

Athletes in Action

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August 2017

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"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

Ephesians 1:17

Hello again! So, this morning I took our four littlest kids to two different grocery stores with me to stock our empty cupboards up with food. As I was loading the groceries into the back of our twelve passenger van, I had two thoughts: 1) Wow, we were gone a lot this summer with our travel for ministry and vacation! I was thankful for our amazing time away that allowed our shelves to be empty of food. 2) Ugh, I am so thankful that I only have two more weeks left until school when I won't have to take multiple kids to the grocery store with me! I think I spent more time breaking up fights and putting unwanted items back on the shelf than I did actually getting the shopping done :) This fall marks a big milestone for me as a mom...for the first time in 14 years (since Mikayla was born), I won't have a child by my side all day long. Jairus, our youngest, will enter into a full-time preschool this fall, and as I think about all six of our kids being in school I have such mixed emotions. On the one hand I am brought to tears thinking about my babies being gone, and on the other hand I am ecstatic about this new season I am moving into. I am entering in with caution, though, not wanting to presume what God would have for me in these next years. The "do-er" in me would want to say yes to every new opportunity that comes my way. But, wisdom tells me to pull back, pray and ask the Lord for direction. My heart is to be about His business...on campus, in my neighborhood, in the kids' schools, and wherever else He calls. We covet your prayers for our family as we enter a new school year, that God would use us to be salt and light in our community of Ann Arbor and at the University of Michigan. Thank you for being in this with us!

Planning for the fall

We just returned from a planning retreat with our AIA staff team and are super excited about the possibilities of changed lives in Michigan's athletic department this year! Last year Colby and I led a men's and women's core leaders group, and those individuals then went out and led their peers in discipleship groups.

This semester as we were thinking through a list of names of women who could be challenged into that core group, we came up with 14 women...enough for two different groups! That is 14 women who will potentially all lead up to 8-10 of their peers through Kingdom content this fall! If that happened the impact would be incredible! Will you dream and pray with us to that end?

There are some men returning whom Colby has been building into the past few years who are eager to make investments into the lives of their peers. Adam, a senior wrestler, brought teammate after teammate to our summer bible study, and it will be exciting to see how those guys respond when Adam leads them in the fall.



Top: Kids loving the lake on our planning retreat.
Right: Colby, Mikayla & Adam roasting marshmallows in our backyard.



Investments made

In July we traveled to Colorado for our bi-annual Cru/AIA staff conference. It was such a refreshing time for us as we heard from amazing speakers, engaged in corporate worship, and were able to spend time in community with our staff from around the country. I left energized, grateful for the privilege of serving God and helping to fulfill the Great Commission full-time with Athletes in Action.

An unexpected surprise from our time there came as God reminded us of past investments we made into our AIA staff. One of those reminders came as we tearfully said goodbye to dear friends of ours who are moving on from working with our ministry. Jon and Teresa were AIA staff that we trained back in 2003-4 at the University of Dayton. It was a joy to be a part of their lives those two years, watching the Lord grow and mature them as people and as ministers of the gospel. They went on to serve at the U of Arizona and then to direct our AIA Ultimate Training Camp (which Colby has been a part of the last two years). Literally hundreds of lives have been touched by John and Teresa's ministry, and it was humbling to be reminded by God that Colby and I had a small hand in their growth and development.

A second humbling moment came when we were beyond blessed to meet Sdu, our AIA National Campus Director in South Africa. For years we had heard about Sdu from Riley, an AIA staff woman we also had the privilege of training at the U of Dayton about ten years ago. Riley left UD called by God to serve with AIA in South Africa, and had an incredible ministry there. A number of years ago she met Sdu, a soccer player from a heartbreaking background of family tragedy and tribal witchcraft. After developing a friendship, through God's grace Sdu became a follower of Christ...and is now leading the ministry in her country! Amazing.

Through these experiences this summer, God reminded me that He is the One producing fruit in people's lives. We didn't know what would happen as we trained Jon & Teresa and Riley, but as we were faithful to live out our calling, He was faithful to bring about eternal change in the lives of so many. To Him be the glory!



Please pray...

- ...for the start of the semester here on campus. Pray for our Core leaders. Pray they would be strengthened in their faith and that God gives them favor as they ask their peers to join their discipleship groups.
- ...for freshmen. Pray God would lead us to those who are desiring to grow in their spiritual journey.
- ...for wisdom and clarity for us in choosing the content that will be taught this year.
- ...for our kids to seek the truth of Christ in their lives.
- ...for our first love to be Jesus.



We took a detour to the Badlands in SD on our way to see my family in MN...who knew they were so stunning?!

Year after year YOU are faithful to partner with us to reach these precious students...thank you! We are eternally grateful for you!!

Jackson and I hiked to the top of a big rock on our day off in CO...breathtaking!

