to go on a walk where she just talked to God. I wish you could have seen her face as she talked about that walk and how God met her on it. It was evident that God had done a work in her life and we are beyond privileged to have been able to see a small part of it. To God be the glory for how He has used Nicky in these women's lives!



Nicky, Missy & Lindy



Please pray...

...for favor with the athletic director in our upcoming meeting with him.

...for continued changed lives here as we launch our summer groups on campus.

...for Madi and the other new believers. Pray for protection and grounding in God's Word.

## Praying for favor

Last weekend the athletic department hosted a twenty-year reunion for the Michigan 1997 National Champion football team that Colby played on. It was such a memorable weekend catching up with former friends and teammates!

During the reunion program Colby shared from up front a few highlights from that season and afterward we were able to meet the new athletic director who was in attendance. We had not met him before and honestly don't know his thoughts about us ministering on his campus. As we were shaking his hand, he just happened to ask what we are doing nowadays and we told him about AIA. He immediately reached into his pocket, pulled out a business card, and told us to give him a call in a few weeks. We sensed he seemed very interested to hear about what we were doing...praise God! Please pray along with us for favor from him, as he could potentially open new doors for our ministry here.