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## November 2025 Newsletter

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours! As Thanksgiving approaches and our hearts turn more intentionally towards gratitude, we realize we indeed have so much to be thankful for. God has blessed us with good health, loving family and friends, food on our table, education for our kids, a home for hospitality, students who are seeking Him...the list could go on and on. And the longer I walk with Jesus, the more I have come to realize that His promise to always be with me, never leaving or forsaking me is the blessing I truly am most grateful for. Seasons of life come and go. Joys and sorrows mark our lives through the years. Yet, He remains the same and is a trusted friend through it all. His presence truly is a gift that has carried me through many seasons on this journey of life. As we celebrate the upcoming holidays, may we taste all the more His goodness and presence in our lives. Thank you for being on this ministry adventure with us. Your faithful, consistent and generous partnership is a source of overflowing gratitude in our lives! May God bless you this Thanksgiving season!

### Operation Christmas Child 2025

If you've been with us for any amount of time, you know that our annual Operation Christmas Child wrapping party is one of our favorite events of the year. Christmas spirit abounds as students come together to pack shoeboxes full of gifts for underprivileged kids around the world!

This year the EMU and UM student athletes packed just over 300 boxes, and it was especially encouraging for us to see our AIA students invite their non-Christian peers to be a part of it.

Throughout the evening as students filed into Michigan's volleyball arena, I was being introduced to teammates and housemates of students involved in AIA. The hope is that having a non-threatening touchpoint with our ministry will perhaps lead to non-believing students being more apt to check out other AIA opportunities.

A few teams were unable to join us the day of the big party, so we opened our home to them the night before to pack and wrap their gifts. I don't think our home as ever been that full of people! So, so fun!!



### Pictures

**Top:** EMU baseball

**Middle:** UM soccer

**Bottom:** Almost the entire EMU basketball team showed up to our house to participate

**Left:** The entire EMU lacrosse team made an assembly line in our house and packed SO many gifts!





## EMU Freshman Lunch

"If you build it, they will come" is a quote from a 1980s baseball movie. Well, we feel like it could be the theme when it comes to any ministry event with EMU students! You plan it...and they will come!

This was exactly what happened when we invited freshman students involved in AIA and those they chose to bring along over for a lunch we hosted.

Twenty-eight freshmen walked through our doors that day. They experienced a home cooked meal, some friendly competition, information about AIA, and chance to connect with others in small groups about their freshman year. It was a wonderful time together and we pray God uses it to foster community and draw people to Himself.



We had so many students over for the lunch that when it came to small group time, we had to send a group up to one of our kids' bedrooms :)



*"Sarah I'm freaking out. My roommates who would refuse to even talk about God are at church right now for the 11:30. I'm freaking out this is so exciting hahahaha. I had to tell you. They've never been to church. This is crazy."*

This was a text I received from Sophie, our core leader on Michigan's soccer team (pictured on the left). She has been praying for her friends and teammates to know the Lord for a few years now, and it is so encouraging to see them take steps toward God.

The report back after they attended church was that it was exactly what they needed to hear and they were glad they went. One of them said she even wanted to check out Sophie's weekly discipleship group. Go God!



Nicky & Abel in the hospital being visited by members of the U of M dance team

You may recall that for the past few summers Colby has traveled to Central Asia to come alongside our AIA staff there. Brennen and Nicky Beyer (former students of ours) are the American staff serving in this majority Muslim country along with their three precious children.

This month tragically it was found out that their three year old daughter, Abel, has leukemia. As a result, their family has been medically evacuated out of their Central Asian home and moved to Ann Arbor so Abel can receive care at Mott Children's Hospital.

Our hearts are heavy and burdened for this young family we love so much. Please pray along with us for God to heal sweet Abel and for Him to provide for their every need.

*Please pray...*

*...for the relational connections made at the Operation Christmas Child event. Pray God would make students curious about Him and about what AIA is doing on campus.*

*...for the freshmen on our campuses to find Christian community and that God would raise up leaders from this class.*

*...for the UM freshman lunch being held on Dec 7th.*

*...for students like Sophie's friends and teammates who are checking out Christianity. Pray God reveals Himself mightily to them.*

*...for the Beyer family as they relocate to Michigan. Pray for endurance for little Abel as she undergoes chemotherapy and that the cancer leaves her body. Pray God would provide emotionally, socially, spiritually and financially for them all.*



It was Mikayla's senior night for Marist University volleyball this month. Four years gone by in a flash!

*Thankful. Thankful. Thankful. That is how we feel about your partnership! May God bless you richly!*