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“But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.” 2 Timothy 1:12

Hello! It’s exciting to be writing this letter to you as we just celebrated senior night on campus last night. There are a few thoughts I have about this: first of all, how are we celebrating seniors already?? Wasn’t it just Christmas break? I think the older I get, the faster time passes. Secondly, gosh this has been a weird year trying to figure out who was actually graduating. With the emergence of Covid, every student-athlete is being offered another year of eligibility to offset the disruption of what Covid did to their sport seasons. However, not every athlete is taking that offer of an extra year, and it sure has been difficult to discern who is staying and who is going! Lastly, hearing the seniors share last night about their lives and what God has taught them during their years at Michigan was truly a blessing and my heart is full today. Many shared about growing up in Christian homes and struggling to find like-minded community when they came to college. They recounted how they were introduced to Athletes in Action by a friend or teammate and how plugging into a discipleship group helped them to make their faith their own and grow in ways they hadn’t yet experienced. One student was grateful for the ways AIA helped her to understand what the bible says about her identity, and how she is not defined by her performance on the court or in the classroom. Another student explained how last summer she was challenged to lead a discipleship group of her peers, but she was reluctant to accept. She noted another student’s faith encouraged her to say “yes” and that opportunity has been one of the highlights of her college career. I wish you could have been in the room with us as they all shared. Your partnership is what is making AIA possible here at Michigan! Below the picture, I am sharing a few thank you messages our student leaders wrote in their evaluation of the semester. Hear them as being written to you, as well!



Our seniors: Oliva, Sam, Emily, Danielle, Kim, Victoria, Austin, Julia and Moi

“Just so thankful for y’all’s dedication to serving the Lord and making his word known to the student-athletes at Michigan. I know so many people on my team have been positively impacted by y’all either indirectly or directly.”

“I love the Keefer’s and am eternally grateful for the community you guys have provided me and others! Truly changed the course of my life and college career.”

An Unlikely Pair

If you have been receiving our newsletter for a while, you have probably seen these two young men that are pictured with Colby. Sam and Job entered Michigan together 4 years ago and began what some might say is an unlikely friendship.

Coming from different backgrounds and cultures, and having distinctly different personalities, you might think they wouldn't have had much in common with which to start a friendship. But a shared faith in Christ drew the two of them together and they have been buddies, accountability partners and coworkers for the gospel ever since.

Sam is one of the seniors who shared last night at our meeting, and I think I will always remember what he said. To fully understand his words, you need to know that Sam grew up as a



Sam, Colby & Job

missionary kid in Ethiopia. He came to Michigan as probably the most solid 18 year-old follower of Christ I had ever met. Sam radiates Christ, has a deep passion for God's Word, and clearly understands Jesus' command to go and make disciples. So last night when he shared that God had "given him a word" as he walked into his first AIA meeting, my ears perked up to hear what that word was.

Sam shared that the word "workbench" was what he heard from God as he entered this new group called Athletes in Action his freshman year. He sensed God was saying, "here is where you are to minister the next four years...get to work."

And "get to work" Sam has! He has invested deeply into the lives of his cheerleading teammates (who have now won three back-to-back national championships, by the way!) and many have come to know Christ because of it. Last night some of them were given the opportunity to affirm Sam after he shared, and you could just hear the emotion in their voices as they recounted the ways Sam had helped them grow closer to God.

Perhaps the most heartfelt affirmation of Sam came from Job, who is taking his Covid year of additional eligibility and will be staying at Michigan another year longer than Sam. Job spoke of their commitment to hold each other accountable to being in the Word and how they would set their alarms for 6am and call each other so that they could read scripture and pray together. It truly has been a blessing to watch these two young men encourage and bless one another!

Please pray...

...for Danielle, Emily, Sam, Austin, Moi, Olivia, Julia, Kim and Victoria as they journey on from Michigan. Pray God would provide for all their physical needs, that they could find a church community to plug into, and that they would be lifelong disciple makers.

...for God to grow godly friendships among those student athletes who are staying around for the summer. Pray they would enjoy and bring friends to our weekly events.

...for God to be raising up new leaders for the fall.

...for refreshment for our souls as we come off a very busy season of ministry.

...for the hearts of our children to be drawn to the Lord—Mikayla, Jackson, Jaydon, Moriah, Mia and Jairus



I can't get over how big our kids are getting!

You are so very dear to us! Thank you for ALL you do to love and support us!