

Athletes in Action

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“Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”
Colossians 3:1-3

Happy summer! Gosh it feels good to finally have the heat arrive! I am sitting here typing this on a warm summer evening in my tank top and shorts with the windows open, thinking back on how the kids were wildly running around out back today with swim suits and water guns...ah bliss! We have officially survived the first week of all six kiddos home from school, and it looks like it could be a fun summer around here. I must admit a few weeks back I had some “freak out” moments thinking about how crazy it was going to be with everyone home for the summer. I imagined constant fighting, “I’m bored’s”, and basically mass chaos here :) I think what contributed to my freak out was the fact that Colby was gone for 12 days at our AIA Ultimate Training Camp in Minneapolis, and left on my own here I began to wallow in self-pity — woe is me, I am with these crazy kids all day and feel so alone, this is so difficult, etc, etc, etc. It wasn’t until I opened my bible and read the above verses in Colossians that I was able to come out of my wallowing and gain some valuable perspective. As I set my heart and mind on the “things above” and remembered that I am not alone, that El Roi (the God Who Sees) is with me and is equipping me, then I was able to journey through those days without Colby with joy and purpose. Aren’t you thankful that we have God’s Word to help us stay grounded in our faith?? His Word is like a refreshing drink on a hot day, and I pray that we might all be people who run to the Scriptures daily and hear the voice of the Almighty.

Summer Studies

This summer Colby and I have the privilege to lead two of our student bible studies. Every Tuesday night you can find me on campus at one of our student’s houses packed in a tiny living room with around fifteen young women who are eager to hear from God’s Word on a topic that is rarely talked about in the church, but most definitely talked about on a college campus — sex. We are using a DVD series by Tommy Nelson on the Song of Solomon as a guide to our conversations, and it has been absolutely fantastic!

Every week I have girls telling me they are so thankful they are learning these biblical truths about God’s heart for this area of their lives, as they are hearing nothing like this on their teams or in their peer groups. It breaks my heart how the Enemy has so perverted God’s design for sex, and how he has lured so many of these precious women to make bad choices. It is my prayer that God will use our times together to lay a foundation for freedom from societal pressures and for healthy marriages in the future for these young women!

Colby has been leading our student leaders through a study on evangelism, looking at how Paul and others in the Bible engaged in sharing Jesus and His resurrection with people they came into contact with. It has been a blessing to see God’s Word come alive and challenge these students to begin conversations about Jesus!



Some of the students who have been attending the leadership study this summer

Ultimate Training Camp

Colby had the opportunity to help launch the first Ultimate Training Camp (UTC) in the Twin Cities in St Paul, MN and there were around 130 student athletes gathered from all over the country. They came to be challenged to apply biblical principles to their lives and competition. It was a week filled with worship, learning and changed lives!

The core content of the week comes through 5 talks called the "AIA Principles," which basically amount to the fundamentals of the Christian life wrapped in sport. The talks raise these 5 critical questions: "Who or what do I worship?", "What is my real motivation in life?", "How do I grow spiritually?", "How do I deal with pain?", "Does it matter how I live today?". Here are a few quotes from students who attended...

"This camp completely turned my perspective on how I view worship. I now understand at a deeper level that anything and everything we do is glorifying Him and that He is always with us. I also understand more fully how Christ works through us to glorify Him through sport." Mckenzie ~ Winona State

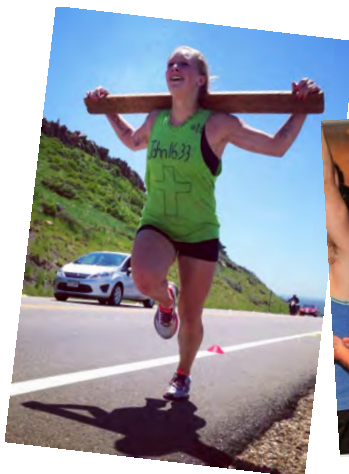


Colby with some girls who attended the UTC from Michigan and Eastern Michigan

"I learned that my performance doesn't determine my self-worth. I also learned that I need to fully surrender my life to Christ instead of compartmentalizing him into certain parts." Brianna ~ U of Florida



"UTC completely transformed my view on having a spiritual relationship with God. It was the most amazing and empowering step forward I have ever made in my life, let alone for myself. It showed me how weak I am, but through his trust, grace, and love I am strong. For the first time, I have realized my purpose in sport, and that is not to just be a great basketball player, but more importantly to shine his light to all those around me and be his servant by glorifying him through my passion, work ethic, and everything I do. For the first time, I have fully surrendered my life to God. And it feels so good!" Claire ~ Indiana U



Please pray...

...for the women in Sarah's bible study. Pray strong convictions would be cemented in their lives regarding their dating relationships. Pray for protection from the Enemy in regards to their purity.

...for the students studying about evangelism. Pray they would be led to share their faith with many others.

...for those students who attended the UTC. Pray they would continue to walk closely with the Lord.

...for God to raise the additional funds we need.

...for refreshment for us as a family as we take a few weeks of vacation in July.



Look who turned 1 last month! Jairus continues to be the hit of the house and we love him so much!



We recently celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary...where has the time gone?

Once again, none of this is possible without YOU, our faithful supporters. May God bless you richly in the giving of your prayers and finances!