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“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” |isaiah 55:10-

Hello again! This has been a very full month of ministry around here. There hasn't been a lot of margin in our lives for rest and recovery when we account for the end of the academic year at Michigan, as well as juggling numerous activity schedules for our kids. In the midst of the hecticness, God has reminded me that labor spent for Him is never in vain. He pointed me to the above few verses this week to remind me that His Word will prosper and grow whenever and wherever it is sent out. And praise God that His Word is going forth and lives are being impacted and changed! Be encouraged as you read the stories below, knowing that God is using your faithful gifts to grow His Kingdom at the University of Michigan. (And just so you are not too worried about us, margin will return to our lives in early May ☺ We just had to endure this busy season for a while!)

Reaching out to youth

Early this month we had the privilege of taking a few of our student leaders to share at a local church youth group. The youth pastor interviewed them on stage asking questions about what it is like to walk with God in college, challenges they have faced, and how they maintain their identity as a Christ follower within their identity as a student athlete.

Sitting back in the audience listening to them share, I was beyond proud with how they communicated their faith and used their platform as Michigan athletes to influence the younger generation! Afterwards, it was heartwarming to see the youth of the church flock to them to ask questions. It was a reminder to our students that God can and will use them to impact others as they step out in faith! Such an encouraging night!



Our leaders who shared that night:
Julianna, Delaney, Alex, Aubrey & Greg



On a different note, we were able to travel to Chicago this month to attend the wedding of a former student. To know that she, along with these two other Michigan AIA grads, are continuing to pursue God and walk by faith brought great joy to our hearts!

Honoring our seniors

Pictured to the right are 21 of our 37 graduating seniors who were able to come out and be honored at our senior night this month. We have never had a class of seniors this large, and as we have asked ourselves the question of why we have so many this year, we wonder if it has to do with the fact that this year's senior class lived their freshman year in the isolation of the Covid pandemic.

We wonder if the lack of community their freshman year is what perhaps led many of them to plug into our AIA community in such large numbers. Either way, we are super encouraged by their faith and investment in others throughout their years at Michigan.

We asked each of them to write a brief paragraph about what God has taught them during their college years and what advice they would give to the underclassmen. Here are a few of their answers:

"God has showed me the importance of community. Surround yourself with people who lift you up and are always there to remind you of who you are outside of being an athlete. God has made me feel so known and loved as a child of God through the people around me. Be bold, serve in community, invest in time with other believers that challenge and spur you on."

~ Delaney, rowing

"My piece of wisdom is to live rooted in your time here. College is a period of our lives, 4-5 years (sometimes more), in which everything can feel temporary. It can lead us to not pour into relationships, communities, and spaces we occupy out of fear of goodbye. Whether you are a first-year or an upperclassman, my challenge to you is to not hold back, dive fully into the Christian community God has given you during this period of time. It may be cliché but it goes by fast. What a gift it is to pour into this campus and the people around you even for just a short period of time. Lean in and live rooted. The goodbyes may be bittersweet but it's so worth it. Much love to all of you AIA community."

~ Amber, cross country



"Do not be afraid to express your love for the Lord. Coming to Michigan as a freshman, I was very scared to tell people how important my faith is to me. I was scared of not fitting in and this resulted in me changing both morals and aspects about myself to fit in. Over this past year, I have started to come back to the Lord and am happier than I've ever been. At the end of the day God will always be there for you. Never change who you are for anyone and know God will always love you. I have also learned the importance of having a strong D group. Coming together each week with guys who I can now call brothers has been so uplifting. Find your people and don't be afraid to lean on them."

~ Matthew, gymnastics

"Treat your D Group like a family! It was always such a nice escape during hectic weeks and I loved entering a space that was welcoming, non-judgmental, and supportive. The more you rely on each other and get to know one another, the deeper your conversations and relationships will be."

~ Josie, lacrosse

"Lean in to the people that help you lean in to God."

~ Katelynn, cross country



Our seniors on the women's rowing team with one of their coaches who came out to support them

Please pray...

...for our graduating seniors as they leave Michigan and enter the workforce. Pray God provides great Christian community for them, and that He will open doors for ministry in their new cities.

...for our summer AIA activities. That God would bring people out to bible studies and social events.

...for us as we focus on raising additional financial support during the month of May. Pray God leads us to new ministry partners.

Thank you for the investment you are making in young lives here! We love and appreciate you!!