

Athletes in Action

Colby and Sarah Keefer 4695 Sycamore Dr, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

March 2014

937.902.1767 colby.keefe@athletesinaction.org

937.681.6533 sarah.keefe@athletesinaction.org

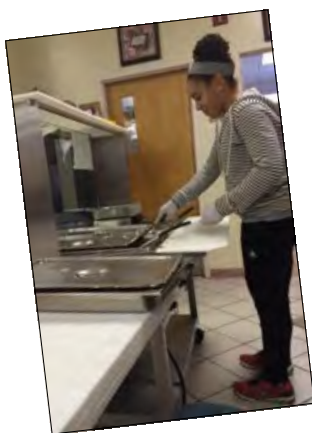
“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Matthew 9:36-38

Happy Spring! I am saying “Spring” by faith because there’s not much evidence of it around here! But, I am determined not to let the cold temperatures get me down, especially when I think about what God has been doing in the lives of the students on these campuses. The other night we put on a dessert for our more committed students at Michigan and Eastern Michigan. The program revolved around helping the students see that wherever God calls them in life He is “sending” them into that vocation on a mission for His glory. Along with that message we unashamedly challenged them to think about joining our staff of Athletes in Action to help further the Great Commission in this generation. It was so fun to see the students really engaging with what was being shared, and many stayed afterward to ask questions and process what the Lord was doing in their hearts. It really is such a privilege to be able to speak God’s truths to these students at such an influential time in their lives. Can you imagine the eternal impact that would happen if every student that left here caught the vision that they were being “sent” by God into the vocation of His leading to bring others into His Kingdom??? Wow. Thank you teaming up with us in this venture...we could not do it without you!

Spring Break!

Earlier this month we sent students to Detroit and Puerto Rico to engage in ministry opportunities over spring break. Considering what the typical college student does over spring break, we were so encouraged by the commitment that the 10 students who went to Detroit and the 11 to Puerto Rico made to serve the Lord.

Joining the Michigan students on the Detroit trip were a group of 5 AIA student athletes from the U of Florida. They all braved the cold Michigan temperatures to partner with urban organizations that were engaging in community transformation. Here are a few quotes from the students who attended along with some pictures of the week...



“I learned a lot about the Detroit community. I personally learned that there is no such thing as “poor,” nobody is poor. There are under resourced and underprivileged people. I saw how the power of prayer was working within the community and how God is restoring Detroit. It was an amazing experience and I hope to keep learning more.” *Kristin, senior weightlifter*

“I loved getting to help serve in Detroit. It was fun to see how the city was engaging with the youth and how much they loved us (athletes) being there to hangout with them. I learned so much about the city of Detroit and how I as an athlete can impact the lives of so many kids.” *Keyana, junior soccer player*

The students we sent to **Puerto Rico** partnered with a group of recent college graduates who are serving in PR for one year with Cru (our parent ministry). Our staff and students were able to encourage the team in PR and further the ministry down there by initiating in spiritual conversations on campus, speaking to athletic teams about AIA, and by just bringing fresh energy to the campuses. Here are what a few of our student said about their experience...

"This was the best week of my life! Although I was scared, I couldn't wait for the opportunity to share my faith with other athletes in Puerto Rico. Not only did I get to share my faith but I also got to connect with the other 11 Michigan athletes who are excited to share their love of Christ with others."

Abby, volleyball player



"One of my biggest prayers going into the trip was for God to show up in a big way and to have a deep conversation. God answered my prayer as I got to talk with a guy for thirty minutes. I got to share the gospel with him and it helped me gain more experience in sharing my faith with my own teammates." *Brennen, football player*

"I was nervous about sharing my faith and I had no idea what I was doing. I got a chance to speak at a softball team meeting we did in Puerto Rico. I was afraid and had no idea what I was going to say, and once I opened my mouth it was like the Holy Spirit gave me the words and spoke right through me. I've never had an experience like that and it was an awesome experience." *Jen, soccer player*



Check out a video the Big Ten Conference made on one of our students who has gone on spring break with us the last three years. Go to You Tube and search: Faces of the Big Ten Lexi Erwin. So fun!

Please pray...

...for our students here who are seeking to walk with the Lord. Pray they would hear His voice and be strengthened as they make choices to follow Him.

...for opportunities to share the gospel on campus this next month.

...for God to raise up students from our campuses that would join us as a staff or intern with Athletes in Action.

...for wisdom for us as we parent our kids, and that God would draw their hearts to His own.

...for us to fall further and further in love with Jesus.



Since it's March Madness right now, we thought we'd show you our little "ballers". Jackson and Jaydon have been playing BB this winter, and Jairus is just trying to keep up!



Lives are being changed here and YOU are a part of it. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!