

Athletes in Action

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

937.902.1767 colby.keefe@athletesinaction.org

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937.681.6533 sarah.keefe@athletesinaction.org

“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.” Psalm 63:3-4

Hello again! This has been a rich month of ministry with our student leaders. First of all, we have been together as men’s and women’s core groups for about eight months now, so the level of comfortability amongst the groups is super high and people are sharing more vulnerably and authentically. Secondly, our time studying the word of God together has been incredible. We are digging into a Psalm each week, as well as studying the book of Ruth. I wish you could sit in on these conversations we are having with our student leaders over the scriptures. For example, my girls were discussing the above verse from Psalm 63 last week. One girl said this was her favorite verse from the Psalm, while another pointed out how convicting it was. Did she really think God’s love was better than life? Weren’t there a lot of other things that competed for His allegiance in her life that sometimes seemed better? We then had a great discussion about what it would look like to believe His love is better than life and concluded that one way to experience that is to really understand who God is — to really know what the bible says about His character. We all left challenged to be women who not only search the scriptures with an eye to know our Lord, but also search our hearts to see where our love for Him is waning. Thank you for allowing us to have these sweet conversations with these students. Your partnership makes it all possible and we are truly grateful!

Spring Break 2019 — Los Angeles

During Michigan’s spring break earlier this month, Colby led a team of students to Los Angeles to serve alongside urban ministries there. The trip was not only about serving, but also learning as the group had thought-leaders come in throughout the week to teach on topics of racism and injustice.

I can honestly say after talking with each of the six Michigan students that went, their lives were rocked by the Lord on the trip! They came back different men and women. They came back challenged in how they thought about people and the gospel. They came back with a vision for Christian community. And they came back with new eyes to see the Lord. We had each of them write a paragraph about what they learned in LA. On the back of this newsletter are quotes taken from a few of those paragraphs. Be encouraged in God’s work in their lives as you read them!



Pictured above is the full team of people that went to LA. Our Michigan team joined a group from Michigan State plus a few others from Virginia Commonwealth.

"I have never been on a mission trip before and I was excited but scared at the same time when I knew I will be going to LA. But, I am so glad that I went and am thankful for the opportunity I got. I had a great time in LA, I met beautiful people and learned a lot. I am coming from the small country in Europe and have never seen that much poorness on the streets and in the families. I got a chance to work with children, around 6-11 years old who do not come from wealthy families. I was helping them with their homework because they needed extra help. But, at the same time they were helping me too. Just seeing how happy they were when we would come to teach them everyday made me happy as well. At that moment I realize that God talked to me through these children, I realize it does not matter where do you come from or what is your parent's job, God brought us all on this world and wants us to love and respect each other." ~ Katarina



Katarina is pictured on the top right. We were SO excited she chose to join us on the trip as we just met her as a result of our international student-athlete Thanksgiving dinner in November. She is full of life and ready to learn about God!

"The weeks leading up the Spring Break trip in LA were rough for me. While I blasted worship music to try to believe the truths God says of me, the only anthem that I heard was, "you will never be good enough". A year filled with rejection had left me desperate to experience Jesus in a completely new way, and that is exactly what I experienced in LA. As my fellow student athletes and I treaded through tough topics such as mass incarceration, environmental injustice, racism, and human trafficking, we continually turned to the Gospel. Whenever we thought a problem was too big, the Gospel provided the perfect solution and I saw that Jesus was enough to bring light to even the darkest of situations. I no longer had to run circles around the hard issues of this world looking for answers, but knew that I all I had to do was sit down and open my bible. I didn't need to be "good enough" to serve this world, but I just had to seek Jesus each day and He would show me the way. In the days following the trip to LA, surrounded by the deadlines and expectations, I was tempted to fall back into my old patterns of anxiety. Instead, I slipped on ice and got a concussion! I could not do, I could not strive, and I could not devote myself to learning more about God; I could only be. In just being, I could meditate on the goodness of God and know that I was fully loved and would always be enough through Jesus. I am so grateful for all of the wonderful teachers, fellow student-athletes, and community members that allowed me to finally experience this Truth that I have been seeking since I became a Christian." ~Kali



Lucas, Sam, Katarina, Maurgan

"The trip was enlightening because of the various different topics we were given the opportunity to have raw conversations about. Our group was quite diverse in a multitude of different ways, it gave us the chance to address lots of different situations with first hand stories and real life experiences...It was encouraging to see other athletes from other schools who were also serious about their faith. It was so life-giving to get a chance to interact with them and hear their perspectives and how through each one of their lives, the light of Jesus was shining through. Those relationships that started in LA have continued to grow since coming back to everyday life. Not only have we had the chance to hang out while watching basketball but we have also been able to start a bible study and the fruitful conversations that were started on the trip have transferred into everyday life in a life-enriching way" ~Sam

Please pray...

...for the Kali, Natalie, Maurgan, Katarina, Lucas and Sam, the Michigan students who went to LA. Pray God continues to reveal Himself to them.

...for our student leaders to be protected as they walk with God. Pray for God to encourage them as they lead their peers in discipleship groups.

...for opportunities to share the gospel with students.

...for God to protect our marriage and children from attacks from the Enemy.

