



COLBY AND SARAH KEEFER
4695 SYCAMORE DR. YPSILANTI, MI 48197

COLBY—(937) 902-1767
COLBY.KEEFER@ATHLETESINACTION.ORG

SARAH— (937) 681-6533
SARAH.KEEFER@ATHLETESINACTION.ORG

GIVE.CRU.ORG/0507765

June 2024 Newsletter

“I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.”

Psalm 16:8

Happy hot summer from Ann Arbor! The temps are high and the kids and I look forward to finding a pocket of time to be able to drive the hour north to jump in grandma and grandpa’s lake! Colby is away for two weeks with AIA in Central Asia, so I am holding the fort down here, juggling the kids’ schedules and keeping things going on campus. There are student-athletes coming and going from Ann Arbor all summer, and we are providing a space for weekly bible studies, as well as one-on-one meet ups. God is reminding me this summer about the needs these young people have as they give effort in pursuing Him. Here are two texts I received this week from women involved in the ministry at Michigan:

“Hi Sarah, I just wanted to reach out and see how everything is going with you? I was also curious if you had time later this week to talk about a devotional I could do throughout the summer. I feel like I hit a wall since moving home and want to get into a routine!”

“Hi Sarah! I hope your summer is off to a great start! Can’t wait to be back with AIA in the fall! I am reaching out to see if you have any suggestions for how to not turn away from God during grief. My aunt is in critical condition and I’m really struggling with the idea of something so bad happening to such a good person. Any guidance is appreciated.”

Such precious sentiments from two sweet souls. It truly is a privilege to walk alongside these students, pointing them to Jesus and loving them well. Thank you for all you do to make that possible for us to do on a full-time basis. We appreciate you!



The Central Asia team: Kelsey (Michigan field hockey), Jayne (Wisconsin AIA staff), Zach & Colby (Michigan AIA staff), Colton (Michigan cc/track)

Like I mentioned above, Colby is away for two weeks in a predominantly Muslim country. They are there to give encouragement and support to our national staff in that country, as well as to be a part of various humanitarian aid projects.

I have been using an app to communicate with him this week. Today as I have texted with him, he said they had been out visiting people in villages, sitting around tables of food and talking. Tomorrow they are doing the same with Afghani refugees, some who are following Christ and others who aren’t. He shared that talking with the few believers over there has been hugely impactful to him and his team, as those brothers and sisters are walking by faith in some really tough circumstances.

Next month we will devote our entire newsletter to sharing about his experiences there!

Ultimate Training Camp

If you have been a part of our ministry for any amount of time, you have heard us talk about the Ultimate Training Camp (UTC). The UTC is a weeklong high intensity training camp where college athletes find freedom and purpose through the integration of God, life, and sport.

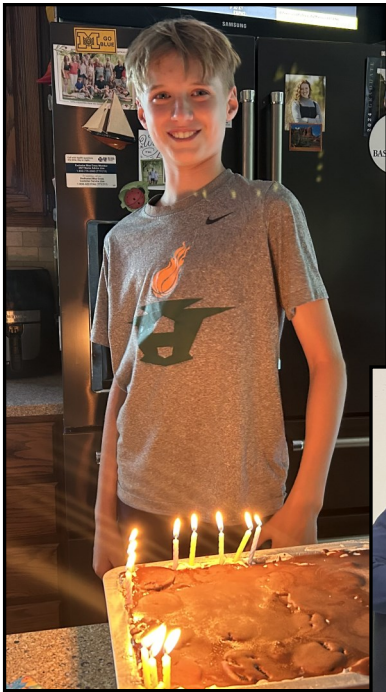
Alyssa, a rising junior on the women's basketball team took a step of faith to be the lone Michigan attendee at the UTC Colorado last month. She had an AMAZING experience there, writing this in her Instagram post about it:

"Thank you UTC for the opportunity to fully surrender my life to Christ with a complete change in heart posture. It is so easy to idolize the sport we play without giving gratitude to the One who gave us our ability. His forgiveness, acceptance, and love taught me that my identity does not lie within my sport. It has been a blessing to go through times of challenge and suffering with so many amazing people. Thank you to everyone who made my heart so full."

We look forward to seeing how God will use Alyssa back at Michigan to touch other people's lives with the love and freedom she experienced at the UTC!



Participants at the UTC learn 5 principles of athletic competition and then practice those principles in a 20 hour long competition at the end of the week. The very last event is to run up "Golgotha" with a 2x4 on your back symbolizing Jesus journey to the cross for you. Such a powerful moment for these young athletes!



Our youngest kiddo, Jairus, turned 11 last month



Left: Our 9th grader, Moriah, recently played one of Cinderella's step sisters in her school play. So fun!



Below: We are beyond proud of Jackson, graduating from High School with high honors. He is heading to Kalamazoo College in the fall to study business and play basketball.



You are so integral to the ministry here! May God bless you in the giving of your prayers & finances!

Please pray...

...for Colby and the team in Central Asia. Pray for God to use them to open up doors for more ministry in that country. Pray for safe travel and a smooth re-entry into life as they return on June 24th.

...for Alyssa and the other 150+ participants who were at the UTC Colorado. Pray God's protection over them and the growth they made in Him.

...for students to grow in the Lord as we open God's Word together this summer in our bible studies.

...for a restful few weeks of vacation for our family in July.