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January 2024 Newsletter

“They were looking intently up into the sky as he [Jesus] was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.’”

Acts 1:10-11

Happy 2024! We hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season last month. For our family, it was a rich time of being all together as our college daughter was home for almost a month, and together we spent some sweet time with both of our extended families. Personally, the last month or so has been very spiritually refreshing for me as I took a deeper dive than usual into the Advent season. In year’s past, I have had more of a singular view on Advent, focusing on the waiting that takes place as we anticipate the celebration of Christ coming to the world on Christmas. This year, however, my heart was also in tune with the waiting we as Christians are currently in, waiting for the return of our King Jesus. The Old Testament so poignantly depicts detailed prophecies that Jesus’ first coming fulfills so perfectly. And it also, along with the New Testament writers, speaks of a day that He will come again in glory to establish a new heaven and new earth. My heart longs for that day, does yours? Now we see wars, hunger, injustice, abuse, sickness, heartache and pain. The Bible promises us that one day that will all be wiped away. Thank you, Jesus. So we live in the in between...between seeing Jesus’ life and work for us 2000 years ago, and knowing that He will come again one day to make all things right. I want to live joyfully and expectantly in that anticipation and invite others to ponder these truths, as well. And as I think about the work God has called me and Colby to here on campus, it excites me to see this younger generation grapple with where their hope lies. We know it’s not in success or power or money or fame, but our true hope can only be found in Jesus. Thank you for being a part of getting that message to these precious young people. We truly value your partnership more than you know!

Sharing the Word

The pictures to the right are Colby speaking at our January monthly gathering, and Greg (our student leader on the football team) sharing at an event on campus giving a Christian perspective on sports and American culture.

It’s such a blessing to be able to present the students on this campus with the Word of God, which runs so contrary to other messages and teachings they hear.



Please pray with us that God would use His Word to transform lives here, specifically with the book of James that we are studying this semester.



Influencing for Christ

If you walk into Athletes in Action headquarters in Xenia, OH, you will see a board that says, “A society looking up to athletes as heroes, must find those heroes looking up to God.” And that is exactly the sentiment that went into a meeting of some young boys from rural Michigan and Colby & Joseph (our student leader on the wrestling team).

A youth leader from these young athlete’s church called Colby last month to say she had scheduled a tour of the Michigan athletic facilities for her 4th and 5th grade boys. She wondered if there could be any chance that they could meet a Christian athlete while they were on campus who could share with the boys about their experience from a Christ-centered perspective.

Of course Colby said yes and what followed was a sweet time together sharing stories, signing hats, trying on championship rings, and offering nuggets of truth. Here’s what the youth leader texted to Colby afterwards:

“Words cannot express how much it meant to have you guys talk to my boys about your spiritual journey. They will never forget it! They will have that benchmark in their life of listening to real Big Ten athletes share how you guys found your identity in Christ. And for those young men to see and hold your National Championship ring and Joseph’s Big Ten Championship ring was mind blowing! They have no idea right now the blessings they got to enjoy today until they are an adult. And my prayer is that someday they will invest in young kids’ lives too, to spread the gospel and be great role models for Christ.”



Grace Awakening

For a few years now, Ella, a baton twirler in the marching band, has been involved in our ministry, asking questions about Christianity. Ella grew up with no faith background and in high school decided to explore Buddhism. Feeling like life’s answers were not found there, we have been talking about Christ and specifically the grace He offers us. It’s been a hard concept for her to grasp.

With all her questions about faith, I was SO encouraged to receive this text from her over the Christmas break: *“Hi Sarah, I just really wanted to share something with you. I’ve had times in church when a passage was something I needed to hear, but today something even more personal happened. God spoke to me. There’s a lot I’ve been overwhelmed with and I decided to give it to Him and during what I call my debrief of concerns to Him, all the sudden my mind cleared and heart settled and the word Grace came to me. I wrote about how much that helped me in my journal, but I couldn’t help but share it with you as well, since it feels like an exciting moment for me.”*

Praise God for how He reveals Himself to seeking hearts!



In case you didn’t hear, something big happened in Michigan athletics this month! Here are the Michigan twirlers after the big game. Ella is in the middle.

Please pray...

...for God to use His Word to transform lives here. Pray for all the student-led discipleship groups that are up and running as they study the book of James this semester.

...for the AIA regional Winter Retreat taking place in Indy on Jan. 26-28th. Pray God draws students to Himself and a life of obedience.

...for the faith of our 13 student leaders to be protected.

...for our kids to know and love Jesus.

Thank you for the integral part you play in bringing the gospel to the University of Michigan!



Here is the one picture we managed to capture of our whole family over the break. Why do I look so short??