

# Athletes in Action

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“Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity,” Eph. 5:15-16

Hello again from our home to yours! I am writing this letter on the last day of class for students here at Michigan. I think I’m in denial that the school year is over...where did it go? It seems like just the other day we were getting back from Christmas break and dreaming about what this semester could look like. A definite highlight of this semester was our trip to Los Angeles over spring break where our students engaged in urban ministry. There has been such a dramatic change in the feel of our group of students since then — God used the trip to form a sense of community that wasn’t there before. Our hope is that that strong community will flourish this summer as many of our students will stay around campus to take summer classes and train for their sports. While we will be able to engage in that community during the month of May, come the end of May our family will be packing up and heading out to Colorado to be a part of our AIA Colorado Project for the summer. Being the director of our Colorado Project, Colby is up to his eyeballs in details and planning for our time out there. However once we arrive in Fort Collins it is all worth it as we see God transform the lives of the staff and students that join us. We feel so privileged to have to opportunity to serve God in the way we do. Thank you for your part in making that possible.

## Sending our Seniors

It’s a funny thing working with college students...we keep getting older and they keep staying the ages of 18-22! We don’t take lightly the fact that God has given us the privilege and responsibility to enter into their lives at such an influential stage of life. We see them come in as such impressionable freshmen, and watch them leave as young men and women who have had their worldviews shaped by their peers and professors. Our hope is that those that choose to be involved in our ministry would be challenged to allow God and His Word to shape their thinking and view of the world. That they would leave Michigan with hearts and minds that love God and want to serve Him for a lifetime.

At our last weekly meeting of the year on campus, we gave our seniors a chance to share about their time at Michigan and how God has intersected their lives here. As I sat back and listened to each share, I couldn’t help but thank the Lord for how He has worked in their lives. Many of them shared about how their relationship with Christ was strengthened while at college, how they valued the fellowship they found at AIA, and the importance of being a voice for God on their teams.

It’s fun to dream about the potential this group could have for God’s Kingdom as they graduate and move on. And as they leave, we will dream about the new class of freshmen who will be arriving in the fall. Who will they be? Will their hearts be open to the gospel? Which of them will become like family to us? We wait expectedly to see how God will use us to shape this next group of 18 year-olds...and how that group will inevitably play a part in shaping us.



The group of seniors who were able to join us at our last weekly meeting: April, April, Jesse, Kristin, Tim, Taylor and Robert.

## A fun story...

We wanted to share with you a blog entry from one of Colby's former Michigan football teammates, Ian Gold. Ian played in the NFL for a while after college and now lives in Los Angeles. We were able to connect with him while we were in LA on our spring break trip. Here is the story:

*Upon my return from my cousin's wedding in Houston earlier this week, being aware that Colby was bringing a group of forty student athletes to LA this week, I thought, Who knows, maybe God will allow me to connect with them. And completely unaware of what God had in store, Colby and I had a conversation on Tuesday. Following our conversation I immediately prayed, Lord, can I take them all out to dinner?*

*"Yes, I want you to celebrate them for their willingness," is what I heard in response. And a celebration it was...*

*Tonight, God allowed me to celebrate student-athletes from U of M, Eastern Michigan University, and also Concordia University, that, instead of heading south to the beaches, like most of their classmates, chose to spend their spring break planting and watering seeds of God's love. I give honor to the students I met tonight for doing what I failed to do when I was in college—listen and obey God's calling and prompting.*

*In fact, God even allowed me the chance to thank a man of God named Bruce who, despite my avoiding him every time I saw him on campus because I was convicted of the lifestyle I was living, lovingly and gently planted and watered seeds inside me.*

*After we ate dinner, and I shared a bit of my testimony with them, the icing on the cake was that we all got to sing and praised God together, which made my heart happy! Tonight was like being in college all over again—minus exams and papers—but unlike my days of ducking and dodging Bruce, tonight God used me to plant and water good seed, into good ground... Although there are truly no words to describe how grateful I am right now, I can hear my late grandmother saying—in only the way she could say it, "Well tell the Lord thank ya!" So...thank you Lord.*



Ian Gold with Ian Ham from Eastern Michigan U



Jaydon turned five this month complete with a cowboy birthday party.



Mia continues to be the "hit of the house" here! This little girl couldn't be any cuter :)



Please pray...

...for our seniors as they graduate. Pray that the seeds that were planted here would grow to culminate into a lifetime of faithfulness to our God.

...for wisdom for us as we put together the details of the Colorado Project. Pray for lives to be changed there and for God to be glorified.

...for a few more students to join us in Colorado. Our bare bones budget is set for 26 students and we currently have 25.

...for a spiritually refreshing month of May for us before we head into the craziness in Colorado.

*As you receive this letter, know that it comes with much love and appreciation from our family. We are so blessed to have you in our lives! Thank you for ALL you do for us!!!*