

Athletes in Action

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“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:10

Hello again! I just love July...for so many reasons. The weather is consistently warm and the Midwest lakes are refreshingly cool. The kids have settled into the summer and can figure out how to occupy themselves with toys and bikes for most of the day without me having to direct their steps minute by minute. Schedules are a bit more freed up to be able to spontaneously do dinner or s’mores with friends. However, the biggest reason I love July is that we are able to take a few weeks of vacation to be with our families. The first part of July saw our family Up North in Michigan to spend treasured time with Colby’s side of the family. Beach days, card tournaments, sand dunes and bike rides characterized our time up there and we left refreshed with full hearts. Our next July adventure involves Colby, Mikayla, Jackson and I heading to Colorado for our biannual Cru/Athletes in Action staff conference. We will join around 5000 other staff members for a week of vision casting, aligning and sessions to challenge and encourage us in our faith. I can’t wait. When our time there is over, the next leg of our July journey will take our entire family to Minnesota to be with my side of the family. With our six kids and my sister’s three kiddos invading my parent’s house, you can always count on chaos, but the kind of chaos that memories are made of. Thanks for being on this journey with us.



You may recognize this sweet bride and groom from our past newsletters. Brennen and Nicky were two faithful student leaders for us at Michigan, and we were honored to be a part of their wedding earlier this month. We can’t tell you how much joy it brings for us to see two people whom God allowed us the privilege to disciple come together in marriage and be poised to serve Him for a lifetime!!



"I have learned that running is something that can bring me abundant happiness, but many trials have shown me that when I place my worth and source of life in running, I am left disconsolate and miserable when it is taken away. For this reason, I have found a new home for my self-worth: I have placed my life in the hands of my Savior; when running falters, I still have the grace of Jesus. I therefore use running as the ultimate praise, because every moment of joy that it brings me is a gift. True JOY comes from salvation. I'm so thankful that a wretch like me has been given endless chances for forgiveness, endless chances to find joy in Jesus. Therefore, 'Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus,' (Philippians 3:13-14)" ~ Erin Finn



I pulled this quote from a recent Facebook post that one of our student leaders wrote. Erin is a three-time All-American and three-time Big Ten Athlete of the Year whose life has been eternally changed by Christ. She is so passionate about using the platform God has given her through running to shine His light into the world...and she is doing just that. It is truly a privilege to come alongside her, challenging her and pointing her toward Jesus. Please pray along with us that Erin and the other Michigan athletes involved in our ministry would continue to grow in their faith and seek the Lord for how He wants to use them in the lives of others.



I was proud of my 40 year-old self for climbing a gigantic sand dune with these youngsters!



We spent the 4th of July on the beautiful sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. Notice the headphones on Jairus...he's not a fan of fireworks :)



Please pray...

...for our time at our Cru/AIA staff conference in Colorado July 16-23. Pray for the Lord to encourage and challenge our hearts while we are there.

...for Mikayla (13) and Jackson (11) and their time in the junior high program at our staff conference. Pray they would be drawn closer to Jesus.

...for Brennen and Nicky as they start their married life together.

...for Michigan athletes like Erin who desire to make an eternal impact on their teams and communities.

We hope you know how much we love and appreciate your investment in our ministry!!