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

Greetings from our home to yours! This morning as I was carving out time for my devotions, I came across this quote by theologian Fredrick Buechner, “The place God calls you to is the place your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” I had to stop and think about that for a minute... what brings me “deep gladness”? The answer to that question quickly flooded my heart and it had to do with connecting with people, helping them know they are valuable and loved, and seeing them grasp and take hold of life-changing gospel truths. To be able to sit across a table from a college student (like I did just yesterday), ask her questions about her life, see the tenderness in her eyes as she pours out her thoughts/fears/insecurities, and point her to Jesus, the Lover of her soul, brings deep and lasting gladness in my life. And when I remember what Jesus said regarding people being harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd, I am convinced the world’s “deep hunger” stems from a desire to find *life* apart from the One who is the Source of all life. So as I sit and reflect today on the place God has called me to these past 25+ years with campus ministry, I am grateful that He continues to stir in me deep gladness in being able to give young people the truth and hope of Christ as they wrestle with where their identity and purpose lie. Thank you for being on this journey with us. You truly are making a difference in so many lives.



AIA Crossover Event

This month we tried something new. We wondered what would happen if we invited AIA students from various campuses in lower Michigan to gather together for an evening of food and fellowship.

The result was captured in this picture with over 80 student athletes from more than 12 campuses coming together at the home of our MSU AIA staff. The feel of the evening was electric as students got to know each other and share about what God was doing in their lives and on their campus. And it was so encouraging for them to know that there were others across the state who were also living out their faith!



Colby and I were happy to represent 2 of those campuses at the event! Also pictured is Maddy from Michigan sharing with the crowd.

Transforming Lives

Here's a text I received a few weeks ago from Maddy, one of our student leaders on Michigan's rowing team: "Had a hard day yesterday but heart was filled by everyone at d group. Thank you for giving me the opportunity."

The d group Maddy is talking about is the weekly discipleship group that she leads with her teammates. Currently there are an astounding 27 of these weekly groups taking place at EMU and UM, led by student leaders that Colby and I train weekly. Go God!

We have the leaders track their group's attendance so we can have a sense of what is going on on these campuses. A few weeks back I was looking through the attendance records and stopped glancing down the column when I saw a name I recognized.

Carla, a senior on the rowing team, was one of the international students who came to our house last year when we hosted an early Thanksgiving meal for international student athletes. Her arrival at our house that night was the first time we had ever met her and there hasn't been an occasion to see her since. So noticing that Carla was a regular attender in Maddy's discipleship group this semester was a bit of a surprise :)

Wanting to know more of her story, I texted Carla to see if she might be up for getting together on campus. Because of our shared connection of being in our home, she said yes right away and we met up last week in the student union for coffee (or more aptly, tea for Carla's English self!).

I asked questions about her family, how she found herself rowing at an American university, and the differences she has found between our two countries. When the conversation eventually turned to AIA and about her involvement this year, she spoke of growing up in an atheist home and her curiosity in learning about Christianity. She shared how the Bible is very unfamiliar to her and that she has been taking in so much new information as we have been studying the book of John in our groups.

The conversation with her was hugely mutually encouraging! On my end, it was a time to be able to listen well and present the good news of Christ. And on her end, she thanked me and said she had never sat down so long to talk so deeply about faith. Please pray along with us for Carla, that she would come to personally know this God she is now learning about.



The picture Maddy sent me along with her text



Far right: Michael & Jason (soccer), Jordan & Alyssa (basketball) UM students either in or leading weekly groups.

Right: Two baseball players from EMU praying together at a recent AIA meeting

Bottom left: We have an exchange student, Andrea from Guatemala, living with us for a month!

Bottom right: I am coach "mom" to Mia and her 7/8th grade volleyball team. Season just ended and the team did great!

Please pray...
...for Carla as she explores Christianity. Pray she would come to know Jesus and have an impact for Him on those around her.
...for some big events coming up in November: Freshmen lunches on the 10th & 17th, Operation Christmas Child wrapping party on the 19th, International Student-athlete Thanksgiving on the 24th. Pray God would use these events for His glory, and that students would encounter Christ and His Church through them.
...for wisdom and stamina for us as staff during this very busy season.
...for our kids to know and love Jesus.



We are beyond grateful for you! May God bless you in the giving of your prayers and finances!