

MCLAUGHLIN



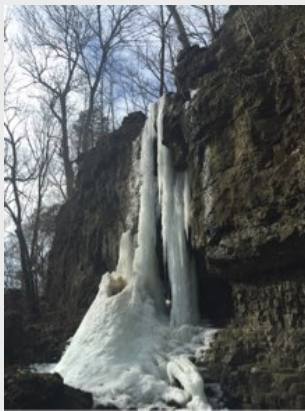
Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



Family Photos



Our new AIA Baseball logo!



This was the boys favorite site on our Dad/Son Christian Brigade hike at John Bryan Park in Yellow Springs, OH.



Good old fashion photo of the boys on our nature hike.

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

My recent trip to Panama was a great success in a few ways. One of the main reasons behind the trip was to simply spend some time with our local staff member, Isaac (pictured below on far left) and get to know him prior to our summer trip. Up to this point in his ministry work with AIA his primary contacts were with the Soccer world rather than baseball, so I wanted to help him kickstart the relationships by being present to meet with Baseball Sports Federation and university coaches while working through a few logistical items.

We were able to efficiently complete those tasks giving me the opportunity to step into the daily ministry work of Isaac. I was blessed to meet Ojoy (from the island of St. Vincent - pictured



in the middle of the above photo) who was working towards signing a professional soccer contract in Panama. Below is the story, written by Isaac, to the beautiful relationship that he and Ojoy have. This points to the servant heart of Isaac and the ministry.

“Ojoy and I met in July of 2015 during the students conference ‘Solo 1’. Solo 1 was a conference for students leaders of all Latin America and the Caribbean and 1600 young leaders came to Panama to worship God, to be encouraged and to be empowered to go back and continue to help with the Great Commission.

Among those 1600 students, I met Ojoy, who is a 20 years old Christian soccer player. I told Ojoy I'm full time staff with AIA in Panama and my focus is to serve athletes and share with them the love of Jesus. Ojoy asked me if he could come to Panama to play soccer and continue his education and I told him that if there was anything I could do to help him I would do it.

Since then Ojoy and I continued to talk through Whatsapp and I started to make some research and make contacts with some



Natalie conversing with some college students at our church.

Family Updates

- JT enjoys playing Guitar and is improving in basketball. He loves being with friends and has definitely inherited John's social heart!
- Hudson is really enjoying basketball... could have a point guard on our hands!
- Lucia's birthday is right around the corner (March 4). She will be 5 and has requested a baking themed party.

Prayer Requests

1. Continued prayer as we move closer to completing our foster-to-adopt courses.
2. Praise God for a successful trip to Panama to set up the details for our trip this summer. Please pray for Isaac as he continues to build and prepare for our team.
3. God has blessed our recruiting efforts for our International team so far and so we give him praise. At this point we are praying for an Assistant coach and two pitchers...and that is it!

teams to help Ojoy do tryouts, while he was raising the money to come.

Now Ojoy is here in Panama since December 13th and after doing tryouts with 6 different teams, he's finally made the team, Tierra Firme FC, of the second division and the coach and the president of the team love him as a player and if he continues to show his skills and improves more they want to help him go to Europe for tryouts because the coach played in Netherland and the president is from Spain.



For now he has signed a 4 year contract with some good benefits, so at least he will have the opportunity to play and learn Spanish here in Panama, and also he will be helping in ministry by being a witness of Christ with his teammates and serve in the community using his platform of soccer to share about Christ."

We look forward to spending the summer with Isaac and our prayer is that our presence with the AIA baseball team with help support, promote and encourage the work he and others are doing in Panama!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Natalie has started a 10 week study in the Psalms and continues to invest time in the lives of the women at our church. She is enjoying not only encouraging, challenging and motivating the ladies to dig deeper into God's word, but she has truly enjoyed hearing about their personal journeys in their walks with the the Lord and walking along side them. She has also been mentoring a college student and seeking for ways to build up women's ministry at our church! Please continue to pray for guidance and direction!

FOSTER/ADOPT

We continue to finish up our foster care classes which we hope to have finished either at the end of this month or the end of March. Either way, we have been told we could have a child (or two) rather quickly placed in our home. We continue to ask for prayer as we prepare our hearts for what the Lord has in store for us! We also ask for specific prayer for the kids who will be placed in our home- as we know right now, they are living in a hard place.