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“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Matthew 9:36-38

Hello again from the Keefer’s! It’s “go-time” here in campus ministry and things are about to get crazy in the next few weeks. This will be the 15th fall that we have kicked off ministry at the University of Michigan, and along with trusting God to build a spiritual movement among the Wolverines, we are also being tasked by Athletes in Action to serve in the same fashion this year at Eastern Michigan University, taking the reins of ministry on from our mentors, Bruce and Diane. EMU is just a few miles from our house, as the two campuses are located very close to each other, so thankfully we won’t need to be spending hours on the road to make this happen! In all honesty, it has been a bit overwhelming these past few months thinking and praying about what it will look like to take on ministry on both campuses. What kind of bandwidth will we have to sustain two campuses? How will the increase in responsibility effect the margin we have in our life to balance family and ministry?

Throughout the summer, God has been faithful to ease a bit of that anxiety in two ways. First of all, He has reminded us that we are not alone in reaching out on these campuses. He has raised up some incredible student leaders at both Eastern and at Michigan, some of whom have transferred in this summer from campuses where they were AIA student leaders. Secondly, Colby has had some great inroads with EMU football this past month, leading chapels and getting to know the guys on the team. Through those interactions, he has been able to meet some of the coaches and players from other sports teams, as well. The openness to AIA has been amazing, and quite frankly a bit refreshing compared to the barriers we sometimes encounter at Michigan. We are excited to see what God will do in the lives of the student athletes there as we trust Him for results only He can produce. Thank you for being in this with us in this new adventure! We covet your prayers as we get to work on both of these campuses!

Football opportunities

This fall, along with his other responsibilities on campus, Colby is stepping into the role of chaplain for the EMU football team. The doors for ministry there are wide open and it has been great for him to be at practices, meals and team chapels.

Much of ministry in a space like that comes from just being around the guys so they can feel comfortable with a familiar face. It’s been encouraging to watch Colby come home from interactions with the guys full of excitement and hope for future ministry! Striking up conversations over preseason lunches and being able to hear parts of the players’ life stories led Colby to be able to share his own testimony of faith with a handful of the guys. Go God!



Some of the football guys involved: Greg (UM) & Quinn, Chase, Ryan and Gabe (all from EMU)

Meeting Freshmen

Getting freshmen involved in their first few weeks on campus is a high priority of ours. Finding them, on the other hand, is not always easy!

That is why we were SO grateful to be invited to EMU's all-freshmen student-athlete orientation this week! We were able to host a table with giveaways, as well as opportunities for freshmen to sign up for more information.

We had had some INCREDIBLE upperclassmen leaders at our table helping us! They got to work steering freshmen toward our table and striking up friendly conversations. As a result, we have over 30 EMU freshmen to follow up with who are interested in AIA!



We love to be able to support these precious students as they compete! Here we are with Kelsey, a sophomore on the field hockey team, at her recent game. Kelsey traveled with Colby to Central Asia in June and is going to be one of our core leaders this year. She is eager to reach out to her team with Christ's love!

This past week we hosted 26 student athletes from both universities in our home to invite and challenge them to be AIA leaders on their respective campuses.

Seeing their excitement for the year and hearts bent toward the Lord was truly encouraging and inspiring! We spent some time breaking off into groups to pray for our campuses. Look how sweet this group of girls were to pray hand-in-hand for God to move in and through them to spread His Word! May God use these willing young servants of His to shine His light in dark places!

Please pray...

...for our outreach to freshmen. Pray they can find us through their peers, our meetings with their teams, and via social media. Pray many will experience God through the community they find in AIA.

...for our student leaders at UM and EMU. Pray they would be protected from spiritual attack as they seek to be used by God.

...for students to join the many discipleship groups that will be formed in the next few weeks. Pray for the organization of all the groups, as that can sometimes feel chaotic!

...for wisdom and stamina for us as we trust God to run ministries on two campuses this year.

...for our kids to know and love Christ.

Words cannot express how much we appreciate your partnership in the gospel! May God bless you richly!



Back to school for the Keefer kids...Moriah (10th), Mia (7th), Jairus (5th) & Jaydon (12th). Mikayla & Jackson in college!