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March 2020 Newsletter

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord."

Psalm 40:1-3

What a difference one month makes. I just finished reading through the newsletter we sent out to you last month. In it we highlighted how excited we were about our students initiating gospel conversations with their peers, and how there was exciting momentum in the ministry here at Michigan. Well, life is different now living in the age of the coronavirus, and in some senses it seems like the momentum that God was creating on our campus came to a screeching halt about a week and half ago when the NCAA officially ended all sports and the university president encouraged the students to return home. Just like that, fear and anxiety gripped our world. Student-athletes could no longer go to class or workout and the lives of countless people were in danger. We were left with our heads spinning, praying for safety and salvation for those threatened by the virus, seeking the Lord for wisdom in leading our family well at home, as well as seeking direction from God for our next steps in ministry. As we sought the Lord, our sadness over the sudden halt began to change. Perhaps now more than any time in recent history, there may be an incredible opportunity to minister to hearts that are hurting, anxious, frustrated and lonely with the amazing hope of Christ. So, we are pressing on here with the important work of the gospel...just virtually through online video meetings from our home computers :) Our student leaders have all said a resounding YES to continuing our weekly core groups that train and equip them to in turn lead their peers in weekly discipleship groups. The gospel of Jesus Christ and the Word of God will continue to press forward in their lives as they invest in community together...virtual community. Thank you for walking this journey with us!

Drawing Hearts

"Now I see why God was leading me to be especially loving to him over the past few months." This is what Sam, one of our student leaders, said to us after last month's AIA meeting on campus. Sam was speaking of Mohan, his cheer-leading teammate who is an international student from China.

Mohan had never been to a Christian gathering before that night, but he had recently told Sam he was curious about Christianity, and wondered how he could learn more. So, Sam invited him to come to our meeting and somewhat to Sam's surprise, he came - still sweating from running over after practice! You would never have been able to tell Mohan was new to our group! He jumped right in during the ice breaker and was talking with a ton of people afterwards.

The next week, after the news of the virus hit, Sam and Mohan sat down to talk about Mohan's interest in learning more about Jesus. Sam was able to carefully explain the claims of Bible, literally starting from scratch as Mohan had absolute-

ly no previous knowledge of God!

And just a few days ago, before our governor put us on lockdown, Sam came to our house to pick up a Bible for Mohan. Please pray along with us that Mohan would come to know God through the reading of His Word!



Sam and Mohan

Marrying off a Disciple!

A few weeks before all the corona craziness hit (thankfully!), Colby had the incredible privilege of officiating the wedding of one of his faithful men on campus. Adam came into Colby's life about six years ago as a freshman, and the two of them have been digging into the Bible and challenging each other ever since.

What a joy it was to walk through Adam and Molly's premarital counseling with them, pointing them to biblical principles about marriage and life. We are praying for them as they begin their new life together.

Colby and Adam are pictured to the right with big smiles after the wedding...Adam is not a small guy!



Reaching out...

Please be praying for our students as they reach out to their peers during this difficult time. It has been encouraging to hear about their desire to minister to others. Here are a few texts we have received from them...

"Hi Sarah, I have a quick question. One of my friends from school whom I had been trying to get to come to AIA has stayed in good contact with me since we left, and he has started to bring up the Lord in a few conversations. I seem to have planted a seed and I am not sure what to do. Like should I direct him to readings?...I feel like God equipped me to answer his questions thus far, but I want to be able to suggest things or continue to feed the hunger without sounding pushy! Can you help?" ~Sophie

"Hey Sarah, yeah this is all so crazy. The hardest part of it was seeing all the girls weeping after we found out [that our sport was cancelled] as a team. My heart is broken for them and I just want to love them the best I can through all of this." ~Natalie

"I have faith that everything is going to work together for the good. However I know there are seniors and other people who are deeply affected and may not see things in a positive way right now. If you could pray that God would use me to encourage others during this time that would be great." ~Briana

Please pray...

...for Mohan's heart to be captured by the Lord as he reads God's Word. For him to be able to find Christian fellowship as he moves to North Dakota to begin his athletic training career at Minot State.

...for Adam and Molly as they start their new life in marriage together.

...for our students as they witness for Christ to their peers during this difficult time.

...for the virtual discipleship groups and discipleship appointments we are beginning with students. Pray technology works! And pray lives would be changed by God's Word.

...for unity in our home as we are all together here for the foreseeable future.



While it has been quite stressful, this season has afforded us much needed family time with home-schooling and lunch sometimes made by daddy :)



Know we are praying for YOU during this time for God's protection and provision. Please text or email us with your prayer requests! Our contact info is on the front page. Thank you for locking arms with us. God bless!