



COLBY AND SARAH KEEFER
4695 SYCAMORE DR. YPSILANTI, MI 48197

COLBY—(937) 902-1767
COLBY.KEEFER@ATHLETESINACTION.ORG

SARAH— (937) 681-6533
SARAH.KEEFER@ATHLETESINACTION.ORG

September 2021 Newsletter

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.
Jeremiah 17:7

Happy September! As I write this a cool breeze is coming in through my window and the smell of fall is in the air. I just love this time of year! I love it not only because of the changing temperatures and colors of leaves, but also because of the excitement that comes along with starting a new year on campus. This year my heart feels extra expectant to see how God will use the loneliness and isolation of the past eighteen months to propel students into community and instill in them a desire to be a part of something eternally bigger than themselves. We’ve spent the last two weeks praying, preparing and inviting students to be on mission with us to reach the athletic department and beyond with the love and truth of Jesus. And I can tell you that God has been faithful to raise up new leaders and bring to us precious students seeking something more in their lives! We wish you could be here to meet them, hear their stories, and see how God is moving. Be encouraged to know that the Lord is using your partnership for His glory here at the University of Michigan!

Gathering Leaders

Given that “making disciples who make disciples” is the main focus of our mission statement here with AIA, it is important for us to choose our student leaders wisely, as they will be the ones to lead their peers in small discipleship groups each week. Last spring we graduated quite a few leaders, which left us trusting God to raise up new students who could become a part of our core leader group.

And God has been so faithful! This week we met with the 9 women and 7 men who have committed to lead their peers weekly! These young men and women lead very busy lives as Michigan student athletes, yet they see a greater purpose to their years here and are willing to make sacrifices with their time so that others can experience Christ. Let me introduce you to a few of them...



Jess, Amber and Lauren

Meet Jess, Amber and Lauren! As we sat in our circle of core leader women the other night introducing ourselves and sharing our spiritual backgrounds, I realized we were experiencing an incredible picture of “disciples making disciples”.

Jess spoke about how this is now her third year as an AIA core leader and expressed how God has grown her tremendously in those years. Amber then shared that Jess felt like her “spiritual mom” as she started her AIA journey as a member of Jess’ discipleship group. Then Lauren recounted that last year she was in Amber’s discipleship group and said, “so if Amber is like my spiritual mom, Jess you are like a spiritual grandma to me!”.

We all chuckled at her comment, then quickly were in awe of how God had used women in that room to make lasting eternal deposits into others. May He continue to do His fruit-bearing work in and through these women!

Meet Jack, a junior on the wrestling team. Last year Jack was faithful to attend a discipleship group on his team led by one of our staff volunteers. This year Jack is trusting God to take the reins of that group and lead it himself. He is nervous and feels unequipped (don't we all!), but is stepping out in faith and we are so proud of him!

And it looks like God is growing the number of men he is going to be leading. Here's a text I received today from Amber, our core leader we highlighted on page one...

"Hi! I just want to share a praise with you. The wrestler Cole who went to our kickoff party and the monthly gathering last night is already excited about going next week and asked for help in making a Christian music playlist! God is moving in AIA and on our campus and I can't wait to see what He does this year!"

Go wrestlers go!



Meet Danielle (the shortest one pictured!), a senior on the basketball team who has been SO faithful to bring her teammates to almost all of our summer gatherings. She is like a mother hen, guiding and directing them spiritually, and we are so excited to have her as part of our leadership team!



Do you want to see what an excited group of college students looks like? Well, here you go! Months of isolation gave way to an incredible AIA kickoff party earlier this month. Yay for meeting people in-person!!

Please pray...

...by name for our core leaders. Pray God would protect, encourage and equip them. Their names are: Jess, Amber, Aubrey, Olivia, Hannah, Danielle, Sophie, Lauren, Sierra, Job, Sam, Colton, Cole, Jack, Joel and Jackson.

...for our outreach to the freshmen class. Pray God would help us find those who are Christians looking to get plugged in, as well as those not yet Christians who are seeking something more to life.

...for the formation of student discipleship groups. With 16 leaders, we are trusting God for 16 groups!

...for our kids (named to the right) to have hearts soft to the Lord and His work in their lives.

...for us to have wisdom as parents and ministers, and that God would grow us individually and as a married couple.

We hope you know none of this is possible without your faithful partnership. Thank you!



Mikayla (12th), Jackson (10th) and Jaydon (9th) are all at one school this year. Yes, you are seeing a sling...poor Jay broke his arm in his first football game this month :(



Moriah (7th), Mia (4th) and Jairus (2nd) are also all in one building this year, as we moved them into the local Christian school. So far they are adjusting well and are loving making new friends there.