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## March 2021 Newsletter

“But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.’” Matthew 28:5-6

Happy early Easter! The weather is taking a turn in the right direction here in Michigan, I can hear birds outside my window, and the gloom of winter seems to be disappearing...yay! It feels like change is on the way, and hopefully that won't only be with the weather, but also prayerfully with the loosening of Covid restrictions. The university has announced that groups of fifty or less are now allowed to meet outdoors with masks, and that has brought the hope of maybe seeing some of our students again face-to-face in the near future. I think that will be good for all of our souls. What a long time it has been since we have all been together! Despite all the restrictions we have faced, our students have been so incredibly faithful to live out our vision statement of “making disciples who make disciples who make disciples...” by winning, building and sending students. They have not let the roadblocks that have seemed to stand in their way inhibit their pursuit of God and their outreach of love to those around them. We thought we would use this month's newsletter to share short stories with you of how they are doing just that. Be encouraged to know that God is on the move here at the University of Michigan, and that He is using the important role you play in all of this to do just that. Thank you!

### A heart for prayer

Meet Jackson, a sophomore on Michigan's cheer team. A few months ago he approached Colby to ask if he could start a weekly zoom AIA prayer group, and of course we said yes! Now Thursdays at 10am you can find Jackson faithfully leading his peers to the Lord through prayer. Each week they talk through Scripture, worship God through song, and go to the Father on behalf of others. We are so proud of him for taking the initiative to lead in this way!



Natalie



Josh

### A heart for the Word

To the left are a few of the faces of our students who (on their own initiative!) committed to reading the bible in ninety days last year. Ninety days?? That's A LOT of reading each day to fit the entire bible in! Each week they would talk over zoom and share about what they were learning and seeing in the scriptures - a sweeping view of God and His purposes on earth, among other things.

One of these faithful students, Josh, decided recently to begin the 90 day adventure again and invited others on our monthly AIA zoom call to join him. After his invitation, a sweet freshman on the softball team asked if she could be a part of the reading journey with him. Yay!

Sam also decided to read through the bible, but his was a slightly slower one-year plan :) He invited the men in the discipleship group he is leading to join him. They said yes, and now there are even more students soaking in God's Word.

Praise God for the discipline and faithfulness of these students. Let's pray together that God uses His Word mightily in their lives!



Taylor



Sam

## A heart to reach out

*"I sat down with my teammate this morning and literally just laid out the gospel and shared my story and talked with her and answered questions and showed her my bible and prayed with her and GAH she's so excited and wants to learn more and wants to meet with you!!! Praise the Lord! He is so good!!!"*

I just love it when my students text with ways they have seen God working! This is a text I received last week from Lauren, one of our faithful student leaders on the gymnastics team. A few weeks ago this teammate of hers was interested in checking out the discipleship group Lauren leads, but was a little nervous and intimidated to do so.

But through Lauren's encouragement and answered prayer, she decided to attend and has been hearing God's Word and experiencing Christian community over the past month. God obviously has been working in her life, preparing her heart to hear the gospel from Lauren. I have a zoom call set up with her later this week and cannot wait to hear her story and trust God to nudge her forward in her journey toward Him!



## A heart to build community

Last week in our women's core group as we were sharing highs and lows of how leading groups has been going, Amber shared that she had been a bit discouraged that she was the only person that ever texted in their discipleship group text chat. She could scroll through the group chat and literally only see texts that she sent!

So a few weeks ago Amber challenged the women in her group to "light up the chat" and begin to communicate with each other more than just during their weekly time together in discipleship group.

The girls responded to that challenge and Amber was able to share with a big smile on her face that it had been such an encouraging last few weeks with her girls. They've been sharing verses, prayer requests and praises with each other throughout the week, helping point one another toward the Lord. Yay...I just love it when students catch a vision for how God can use them in each other's lives!



Amber with Colleen and Ericka, two of the women in her discipleship group

*Please pray...*

*...for Natalie as she receives treatment for her Lyme's disease. Pray for wisdom for the doctors, that her body would respond well, and that her incredible faith would remain strong.*

*...for Misti, our former student from the U of Dayton. Pray for her and her three children as they pick up the pieces from losing their beloved husband and dad, Shea.*

*...for God to use His Word mightily in students' lives as they read it for themselves and also study it together as we walk through Philippians this semester.*

*...for Lauren's teammate to place her faith in Christ and continue to be plugged into Lauren's discipleship group.*

*...for our oldest daughter, Mikayla, as she undergoes surgery to repair her ACL in her knee on April 20th.*

*We hope you know that we couldn't do this ministry without you! May God bless you in the giving of your prayers and finances!*



This picture represents two prayer requests: a few weeks ago I flew to FL to attend the funeral of the husband of one of our former students. He tragically died while on vacation with sweet Misti, his wife of 15 years. While there I was able to sneak in a visit with Natalie, one of our student leaders who is living in FL for the year so she can receive specialized treatment for her Lyme's disease. Such an emotional day in FL for many reasons.

We have officially traded snow pants and sleds in for flipflops and bikes around here. Hopefully that will last!

