

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



Natalie helped to lead our church's Fall Women's Retreat studying the book of Hosea. She did an amazing job!



JT had a small birthday celebration with a few friends at a Cardinals vs. Reds game. It was a blast!



JT and Hudson are involved in Upwards flag football. They finally enjoy watching some college football with Dad!

AIA BASEBALL AND INTERNS

One of our highlights about being in ministry is getting to stay in touch with former players and hearing how the Lord continues to grow them.

We love it when former players come to our house for either dinner or stay the night as they are passing through town. It is even more exciting for us when AIA alum feel led to actually become an AIA intern or begin praying about coming on staff! Two weeks ago, AIA held NSID



Development conference - New Staff Intern Development conference. This is a three day long conference held at headquarters in Xenia, OH to provide training, resources and encouragement to new Athletes in Action staff and/or new interns. Two of our former baseball players, Chad Anders and Matt Diekemper are two who have become AIA interns. Chad is interning on four campuses in Arkansas and Matt is interning on two campuses in Springfield, MO. Chad, Matt and Austin Harmon, a young man interning with AIA baseball under John's leadership, came to dinner during one of their free evenings and it was such a blessing and encouragement to John and I. We not only reminisced about each AIA summer tour they traveled, but we talked about how their ministry on campus was going and what the Lord was doing in their personal lives. It truly is a joy to walk along side these fellas and see their passion not only for the Lord, but for the lost and the seeking!

AIA SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES MINISTRY STATS

Here are some fun ministry stats! As we disciple on an individual level those the Lord has entrusted to us, sometimes it's good to get a bird's eye view of what the Lord is doing on a greater scale as a ministry organization. During the 2017 season, we saw God do amazing things in and through each of the **52 projects** that occurred. Over **1,300 participants** took a step of faith and trusted God to "GO" to **25 countries**, having had **5,251 gospel conversations**, and seeing over **342 people** (that we know of) **make decisions for Christ**. All glory belongs to the Lord!



John with Jackson and Ty Beck at a church Fall retreat John spoke at. They are the kids of John's Director with AIA.

Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for John's coworker in the baseball department Dave. He was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. This is and will be a hard season for John and the baseball staff.
2. Please pray for us as we fervently seek the Lord for direction with our role in foster care; whether we should continue to serve in opening our home or whether the Lord is leading us in different ministerial endeavors. Please feel free to call or email with questions and/or clarification.
3. Pray for John and the baseball staff as they begin recruiting players for another wonderful summer of carrying out the Great Commission through the platform of sport.

www.macfamilyaia.org

YOUTH FALL RETREAT

Jackson Beck, a 16 year old high schooler, is the son of our AIA Baseball director. While Jackson has traveled every summer with his dad on the Alaska team, he has done so as a son.



This past summer, John's team was in need of pitching so we decided to invite Jackson, although only 16 years old, to join our tour as one of our pitchers. Not only was Jackson a tremendous help on the field against our opponents, but his life was changed having the opportunity to actually be a part of the team.

God graciously and deeply impacted Jackson and in some special ways. When Jackson returned home and meet with Mark, his youth pastor, somewhere along the way Jackson brought up the idea of having John be a possible speaker for their church's Fall Youth Retreat. Jackson spoke of John's series on how to navigate the world of media in a biblical manner, and through a series of discussions, John was asked to be the main speaker.



So a few weeks ago, near Columbus, OH, with around 50 middle school and high school students, sleeping the weekend away in a tent, playing hours of capture the flag, along with other creative competitions, John gave a four session series on the relevance of Scripture and media.

John felt honored to be their speaker and to speak truth into the lives of the next generation. Much thanks to Mark Lopez and Faith Bible Church for allowing John the privilege to serve their youth in such a special and tangible way!

