

## GETTING INVOLVED

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

As AIA staff members we have the same responsibility as other missionaries do which is to develop a team of partners. These partners provide the crucial prayer and financial support for an effective, God-honoring ministry. God works through this team to provide our needs for everything from spiritual strength and wisdom, to our salaries and ministry-related expenses.

If God moves your heart to be a part of our ministry with Athletes in Action, we would be so grateful. If your desire is a financial commitment, would you prayerfully consider giving \$100, or some other amount each month?

If you have questions about the ministry and how you can be involved in it, we would love to talk with you. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

CONTACT INFO ON BACK PAGE

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ATHLETES IN ACTION

JOHN & NATALIE  
MCLAUGHLIN



REACHING THE WORLD  
FOR CHRIST THROUGH  
THE PLATFORM OF SPORT

# OUR JOURNEY

## WHO WE ARE

**John:** I was a baseball player at the beginning of my sophomore year of college at Saint Louis University when I was first introduced to Athletes in Action. My coaches approached me after receiving a letter from AIA, asking them to recruit players for their summer teams. My entire life changed that summer, as the AIA coaching staff poured themselves into me during the two months we played baseball in Venezuela and Peru. Not only did I grow spiritually, but I developed an intense passion for those who are untouched by the joy and peace of Christ's love. For the first time, my heart ached to touch lives as the AIA staff had touched mine. I realized that God had not only given me the talent to play baseball, but that this ability could be used as a platform to change lives. The challenge of trying to reach the lost in Latin America motivated me to not only pursue a degree in Spanish but ultimately live in Mexico for a few years so that I could better serve those in the countries God had put on my heart.



**Natalie:** During my sophomore year of college, I trusted Christ as my personal Savior. As my relationship with Him grew, I began to sense an urgency deep in my soul to reach out to those who don't know Him. I began to understand the responsibility that God had called us to live a life of worship, drawing people to Himself both at home and on foreign soil. My first mission trip was to Los Angeles during spring break in 1997. The following summer, I felt led to travel outside the US to Nigeria. Soon I was traveling the world: to Peru, Mexico, Thailand, East Asia, the Amazon Jungle and Spain. I began taking Spanish classes as I weighed a budding desire to live in Latin America as a missionary. At the same time, I was pursuing a degree in athletic training. I began to see a greater purpose in my career: the opportunity to share Christ with athletes who found their identity in their sport. I was soon combining my passions, working as an athletic trainer and using my summer vacations to share the love of Christ in other countries.



## MINISTRY TOGETHER

God has been powerfully preparing Natalie and me over the years for our ministry together, giving both of us strong desires to fulfill the Great Commission and to use our love for athletics to raise up strong men and women in Christ. Our hearts were running hard in the same direction, and I joyfully asked Natalie to continue in ministry along side me as my wife and as a member of Athletes in Action. We team up together to do summer tours, discipling and challenging baseball players in their walks with Christ. Natalie will also continue to use her athletic training to build relationships and challenge athletes both physically and spiritually on the side while her main focus will be mothering our three children.

**AIA's Mission:** A recognized world leader in sports ministry since 1966, Athletes in Action exists to reach the United States and resource the world for Jesus Christ through the influence of sports.

**AIA's Ministry:** Athletes in Action, the sports ministry of Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), develops Athletic influences into Christ-centered leaders through winning hearts for Christ, building them in their faith through one-on-one discipleship, group bible studies, and training, and then sending them out to influence the world!