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January 2025 Newsletter

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19

Happy 2025 to you and yours! We hope your had a wonderful holiday season. Ours was jam packed with lots of precious family time, as we were able to be with both sides of our extended family over the break. The kids stayed up late and slept long, were full of sugar, and made lots of memories with their cousins. I remember those Christmases with my cousins and the flurry of us being together all those years ago. It’s funny, never once as a kid did I think about all the work the adults were doing to make our time together possible — the presents bought and wrapped, the meals made, etc. Now as an adult, those family get-togethers can feel exhausting, but the memories made are so worth it! Needless to say, I was eager to get our family all back together under one roof and resume a somewhat normal schedule :) And now we have hit the ground running with our busy family and ministry schedule. The past few months we have had three kids who are in basketball season and have been averaging 6-8 games a week...phew! Our schedule feels full, but I know we will miss it one day. The kickoff to the semester on campus has been hugely encouraging with what seems like a lot of renewed interest in Christ! Be encouraged as you read about the ways God is drawing the hearts of these students to Himself. Thank you for your partnership which makes this all possible! The Lord was extremely faithful to us at the end of 2024, providing the necessary funds to enter this semester free of financial stress. We greatly appreciate all of you who made that happen! God is good!



Student Leaders

Above left: I struck up a conversation with the student I was sitting next to at our EMU large group gathering this month. She was an early enrollee volleyball player who had been on campus all of 4 days! When she heard that there was an opportunity for her to be in a weekly discipleship group, she asked me how she could get involved and was so encouraged to hear that Bri, a junior on her team, was leading one!

Above right: Maleah and Gabby bookend this picture. They are super faithful to lead their peers on the track and rowing teams each week!

To the right: Colby with Lawrence, our UM leader on the track team.

These faithful men and women who lead at EMU and UM are being used by God to impact many lives! Go God!



Spiritual Multiplication

One of the more encouraging things in ministry for us is to see student leaders raised up by other student leaders. Pictured to the right is Jimmy, a junior on the Michigan lacrosse team, who recently shared with the group about just that.

During his freshman year, Jimmy was invited by an upperclassmen on his team to join the discipleship group he was leading. Having some spiritual background, but not being sure of where he stood in his faith, Jimmy took the step of faith to be a part of it.

Those early days saw only 4-5 men's lacrosse players attend that weekly group. Yet throughout the years since, God has grown that group to almost 20 players attending each week with Jimmy at the helm leading! His faith is soaring and he is catching a vision for how God can use him in the lives of others.

A similar thing is happening on the women's lacrosse team at Michigan. Check out this text I received from Erin, our senior leader on that team: *"big win! 23 girls at d group tonight which is a record number, 21 of which was lacrosse which is 50% of our team. Heart is so full"* God is on the move here and we are trusting that He will transform lives as we dig into the book of Philippians together in the 24 weekly discipleship groups happening at UM and EMU.



Kelsey, Allie, Jady, Erin

Softball interest

There's been a bit of a drought in AIA participation on the UM softball team in recent years...until this month!

I was pleasantly surprised to see five softball players stroll into our monthly gathering a few weeks back. And even more pleasantly surprised to receive this text from Emerson, a senior on the team who has been loosely involved throughout her time here: *"Hi Sarah! We've gathered interest from a group of about 8 girls on the softball team and we wanted to make our own Bible study group! I'm not sure exactly the best way to go about this and wanted to hear if you had any guidance?"*

We were able to get those softball girls plugged into Kelsey's group (our leader on the field hockey team). Here's what Kelsey said after they met for the first time last week: *"I had 9 girls tonight and more coming next week. So encouraged by their faith!!"* Not only are the softball girls being exposed to God's Word, but Kelsey is seeing how she can be a vessel for Christ to others!

Please pray...

...for our student leaders as they start their groups up this semester. Pray spiritual, emotional and mental protection over them. Pray lives would be transformed as students interact with God and His Word. ...for students from EMU and UM who are attending the AIA Winter Retreat in Chicago with us Jan 31st-Feb 2nd. Many are taking a big step of faith to attend! Pray God would meet them there! ...for wisdom and energy as we lead on both campuses. ...for God to remain our first love.

We are so very grateful for you! May God bless you richly in 2025!



Our whole family (college kids and all) was together for Christmas!