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## May 2025 Newsletter

“...train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things,”  
1 Timothy 4:7-8

Hello again from our home to yours! As the calendar turned to May, the push to make it to the winter semester’s finish line has now come and gone and we feel like we are able to come up for a bit of air! The grind of the campus ministry schedule during the fall and winter semesters can be grueling, so we are grateful for the slower and more relaxed pace of our summer schedule of ministry. Unlike the non-athlete population on college campuses, the student-athletes mostly remain around campus during the summer months. As these athletes focus on physical training in the off-season, those who desire to grow in their faith can also see spiritual transformation take place in their lives. It’s a huge blessing for us to be able to come alongside the athletes at EMU and UM during the summer months when their schedules are a bit lighter and the pressures from their sport seasons are lessened. There is more time for developing relationships, and perhaps a bit more headspace to be able to think and ponder the things of God. Please join with us in praying that God would use these summer months to make eternal deposits in the lives of these young people, growing the Kingdom in their hearts and giving them vision for being a part of the Great Commission. Thank you for all you are doing to make that possible here!

### Reaching Out

A few weeks back we took some Michigan athletes to a local church’s youth group where they got a chance to share about their faith. After competing in a few ice breaker games with the crowd, our athletes were interviewed panel-style by the youth pastor while the middle and high schoolers listened in.

They were asked questions about what it is like to walk by faith amidst a busy schedule, how they maintain humility in the athletic spotlight, challenges they have faced in college, as well as favorite verses and advice they would pass along to people who were in their shoes just a few short years ago.

I felt like a proud mama watching our athletes up there! They did an amazing job of representing Christ, Athletes in Action and their university, and it was super encouraging to see them break off afterwards into small groups with the youth to share more personally about their lives and journeys of faith.

These student-athletes hold a unique platform which affords their voices to be listened to in our society. We pray that the aroma of Christ would be fragrant around them as they represent their King during their years in college. Pictured are: Maddy (rowing), Erin (lacrosse), Jaydyn (track/cc), Greg (football), Lawrence (track), Jospeh & Zar (wrestling)



## May highlights:

- ♦ Believe it or not, training for the fall college football season has already begun and Eastern Michigan's team is back from their short break for the summer. The head coach is a strong believer and has welcomed Colby into the program to minister to the team. Going to practices and starting a weekly team bible study have been really encouraging for him and we are excited for Colby to continue to build relationships with the players throughout the summer.
- ♦ We are hosting a weekly AIA meeting in our home for any EMU or UM athlete who is around and wanting to join in. Our focus is learning about what it looks like to compete in a way that honors God, and we have loved having a living room full of students wanting to learn. Last week, for whatever reason, only men showed up! At first I was discouraged that no women had come, but as always, God had other plans :) Through our look at Elijah, King Ahab and Jezebel in 1 Kings, the group got into an unplanned conversation about dating and marriage and finding a godly wife (so as not to have one like Jezebel!). It was a lively conversation with the men peppering us with questions — one that would have looked very different had there been women there!
- ♦ I sat down for coffee with a senior on the women's rowing team last week. She is very new to AIA and is showing lots of spiritual interest. As we sat across the table from one another, I was able to hear about her family, her background, and the reason for her interest in AIA. I learned that she'd had a hurtful experience with church during her high school years and had written off Christianity. However, observing her teammates live out their faith propelled her to give God a try again and she has been drawn to the authentic community she has found in AIA. She left our time together hearing my testimony and the gospel and we are praying that if she hasn't already responded to God's call of salvation, she would do so soon!



Above: the "men's" group at our house the other night. Left top: Michigan rowers. Left bottom: EMU gals



Jaydon's senior prom was this month and his sisters saw him off! Next up, graduation. Then off to Calvin U in the fall!



I was grateful to have some kids with me for Mother's Day! The days of us all being together are sadly waning!

*Please pray...*

*...for our summer AIA weekly meetings in our home. Pray God's Word would go forth and that lives are changed by it. Pray also that a stronger sense of community will be formed among the athletes that attend.*

*...for Colby as he builds relationships with the EMU football players. ...for the woman on the rowing team who we wrote about above. Pray she comes to saving faith in Christ.*

*...for the 10 students from UM and EMU who are attending the AIA Ultimate Training Camp in CO May 25-31. Pray God meets them powerfully there.*

*...for wisdom in planning for Colby's trip with AIA to Central Asia in July.*

*Thank you for all you do to further the Kingdom of God through this ministry! May God bless you richly!*