

Athletes in Action

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

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937.902.1767 colby.keefer@athletesinaction.org

937.681.6533 sarah.keefer@athletesinaction.org

“Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands... Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith and not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6,7

Greetings from the Keefer's! This has been a most interesting start to the school year. Toward the end of August I got a call that a friend of mine in Colorado had passed away. She was someone whom I had the privilege of walking alongside in her faith, and having had many medical issues in recent years, it was her desire that I would speak at her funeral if she were to pass away. Her hope was that I would share with the people there about how God had changed her life. So I flew to Colorado to honor the promise I had made to her and was so blessed to share the eulogy at her funeral. And now as I write this, I am preparing to attend yet another funeral in my hometown in Minnesota. The father of my best friends from home lost his battle with cancer this week. He was like a second dad to me growing up, and a strong leader for his family...he will be terribly missed. With the passing of these two dear people, God has been prompting my heart to think all the more about eternity. Our life on this earth is so short compared to the eternity that awaits us. God is challenging me to think deeply about how I invest my life here, so that I can be used to make the greatest impact on eternity. I am reminded that the work we are doing on campus will echo in eternity. There is a battle raging for the hearts of these precious students and I want to do all that I can to point them to Jesus. Thank you for all your support in being part of this battle with us.

Kicking off the school year

A few weeks ago we kicked off the school year with an Athletes in Action welcome back party. We do this every year at one of the student's houses and never really know what the night will look like:). We blast social media to let all of our returning students know about the party and urge them to invite the freshmen on their teams.

This year we were so encouraged to see student after student walk up to the party (probably around 75 in all), and many of them were freshmen...yay! As the students were grabbing something to eat or playing a game of corn hole, we were able to interact with so many different people.

We put one of our returning students, Adam (a Michigan heavyweight wrestler), in charge of getting some contact info from the new faces in the crowd. Adam rose to the challenge and went from person to person, clip board in hand, welcoming them to AIA and engaging them in conversation. I guess when a huge guy with a big smile comes your way and asks you to write your name down, you don't say no! Now we are on to the task of following up those who said they were interested in learning more about what we do. Prayerfully, there will be many gospel conversations in the process!



Servant Leaders

The nature of campus ministry is such that you never really know what the ministry will look like year to year. Who do you have returning? Did they have good summers? Will God bring in some Christian freshmen? Will there be a lot of interest from new people? Well, this year while the other variables are still a bit unknown, we couldn't be more excited for the group of leaders God has raised up. The students you see picture below are truly a blessing to us and the ministry here.

This group we call our servant leaders have committed to meet weekly for bible study, prayer and training in ministry skills...and they are so hungry to learn more about the Lord and to be used by Him to impact their peers! Just last night we were meeting and I asked the gals what they were hoping to get out of our group this year. I heard things like, "I want to grow as a leader", "I want to grow in my confidence in sharing the gospel", "I want to learn how to be someone who can help others grow in their faith," and, "I want a space in my life to be vulnerable with others and grow in community."

One of the women, Nicky a junior on the soccer team, shared about how she has recently been coming alongside one of her non-Christian teammates who has been having a hard time. Nicky was given a bible by one of our staff earlier this month, in the hopes that she would be able to pass it along to a friend at some point this year. Well, through her conversation with her hurting teammate, Nicky gave her the bible with an encouraging note inside. She shared last night how she hopes to follow up with her teammate and be able to share the gospel with her...yay!

Our hope is that we would be making disciples who make disciples. Please pray along with us for these leaders, that they would fall further in love with Jesus and indeed be disciples who in turn make more disciples.



The ladies...Me, Madison, Abby, Sarah K, Sara D, Nicky, Sarah J (not pictured: Stephanie)



The guys...front row: Sione, Austin, Wayne, back row: Colby, Adam, Darius, Nate

Please pray...

...for our servant leaders. Pray that through our time together they would delight themselves in the Lord, and be used of Him to impact their peers.

...for the freshmen who have been coming to our gatherings. Pray we would be able to sit down and get to know them further. Pray that many gospel conversations would come from those times.

...for word to get out about AIA on campus, either by meeting with teams, social media or word of mouth.

...for the fall community transformation retreat we are planning in Detroit Oct 2-4.

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

You are such a blessing to us! Thank you for the crucial role you play not only in our lives, but in the live of these dear students!



The kids are off and running with school...Mikayla (6th), Jackson (4th), Jaydon (3rd), Moriah (1st), Mia (pre-k), Jairus (mom-school!)

