

Athletes in Action

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“See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” |isaiah 43:19

Happy summer! Well, school has been out for our kids for about a week now, and I have definitely noticed a jump in the volume level in our home! For some of our kids the only volume they know is LOUD :) Already I have been finding myself at the end of my rope breaking up fights, trying to correct mean words, and listening to how “there’s noting to do”. Exhausting. The controller in me wants to fix everything and somehow make my kids be nice to each other and to think creatively about how to spend their time. But, God has been in the process of teaching me that changing my kids’ hearts and bringing lasting change is actually His job. I’ve been reading a book called “Parenting” by Paul David Tripp (I highly recommend it to all the parents out there!), and it kind of has been revolutionary in my parenting life. In it Tripp says, “...successful parenting is not about achieving goals (that you have no power to produce) but about being a usable and faithful tool in the hands of the One who alone is able to produce good things in your children”. This idea is bringing so much refreshment to me, as I begin to understand that I don’t have to feel responsible for molding and shaping my kids...phew! My job is to be a willing participant in what God is already doing in their little lives. And this principle extends to our ministry to the students on campus, as well. Colby and I cannot *make* anyone walk with Christ and submit their lives to Him. That is a heart level issue that only God can move into. We are simply vessels He is working through. So we move forward in dependence that God will bring change as we trust Him to do so. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

MACC Partnership

If you have been on our ministry team for a while, you know that we have a partnership with Mack Avenue Community Church in Detroit. For the past three years we have been sending Michigan student-athletes to serve in their community development organization which seeks the holistic revitalization of Detroit’s 48214 zip code block by block, neighbor by neighbor.

This spring students have been serving by refereeing at the youth soccer program, doing yard work in neighborhoods, and helping staff the grand opening of MACC’s new small business in the area. Roland, one of our students on the track team, is even doing an internship there this summer! We love that our students are getting exposed to God’s heart for the underprivileged and hope that they would seek ways to be involved in community transformation in the future.



A big shout out goes to Kali, standing behind the table in the picture above. She has been our faithful student leader to head up our MACC partnership this year...yay!

Summer Assignment—Ultimate Training Camp

One of the roles I (Colby) play for AIA is to help coordinate our interns at the Ultimate Training Camp (UTC) www.ultimatetrainingcamp.com. The UTC has four locations for college student-athletes to attend and experience environments where God will change lives as they discover how to live and compete from a Biblical perspective. The UTC interns that I have the privilege to walk alongside are college student-athletes who have seen God use the UTC to impact their lives in the past and desire to come back to camp to receive ministry training so they can invest in others. We had roughly 75 interns this summer and I worked closely with about 28 of them at the UTC TC (Twin Cities).

One intern I particularly enjoyed was T, a football player at the University of Minnesota who gave his life to Christ just over a year ago. He came to intern at the UTC TC because God had done a work in his life the previous summer and he wanted to be invested in and prepared to lead on his campus spiritually in the fall. As we talked leading up to the UTC, T asked me to pray for him to overcome his fear of initiating conversations with others about God. I prayed for him in the weeks leading up to the UTC and we met at the UTC to discuss how he might share his faith with others.

T did a great job absorbing all the training we give the interns (testimony, sharing their faith, Holy Spirit, spiritual multiplication, prayer, oneness) and when the campers arrived (134 college student-athletes at the UTC TC), T was given a group of 4 campers to lead. He shared his testimony with them the first night and guided them through discussion of the principles we teach each day. During the week, he overcame his fears of initiating spiritual conversations, via God's strength, and met with and shared the good news of Jesus Christ with all four of the campers in his group, Praise God!

In total at the UTC TC, God moved and 26 campers trusted in Christ as Savior and Lord. It was a tremendous time of watching God move in the lives of student-athletes. After the UTC, T texted me to let me know he had just gotten baptized in his church. Praise God for His work in raising up college students who desire to walk faithfully and invest in others for God's glory!



Please pray...

...for students here to continue to catch a vision for serving God and engaging in under-resourced communities.

...for our ministry to the student-athletes at Michigan as many new freshman begin to arrive during summer! Pray for opportunities to connect with them and share with them about Jesus.

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

...for God's protection on our marriage, family and walks with Christ, and also for rest, fun and deep connection during family vacations.



We truly appreciate all you are doing to further the gospel here at the University of Michigan and beyond! May God richly bless you and the ones you love.

Pictures: From Left, Colby with UTC TC Director and U Wisconsin staff, Tyler Turner. Right, T with arms raised in praise. And above, Sarah and the kids enjoying a lake day as summer is here...yay!