



October 2026 Newsletter

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

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”
John 14:6

Happy Fall! I’m not sure what part of the country you are in, but here in Michigan we have had the MOST beautiful Fall! Gorgeous temperatures, blue skies and vibrant leaves have characterized the past few weeks, and I have been basking in it all. My favorite coffee shop where I meet students has outdoor seating, so I’ve had many a conversation about God and life with the Fall sun beating on me. Bliss. And not only has the weather been blissful, but God’s work here on these campuses has been a true source of joy! Our amazing student leaders have been faithfully leading their weekly discipleship groups...and their peers have been showing up big time! I don’t know how many times this Fall that I have heard a student leader say something like, “You wouldn’t believe it, but _____ showed up to my group this week. I would have never thought that he/she would have come!” Students are checking out Christian community and finding themselves drawn back for more. God’s Word is going forth here at EMU and Michigan and we are beyond grateful for your partnership in it all!

“I’m so glad I was there. I’ve definitely been wanting to explore my faith more. I just never really knew how and I feel like coming to this group will be such a good start. Growing up with my dad being Jewish and my mom being Catholic, we did the basics of both religions so that my sister and I could kind of make our own judgements about what wanted to believe/practice. My sister has really found God over the last year and a half and I’ve definitely been wanting to do the same. So I’m really excited for this and will def come to you with anything I need or any questions I have.”

This is a text one of our student leaders received after a teammate came to their discipleship group for the first time a few weeks ago. What a gift for our students to be able to see God use them in the lives of their peers! We pray God uses discipleship experiences like these to give vision for a lifetime of laboring for Christ!



The weather’s been so nice that the discipleship group on the UM soccer team has been meeting outside each week to study God’s Word.

AIA Crossover

This month AIA students from campuses across the state of Michigan came together for an afternoon of fun and



fellowship. Our hope was that they would be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, knowing there are student athletes trusting God to live out their faith at other colleges and universities. I snapped this picture of this group of girls (who had just met!) praying together. So sweet!



Another blessing of the Crossover event was that we were together with our AIA staff from across the state. Love them!

This summer I received a text from Jadyn, a senior on UM's cross country team, asking me a rather surprising question. Jadyn, who has been one of our student leaders for two years, wanted me to connect her with the youth pastor at a local church we have partnered with in the past.

I replied that I would connect them and when I asked why, Jadyn simply said that God had given her a message she felt like she was supposed to share with their youth.

I'm not sure if I was more encouraged by her sensitivity to listen to God, or by her courage to volunteer to speak given the fact that she has had to overcome a significant speech impediment from her childhood.

So earlier this Fall, I pulled up to the church where Jadyn was speaking, and along with a few of our other student leaders, we sat and marveled at the confidence, poise and wisdom she displayed as she told the precious middle and high school girls about their value in Christ.

I couldn't have been more proud of her and I left with the sense that wouldn't be her last speaking event :)



Me with Jadyn. Isn't she the cutest??

Fall Gathering

We decided to host an event at our house where both EMU and UM students could come enjoy the Fall and each other. We never know how many to expect when planning something like this, and we were floored as student after student kept pouring into our home!

Highlights for me were watching students get excited to carve pumpkins, meeting people who had never come to an AIA event before, hearing the laughter of students playing board games, listening to students talk theology around the campfire, and being led in worship by one of our student leaders. It was truly a special night!



Please pray...

...for the many discipleship groups that meet weekly at EMU and UM. Pray God would use HisWord to draw students to Himself. Pray students experience a sense of belonging as they come together each week.

...for us as we continue to follow up interested students. Pray for open doors to share the gospel.

...for the lunches we are hosting in our home in November for freshmen athletes. Pray friendships centered around Christ would form.

...for many students to come to our Operation Christmas Child packing party on Nov. 18th.

God is on the move here! We are grateful YOU are part of it. Thank you for all you do for us!



Some highlights from home: Mikayla's Marist University volleyball team recently played in Detroit! Mia attended her first high school homecoming dance. And Jackson got a visit from Grandma & Grandpa as he studies abroad in Scotland this semester!