

Athletes in Action

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“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Ephesians 3:20-21

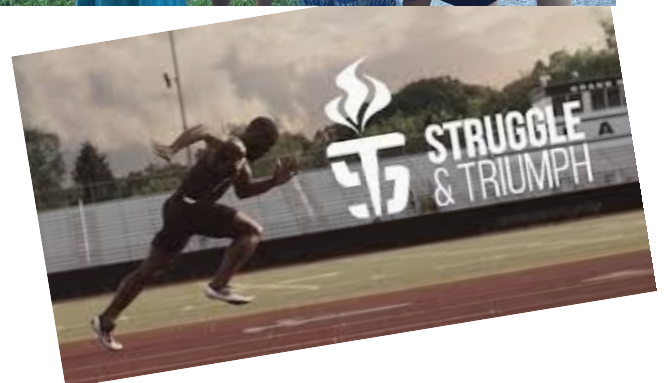
Greetings from our family to yours! As summer winds down and as I think back on all of the blessings God has lavished on our family this summer, my heart overflows with gratitude. We were able to spend some special time with both of our families here in Michigan and back in my home state of Minnesota. There's just something about watching your siblings' kids play with your own that brings joy like no other. Ministry-wise, Colby was blessed to be able to attend two of our AIA Ultimate Training Camps and watch God begin to break down idols in student athlete lives and replace them with newfound freedom to worship while competing. I was beyond blessed to come alongside some of the women's track and cross country runners here all summer, pointing them to Jesus and seeing God raise up a few of them to lead spiritually on their team this coming year. And most recently, I was blessed by a treasured group of friends who were able to join me Up North in Michigan this past weekend to celebrate my 40th birthday. Now as we gear up for another school year of ministry, we continue to look to our gracious Father to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine in our lives and in the lives of these students. Thank you for being on the journey with us. To Him be all the glory!

Rio 2016

Did you know Athletes in Action sends dozens of staff to serve as chaplains at the Olympics every year? What greater stage is there for Christian athletes to proclaim their faith to millions of people??

Pictured to the right is our family with one of those Christian Olympians. Nick Willis is a former Michigan runner who came to know Christ during his time as a student here. He has represented New Zealand in the past three Olympics, and walked out of Rio with a bronze medal in the 1500m!

In addition to chaplain opportunities with the athletes at the Olympics, AIA also desires to reach out to fans. One particular resource we recommend is the “Struggle & Triumph” video highlighting some Christian athletes and their stories. You can check it out at: www.athletesinaction.org/olympics



Expectant

Expectant is the best word I can describe the way I feel about this upcoming school year. We are trusting God with a bit of new structure to our ministry this year, which we hope will allow students to experience more authentic community in smaller groups. As I have been texting with students this summer, I have been encouraged to hear how the Lord has been working in their lives, prompting them to reach out to their teammates and step up and lead. Here are a few of the texts I have received from some of these precious Michigan women...

"I'm feeling ready for the season and ready to dive deep into some bible studies. I've been feeling called to be more active in the freshmen's lives. I think I've been a bit distant this preseason with the freshmen. It's about time I reach out and tell them about our savior. (PS One of our freshmen has 2 Timothy tattooed on her shoulder!)"

~Nicky, soccer

"First team bible study was yesterday, too!"

~Nicky, soccer



Nicky & Sarah, two of our leaders on the soccer team



Jennifer and I

"Thanks for your encouragement. I felt God working this summer in so many ways and feel called to really step up this year. I'd love to catch up once school starts."

~Jennifer, swimming

"Thanks for your prayers. If I could request you to pray for anything, it would be getting a team bible study started during our preseason. We have 7 incoming freshmen and I really want to show them God's love from the start — especially if they don't know Him. Thanks."

~Abby, vb



Please pray...

...for God to bless the efforts of our student leaders to reach out to their peers with the love of Christ.

...for the incoming freshmen. That God will draw them to Himself and lead us to those in whom He is working.

...for many student to be interested in coming to the smaller discipleship groups our staff and students will be leading. Pray God would reveal Himself mightily there.

...for wisdom for Colby as he leads our staff team.

...for us to keep Jesus as our first love.

...for our kids' heart to yearn for Christ. Pray they would be strong in their faith as they start a new school year.

You are God's gift to us! Words cannot express our gratitude for all you do for us. May God bless you richly!!