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## October 2023 Newsletter

“And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the waves obey him?’” Mark 4:39-41

Fall greetings to you and your family! I am sitting in the Michigan Student Union as I write this, awaiting a coffee date I have scheduled with a freshman volleyball player. Just last month in our staff meeting we were praying for God to move and work on the Michigan volleyball team, as it’s been a few years since we have seen any volleyball players consistently involved in AIA. Little did we know as we were praying that day that God had already answered our prayers, because when I met with my student leaders later that night they told me that FOUR volleyball players had come to their student led discipleship groups the previous week! Not sure why that news surprised me so much because that is who our God is — a mighty and powerful God, One who does things that seem impossible. Kinda like He did in the above passage in Mark which we recently studied with our students. The waves and the sea seemed all-consuming to the disciples and they feared for their lives, yet God was Lord over it all. Even the wind and the waves obeyed Him. I feel like He says these same things to us today, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” Whether it’s concern over how something is going to come together in ministry, or anxiety about my kids and their futures, or worry over finances and how God will provide, God is asking me why I am so afraid. He is inviting me to lean into the character He has shown for Himself not only in His Word, but in my life, as well. May we all be people who remember who this God is that we serve. May we trust Him to grow our faith, even when the waves of life seem overwhelming. Thankful to have you in the battle with us!

Here are some snapshots from our recent large group meetings. These students love to be together and love when they get to hear from their peers!



When you get college student athletes together, everything is competitive — especially group Pictionary!

## Some recent highlights (go God!)

- ◆ There's a new baseball coach at Michigan and there are close to 30 new players on the team. A few weeks ago, the new coach allowed Colby to come and speak to the team to tell them about AIA and what we offer on campus. There was a HUGELY positive response to that meeting, with 25 players checking the box on the comment card indicating they would like a free Bible. Last week was able to Colby lead the first baseball team discipleship group and 12 players showed up!
- ◆ I recently met with a Michigan student athlete from Australia, who is just getting involved in AIA and checking out spiritual things. When I asked her what some of her thoughts were about her time in AIA so far she said, "I really like how you guys talk about how my worth doesn't come from my performance on the court. That's something new for me to think about."
- ◆ Last semester Dylan, our student leader on the lacrosse team, graduated and we wondered what would happen with the ten or so guys on his team that he led each week in discipleship group. They were all pretty new Christians, with some not yet grasping the gospel. In His goodness to those guys, God has raised up one of them who wants to meet weekly with Colby to learn spiritual truths and continue to lead their team discipleship group. God's Word is continuing to go forth on that team!
- ◆ Much like the volleyball player I spoke of at the beginning of this letter, the men's tennis team has *never* had a player involved in AIA since we came here in 2009. We sense God might be shifting those stats as Colby just met the new assistant coach, Trevor. He is a strong believer and came from coaching at a Christian University. Trevor has openly shared with the players about his faith and is trusting God to use him to make an eternal impact in their lives.
- ◆ There's an upperclassmen on the women's lacrosse team who has just begun to get involved in her team's discipleship group. I was able to grab coffee with her earlier this month and she spoke to me about how her recent grandparents deaths have caused her to think about eternity, especially since her grandparents were "very religious". As I listened to her story, I said to her that it sounded like she had bits and pieces of spiritual truth swirling around her head, but that maybe she had never had someone explain how they all fit together. When I asked if she would be up for hearing from the Bible about how those pieces all fit together, she said an emphatic "yes please!" So right there in the Panera in the Student Union, she heard about God's plan of salvation for her through Jesus. We're praying she responds to His invitation soon!



Left: the AMAZING AIA women student leaders! Above: serving in Detroit with our community development partnership. Below: the whole fam traveled to Buffalo to see Mikayla this month. So much love!

*Please pray...*

*...for students to draw closer to Jesus and learn to follow Him as they study His Word in weekly discipleship groups.  
...for the freshman lunch on Nov. 12th and the international student athlete Thanksgiving on Nov. 19th that we are hosting in our home.  
...for many students to come out to the Operation Christmas Child outreach on Nov. 15th (November is a busy month!)*

*Thank you so much for the giving of your prayers and finances! May God richly bless you!!*

