

# Athletes in Action

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“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant.”

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

Happy New Year from our family to yours! Gosh...2012??? When I was typing that number at the top of this page it was kind of weird to think of how time has gone by. When I (Sarah) joined the staff of Athletes in Action in the summer of 1998, I never imagined my life would be so full all these years later — full of joy in family and ministry. I am humbled to think that God chose Colby and I to work in full-time ministry, when sometimes we feel so inadequate. I came across this quote in a bible study I am doing that says, “He (God) didn’t select us to lead the study, mother the children, marry the man, lead the meeting, run the office, evangelize the tribe, or start the ministry because He knew we were already capable. Rather, He picked us up, dusted off our incapability, replaced it with His ability, and secured our success when we choose to rest and trust in Him to work supernaturally in us.” May 2012 be a year where we all daily choose to surrender to His will in our lives, and allow Him to fill us with the confidence that He who called us is faithful to accomplish the tasks He puts in front of us.

## Students leading on...

There are many things about campus ministry that excite me, but one of the most exciting things is when we see students taking the initiative to lead. We are continually challenging them to step up and lead their peers in one-on-one discipleship, small group bible studies, and overall direction of the ministry.

The challenge to stand up in front of their peers at our weekly meeting and speak is usually one of the more intimidating challenges we give. This past semester a handful of students stepped up to share their personal testimonies of coming to faith in Christ at our meeting. Wow, what a blessing to hear how God worked in their lives and how He is continuing to grow them in their faith.

A few weeks ago two of our students took an even greater step of faith and gave the message at our weekly meeting. Matt and April are both seniors on the men’s rowing team (April being a coxswain!). They both have huge hearts for prayer and decided to share about what prayer is and some practical ideas for how to pray. They did such a fantastic job and we were so proud of them!

It excites us to think that as our students step out in faith to lead here at the U of Michigan, they will gain skills and confidence to lead in their future workplaces, neighborhoods and churches. We want to see God use us to send followers of Jesus Christ out from here into the world!!!



**Above:** Matt and April  
**On left:** Lizzie and JD. JD is on the lacrosse team here. Recently, he left our weekly meeting with an armful of bibles to start a bible study with the guys on his team. The best part about it is that we didn’t even ask him to lead it...he is just took the initiative to do it

## Discrimination...a chance for God to show up BIG!!!

Since coming to Michigan we have felt God's leading to organize spring break mission trips for our student-athletes as their training schedules don't allow them to participate in our AIA summer opportunities. You may remember that last year we took a group of 25 students down to Orlando to do inner-city ministry and it was so rewarding on many fronts.

Well, this year we have felt drawn toward Los Angeles for our trip as AIA has many urban connections there. Our hope is to expose the students to urban transformation principles, challenging them to recognize the inherent gifts and talents imbedded in the community and then understand how they can encourage and empower people in the under-resourced areas to live out their hopes and dreams. We desire to serve faithfully and learn how we could be used to impact under-resourced communities for a lifetime.

As you can imagine, a trip to LA comes with many financial barriers. Our goal is to be able to raise enough funds to cover the airfare for each student, leaving them only \$400 to raise themselves. In December it looked like that goal was going to be reached as our students applied and were accepted by a university fundraising event to receive roughly \$16,000! However, our excitement over that provision was short-lived. There had been a few complaints that the money was going to a Christian organization, so the University decided to remove our student organization from receiving the funds.

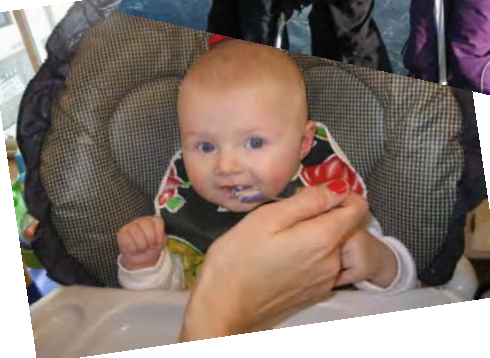
In our minds it could seem like the Enemy got his way. It just isn't fair to be denied on the basis of religion! However, we believe this is an opportunity for God to show up BIG! I believe God is going to provide abundantly for our students and it will be a lifelong testimony for them to see how He does it.

As you are reading this, if you feel led to contribute a special gift to this mission trip, you can go to:  
<https://give.ccci.org/give/View/2874233>



**Left:** Colby and Moriah celebrated their birthdays in December. I can't believe our little Mo is three already!

**Below:** There's nothing like a little ice skating in MN to make you feel good. We had a great trip there over the break.



Mia is getting so big and eating like a big girl now!

Please pray...

...for JD as he leads his teammates in Bible study. Pray for God's Word to go forth in power and for lives to be changed by it.

...for our annual Winter Retreat taking place Jan. 27-29 in Chicago. Pray for safe travel and for hearts to be open to God's leading.

...for us as we shore up details for our spring break trip to LA Feb. 24-Mar. 3. Pray for the finances to come in. Pray for lives to be changed — our students and those who we will meet there.

...for our walks with God to be vibrant.

...for wisdom as we parent these kiddos of ours!

*As we enter into a new year, we look forward to the ways God will use your partnership to impact eternity. We are so thankful for you! May He bless you richly in 2012!*