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October 2021 Newsletter

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” Matthew 9:37-38

Hello again from our home to yours! Phew, this has been a full month of ministry! Because of a variety of circumstances, for the first time in many years, Colby and I have no other Athletes in Action staff or volunteers actively working alongside us on campus this semester. Knowing that it is “just us” here this year has drove us deeper into dependence upon God, asking Him for wisdom as to how best to spend our time and trusting that He will take our efforts and multiply them greatly. One of the ways God is multiplying our efforts is by raising up sixteen incredible student leaders who are reaching out and pouring into their peers. We meet with them each week to care for, train and equip them, and then they in turn care for, train and equip the students who come to their weekly discipleship groups. It’s beautiful, really. Watching their faces as they tell about ways the men and women in their groups are grasping Scripture and seeing how it applies to their lives, is a highlight of my week and causes me to realize what a privilege it is to serve the Lord full-time. The disciples we lead here at Michigan have such an incredible cloud of witnesses around them in YOU. The giving of your prayers and finances make it possible for them to be trained and equipped. May God receive the glory for raising up laborers to go into His harvest!

Sibling Love

“My brother shared the gospel with me and told me to come here.” This is what Letitia, a freshmen on the swimming team, said to me the first time I met her last month. I wasn’t quite sure where to take the conversation from there, so I asked her if she would like to get coffee sometime :)

A week later we sat across from each other in the student union and I marveled at her story. Her brother, having no spiritual background, showed up at the U of Washington a few years ago as a freshmen golfer and somehow found his way to AIA. Our staff there poured into him and he gave his life to Christ and began growing exponentially.

Because God so radically changed his life, he passionately wanted his sister to experience what he had come to know, so he called Letitia up her first week on campus and explained to her how she, too, could know Jesus.

Letitia and I walked through the gospel again, and it was clear that she really grasped its essence in her brother’s phone call. Seeds of faith were planted and are now growing. I gave her a bible and told her about a discipleship group that one of her teammates was leading. She is so hungry to grow!

I texted her after her first night meeting with the group and here’s what she had to say:

“Hey Sarah! The discipleship group went really well. I felt a lot closer to my teammates and closer to God during that hour, and it

felt really good to talk about everything. I really enjoyed it, and I’m so excited to start reading the Bible on my own since I have a copy now :)”

Praise God for calling Letitia and her brother to Himself!

Here’s sweet Letitia!
Underneath are a few of her swimming teammates who join her each week in discipleship group.



Freshmen!

Every fall semester a major focus of ours is to reach out to the freshmen class. Giving them opportunities to experience Christian community and hear the gospel in those first few formative months of college are paramount for us.

Pictured to the right are three of the freshmen women who have plugged into discipleship groups this fall. I wish you could have seen the three of them right before this picture was taken, laughing as they hung out after the large group AIA gathering this month. Each one of them expressed individually to me last month a loneliness they had been feeling with not yet knowing anyone very well on campus. In just a few short weeks, God has allowed them to find each other and develop godly friendships...yay!

Another encouraging story from this group is that Avery K called me last week expressing a desire for me to reach out to one



Avery K, Jordan & Lani

of her other freshman teammates, Avery P. Avery P is sidelined for their soccer season due to a torn ACL and Avery K wondered if she might be encouraged to be a part of the AIA community. Long story short, I sat down for coffee with Avery P and was able to listen to and empathize with the anguish that comes with an injury like that, as our oldest daughter experienced that same injury this year. I sensed God leading me to invite her to one of our discipleship groups, and she jumped at the invitation! Please pray along with us that Avery experiences Jesus through His Word and the women in that group.



Praise God that after a break for the pandemic we are allowed to take students again to serve alongside MAAC Development, a community transformation organization in Detroit. Here they are breaking up and moving concrete, as well as building a greenhouse in a neighborhood lot. Even our little guy, Jairus, got in on the greenhouse construction and loved it!

Please pray...

...for Letitia to grow in her new faith. Pray also for God to continue to transform lives in her swimming team discipleship group.

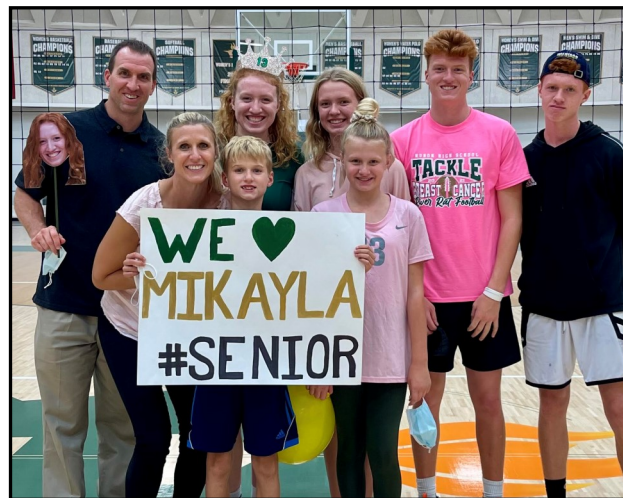
...for Avery P to come to know Jesus as she interacts with the body of believers here.

...for our continued outreach to the freshmen class. Pray for open hearts and that God would use the AIA upperclassmen to reach out to them.

...for the Operation Christmas Child packing event we are hosting on November 17th. Pray God would use it to bring new students our way.

...for our kids to experience Christ and walk with him.

Know that you are loved and appreciated by us! May God bless you and your family richly!



Due to her ACL injury, this wasn't the volleyball senior night she was hoping for, but nonetheless we all celebrated with Mikayla this month on a great high school volleyball career...how is she a senior???