

MCLAUGHLIN

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Family Photos



Family Christmas Photo in Denver, Co with my parents, my sister and her family.



Hudson's 7th Birthday Party Photo that we had at my parents in Dallas, TX.



John's Granddad showing off his rock and gem collection to his great grandkids!

NATIONAL BASEBALL COACHES CONFERENCE

Every year in January coaches throughout the US kick start their season by attending the ABCA Conference (American Baseball Coaches Association). This year the event was held at the Grand Ole Opry Hotel in Nashville, TN.



This is a very strategic opportunity for us at AIA Baseball to reconnect with Alumni, recruit for our summer teams, continue to make our presence known in the baseball world, and to grow as a department as we get time together outside of the office walls. In attendance this year were 5,000 coaches and about 700 exhibits!

In particular, I was able to connect with John Hill (pictured to the right), who I played with on the AIA Baseball team in 1999. Currently he is coaching at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. Even after years of not keeping constant contact we were able to pick right up on how life and our walk with the Lord is doing.



I was also able to meet with Luke Price (pictured lower left corner - Luke is in the middle). Luke and his brother traveled with AIA to Mexico in 2002 and Luke's younger brother traveled with me to the Dominican Republic in 2014.



We are so thankful for the legacy of AIA and the privilege to hear from those years later who have been impacted by the prayer and support of our ministry partners and ministry.



John receiving a family pocket watch passed down 4 generations to those in ministry.

Family Updates

- JT and Hudson have started playing basketball and Lucia will be starting ballet this year.
- We have started the foster-to-adopt process as we continue to pray about the adoption pending in Nicaragua.
- Natalie is leading a study on the Psalms with the women at church this semester.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our hearts as we prepare for foster-to-adopt attending the required classes.
2. Pray for John's preparation with the summer in Panama and Guatemala. He leaves Monday Jan. 18th to spend a week there with the local staff.
3. Prayer for AIA Baseball recruiting process. This has been a challenging year due to the high quantity of applications. We need wisdom and discernment as we work through the applications.

JUSTIN DILLARD - NEW STAFF

We would officially like to introduce Justin Dillard (*pictured above in top photo second from left*) as a member of our AIA baseball staff. Justin played on AIA's team in Alaska in 2003, coached John's international Mexico team in 2011, and then in 2013 Justin joined us as a Coach/Discippler on the Dominican Republic baseball team. We are extremely excited about his presence on our staff. Justin will be attending AIA's Mid-career in Orlando, Florida this February and will join our staff as the director of our New York team. He will officially be taking on the role of National Teams Director of AIA Baseball and you can check him out at www.dillardfamilyaia.com.

FOSTER-TO-ADOPT

As most of you know, we began the process to adopt from Nicaragua in 2011. It has been a roller-coaster ride as we have navigated the ins & outs of international adoption. Over the last six months, we began to recognize that referrals have slowed down and Mi Familia has not given out any healthy referrals under the age of 5 for the past year & a half. As we began to watch friend's of ours through the foster-to-adopt program, we began to pray whether the Lord was leading us in the same direction... a possible adoption through foster care.

We also had another 'setback' arise in November, so we began seriously researching and asking questions about fostering-to-adopt locally. So officially, although we are not stepping away from the Nicaragua adoption, we have begun the process.

Two weeks ago we started the 36 hours of training required to get licensed. We are confident the Lord has lead us to this decision and we are excited, but we are also rightfully nervous. Our hearts long to help and love on a child that has come from a broken home in hope of beginning a healing process. We know the road ahead will come with a great deal of challenges and heartache so we are asking for our prayer warriors to intercede for us... for the children that the Lord will bring into the McLaughlin home, for our biological children's hearts and for the part they will play in the lives of their future siblings and for John and I, that our hearts would be steadfast and our eyes would remain fixed on Him in all that lays ahead. Pray for patience and courage for our family and healing and restoration for the children that will walk through our doors. (If you would like to talk more, feel free to call.)