



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

August 2025 Newsletter

“And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” 2 Cor. 5:19b-20

Hello! It’s been a few months since you have heard from us. After we sent our last letter in June, we packed the whole family into our van and headed Up North in Michigan for some vacation with our extended family. Relaxing on the shores of Lake Michigan, hiking sand dunes, creating a family “Olympics”, and Jaydon getting his first hole-in-one on the golf course were a few of the highlights for us. We were home all but a few days before Colby boarded a plane for Central Asia on his annual mission there with AIA (lots more on that in this letter!). Eleven days later we picked him up at the airport in Chicago and continued on to Minnesota for a quick trip to the lake with the other side of our family. As we were planning the timing of that trip to MN, we had concerns that it might be a bit too much, given Colby’s return from overseas. However, it turns out it was just what we needed to bring some refreshment to our souls. Lakes and loved ones have a fantastic way of doing that :) Now that we are back in Ann Arbor, we have hit the ground running! Many of the student athletes are here on campus either in preseason practices or just training with their teams, so ministry opportunities abound. Colby has been especially invested the past few months with Eastern Michigan football, leading bible studies, organizing chapels, and getting to know the players. We have expectant hearts as we look to the fall semester, trusting God is at work and that He will use us in His Kingdom work. Thank you for being in it with us as we reach out to these precious students!



Above: Moriah, Mikayla, Mia and Sarah (so fun to have the girls together this summer!) Middle: Jaydon with the “famous” hole in one ball! Right: Colby, Mia and Jairus trying to warm up after a dip in chilly Lake Michigan!



Please pray...

...for the freshman athletes who have been arriving on campus. Pray we can connect those who are believers to Christian community. Pray that God would reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

...for wisdom in selecting student-leaders who will walk faithfully with Jesus and invest their time and energy into the lives of others—helping them grow and come to know Jesus Christ.

...for God to guide us into relationship with those students who need to hear about Jesus.

...for Jesus to be our source of identity, direction, patience and love as we serve at Eastern Michigan, Michigan and in our family.

As we begin a new semester on campus, we are mindful that this would not be possible without your generous partnership. Thank you!

Central Asia

My (Colby's) trip was full of amazing experiences and a wide variety of emotions. The three of us (Jayne, Kelsey & I) who traveled to Central Asia this summer had all been on the trip last year, which may have opened opportunities to connect with the people on a deeper level. We were able to serve alongside faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who love sacrificially, patiently and humbly as they trust God to soften hearts that are generally very hard toward the message of Jesus Christ. We heard transformational stories of God's grace alongside stories of hurt and abuse from dark places void of God's love.

While there, I had the honor of serving alongside Brennen and Nicky, two of our former Michigan students who are now living in Central Asia. I felt like a proud papa watching them love and serve others! I was able to meet two people they had invited to live with them, a rejected woman who has come to know Jesus and her 2 year old daughter. One afternoon I had the blessing of providing childcare for their family (of three small kids under the age of 5!) so that Nicky could translate for Jayne and Kelsey as they shared God's Word and encouraged some women. On another occasion, I had an opportunity to speak to a group of Christians at a local church and lead two Bible Studies with young followers of Jesus to encourage them. It was a blessing for me to experience their hungry hearts as we dug into God's Word and discussed how to apply it to our lives.

Our friends in this country are active in caring for the needs of orphans, widows, the poor, and those rejected by society, all the while using the platform of sport to make connections and build bridges. Oftentimes, those rejected happen to be women—women who have been abused, have had their husbands reject them, or live in difficult circumstances in rural villages. Jayne and Kelsey were able to help with a women's retreat that involved sharing subtle messages of truth conveying how women are created in the image of God and are tremendously valuable to Him. At the retreat they washed and massaged the feet of these village women as a tangible way to show them that they are worth being cared for. As you can see from the face of the woman pictured below, the women were overwhelmed with joy to be treated in this way!

We also traveled to a rural village to encourage a man who is the only follower of Jesus in that village. We were able to hear stories of God's faithful provision in the midst of droughts and of His transforming power revealing Himself to people. One story in particular that touched my heart was of a young man who was raised in a Muslim family and is now following Christ. Witnessing his faith to overcome the challenges he faces for being a believer in this country challenged my faith and encouraged me to trust the Lord all the more!



Top Left: Colby, Brennen, Kelsey and Jayne. What a blessing to watch someone I invested in be used by God in Central Asia—my heart was proud, encouraged and challenged! Top Middle: Nicky encouraging Kelsey—another heart warming moment as Nicky, our former student, was investing in Kelsey, our current student! Top Right: Colby and Silas (Brennen and Nicky's oldest child)—we became good friends on the trip playing soccer and enjoying a blow up pool! Bottom Left: Colby sharing with a group of Christians. Bottom Middle: Kelsey washing and massaging the feet of women from rural villages—what a blessing to see the joy of the women and Kelsey's willing heart to serve them! Bottom Right: Soccer is a universal language to build bridges and connect with people.

