

Athletes in Action

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"My (Jesus) prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. John 17:20

Hello again from our home to yours! It does feel good to greet you from our home, as we haven't spent much time here this summer! The beginning of July brought a wonderful vacation with Colby's family Up North in Michigan where the kids enjoyed their cousins, the beach, and many late nights. Then, it was onto our trek across the country for our biannual staff conference in Colorado. All eight of us piled into two dorm rooms on the campus of Colorado State University for a ten day adventure in learning to live in close quarters (Colby called it "indoor camping")! We dropped the kiddos off at kids camp every morning and went on to join 5000 other Athletes in Action and Cru staff for amazing worship, thought-provoking speakers, and Christ-centered vision to propel us into another year of ministry. I wish you could have been there to experience it with us...it was incredible! Then, after the conference we took a northern detour and spent a week with my family in Minnesota. My sister and her family were also there from Seattle, which is the first time we have all been together for two years...yay! After Minnesota, we were home for six days before packing up the bags and heading Up North for our staff planning retreat with our University of Michigan team. It was so good to be back together with our team, praying and dreaming about how God could move on our campus this year. Thank you so much for being a part of all of this! We are thankful to be on this adventure with you!

Staff Conference

"It's time for ethnic diversity to be considered a gospel issue." This is a quote from Mark Householder, the president of Athletes in Action, as he shared onstage at our staff conference. What he meant by it was that for too long our ministry (and the church at large) has neglected seeing oneness among races as important in the Kingdom of God. Yes, we know from Revelation that in the end there will be people from every tribe, tongue and nation around the throne of God, but what are we (am I) doing to see oneness like that happen now on earth among believers? Wouldn't it be an incredible witness to the world if we, as believers in Christ, trusted God to unite in Him together with people from all cultures in our country? After all, wouldn't that be a part of answering Jesus' prayer for us in John 17 where he prayed that we would be one?

This was one of the primary focuses of our staff conference, and we were greatly challenged to think deeply about how to accomplish this monumental task of cultural oneness in Christ. Please pray for our staff team here, and the ministry of AIA and Cru as a whole, that we would cease to be known visually and culturally as a white organization. And that God would bring glory to Himself by showing us the sin in our hearts when it comes to any cultural pride we may have.

Besides the multiple incredible speakers on ethnic diversity, we also really enjoyed two messages that Francis Chan gave challenging us to be known as people who deeply love Jesus. His plea for us to take delight in going "up the mountain" to talk with God, and his admonishment to really wrestle with God in prayer for those we minister to were very impactful. I wish you could have been there to hear it!



Rock the Island

For the past couple of years we have sent our athletes to an event called Rock the Island Festival. The event is an outreach for youth in the Saginaw, MI area where Christian bands and speakers are brought in to make an impact for God's Kingdom there. Colby and I have actually never attended Rock the Island, as it always coincides with our travels, but we are so proud of our students for taking the reigns and representing Athletes in Action there.

This year Sione (football) and Adam (wrestling) manned the AIA booth, giving out sports-ministry related materials and talking with the youth that came by about their faith in Jesus. In addition to that, Adam was able to share on stage about how his relationship with God has impacted his life with the thousands of people that were there. It has really been fun to watch Adam flourish in his faith over the two years he has been at Michigan. Some of his teammates have begun approaching him with spiritual questions because they have noticed that he is different than others on the team. To God be the glory for working in and through these young men!



We LOVE having students in our home. Earlier this month when we were home for six days, we had people over five of those nights for dinner! This is Nicky, on the soccer team. She is trusting God to use her to impact her teammates this year!



College students are very "nuptial" and we get invited to weddings quite often. This summer Colby was blessed to officiate the wedding of Ben (a former student) and Hilary. It is always so encouraging to see our students walking with God after they graduate, making a difference for God's Kingdom where they live!

Please pray...

...for us and our ministry as we trust God to be more ethnically diverse. Pray for us to see the barriers in our hearts and lives that drive us from oneness.

...for us as we gather our returning students in September. Pray many would want to step up into leadership roles this year.

...for the incoming freshmen. Pray we might be able to reach many of them with the gospel.

...for wisdom in our schedules as we balance life and ministry.

...for our kiddos as they begin a new school year.

...for us not to lose our first love in Jesus.

As we begin a new semester on campus we would be remiss if we did not thank you for the vital role you play! God bless you richly!!

