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“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...” Hebrews 12:1-2a

Hello again! As I sat in my devotional time this morning, I was reading the above passage in Hebrews and the word “endurance” popped out at me like it hadn’t in previous readings of this verse. I thought about how the Christian life is one that is lived faithfully over the long haul. Not one that is recklessly sprinted. We remember the saints of old who have gone before us and ran their own race with endurance. We think about how they finished strong in the faith, even when perhaps their lives were not always the easiest by the world’s standards. That’s how I want my life to be...faithfully day by day looking to Jesus as I journey through life with an endurance that fixes my trust on Him. So as we begin a new semester here at Michigan, I want to be faithful with what God has called me to do. He’s called me to care for my family and to showcase His love and truth to these precious students who are trying to figure out how to do life away from home. Thank you for being on this journey with us. Your partnership makes it possible for me and Colby to reach out to these athletes, coming alongside them as they run with endurance the race set out for them.

Cru22 Conference

In July our family spent a week in Milwaukee at our biennial AIA/Cru staff conference, joining 5000 other staff from around the country for a time of vision and connection. Being there with our co-laborers is always an encouragement to me, and after the week of speakers, seminars and worship, I feel reignited in my passion for God’s global Great Commission!

Another HUGE blessing for us at this year’s conference was to see three AIA staff members that God raised up through our ministry over the past twenty years. In the top picture to the right is us with Brennen and Nicky, two former Michigan athletes who are answering God’s call to overseas missions. They were faithfully serving in East Asia when the virus hit in 2020, and after spending a year in Thailand, they are heading with their two small children to Central Asia in the spring. We feel like proud parents hearing Brennen and Nicky share their passion for God and hearts to reach out to the people of Central Asia.

Pictured on the bottom is Dee (second from left) with some of our kids. Dee was a student of ours back when we were on staff at the U of Dayton. She has a heart of gold and some incredible leadership skills and is currently serving on our executive team for the AIA campus ministry. She has held all of our children as infants, played Candyland with them as they got older, and now speaks words of wisdom to them as they grow and mature.

Our hearts are full for so many reasons after our trip to Milwaukee. Praise God for how He works in our lives!





One of our desires with the students here is to get them out serving in the community. Most recently, a group served at a local non-profit preparing a meal for the underserved. Meatloaf was on the menu that night and they had a blast working together!

Pictured on the right (and also holding the camera for the selfie!) is Jordan, a sophomore on the basketball team. A few weeks ago Jordan said "yes" to my invitation to join our core leader group of women and will be leading her team in discipleship group this year.

I am so proud of this step of faith she is taking, and we would covet your prayers for her this year.



A couple of big moments this month...

To the left, we were honored to attend the wedding of Morgan, one of our former student leaders. Morgan and her new husband are moving to Denver next month to begin their lives together, and we know God will use them to spread the aroma of Christ in their new city.

To the right is our oldest daughter, Mikayla, as we dropped her off for her freshman year of college..sigh :(She's attending Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY and earned herself an athletic scholarship for volleyball. While our hearts are grieving that family life as we have always known it has ended, we are beyond excited for what she is going to experience there.



Please pray...

...for us as we launch a new semester of AIA here at Michigan. Pray for our student leaders to be protected in their faith, and for God to give them favor with their friends and teammates.

...for the incoming freshmen class. Pray we can connect with the believers and plug them in. And pray that God would draw the hearts of those who don't yet know Him to Himself.

...for Brennen and Nicky as they prepare to go to Central Asia. Pray for their study of the language and for God to be preparing the spiritual soil for them to get there.

...for Morgan and her husband, Josh. Pray God provides community for them in Denver.

...for Mikayla as she begins her freshman year at Marist. Pray she would hear God's voice and know His faithfulness.

As we begin a new school year, we are SO grateful for how you make this all possible!



In case you wanted to see just how big our kids are getting nowadays, here's the current Keefer clan. They just keep growing!