

March 2023 Newsletter

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

GIVE.CRU.ORG/0507765

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." ~ Jesus from John 5:24

Greetings from our home to yours! It's hard to believe that this time next month we will be wrapping up the winter semester here at Michigan and moving toward the summer months on campus. Where does time go?? Our schedules definitely have been full of ministry and family activities, which no doubt has contributed to time flying by so quickly this semester! We continue to study the book of Genesis with our student leaders, who then teach what they have learned to their discipleship groups made up of their peers. Along with that, we are also getting significant touchpoints with seniors, emerging leaders and young believers with our smaller groups that are meeting weekly in the student union. Watching students grasp biblical truths and wrestle with how they can be applied to their lives is so incredibly rewarding and encouraging. Recently in one of those small groups with young believers we were discussing God's plan of salvation through Christ, and a freshman said to me, "I never realized that my part in salvation is simply hearing and believing," (referring to the above verse), "that takes so much pressure off of feeling like I have to do everything 'right' for God and perform for Him." Another student in that same group mentioned the other week that she declined an invitation from her friends to go out to the bars on St.Patrick's Day because the new life she is experiencing in Christ brings greater fulfillment than her former party lifestyle. Praise God for revealing Himself to the students here and allowing them to experience His goodness in their lives! You play such an important role in all of this and we are so very thankful!



Once a month we gather students together for our large group meeting. This picture was taken after Coach Mo, the AIA chaplain for USA basketball, came to share. We are all holding up the sign for "I love you" after being reminded that because of God's great love for us, we are called to love others.

This past week we invited our AIA staff woman specializing in mental health to speak to the students. With anxiety and depression skyrocketing in this generation, there were many students who were touched by her message and lined up afterwards to talk to her.

This past month we were invited to be a part of a national outreach called the Pulse Campus Tour which partners with grammy award winning rapper Lacrae to bring the good news of Christ to college campuses. They were looking for student athletes to share about their experience being a Christian in college, and these four of our AIA leaders stepped out in faith to share up onstage. So proud of them!



Job, Aubrey, Sophie & Joe

The picture to the right is a throw back to my college days in AIA at Michigan. It's of the bible study I was in my senior year led by sweet Diane in the middle (who we currently work alongside in AIA!). I share it with you because sadly one of these precious women passed away last month.

Linsey, second on the couch, was one of my Michigan volleyball teammates and a strong believer in Christ. Shockingly, she had a cardiac event on Super Bowl Sunday and God took her home to be with Him.



Sarah, Linsey, Sheila, Diane, Meg, Me circa 1997:)

There are a few things I have been pondering since Linsey's death. One being that we never know when our last day might be. I want to continue to fight the good fight of faith while God gives me days to be in the battle. Secondly, I have been thinking about just how foundational my time with AIA in college was to my own faith. These women in this picture encouraged me and challenged me to trust in Jesus and that set my life on a trajectory of walking with Him for a lifetime. Here's how Sarah (pictured to the left of Linsey) put it as we connected on Facebook over Linsey's passing, "I can't believe you found this picture, Sarah. What a special and wonderful season of life—not sure I fully appreciated it at the time. As I am now a mom of two girls I am so thankful to have had each of you in my life, Linsey included. Life is precious and thank our amazing Savior that He gives us great hope during these hard to understand moments and that sweet Linsey is in her glorified body with Jesus now."



"A society looking up to athletes as heroes must find those heroes looking up to God." Mia was beyond excited that two of our student leaders (including Jordan on the BB team) showed up at her school to watch her game!

Please pray...

...for God to continue to bless the teaching of His Word.
Pray students see His goodness and glory as they study it.
...for opportunities for our staff and students to share the gospel with others these last few weeks of the semester.
...for a joint outreach we are doing on April 4th with the Eastern Michigan U AIA group. The chaplain for the Buffalo Bills is coming to speak on the Damar Hamlin story. Pray this would attract non-believers and that lives would be impacted for Christ.

...for our kids to know and follow Jesus (Mikayla, Jackson, Jaydon, Moriah, Mia and Jairus).



We've had a full few weeks of our kids' sporting events. Mikayla was able to come home from college on her spring break and watch her older brothers make it to the state tournament in basketball! And they all watched Mia take home a second place conference finish! So fun to watch our kids play:)



We appreciate you! Thank you for all you do!!