

Athletes in Action

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“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:4-5

Winter greetings from our home to yours! If you live in the mid-west you know that this has been the winter of snow days for the kids. I've kind of lost count, but since January I think there have been 8 days the kids have missed school because of the weather. And when you add in the MLK and President's Day holidays, my kids are now waking up and asking if they have school that day. Not going is kind of the norm. Needless to say there has been quite a bit of chaos around our house with the kids and I experiencing several cases of cabin fever. And for this girl who thrives on routine...there just hasn't been one. The lack of routine has made it difficult for me to find space to text students and get to campus to meet them. And my “woe is me” self tends to come out as I see Colby freely going to campus while I bust out another board game to play with the kids while they are home yet again. But God has been teaching me this month that He really doesn't need me to accomplish the work He wants to do in these students' lives. He can actually do it without me...fancy that :) As I sit with my core leader women each Monday night, my heart is encouraged again and again by the stories they are sharing about what is going on not only in their discipleship groups, but on their teams, as well. Natalie, a senior on the softball team, shared a few weeks back that for the first time since she has been on Michigan's team the entire team is meeting in the outfield to pray before each game. And Lauren, a sophomore on the gymnastics team, told us that this past weekend she led the whole team, coaches and all, as they prayed for a sick friend of the program. She marveled at everyone's willingness to participate, as they also have never all prayed together. These two stories remind me that God is continually at work and that people really are spiritually open. Who knows how little seeds being planted along the way will be grown by the Lord. Please join us in praying for hearts to be open to the gospel in Michigan's athletic department. It is such a privilege to partner with you on mission here!

Faithfulness on the Field

There is so much to be said about the women in this picture. God has been on the move in each of their lives in mighty ways during their years on Michigan's softball team.

Morgan has been one of our core leaders for the past two years, leading these other three faithfully in God's truth. When asked last year who could be a potential core leader from her group, Morgan suggested Natalie. And after some loving encouragement, Natalie stepped out in faith and has started leading her team's discipleship group each week.

Faith and Mackenzie are seniors who were somewhat involved their freshman years, but who didn't come around much their sophomore and junior years. I never quite know what to do with students who kind of disappear from our ministry, but this fall I decided to see if both of them wanted to grab coffee.

They said yes and what I heard from both Faith and Mackenzie when we met was that they were



Natalie, Faith, Mackenzie, Morgan

tired of living the typical college lifestyle and that they knew there was more to life than what they were experiencing. They wanted the Lord.

God has used this experience in my life to remind me to never give up on a student. The Holy Spirit is working in lives even when I can't see it!

Winter Retreat 2019

The last weekend in January we took a group of Michigan athletes to Indy to join around 300 other student-athletes from around the region at our annual AIA Winter Retreat. While there the students were challenged by talks from God's Word, encouraged by fellowship in small groups, and energized by amazing worship! Here is what one of our students had to say about her time there...

"Winter retreat was a great opportunity for me to get out of my routine and evaluate what steps God wants me to take next. I benefited from being in fellowship with other students athletes who had different but relatable experiences. I got to see how my roommates were making an impact on their campuses, and it inspired me to do the same. In my small group, we were able to build off of each other as we grappled with the concepts of Every heart, Every part, Every nation. I have a collection of notes that I've been able to take back to school, share with my

discipleship group, and apply to my life. Specifically, I was challenged to be patient and trust God's timing. We discussed the story of Abraham becoming impatient and unsure if God would fulfill his promise. The confidence we can have in God's plan for our lives was something I needed to hear again at this moment in my life. I would find it hard to imagine anyone left winter retreat without a take away that was specific to them. I would encourage all of my friends to come back with me next year!" ~Morgan, softball senior



Our group from Michigan who went to the Winter Retreat
Matt, Reilly, Jameson, Colby, Sarah, Morgan



Being in a room with 300 college students as they worship God is an electrifying experience! We were so grateful to be led by the amazing band Run51.

Please pray...

...for our student core leaders as they lead their peers through the Psalms and the book of Ruth this semester. Pray for wisdom and protection.

...for new students to check out AIA as invitations go out to join in.

...for our spring break trip to Los Angeles March 2-10.

Pray for our hearts to be open to the Lord's teaching, for God to use us to be a blessing to others, and for safety as we venture into the neighborhoods of LA.

...for wisdom and refreshment for Colby as he leads the spring break trip.

...for our kids' hearts to be drawn closer to the Lord.



Moriah and I were able to sneak away from the cold temps for a weekend on a tenth birthday trip to Florida to visit my parents...such a blessing to be away with her. Colby held it together with the kids in the snow!



We hope you know how much we appreciate ALL you do for us. Lives are being changed eternally here, and you are a huge part of that! May God bless you richly in the giving of your prayers and finances!