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“You return man to dust and say, ‘Return, O children of man!’ For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night...So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:3,4,12

Greetings! Hope this letter finds you well. I don’t know about you, but Ash Wednesday tends to sneak up on me every year. I feel like no sooner have I wrapped up celebrating the Christmas season, then the approach of the Easter season comes upon the church calendar. So this week when I suddenly realized it was Fat Tuesday (through people in our area’s obsession with Paczki donuts!), I quickly searched for and pulled a Lent devotional off our bookshelf and started to dig in. Being that it began on Ash Wednesday, the focus of the start of the devotional was “dust” — humanity’s origin from it and eventual return to it. Reflecting on her Lenton journey, the author of the book says, “I remember that my years on earth will come to an end and that, God willing, my works will follow me and, thanks to the journey Jesus is embarking on, I don’t need those works to save me.” It is a sobering thought to contemplate our eventual death, yet it is a healthy and biblical practice that brings needed perspective in this journey of life. As I remember my days are numbered, I gain motivation to draw ever closer to my God and live life seeking to do His will here on earth. We are forever grateful that you have partnered with us in the Kingdom work the Lord has called us to on these campuses, and also are mindful to pray for you, that He would be working in and through you in your spheres of influence. May He teach us all to “number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

### Faithful Disciples

I just love these two pictures so much, as they represent God’s faithfulness in a myriad of ways!

Caroline and Ruby are freshmen who came to college knowing they wanted to continue to pursue the Lord, like they did throughout their high school years. Little did these two know, but God had gone before them and prepared incredible peer mentors for them on their respective cc/track and rowing teams.

Jadyn and Tacey are two of our amazing core leaders at Michigan, and in the fall they welcomed Caroline and Ruby onto their teams. Like little mother hens, they wrapped their wings over their new freshmen, caring for them with the love of Christ and inviting them to the discipleship groups they lead.

As a result, Caroline and Ruby are now finding Christian community and growth in their faith during their freshmen year. They are also being equipped to reach out to their peers as they invite others to join in the AIA community. I’ve been so encouraged as I have heard both of them talk about other freshmen on their teams whom they are praying for and trusting that God will move in their lives.

Jadyn & Caroline and Tacey & Ruby are just four of the many student athletes at EMU and UM who are engaged in discipleship and spiritual multiplication because of your faithfulness to come alongside us in ministry. We thank you...and so do they!



Caroline & Jadyn



Tacey & Ruby

## Winter Getaway 2026

On the weekend of Jan 31-Feb 1st around seventy-five college student athletes descended upon Gull Lake Ministries' property in mid-Michigan for the AIA Winter Getaway. It was an amazing 24 hour window for athletes from campuses across the state of Michigan to retreat away from the pressures of school and sport and focus on deepening their relationship with God. Below are some words from students who attended, as well as pictures that capture our time together. We couldn't be more grateful and in awe of how God brought the details of it all together and of how He moved in people's hearts and minds!



The group of student from EMU and UM who attended...39 of them!

*"The Winter Getaway was a great weekend for me to slow things down and spend some time with God and others who love Him. A couple days prior, I went through an ankle injury and experienced some personal issues. God's timing shined through and He called me to digest everything that was going on, and I was calmed, protected, and encouraged during the process! It was incredibly uplifting to be around other student-athletes in our state who love Jesus and want to get to know him better, just like myself."*  
~Ella

*"Winter getaway was a great opportunity for me to put everything in my busy life aside and solely spend time with God. He has put a strong desire on my heart to know him more fully and invite him further into my life. I felt so much peace just sitting in this time with him."*  
~Gabrielle

*"Being a senior, I had many anxieties going into the retreat as I have been applying for jobs and in the process of figuring out what I'm doing after college. The retreat grounded me in what matters: following Jesus and finding community. The rest will all follow."*  
~Ainsley



It was literally 2 degrees while we were there, but that didn't stop students from gathering around the bonfire and sledding Saturday night!



*"One of my favorite aspects of the retreat was the small group portion. After hearing from a speaker we would break up into small groups and discussed what we learned. It was amazing getting to hear my peers' perspectives."* ~Tacey

*"Winter retreat was nothing I expected, but everything I needed. Going into the trip, I was feeling exhausted and overwhelmed by the stressors of life. When we left for the trip, all I needed was rest and that's exactly what the theme of this trip was. I had the opportunity to rest and enjoy the peace of the Lord while getting time to sit in the joy of His Word. I was also met with the joy of watching others' faith grow. I got to watch freshmen from my own school take a leap of faith and open themselves up to the Lord in ways we can't do just at our own school."* ~Sophie

Please pray...

...for the students who were able to go to the winter getaway. Pray the seeds that were planted and sown there would grow. A theme of the weekend was solitude and rest. Pray they would be able to experience that back on their campuses.

...for our student leaders at EMU and UM to follow God and faithfully serve Him amidst a culture pulling them in a different direction.

...for the new growth groups that just formed on our campuses. Pray students would hear and understand truths from God's Word.  
...for Abel, the daughter of our new AIA staff here, to be healed of cancer and sustained by God during her cancer treatment.  
...for us to keep Jesus as our first love.

Perhaps the biggest blessing of the weekend for us was that our two college sons were able to be there. Nothing better!



*Your partnership is changing lives! May God bless you in the giving of your prayers and finances!*