

Athletes in Action

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“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them... The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”

1 John 2:15, 17

Greetings from our family to yours! I just love the month of July. For us it brings a little down time as we spend a week vacationing with both sides of our families. The first week of July found us Up North in a house full of 23 people on Lake Michigan. It was there that we made magical memories with Colby's family watching the 12 grandkids run around like crazy people from the house to the lake and back again. Those times are treasures to us as our kids build friendships with their cousins and create memories that will last a lifetime. Next week we travel to Minnesota and get to repeat the whole adventure with my family. We are indeed so blessed to be in the families God has placed us in — with people so loving, caring and supportive of us. While we recognize our families in that way, we also recognize that YOU play a role like that in our lives, as well. Many of you have been on this Athletes in Action journey with us for years and years praying for, encouraging and financially blessing us in so many ways. You have become like family. Thank you for all you have done for us!

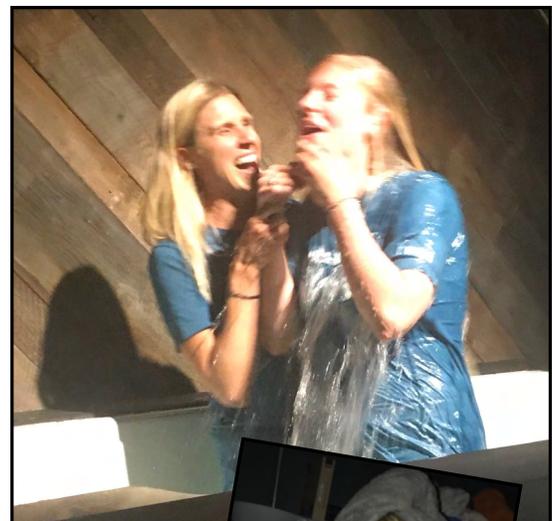
A Fun Surprise

“I have a question for you, but I am kind of nervous to ask it,” MacKenzi, a rising junior on the volleyball team, said to me last month. “Will you baptize me?”

MacKenzi has been one of my favorite life transformation stories in the past few years. A little over a year ago she wanted to make a change in her life, googled “Christian churches in Ann Arbor” and started going to one all on her own. God has so obviously grabbed a hold of her heart and she has since placed her faith in Christ, serves in that church, came with us to South Africa over spring break, and has a huge desire to reach out to her teammates with the gospel.

In response to her question about baptism, of course I said a resounding YES! So last month, in front of some of her friends, family and teammates, we entered into the baptismal tank at her church and she made her faith public in the waters of baptism...yay!

It truly is a privilege to come alongside these students as they begin to understand how to walk with Jesus. It's people like MacKenzi that remind me that we have the best job in the world!



Left: MacKenzi and I at a recent wedding. Right: Beaming for Jesus after the baptism :)



This past month we were delighted to attend the weddings of two of our former student leaders. Abby and Sarah both married men of high character and faith, and it was a joy to be there to celebrate with them.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul said to entrust the things that were heard from him to faithful people who will be able to teach others, as well. Abby and Sarah are two of those faithful people who we poured into for each of their four years at Michigan. We are excited to see the fruit that will come from their lives as they seek to invest in others in this new phase of life.



Throughout the summer students have been faithfully coming to our weekly gatherings. We are currently studying 1 John...so good to get in God's Word together!

"Hi Sarah, just wanted to give you a quick update. My internship is going well-I'm learning lots and I am super excited about my project, but most importantly today I got to share my testimony with my Hindu and Muslim roommates and we've had some really amazing conversations about religion. Just praising God for this opportunity and wanted to share!"

This is a message I received across the miles from Kali, one of our student leaders, who is doing an internship for her major in Bangladesh for 9 weeks this summer. SO excited to hear about her boldness for Christ!

Please pray...

- ...for MacKenzi as she continues to grow in her new faith. Pray for protection from the Enemy and that God would give her the courage to stand up for Christ among her peers.
- ...for Abby and Sarah as they begin their married lives.
- ...for Kali as she reaches out with the love of Christ to the Muslim and Hindu friends she is making.
- ...for the Word of God to penetrate deep down into these students' lives.
- ...for rest this month for us — physically, mentally and spiritually.



This letter would not be complete without acknowledging our gratefulness to you and all you do for us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God bless!

Our youngest disciples 