

# Athletes in Action

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“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:15-16

Happy Thanksgiving! By the time you receive this letter, the turkey will have settled in your tummy and prayerfully you will have had a wonderful time celebrating the holiday with your family and friends. We plan to head up to Colby’s hometown of Holly, MI for Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a time of relaxation and refreshment with his family. There truly is much to be thankful for in our lives. To name a few...our kiddos are healthy and thriving, through a marriage class at our church Colby and I have grown in understanding each other on a deeper level, God has continually been providing for our needs (in ways we could not have expected), there are many new believers on our campuses, and God has been moving mightily in and through our student leaders. There is a song that we sing at our church that is popular on the radio recently that goes, “You’re a good, good Father. That’s who You are. That’s who You are. That’s who You are. And I’m loved by You. It’s who I am. It’s who I am. It’s who I am”. Those lyrics have echoed in our minds this past month as our hearts have been overwhelmed by the goodness our amazing God has extended toward us. May your hearts be encouraged to know that you are a part of His goodness toward us, and that you play a vital role in extending His goodness toward these precious students.

## Operation Christmas Child

It has become a favorite annual event of ours to participate in Operation Christmas Child, packing shoeboxes full of gifts for needy children around the world (for more information on this incredible ministry go to: [www.samaitanspurse.org](http://www.samaitanspurse.org)). This year our students came together and collectively packed 99 boxes!! I wish you could have been in the room that night to experience the joy and energy that was there. Wrapping paper and tape were flying as students wrapped their boxes, and much fun was had gathering around the Christmas cookie and goodies table.

This event is such a win-win for us, as our students use it to extend a special invite to their teammates to join in something AIA is doing on campus. Pictured below you see the entire women’s soccer team who made it a mandatory team event to come and help! Also, pictured on the right is a bunch of the men’s soccer freshmen. A few of them just became Christians this fall on campus, and it was fun to see them experience the body of Christ at work to serve kids around the world.

Another huge blessing was that we were given permission to hold the event in the football building on campus. As we continue to build rapport with the new coaching staff, it was encouraging to see a few of the coaches, including the head coach, stop in to see what we were doing. Praise God for all He did through this fun-filled night!





Earlier this month we gathered some of the student leaders from the U of Michigan and Eastern Michigan U together for a night of sharing and games. For those of you who are not familiar with this area, these two campuses are only about 7 miles apart, yet it is quite a task to try and get these students together! Not because they don't want to know each other, but because the life of a student athlete is such that time is a precious commodity. So, we were thrilled that this night worked out that they could be together and share stories of how God has been good to them on their campuses. Besides the laughter that came through the game time, I left with an overwhelming sense of awe in who God is. He is able to show Himself so personally and powerfully in so many lives all at the same time. His wonders never cease to amaze me.

### New Life

"So much to update you on yesterday!" This was a text I received last week from Nicky, one of our student leaders on Michigan's soccer team. I immediately picked up the phone and called her, excited about what she might share.

Nicky and I had met the previous day on campus for our regular discipleship time. During our hour together, she expressed her concern for one of her teammate who was going through a hard time because of bad choices she had made. Nicky's heart was broken for her friend, and we talked through how she might use this difficult time as an opportunity to share her faith with her teammate.

Well, isn't our God just amazing because later that day this same friend approached Nicky with her pain and began to ask her for advice. When Nicky shared with her that just a few hours earlier there were people who didn't even know her praying for her, this sweet girl burst out in tears. As Nicky continued to talk with and minister to her, she was able to share the Knowing God Personally booklet with her, explaining the gospel in simple terms. Her friend said that was the first time she had understood what Jesus had done for her, but wasn't ready to make that commitment to Him.

Fast forward a few hours...this same girl came to the Operation Christmas Child event with Nicky and the rest of their team, and was able to experience the love of Christ through our students there. Then at midnight that night, Nicky received a text from her friend asking her to please come to her room (they are housemates) because she was ready to invite Christ to come into her life! So, right there on her bed, Nicky prayed along with her dear friend a prayer of repentance and salvation acknowledging Jesus as Lord — yay! I just love that God gave Nicky this gift of seeing her friend come to faith, encouraging her heart to all the more reach out to her friends with the love and truth of Christ.

Please pray...

...for this new believer on the women's soccer team, as well as the others who have become Christians this semester. Pray their roots of faith would grow down deep and they would walk with God for a lifetime.  
 ...for Colby as he balances leading our campus with seminary classes. Pray for wisdom and strength.  
 ...for God to use these students to impact their friends and family for Christ as they go home for the holidays.

*This letter of Thanksgiving would be remiss if we did not thank you, our faithful supporters. May God bless you abundantly!*



My men