

# Athletes in Action

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"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened to know the hope to which He has called you," Ephesians 1:17-18

Happy Fall! I am writing this on the first day of fall, however the weather feels more like the end of July. Instead of cool fall breezes here in Ann Arbor, we are being hit with heat indexes of close to 100 degrees...boo! I shouldn't complain too much as I sit here on my couch typing in my air conditioned home, as all my kids are sweltering in their steamy classrooms. Yes, you heard that right ALL my kids are in their classrooms. For the first time in fourteen years, I haven't had a little buddy by my side all day long. Jairus, our youngest, is enrolled in full-day preschool this year and I must say it has been a very different fall for me so far. I swing from sadness to jubilation often as I settle into my new normal without kids. On the one hand, my heart grieves to think that I won't ever be able to recapture those days of holding tiny hands, cleaning up spills, and walks to the park. Then on the other hand, I look with expectation on how the Lord wants to shape this next season of life for me. More time to spend in His Word, new opportunities on campus, chances to volunteer in the schools, or just chaos-free grocery shopping :) As I write to you about this new season of life, I am smiling as I think about how so many of you have been with us through it all. You rejoiced with us fourteen years ago when we welcomed our first child into the world, and you have been traveling with our family ever since. And for that we are grateful. However long you have been with us, words cannot express how much we value your partnership in this journey. Thank you!



Our younger crew: Jaydon (5th), Moriah (3rd), Mia (1st), Jairus (pre-k)



Our middle schoolers: Mikayla (8th), Jackson (6th)

## Momentum!!

Wow! That's all I can say for how the start of the semester has gone so far here at Michigan. God has been exceeding our expectations for how things might look as we begin a new year of ministry! Where to even start...

You may remember that last year we switched up our method of how we do ministry on campus. Instead of building into student leaders with the hopes that they would then build into their peers, we made leading their peers a *requirement* for being in our Core group. We weren't sure how that would be received, but it worked! God showed up mightily in the lives of our Core group leaders and they had incredible ministries with their teammates and peers.

This year we threw the challenge out to our returning Core group leaders, as well others that had been raised up last year, and 11 of the 14 women and all 10 men agreed to come on as leaders this year! That is 7 more than we had last year!! That means this year at Michigan, there could be the potential of 21 different discipleship groups being led throughout the athletic department by these faithful men and women!! I wish you could see the excitement on these leaders' faces as they dream and pray about how God is going to use them to further the gospel here. Please pray along with us for a spirit of openness to the gospel and that many hearts would be spurred on to love and obey Jesus.



I am not great with numbers, so I couldn't tell you how many student athletes showed up to our kickoff party...but it was A LOT! Here is a picture of some of the many track athletes that came to hang out and make s'mores with us. The most encouraging thing about the party for me was the amount of freshmen that came. We don't have means to contact freshmen this early in the semester to invite them, but the upperclassmen did a great job taking care of the inviting for us!



This is Desmond, a sophomore on the track team. He shared at our first monthly gathering about what it was like for him to be in a discipleship group last year. God has now called him to be one of our Core group leaders this year...yay!

Please pray...

...for our 21 Core group leaders. Pray they would be protected from the Enemy as they lead this year. Pray God would strengthen and grow them.

...for the discipleship groups as they form this week. Pray as the invitations go out from the student leaders, that many would say yes!

...for us as we follow up with new students. Pray for open doors to share the gospel.

...for our meeting with the Michigan athletic director on Oct 3rd. Pray God would give us favor in his eyes.

...for our hearts to cling to Jesus as we lead.

...for our kids to follow Christ.



We love that our kids have godly Michigan student-athletes to look up to! Here is Mikayla with Adeja, one of our leaders on the volleyball team. Adeja is ready to reach out to her teammates!

*As we begin a new year on campus, we know we couldn't do it without YOU...thank you!*