

Athletes in Action

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"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

Hello friends! This time of year we get to take a little bit of a deep breath...the winter semester has wrapped up, we've evaluated the year and put plans in place for the fall, staff reviews are complete, and something new this year—Colby has finished his first semester of seminary classes! While they were sometimes stressful and caused many late nights, Colby really enjoyed being challenged and stretched in his thinking with his classes. His degree will be in Intercultural and Urban Studies, subjects God has been developing a passion in him for. Hence, our continued partnership with an urban church in the heart of Detroit. A few weeks back we took another group of student athletes from Michigan and Eastern Michigan down to Detroit to serve alongside Mack Ave Community Church. They helped in the neighborhoods with yard clean up, gave the office staff a boost by getting a huge mailing ready to go out, and also served their youth soccer program. While engaging with the Mack Ave community and learning about community transformation, our students were able to connect deeply with one another and develop closer friendships. It can be so busy for these student athletes during the regular school year with their sports and studies, that there is not much time to foster Christian community. We are hoping that trips like these and also the small group bible studies we have going this summer will lay a foundation for them to continue to encourage and build each other up throughout the school year. Thank you for having a hand in what God is doing here!



Some pictures of the fun that was had in Detroit this month. On the top left and bottom right is Kathy, a freshman on the golf team. She was so excited to be involved in serving and getting to know other student athletes.



Our true paychecks...

Every so often we receive a note from one of our students that reminds us why we do what we do. To remember how God chooses to work through us (amidst all our many faults), truly humbles us and encourages us to press on when times seem hard. Sometimes I refer to these notes as our true paychecks, as they are a sweet reward from the Lord for our labor. We wanted to share this note from Ainsley, a graduating senior on the field hockey team, with you because her thank you really extends to you, as well. We would not be here if it not were for your consistent support, and for that we are truly thankful!



Pictured above are some of our students who are around this summer. I must confess, a few weeks back when I was gathering women to start our summer bible study I was pretty discouraged. I just didn't know who would be available to come. But God outdid my expectations and nine girls showed up that first night! It's going to be a great summer together!

Please pray...

...for the men's and women's bible studies on campus this summer. Pray students would be gripped by God's Word, that community would be formed, and that lives would be changed.

...for Colby's trip to Poland with AIA basketball June 3-15. Pray God would open up doors to clearly share the gospel there. Pray the lives of the players would be transformed.

...for us as we continue to trust God to develop the financial support we need to be fully funded by the fall.

...for our walks with God, that our love for and dependence upon Him would grow deeper.

May God's richest blessings be upon you...we love and appreciate you!

Colby,

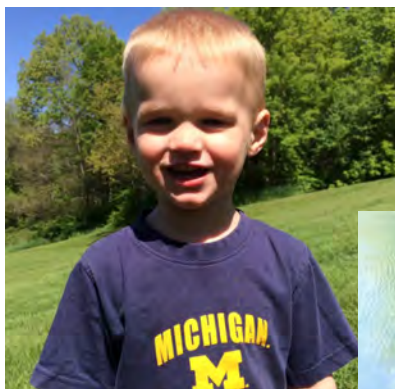
Thanks for everything over the past five years. I feel so fortunate to have gotten to clown around with you/experience your expert minivan u-turns, brainstorm how to make an impact in the community and just learn from your wisdom. I view you as one of my largest mentors throughout my life and I wanted to thank you for believing in me, supporting me, empowering me, and yet also challenging me to grow in every area of my life.

Also, you had a large impact on how A.C.T. developed [a student athlete community service organization here at Michigan] and were really one of the masterminds and therefore a huge, huge thank you is due. Another thing that may seem random but that I am so thankful for is your and Sarah's relationship — every Wednesday night at AIA I'm reminded what type of relationship I want...a fun, goofy, God-adoring, supportive one. The way you live your life rings thankfulness for how good God is and how fun it can be to follow Him. I am going to miss you guys a lot. ~Ainsley

So what's next?

Besides continuing to disciple students and lead bible studies this summer on campus, we have a summer of adventure coming up. Colby takes off to Poland with AIA basketball from June 3-15. While there, he will serve as the chaplain for a team of Division 1 players as they compete and share the gospel throughout the country.

Then mid-July we're packing up the family van and heading out to Colorado for our biannual staff conference. It will be the first time in six years that our entire family has been out there for the ten days of training and equipping. Oh boy, here we go!



Jairus, our baby, turned 2 this month. He is such a joy to have in our home!



We also hit a milestone this month...15 years of marriage. We are more in love now than ever!