

# MCLAUGHLIN



*Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity*



*Family Photo with my parents over Christmas!  
My Dad took the photo.*



*Celebrating Hudson's 9th Birthday. He requested a special with the Family - lunch at Zoup, cake and presents at home, then roller skating!*



*Our AIA Baseball Staff team - minus 1,  
Justin who arrived obviously after the photo.  
I didn't take too many photos!*

## BEE WORLD MINISTRY TRAINING

As we write this we are on our way to Colorado Springs, CO for ministry training with BEE World.



In the last year, Natalie and I have been offered, through the invitation of Dave and Penny Semmelbeck, an opportunity to continue developing our ministry leadership skills through BEE World Ministry Facilitator's Training this week. Over the years, we have had many opportunities to talk with Dave and Penny about what they are doing in various countries and how they resource and equip their leaders and those they are ministering to.

We are praying this training will not only better equip us to do what we do through Athletes in Action in the various countries where we minister, but additionally Natalie is planning to travel with Penny in March to India to minister along side the BEE World team at a women's conference. In order to travel with BEE World, the facilitator training is necessary.

Our desire is that this opportunity will not only deepen our understanding of BEE World, but that this could open up future opportunities to partner with BEE World and connect them with other ministries we are involved in locally and internationally. We are extremely excited for this opportunity.

As we go through their intensive training this week, pray that our time will be fruitful! Pray for endurance and perseverance as we have heard the days are full and the workload is not light! Pray for Natalie as she begins preparations for her time in India, a country she has never been to before! We are also extremely excited to spend time with Dave and Penny, a couple who has encouraged us, provided wisdom for us, and loved on us both in our 12 years of marriage! *(Dave married Natalie and I.)*



## Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our time at the 4 days intensive facilitator BEE World training. Pray for endurance, focus and that our time will be fruitful. Also pray for a sweet time with our dear friends and mentors Dave and Penny Semmelbeck.
2. Pray for Matt Fox, Doug Wren, and Tim Cole in their respective coaching positions. Pray for wisdom in their efforts to disciple and spiritually invest in their players.
3. Pray for the JT, Hudson and Lucia. As they continue to grow in their understanding of their relationship with the Lord, as they are becoming more self aware in their understanding of the particular sins they struggle with. We pray they trust the Lord as He continues to shape them into His image.



## 2018 NATIONAL BASEBALL CONVENTION

*Do you have a regular routine when it comes to the New Year?* January for the Baseball Office means a road trip to wherever the National Baseball Coaches Convention is held. This year was in Indianapolis, IN. This is a special time for our staff. We have a booth that serves as a resting

and social gathering of AIA Baseball Alum from the past 38 years. I enjoy the time, but I was particularly fond of this year's time. Our coaching staff (plus one player) from our 2005 International Tour to Nicaragua, Venezuela and Puerto Rico was able to meet up and have dinner together. What precious memories were shared! To the right is our team picture from that summer. After we shared all the goofy stories, I was able to have some extended time with the head coach of that team, Matt Fox. We simply talked about our relationships with God, wives and children, plus there was a little baseball talk as well. I am so encouraged by his passion for the Lord at his respective school in Houston. Please continue to pray for him and his ministry field of high school students.



Additionally, I was able to connect with Doug Wren, our head coach from the 2009 team to Nicaragua. The picture to the left is actually of one of our dugouts in Nicaragua. It was between two trees :). He is currently the Head Coach at Tyler JC and has won 3

National Championships and 3 Coach of the Year awards in his young career. He strives to honor God through coaching with integrity and passion.

Lastly, my time with Tim Cole from Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma was filled with joy and anticipation. Tim and his wife, Casey, love the Lord and serve him tirelessly on campus at SNU. I will write more in next month's newsletter about the opportunity the Lord has granted Tim, but let me just say, it is something very similar to what we do at AIA yet it is based out of Bethany, OK where he currently lives. His vision is to mirror the discipleship model we had this past summer! He will get eight weeks to invest in the top baseball talent in all of Oklahoma! Praise God for the ministry of extension and multiplication!