

Athletes in Action

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"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night." Psalm 92:1-2

Greetings! The crazy Keefer family is just a few days away from our mega-month-of-travel in July! We might be insane for stacking it up this way, but the first week of July will see us Up North in Michigan for a vacation with Colby's extended family. Then we will make our way across the Upper Peninsula and down into Minnesota for another week of vacation on the lake with my side of the family. After that we will again pack up our 12 passenger van (which we have nicknamed the Silver Bullet!) and travel out to Colorado for our biannual staff conference. While there Colby and I will be attending vision casting and training meetings with the other 5000 U.S. Cru/AIA staff from around the country, while our kids will be (hopefully!) enjoying the camp the conference has for all of the 10,000 staff kids in attendance. And finally, on our way back home at the end of July we will make a pit stop in Iowa City for the wedding of one of our dear former Michigan AIA students, who is now part time AIA staff. Phew! "Misery makes memories" will be my motto as we endure the long hours in the van together to get where we need to go. It's funny...when we first had kids, Colby and I would try our best to "thrive" in the van with all the kids. And now our mindset is to just "survive" it all :) Either way, we are trusting God for great memories together, as well as a renewed vision for the Great Commission at our staff conference. Because of all our travel, you will not hear from us in July, but we look forward to updating you with our month's stories when we return in August. Thank you for being on this journey with us! You feel like family to us!

Some student updates...

We are super excited to tell you that one of Colby's core guys from his leadership group this past year is going to be joining us as part-time AIA staff in the fall! Blake, a track athlete who just finished his undergraduate degree, will be working on his master's degree next year and will be giving ten hours a week to work with us...yay! Not only does Blake have a huge heart for the Lord and for people, but he is an "insider" in the athletic department and we are hoping God will use his influence there to open even more doors for the gospel to be proclaimed.



Natalie, a coxswain on Michigan's rowing team, has spent the month of June at our AIA Urban Project in Los Angeles. Having her heart broken for racial injustice and the underprivileged on our spring break trip to LA, Natalie could not help but sign up to spend more time diving into those issues from a biblical perspective on our Urban Project. I keep getting texts from her saying she is learning SO much and that she can't wait to tell me all about it when she gets back. I just love how God is always faithful to intersect people's lives as they step out in faith to trust Him to go on one of our AIA opportunities!

Some Keefer Kid updates...

I don't think we have given you many updates about our kids in a while, and since "how are your kids?" is the most common question we get asked, here is a brief update on each of them :)



Mikayla ~ Our oldest kiddo is now fifteen and will be a sophomore in high school in the fall (where did the years go??). She just got her driver's permit this month and will hopefully be driving herself to some of her many athletic practices next year! She played volleyball, basketball and threw the shot put and discus this year in track, but if you asked her which is her favorite, she would definitely tell you it's volleyball (like her mom, I guess!). She spends many hours at the gym training with her club volleyball team...and she wouldn't have it any other way!

Jackson ~ This upcoming 8th grader now stands over six feet tall after having grown almost six inches in a year! He loves sports, as well, and participated in cross country, wrestling, basketball, volleyball and track at his middle school this year. When he's home you can either find him shooting baskets in the driveway, jumping on the trampoline, or wrestling one of his younger brothers...so much energy!

Mia ~ Sweet Mia is our absolutely full of life 8 year-old! She goes non-stop, one hundred miles per hour every moment she is awake. While basketball is the only organized sport she participated in this year, she will make sure you know she is the fastest kid in her class. She will also make sure you know everything that is going on in her head as she LOVES to talk :)

Moriah ~ This young lady is growing up so fast! She will be a fifth grader in the fall and is in that stage of going back and forth between little girl and teenager on a daily basis. Opposite to her siblings, she has declared her sport to be "no sport" and would be content reading and being around animals all day. In fact, I can't keep enough library books in the house for her as she goes through them so fast...I love it!



Jaydon ~ This guy will be a 7th grader in the fall and also loves to be very active. Together with a group of his buddies, Jay tried soccer, basketball, volleyball and track this year in middle school. He can also often be found building Lego structures for himself or his younger siblings as he has SUCH a creative and imaginative mind!

Jairus ~ Our youngest of the bunch just turned six in May. He does his best to keep up with everyone else and definitely has a lot of volume coming out of his mouth in an attempt to be heard! After completing a Young 5's program at our elementary school this year, Jairus will begin Kindergarten in the fall. He loves to ride his bike, jump on the trampoline, and torment his siblings with his many Nerf guns :)



Please pray...

...for Blake as he raises his financial support to join our AIA staff team in the fall.

...for Natalie as she returns from the Urban Project in LA. Pray God would burden her heart to be a leader here next year.

...for our many July travels. Pray for refreshing time with family and renewed vision at our staff conference.