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May 2022 Newsletter

“...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.” Jeremiah 2:13

Hello from a busy Keefer home! Phew, I am not sure why I was thinking that May was going to feel like a slower month for us. Maybe it was because the winter semester at Michigan finished at the end of April, and we switched from leading and managing discipleship groups and one-on-one regular meetings, to facilitating weekly co-ed bible studies and going on more laid back coffee and lunch dates with the students. Perhaps I thought that switch-up in our ministry format would allow me to take a deep breath and regroup from an intense year of ministry. However, I forgot that whenever you attempt to reorganize anything to do with structure, there is a lot of mental energy that goes along with it as you communicate and lead those changes. I also forgot that May is a very busy month in the life of a mom with school age children! End of year parties, concerts and field trips, coupled with our kids' sports schedules, with the addition of prom and graduation for our oldest daughter, has made for a very hectic May. I don't know about you, but when my schedule feels out of control, a tendency I have is to buckle down and just *make* things work. I find myself running ragged to accomplish tasks and get people to where they need to be, without allowing margin in my life to simply think and breathe and be. At the height of my raggedness a few weeks back, I came across the above verse in Jeremiah. Ouch. It was talking about me. In the midst of my busyness, I had forgotten God was there to not only comfort and guide me, but to also provide me with the life-giving “living waters” my soul so desperately needed. I had made “cisterns” for myself in the form of strategies to get things done and plans to manage my schedule, but without the “fountain” of the Lord, those tactics can do nothing but disappoint at a heart level. I need God for wisdom, perspective, purpose and meaning in my life, and I am so thankful that He remains faithful even when we are faithless. And as I reflect on God's faithfulness, I am also thankful for your commitment to stick with us in ministry, even when there is a lot on your plates, as well. Together we are reaching students with the life-giving message of the gospel here at the University of Michigan...to God be the glory for what He is doing!



Mikayla looked gorgeous for prom! Here she is with Moriah.



Mia enjoyed dressing up for her recent school concert and posing with her older brother. Jackson is now taller than Colby!

Asking questions

"I'm actually glad no one else showed up today. I get kind of nervous to ask questions around other people." This is what Ella, a sophomore on Michigan's dance team, said to Colby last month when she was the only student sitting across the table from him.

Ella had signed up to be in one of our Faith Foundations groups, a five-week bible study teaching foundational aspects of the Christian faith. Her teammate, Marcy, who grew up in the church, had encouraged Ella to join a group with her because she knew Ella didn't have a church background and was hoping she might be interested in learning about God.

Ella attended the Faith Foundations group faithfully every week and came with many questions. She actually became a highlight for Colby this semester because she was so hungry to learn and understand what the Bible is saying.

Watching her friend Marcy's faith in action has made a profound impact on Ella's life. One week Ella mentioned how she couldn't understand how Marcy could just move on so easily from a poor performance, whereas she would stew over it and allow it to effect her negatively. Colby and Marcy were able to explain how understanding where our identity as Christians lies makes all the difference in overcoming failures in life.

While Ella has not yet placed her faith in Christ, we trust that God will continue to work in her life as she is home for the summer. Please pray for wisdom for Colby as he continues to meet with Ella and Marcy via zoom till they can return to Michigan. I just love seeing how God is on the move!

To the right are pictured Avery and Jackson who are currently at the AIA Ultimate Training Camp (UTC) in Colorado. While there, they will learn biblical principles to apply to their competition. Can't wait to tell you about their adventures in our next letter!



Ella & Marcy out for ice cream with the discipleship group they were in this past semester.



Please pray...

...for the seeds sown for the gospel in Ella's heart to take root. Pray for her conversations with Colby and Marcy this summer.

...for Avery (soccer) and Jackson (cheerleading) attending the UTC Colorado this week, and for Kim (athletic training) attending the UTC in the Twin Cities next week. Pray they would encounter God in deep ways.

...for our summer AIA schedule at Michigan. Pray for our weekly co-ed bible studies, as well as weekly prayer and social times. Pray God would bring new people our way.

...for our hearts to be fixed on Jesus amidst a busy season of life. Pray for us to hear from Him and follow His lead.



Jaiurs, our youngest kiddo, turned 9 this month! The guy is full of energy and is such a joy to have in the family. While he is very tall, he can't dunk yet :) The boys brought a bb hoop over to our trampoline and are having a blast dunking on it!

We can't thank you enough for your partnership in the gospel! May God bless you richly!