



COLBY AND SARAH KEEFER
4695 SYCAMORE DR. YPSILANTI, MI 48197

COLBY—(937) 902-1767
COLBY.KEEFER@ATHLETESINACTION.ORG

SARAH— (937) 681-6533
SARAH.KEEFER@ATHLETESINACTION.ORG

GIVE.CRU.ORG/0507765

January 2026 Newsletter

“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.” Ps. 125:1-2

Hello again and happy 2026! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that your New Year is off to a great start. Our holiday was packed with sweet family time, a highlight being that all six of our kids were home together for about four days. Absolute bliss! When our kids were little, I heard from seasoned parents that I would eventually treasure time in the future when everyone could be under one roof. That piece of wisdom was actually a bit hard to understand amidst the chaos of raising little kids when all I longed for was just a few minutes of kid-free time! But now I find myself embracing what I was told by those seasoned parents. Just to sit back and watch the banter take place between all of our kids with their laughter and personalities was really the best Christmas gift I could receive. And now, as our three college kids are settled back on their campuses, and our three at home have resumed their school routines, we find ourselves in the throes of full and rich ministry at EMU and Michigan. Getting the weekly discipleship groups up and running again, equipping our student leaders, organizing new growth group opportunities, and planning for our overnight winter getaway have been at the top of our priority list. There are literally so many students involved in aspects of AIA on these campuses and we are trusting God to use our humble efforts to move and work in their lives for His glory. We so appreciate your prayer and financial support as we seek to see lifetime laborers for Christ raised up here! This is truly an exciting time for the Kingdom of God!



An unexpected, yet timely staff team

You may remember us mentioning the Beyer family in our November newsletter. Brennen and Nicky are former Michigan students of ours who have been serving with AIA in Central Asia for the past three years. In November they received the heart-wrenching news that Abel, their two year-old daughter has leukemia.

To make a very long story short, their family is now living in Ann Arbor for the next few years while Abel receives cancer treatment. We are praising God with them that Abel's body is responding well to treatment and that settling into their home and new life in the State is going relatively smoothly.

While they are here, Brennen and Nicky will be joining our staff team reaching out to students at EMU and UM. While the circumstances are not what we would have wanted, we could not be more excited to have the Beyer's serving alongside us. We LOVE them and they are much needed reinforcements for the growing ministries here!



A few pics from our EMU monthly gathering

Equipping Leaders

Just like Jesus spent the majority of His time with His twelve disciples, training and equipping them to do the work of the ministry, we also are passionate about training up the leaders God has given us.

This semester there are 16 student leaders at Michigan and 18 at Eastern. We've never had that many leaders in one year and it's been so encouraging to see the fruit of their labor!

Each of these precious students are leading their peers in weekly discipleship groups and many are seeing non-believers regularly attend. We believe students are being drawn to loving and authentic community as much of our culture drifts towards social isolation.

We wish you could meet these incredible student leaders who are giving many hours of their busy weeks to further God's Kingdom. They are truly incredible gifts in our lives!



Pictures...Above: All but one of the UM core women leaders at a Christmas gathering at our house. Right: While there, they decorated cookies for the freshman dinner the next night. Left: The UM freshmen who were able to attend. God has brought in some amazing potential leaders in this group!



AIA Winter Getaway

This weekend (Jan 31st-Feb 1st) we will be traveling to mid-Michigan for the AIA Winter Getaway. While there students will have a chance to be refreshed and refueled as we seek God together as a community with students from other Michigan colleges and universities.

We had a lofty prayer goal of 30 athletes to attend from EMU and UM...and God has exceeded that prayer by giving us 40! Please pray with us that they would encounter God at the getaway and grow in their faith!

Please pray...

...for the Beyer family. Pray God heals Abel of her cancer. Pray for them all as they adjust to life in America. Pray for their ministry as we graft them into what God is doing here.

...for the discipleship groups as they start back up. Pray God would use His Word in students' lives as we study the book of Ruth together this semester.

...for the AIA Winter getaway Jan 31-Feb 1. Pray for the many details of logistics and content to come together. Pray God would move mightily in the student's hearts and minds.

...for the gospel to go forth through our students involved.

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

...for wisdom and unity for us as we lead.



Moriah turned 17 in December! Jackson & Jaydon's college basketball teams played each other last week. So fun to be there to watch!

As we start a new semester, we are keenly aware that it would not be possible without you! Thank you!!