

Athletes in Action

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“Because your love is better than life, my lips will praise you...because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.” Psalms 63:3,7-8

Greetings! I have been reading through the Psalms this month and have been struck once again to see God’s character on display — faithful, magnificent, loving, wise, powerful, gracious. As I read David’s thoughts penned in the Psalms, I have also been reminded how personal a relationship God desires for us to have with Him. David pours out his heart, sharing with God the good and the bad. He gets angry, jubilant, frustrated and scared. The Psalms are like getting a sneak peek into David’s (and others’) journals, and I am thankful for their example. It spurs me on to take my heart to the Lord, lamenting about the difficult parts of life, and rejoicing over the blessings. In our years on AIA staff there have definitely been seasons of lament, wondering where and how God was working. However, recently our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude for the Lord’s grace poured out on what has been happening here at the U of Michigan. Students are hungry to grow in their faith, others are being introduced to the saving power of Christ, and there is an energy here among the students who are involved that is contagious. What a privilege and honor it is to serve the Lord full-time with Athletes in Action! Thank you for what you do to make that possible... you are touching many lives with the life giving message of Christ!

Starting out with a bang!

As the winter semester came to a close last month, we began to put into place our “summer AIA” for the many student-athletes who stick around during the spring and summer semesters to study and train. Every year how we structure the summer looks different, with this year looking even more different than the rest! We decided to have two evenings every week where these young men and women can come for content and fellowship. One being a bit larger and laid back group. The other being a smaller group that digs into the Scriptures at a deeper level.

Well, I am leading the larger group and I guess I didn’t anticipate how large it would be! Our first meeting last week saw thirty athletes squeezed into the living room of one of our student leaders! They just kept coming and coming...so fun :)

A highlight of the night for me was an exercise we did in small groups where everyone chose a pictured card that represented their spiritual life over the past few months. We then took turns around the table describing why we chose that card. Dan, a freshman that I had not previously met, chose a card with a picture of a bald-headed man with sticky notes stuck to his head, as well as a picture of a big eyeball. He went on to explain how he came to college not knowing anything about God, but one of his teammates had “explained things” to him. Now he has been learning so much that it feels like new ideas are being “stuck” to his head, and it is very “eye opening”.

How fun is that?? Go God!



Students that first night playing Soularium, the picture game that gets them talking.



“Echoing” into the Community

A few weeks back we had the opportunity to bring a group of Michigan student-athletes to a local church to spend time with their youth, a group they called Echo. To start the night, we numbered off the high school kids and they each were able to be in a small group with one of the Michigan athletes. After playing a rather competitive game of Pictionary in their groups, our students then had the chance to share with the precious Echo kids a bit about their story of faith.

My favorite part of the night was when we pulled the whole group back together and allowed Taylor, one of the women who has been in my core leader group all year, to share her testimony from up front. Taylor grew up going to church and had a good foundation laid for Christ from her family, but she shared that night how she didn't really understand Christ's personal sacrifice for her until she was away at college and really had to choose whether or not she was going to continue in her faith. Her story was compelling and I am confident that it spoke to many of the Echo kids in the room as they are preparing to leave home in the near future and decide if they, too, will continue in the faith being set before them.

I was like a proud mama watching Taylor share because these past two years I have watched her go from a baby in her faith to a woman who is being used of God to influence so many. Taylor's life is “echoing” into eternity as she makes Kingdom investments wherever she goes. May we all be people who humbly ask God to use us in eternal ways, as well!



Our group that went to speak: Tori, Taylor, Nate, Colin, Adam, Blake, Sami, Tione...then me and my crazy kids!



With a face that was glowing with Christ, Taylor did a fantastic job sharing about the Lord.

What's next?

Besides continuing with our summer AIA plans here at Michigan, Colby will be heading out to Colorado May 17-29 to help staff our AIA Ultimate Training Camp. At the UTC, student athletes will come from around the country to learn how to incorporate their faith into their competition and really worship God through sport. We look forward to updating you on that next month!

Please pray...

...for the summer AIA options we have going here. Pray that lives would be changed by God's Word, and that there would be momentum built for the fall.

...for new believers to be grounded in their faith

...for the AIA Ultimate Training Camps taking place around the country over the next month. Pray God would show Himself mighty there.

...for wisdom for Colby as he continues to balance campus responsibilities with seminary and family life. Pray for strength and rest amidst it all.



Jackson and Jaydon just finished a BB league and are starting flag FB. The three littles are in swim classes so they hopefully won't drown at the lake this summer :)



We have officially entered insane kid-activities life :) I am helping to coach Mikayla's club volleyball team. So fun to be back in the gym again!

*You are so, so loved and appreciated by us!
Thank you for the ways you support our family!*