

# Athletes in Action

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“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Psalm 107:1

Happy Thanksgiving! You are most likely receiving this letter after you have sat down with friends and family over the Thanksgiving table. We hope you had a memorable time over the holiday and were able to reflect on God’s blessings in your life. As I sit down to write this letter, my heart is full thinking about the ways God is moving in my life and in the lives of the students...and I truly feel blessed. God has been teaching me about gratefulness lately, and how being grateful really is key to experiencing Him more fully. This letter is my attempt to give you a small window into my heart of gratitude for what God has been doing here. Read on knowing our God truly is faithful...

## Operation Christmas Child

Once again this year we invited the Michigan student-athletes to participate in packing shoeboxes full of gifts for kids around the world as we partnered with Operation Christmas Child. It was a blessing to see the gym full of students joyfully wrapping their boxes as they sipped on hot chocolate and listened to Christmas music. We are happy to report that they packed 171 shoeboxes



To the left: One of the best things about the night is that many students who don’t usually come to our events are in attendance. We love being able to give them exposure to AIA. Here are some members of the women’s rowing team. Above: Our kids LOVE to come to the wrapping party each year!

## Weekend to Remember

Earlier this month Colby and I were able to get away to a Family Life Weekend to Remember marriage conference... and it was fantastic! It was a much needed time to focus on our marriage and we are walking away a stronger couple because of it. As our ministry partners, you receive a significant discount if you would like to attend a weekend. For information go to: [www.familylifeministries.org/weekend-to-remember/](http://www.familylifeministries.org/weekend-to-remember/)



## Freshmen!

Last week we hosted a dinner for freshmen student-athletes in the hopes that they would feel valued by us and also be able to meet other freshmen who are spiritually interested. It was such a great night! Students shared about the ups and downs of freshman year and found camaraderie in knowing they were not the only ones experiencing all those feelings :) It was very encouraging to hear a few of them say that their involvement in AIA has been the best part of their freshman year so far. All glory to God for that!



## Power in the Word

God promises that His Word will not return void...meaning as His Word goes forth, He will produce fruit in people's lives because of it. We are definitely privileged to be able to watch some of the Lord's work up close as we minister to these students. The other day in our Core group we were studying Ephesians 2 where Paul talks about the blood of Christ making peace among races. As we discussed that further one girl said, "Wow, I never knew the blood of Jesus did so much! It did so much more than just save me." I wish you could have seen the wonder in her eyes as God used His Word to reveal this deeper truth to her.

Another example of this is from Adam, a Core leader in Colby's group. He has been reaching out to his teammates for a few years now and finally his teammate/roommate decided to come to Adam's discipleship group this semester. This teammate is so curious about God's Word and the ways it is discussed in the group...so much so that he often now strikes up conversations with Adams about the Bible as they interact in their apartment.

Will you please pray along with us that as the discipleship groups study the book of Mark this semester that God will make Himself known to them through those pages? What an incredible blessing to come alongside these students as they dig into God's Word!



We are thankful that our students have a heart to SERVE. Here they are in Detroit last weekend packing Thanksgiving food boxes for local families.



Our kids love frosting cookies for Operation Christmas Child!

Please pray...

...for our students as they study the book of Mark this semester. Pray God would reveal Himself to them and teach them truth from His Word.

...for the freshmen involved in our ministry. Pray they would stay strong in their faith amidst the temptations around them.

...for the children around the world receiving Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes of gifts. Pray kids would come to know Jesus through that outreach.

...for safe and successful surgeries for Sarah on her gums Dec 12th, and the extraction of Mikayla's wisdom teeth on Dec 21st.

...for our family to keep our eyes on Jesus during the Christmas season.

*This letter of Thanksgiving and blessing would not be complete without expressing our thanks to YOU, our faithful partners. God bless you!!*