

Athletes in Action

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"Blessed be the Lord, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me,"

Psalms 136:1

Happy Thanksgiving! We hope this letter finds you well, enjoying God's blessings in your lives! This time of year naturally produces a desire to remember and reflect on what we are thankful for, and Colby and I truly are humbled to sit back and recount the Lord's various gifts to us. We have SIX kids who are healthy, succeeding in school, active in extracurriculars, and taking steps to know God more. We have an overwhelmingly supportive extended family who love and care for us so well. God has placed friends, near and far, who consistently speak grace and truth into our lives. We have a home that the Lord has provided for us that we can use to bless others. The student leaders on campus continue to amaze and encourage us by their deep faith and desire to be a part of the Great Commission. And this year we have been particularly blessed to see how God has brought many freshmen along our path who are eager to grow in Christ while they are at college. Finally...how could we come up with a thankful list of blessings in our lives without mentioning YOU, our faithful team of supporters?!? God has been providing for our needs through you for over 21 years now, and we couldn't be more grateful for your partnership in reaching college student athletes for Christ. You have been a huge source of encouragement to us, and we hope you are truly blessed this Thanksgiving season!

International Student Athlete Thanksgiving!

You may remember that last year we hosted some of the Michigan student athletes from different countries in our home for an early Thanksgiving meal. Well, we had such a fun time together that we thought we would do it again :)

I am writing this the morning after we hosted 16 international students for turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and more...and despite being exhausted, I am still smiling as I recall the laughter and conversation last night. There is just something different, we have found, about internationals. They seem less guarded, and more ready to enjoy quality time together...and that makes hanging out with them so much fun!

You can't read the Bible without taking note that God's heart is for ALL the nations, and we hope that our small efforts can be used by Him to create bridges to these student's hearts. Please pray for opportunities for us to continue our relationships with these precious people from all over the world. If you are on Instagram, you can check out even more pictures on our account @michiganaia



Above: The beautiful women who joined us last night. To the right: Bec (Australia), Katii (Hong Kong) and our daughter, Mikayla. We LOVE that our kids are involved in ministry with us!



Henry from New Zealand back for his second year at the dinner :)

Operation Christmas Child

This has been the month of big events around here as the week before we hosted the international student athlete Thanksgiving, we threw an Operation Christmas Child wrapping party. If you are not familiar with OCC, it is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse blessing underprivileged kids around the world with Christmas presents. We have participated in this project every year we have been at Michigan and the students absolutely LOVE it.

We call it a kickoff to the Christmas season as we blast Christmas music, overindulge in Christmas treats, and have Christmas wrapping paper flying all around us. Our students were overly generous this year, as when it was all said and done we packed and wrapped 247 shoeboxes full of gifts...wow!

This project is so special to us because not only does it bless kids around the world, but it also provides a space for our students involved in AIA to bring their non-involved friends and teammates. Who doesn't want to come to a Christmas party, right? And with this generation especially motivated by service projects, we see many new faces walk through the door.

One of my favorite stories from the night is from when I met Liam, a senior on the rugby team. He walked up to me and asked me if I was "in charge of all of this". When I answered yes, he went on to tell me that he had been coming to the wrapping party for the past three years and wondered how he could get involved in Athletes in Action. The night had made an impact on his life. Liam gave us his email address before heading back to wrap gifts with about ten of his teammates...all of whom we have never met! Please pray along with us for Liam and his desire to get involved. To God be the glory for using events like this to draw people to Himself!



Abby, one of our up-and-coming student leaders, wrapping with one of the teammates she brought who has not been involved yet in AIA.



The rugby guys who came out that night...yay!

Please pray...

...for the international student athletes who came to our Thanksgiving. Pray seeds planted in their hearts would grow. Pray for wisdom on how to follow up with them.

...for Liam, that he would indeed get involved in AIA and grow to understand the gospel.

...for our outreach and follow up of those who came to the wrapping party who indicated via our survey that they wanted more info about AIA. Pray many would taste and see that the Lord is good.

...for God to continue to work in our kids' lives, drawing them to Himself this holiday season.

With much gratitude, we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving! God bless!



Our little Mia literally talks about this night ALL year! She couldn't have been more excited to sit at this table and check in boxes with her sisters :)