

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

"He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting... O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all... I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being." Psalm 104:19,24,33

Happy fall! After an unusually warm last few weeks here in Michigan, the past few days have actually started feel like fall. So long to tank tops and flip flops...hello to warm mugs and sweatshirts. I kinda like it, though. There's something about the changing of seasons that brings a little life to my soul. It's almost like God uses the change to remind me that He is forever bringing about new things, working in people's hearts, transforming lives. Ann Arbor has been a buzz these past few weeks as fall classes have begun, and my soul is hopeful that He will allow us to see the fruit of changed lives. We kicked off the semester with a party to gather the AIA students from past years and provide a place for them to introduce the freshmen on their teams to our ministry. Despite it being about ninety degrees and full humidity that night, and despite no one wanting to sit around the fire and make the s'mores we brought, it was a wonderful time! Student after student walked up the driveway excited to reconnect with each other and hang out. Over games of spikeball, badminton and cornhole people were laughing, enjoying the evening and connecting with the freshmen that were there. As I interact with these precious students, my mind often wonders how God might move in their hearts this year and how He might use them to reach out to others with the good news of the gospel. Please join with us in praying that our God who renews hearts and minds will work to transform students' lives here at Michigan. To Him be all the glory!

Discipleship Groups

As we seek to reach Michigan's athletic department with the gospel, we have sensed God's leading to focus primarily on creating small discipleship groups. These groups are led by student-athletes who, because of their faithfulness and commitment to Christ, have been hand picked by us to carry out the important role of leading their peers.

These Core leaders, as we call them, meet weekly as a group with either Colby or I to receive encouragement and training. The 8 men and 8 women who have committed to be Core leaders have been diligently reaching out to their friends and teammates and in the past two weeks have begun the adventure of leading their own discipleship groups.

It seems to be a daunting task every year to think how these groups are going to be formed with the many different demanding schedules of the student-athletes. But God in His grace and wisdom, seems to make it happen!

This semester the discipleship groups will be studying the book of John, as well as going over some of the foundational aspects of our faith. We are trusting God to bring about changed lives from His Word!



Matt and Roland, two of our Core group leaders

Calling all Freshmen!

Pictured to the right are Lauren and Abby, gymnasts at Michigan. Lauren came to us last year as a freshman having had an incredible Christian upbringing and a sweet walk with Jesus. After struggling to get involved in Christian community last year due to the demands and adjustments of freshman year, and after having experiencing God as a Christian camp counselor this summer, Lauren came back to Michigan determined to trust God to provide authentic community for her.

She is the lone sophomore in our Core group, and God is really using her to reach out to the younger classes! Abby is one of the freshmen who is being taken under Lauren's wing this year. Just the other day I sat down for coffee with Abby and their freshman teammate, Natalie. Both of them come from Christian backgrounds and were hoping there would be a way for them to continue to grow in their faith during their college years.

While we don't want to be a ministry that only gathers Christians, as I am meeting these freshmen with Christian up-brings, I just wonder if we might be the answer to some parent's prayers. Rylee, a freshman on the water polo team that I met last week, told me her parents were so excited that she is getting involved in AIA. What a relief to parents to know that their kids are making good choices!



Lauren & Abby

And as our kids get closer and closer to their college years, I hope and pray there will be a place for them to pursue their faith as they spread their wings and leave home. What a privilege it is for us to be entrusted with these precious souls!



Left: Mikayla (9th) is taking after her mom and is loving playing on the varsity volleyball team this fall.

Below: Jaydon (6th) is giving soccer a try this year. Jackson (7th) is running cross country...he did not get a love of running from us :)



Above: Moriah (4th), Mia (2nd) & Jairus (Young 5's) are all at the same elementary school this year. They bring so much LIFE to our home!



Please pray...

...for our Core leaders. Pray for protection and growth in their walks with Jesus. Pray for wisdom as they lead their discipleship group.

...for the students in the discipleship groups. Pray they would stay committed to come each week. Pray they would "taste and see that the Lord is good".

...for God to continue to bring freshmen to our groups and events.

...for wisdom and strength for us as we navigate a very full family and ministry schedule.

...for our kids' hearts to be drawn to the Lord and for them to stand strong for Jesus in their schools.

As we begin a new school year, we are mindful that this would not be possible without YOU! Thank you for the faithful giving of your prayers and finances. God bless!