

Athletes in Action

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“And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” 2Corinthians 19b-20

Happy spring! A few nights ago our students came together for one last Monthly Gathering before many of them head off for their summer adventures. They walked in with brains fried from studying for final exams, and left, I am sure, with hearts renewed and encouraged to passionately pursue our Lord. What impacted us all so greatly that night was testimonies from eight of our graduating seniors sharing about how God had intersected and changed their lives during their college years. Senior after senior got up and talked about things like how finding authentic Christian community through AIA allowed them to be known by others and experience the grace and truth of God. They spoke about gaining an understanding of who they are in Christ, finding their identity in Him and not in their sport or academics. Some shared about growing up in the church and walking away from the faith their first few years of college, only to experience the joy of TRUE life found in God later in their college career. One shared that even though her post-graduation plans are not working out as she would have wanted, she is the happiest she has ever been in life because God is knocking down idols in her heart and replacing them with Himself. It was truly an inspiring night. As we prayed for our seniors to close the night, we prayed in faith sending them as Christ’s ambassadors into the world to shine His light. It is exciting to think about how God might use them to continue to make disciples who make disciples. What a privilege and joy it is to be used by God in these people’s lives! Thank you for the important role you play in their lives, too! What we do is only made possible by you...thank you.



Our seniors who could be in attendance that night. Back row: Kali, Colby, Natalie, Mary Kate, Jeryne, Kevin, Maddie & Sarah. Front row: MacKenzie, Faith, Maggie, Blake & Ryan

Just wanted to extend a huge thank you to you and Colby. Hearing just a handful of students speak last night and knowing how big an impact you guys had on each and everyone's life was beyond incredible. I can genuinely say our meeting at Black Diesel [a local coffee shop] was the turning point for me where I knew I could not keep doing this life alone. I needed that community and accountability. I don't know how you guys do it, but thank you so much for showing me what it is like to embody the light of the Holy Spirit and to love Jesus with all your heart.

To the left is a text I received the day after our senior night from Natalie, one of our seniors on the softball team. She has been involved in our discipleship groups as an underclassmen, and was challenged to step into our core group and lead her peers this year. A bit of fear and doubt almost caused her to say no to the opportunity, but she trusted God and just did it! To say that she flourished would be an understatement. I am so proud of her for stepping out in faith and am excited to see how God uses her in the future for His glory!

Hey, is the offer to be a discipleship group leader in the fall still available? I have been praying about it and I would love to grow in my faith through AIA. The testimonies of the seniors made me cry. I have been having a hard time putting my pole vaulting into the hands of Christ, so it was perfect to hear all of those stories.

To the right is a text I then received later that day from Jessica, a freshmen on the track team. Jessica is from a strong Christian home and has been faithfully coming to our events and groups all year, trying to find her place in college. A few weeks ago I sat down with her and asked her to pray about being in our core group next year as a way to be even more stretched and strengthened in her faith. I was right behind her as our seniors shared and I wondered how she was taking it all in. Well, her text tells me God was at work that night...yay!



Pictured to the left is Blake, a senior on the track team. At our March Monthly Gathering, Blake was our speaker for the night and did an absolutely fantastic job! Next fall he will be joining us as part time AIA staff as he pursues his masters degree. We are so thankful to the Lord for raising him up to work with us! On the right you can see our kids with their "demo" masks on when we recently helped renovate a house through our Detroit partnership with MACC Development. Michigan students will be heading down there this spring to also do some serving in the city!



Please pray...
 ...for our graduating seniors. Pray God will guide them to solid churches and provide authentic community for them. Pray they would passionately pursue God.
 ...for Colby, Shaina, Mitchell, Priscilla (and prayerfully a few other U of M athletes) as they attend the AIA Ultimate Training Camp in Ohio May 19-26.
 ...for our spring/ summer AIA gatherings on campus. Pray many new students would come.



We SO appreciate you and your partnership! God's richest blessings be upon you!