

Athletes in Action

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“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

~Jesus from Mark 16:15

Hello again! In just a few short weeks thousands of students will flock once more to Ann Arbor to begin fall classes at the University of Michigan. This is always an exciting time for us as we dream about what God might do on the campus this year. Just last night I was meeting with Lauren, a sophomore gymnast, at a local coffee shop and invited her to be a part of our core group of leaders this fall. Being someone who wants to dive deeper into community with other Christians and be used by God in other people’s lives, she was super encouraged to be asked to consider this leadership opportunity. Before classes start we will challenge around 20 student athletes like Lauren to join us in trusting God to see a spiritual movement take place in the athletic department. We dream of a day when there will be a Christ follower on every team so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus. Thank you for trusting God with us in that. Let’s wrestle in prayer together for the hearts and minds of these precious students!

South African Summer

“I knew it was going to be good, but I never imagined it would be that good.” This is what I overheard Nate, a recently graduated senior on the rugby team, say to another student on campus the other night.

Nate was talking about his experience on the AIA South Africa Summer Project that he attended in July. You may remember that a group of us from Michigan took a spring break trip to South Africa in March. Well, Nate’s summer trip followed on the heels of the work God started over spring break and I can’t tell you how encouraging it was to hear of the work God is continuing to do on that campus in Cape Town.

Students at the University of Western Cape are coming to know Christ, and it seems like God might be moving the hearts of five of them to join AIA as interns or full-time staff...yay! That is the goal of these trips we take there — to raise up nationals who will do the work of the ministry in their own country. Go God!

And, not only is it exciting to see what God did in the South African’s hearts, but it was encouraging for us to hear how Nate’s heart was impacted through sharing the gospel and experiencing Christian community in South African culture! Nate starts a job with an accounting company in Detroit this month and we look forward to hearing how God uses him there to make an impact for the Kingdom.



Above: Nate sharing his testimony with local children.

Below: Getting to know South African athletes.



New Laborer Raised Up!

You may recognize the girl pictured to the right with me. Her name is Nicky and she has appeared in many of our past newsletters as she was a dear student who came to know Christ through her time with AIA at Michigan. Nicky grew leaps and bounds her last two years of college and sensed God leading her to join the staff of Athletes in Action...yay!

After completing an initial training with Cru (AIA's parent ministry), Nicky has been hard at work trusting God to provide the financial support she needs to begin the work of the ministry on campus.

Here's what Nicky had to say in an email to me a few months back: *"God really has been blessing the ministry partner development (MPD) process and continues to put people in my path who are equally as excited and encouraged about Cru's ministry. My support appointments over the past two weeks have been SO encouraging. Lots of laughs, a few tears, and a lot of passion to see the lost saved and Jesus' name lifted high. My intimate time with the Lord has been so sweet and he continues to affirm his call to ministry over and over again. It is so clear that he saved me for this purpose, to minister to the broken and lost in college athletics. The same place where I met Jesus for the first time. Finally, please keep the date September 1st in your prayers. I would love to be fully funded by September 1st so that I can start ministering on campus when school starts."*



We are happy to report the Lord has been so gracious to Nicky and she is currently at 86% of her financial support goal! Please pray along with us for the remaining support to come in by September 1st!



To the left is sweet Adeja and I. Adeja has been involved in our ministry since her freshman year and is now traveling to Finland to play volleyball professionally. Her heart is to find ways to continue to be involved in Christian community and reach out to her Finnish teammates with the gospel. So fun!



We are sad to say goodbye to summer:(Great memories at the lake, with our families, and of course, lots of ice cream!

Please pray...

...for Nate as he starts his new job in Detroit. Pray for him to be salt and light there.

...for God's continued blessing on the University of Western Cape in South Africa. Pray a movement of God would begin there.

...for Nicky's financial support to be raised by 9/1.

...for Adeja as she travels to Finland. Pray she can find Christian community and reach out to her teammates with the gospel.

...for our outreach to the freshmen athletes.

...for wisdom as we gather our core leaders and begin discipleship groups in September.

We are eternally grateful for your partnership in allowing us to bring the gospel to the university campus. May God's richest blessing be upon you in the giving of your prayers and finances!