

Athletes in Action

Colby and Sarah Keefer 4695 Sycamore Dr. Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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937.902.1767 colby.keefe@athletesinaction.org

937.681.6533 sarah.keefe@athletesinaction.org

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:23-4

Greetings! We hope this letter finds you well. As I sit and reflect on what has gone on here this past month, it is fitting to say that it is well with my soul. I feel like my life and emotions were all over the place the first six weeks or so of school, and I am just now feeling somewhat settled. This is the first fall in fourteen years that all of my kids are in school, and so far life has looked a lot different than what I had expected! Maybe some of you can relate to this, but all the endless time I thought I would have with my kids in school is just not there :) Somehow the hours get filled with the tasks of life and demands of ministry...so much so that I haven't even been able to check off one item from the "to-do" list I wrote myself this summer! In the midst of all of this, God has been so gracious to me, reminding me that I don't need to perform to please Him, and that His desire continues to be for me to walk with Him moment by moment. I have also experienced His graciousness by how He has allowed us to see Him moving here at the University of Michigan, especially through our Core leaders who have caught a vision for how they can be disciples who make disciples. One of our student leaders, Taylor, a senior on the soccer team, has not only been faithfully leading a discipleship group of girls each week, but has also been striking up spiritual conversations on campus. After one of our Core group bible studies where we discussed the fallen nature of humans from Romans 3, Taylor has been inspired to ask people if they think humans at their core are basically good or bad. She has talked to classmates, teammates, coaches and professors, wondering their thoughts on the topic and sharing the Bible's point of view. It was inspiring to hear her talk about this the other day as we met, and I was not only encouraged, but also challenged to think about how I can be a part of bringing biblical truth into everyday conversations, too. Thank you for helping us help these students! When we think about all that we have been blessed with by being on staff with Athletes in Action, it is *truly* well with our souls.

Training Table

Pictured below are some of the students who came to our first monthly Training Table event for up and coming leaders. We explored the biblical basis for discipleship that night, learning about how Jesus did ministry here on earth. I asked the students to write down one thing they took away from the training, and here is what two of them said: "Discipleship is a commitment and a responsibility not to be taken lightly,"... "The scripture is like our training. We need to know it to be able to teach it to others and create more disciples of Christ." God's heart for spiritual multiplication is taking root here, and it is so exciting to take a front row seat as He does His work in these precious students' lives!



New Life

At the beginning of August I received this text from Abby, one of our student leaders who had just graduated in May: "Just had a teammate text me this... 'I am thinking about joining Athletes in Action, do you know how I should do that?'"

In all my years of ministry, I am not sure anyone has ever asked how they can "join" AIA! So first of all, I was pumped up about that. But secondly, when Abby told me who the text was from, I got even more excited.

The text came from MacKenzi, a sophomore on the volleyball team. I hadn't officially met MacKenzi, but I would often see her last year as she would pop into the room my Core leaders were meeting in to drop off car keys to a teammate. Every time she came in, my spirit was drawn to talk to her, but she would pop out of the room just as quickly as she came in.

So, you can imagine my excitement when I learned that it was that "car key" girl who was inquiring about joining AIA. Needless to say, I sent a text to MacKenzi and a week later we were sitting down over coffee. She told me she had been on a journey the past couple of months centered on making some changes in her life. One of the first steps she had taken on that journey was to google "Christian churches in Ann Arbor" (who does that??). Thankfully a really solid church came up which she began attending by herself back in April.

With MacKenzi being so new to checking out Christianity, my sense through our conversation back in August was that she hadn't quite grasped the gospel, however it was evident that her desire to grow in her spiritual journey was strong. As I told her about how she could do that through AIA, she was quite determined to be a part of things and wanted me to let her know when and how she could get involved in a discipleship group when classes started.

Mid-September MacKenzi walked through the doors of the discipleship group her teammate Adeja was leading. Not long after that I set up a time to meet with her again to hear how it was going and to prayerfully have to chance to clearly communicate the gospel with her. God was faithful, and when we met we were able to walk through the Knowing God Personally booklet, and she really gets it! I can't tell you what happened in her life between when we met in August and when we met in September other than God was working, revealing Himself to her. She now understands and sees her need for a Savior and is trusting in Him for the salvation of her soul...and running hard after Him! She has even talked about wanting to take over leadership of the volleyball discipleship group when her teammate Adeja graduates in May. I can't wait to see how God is going to work in and through MacKenzi's life. All glory to God for how He pursues and draws hearts toward Himself!



Please pray...

...for the fourteen different discipleship groups that our Core students are leading each week. Pray that as God's Word goes forth, lives would be changed for His glory.

...for MacKenzi and other new believers here. Pray their hearts would be good soil for the gospel to take root, grow and produce fruit.

...for us to be able to reach out to freshmen. Pray specifically for a freshmen outreach we are having on Nov 19th.

...for wisdom for Colby as he continues to juggle the demands of ministry and seminary.

...for our love for Christ to grow ever deeper.



Jackson is running cross country in middle school and has been loving it! He was super encouraged that a few of the Michigan runners came to watch him race last week. Mikayla turned 14 this month. Where has the time gone??

You are such a big part of what is going on here at the U of Michigan! We are eternally grateful for the support you give us!