

Athletes in Action

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“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Hello again! As I type this it is 8:30 at night, my littles are tucked away in bed, our home is quiet, and I am on the deck enjoying a perfect 79 degree evening. All around me the birds are happily singing and I can see the sun going down through the trees...life is good. I am thankful for this moment of peace and tranquility, especially after a somewhat tumultuous month health-wise for me. Poor Colby...he feels like he has been nursing me back to health and taking care of the kiddos practically the whole month! It started out with a surgery I had on my gums that took me out for about a week. Then after recouping from that, I got some sort of sickness that took me out for another week! I tell you what, I don't think I've ever been more thankful for the gift of good health! Hopefully the road you have been traveling this month has been a bit smoother than mine. But even if your road has been more bumpy, be encouraged with the truth that we have a Driver that is in control. I take such great comfort in knowing that our loving heavenly Father sees us and is working His wonderful plan out in our all of our lives, no matter what our circumstances and no matter how our oftentimes wavering faith responds to those circumstances. Thankful to be on this journey with you!

Vendji!

You may remember that in our follow up newsletter about the South Africa trip I wrote about Vendji, one of the students at the University of Western Cape that God raised up to lead the AIA movement there. She was the one that had been praying the morning we met her, asking God to help her know how to disciple girls on her netball team.

Well long story short, after we left South Africa an AIA team from Michigan State came to that university and began to train Vendji in ministry skills. One of the students had the dream of bringing Vendji over to the U.S. to attend one of our AIA Ultimate Training Camps (UTC) this summer...and they made that dream work!

So, a few weeks back the kids and I picked Vendji up at the Detroit airport and hosted her for a few days in our home before she headed to Colorado for the UTC! I can't tell you enough what a blessing it was to have her here with us! To hear more about her love for the Lord and her desire to be used by Him to impact her campus was so encouraging!

No doubt her life will be eternally impacted by attending the UTC, and I can't wait to hear from her about the things she learned there. All the glory to God for making all of this happen!



Some of the Michigan girls who went on the South Africa trip came over one night to see their African friend! We had a ton of fun together and were even able to introduce Vendji to s'mores...yum!



We love having students over to our house...and so do our kids! Pictured here are Shaina, John, Katherine and MacKenzi, a few of the students who we are building into this summer. Looking at their faces brings me joy knowing how God is transforming their lives. It truly is a privilege to have a front-row seat to these students' growth!



We mentioned that Vendji attended an AIA Ultimate Training Camp in Colorado. Well as you receive this, Colby will be hard at work staffing our UTC in Minneapolis. At the UTC, over 150 student-athletes will be coming together to learn about how to worship God through sport, which really transcends into all of life. It is an incredible week where God changes lives, and we look forward to updating you on in next month. If you happen to live in the Twin Cities area, give Colby a call and go see what it is all about!

Please pray...

...for Vendji as she goes back to South Africa to be used by God there. Pray that many students at the University of Western Cape would hear the gospel and begin to serve the Lord.

...for our ministry to the student-athletes at Michigan during this spring/summer term. Pray that many would choose to invest their summer in growing in their faith.

...for wisdom in parenting our children and pointing them toward Jesus.

...for God's protection on our marriage, family and walks with Christ.



Can I just say how proud I am of this man?? Colby graduated this month with honors from his seminary program with a master's degree in intercultural and urban studies. Many of you have prayed us through the past three years, asking God to give Colby wisdom and strength to

complete the degree while not only leading our AIA campus ministry, but our home, as well. It has been a long process, but we celebrate God's goodness in getting this done!

Thank you what you are doing to make eternal investments in the lives of college students here and around the world! May God bless you in your giving!