

# MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



## Family Photos



*Lucia's 5th Birthday Party!*

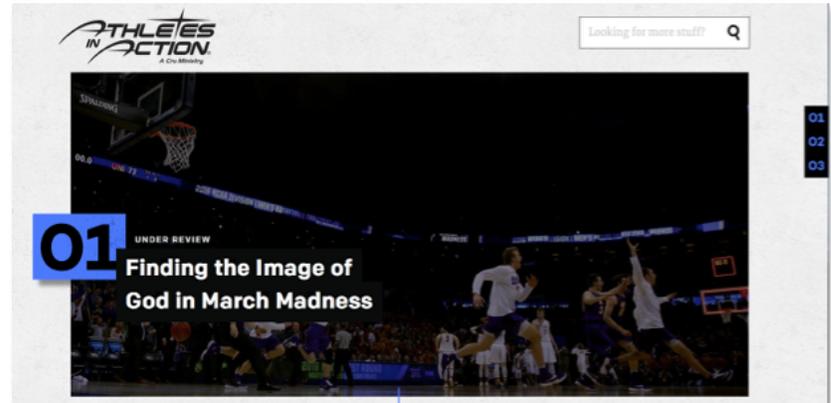


*The theme was cake decorating so the girls decorated their own cupcakes.*



*The Birthday girl and her friends.*

## THE ASSIST



[www.athletesinaction.org](http://www.athletesinaction.org)

We wanted to take some time to introduce you to a new Athletes in Action resource. Our vision as an organization is to see a Christ follower on every team, in every sport, in every nation. We fulfill that by building spiritual movements through the platform of sport so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus. In order to accomplish this we need to connect with the language of the culture... part of which is through the language of media. AIA has decided to start of website called The Assist to reach out to the sport world in order to *assist*, or help, sports-minded people think through how to collide spiritual life with God and ultimately assist them in learning how live biblically at the intersection of sport and Christianity. Please use it as a resource! Here was the first blog post from one of our AIA staff members Ed Uszynski about why the website came about.

*It's time. Time to assert another voice into the 24/7 discussion surrounding sports. Time to make another attempt at asking if there might be a third way to consider the issues arising from the games we love. A way that transcends the typical language and categories media are obliged to think in and assumes the gospel has something to say about sport. Time to reconsider the point of sports and competition beyond the scoreboard, beyond evaluation that limits itself to individual performances and "what have you done for me lately" bottom lines. Time to ask what it looks like when the gospel intersects the field of play in the lives of those who take both their faith and the field*



*The kids are studying weather for the month and had the opportunity to visit the weather man at the news station thanks to a friend of ours.*

## Family Updates

- JT - Baseball season has started! John will help coach again. Also JT continues to build on his piano and guitar skills
- Hudson is beginning soccer this spring which is one of his favorite sports!
- Lucia continues to enjoy her gymnastic classes.

## Prayer Requests

1. Pray for summer preparations to Panama and Guatemala and for the hearts of those who will playing with us this summer
2. Pray for Natalie as she makes summer preparations for me being gone all summer
3. Pray for wisdom and discernment through the international adoption in Nicaragua as well as the opportunity we have to foster children

*seriously. Time to consider the place of character in sports not as the language of losers, but rather a core concern of true champions. Time to reintroduce concepts like “joy,” “play,” and “fun” into the harsh world of youth sports, a harshness that follows an athlete through the ranks of big-time athletics.*

*Sports have won. Whether a fan of sports or not, the American consciousness is saturated with games and the analysis of performance, with matchups and betting lines, with stories tracking player behavior both on and off the field.*

*But where can we go to think with the mind of Christ about these things? Where are people pondering and writing about these issues from a Kingdom of God perspective while also inviting others to join the conversation?*

*The Assist is our attempt to resource an underserved population—the athlete and spectator interested in allowing God to shape their thinking in every aspect of life. The Assist represents an effort to engage the issues surrounding sport culture, to open another door for sophisticated but accessible Christian analysis of sports, to offer daily spiritual content concerned with the redemption of both sports and those who love them.*

*The Assist is an evolving platform where you can be equipped not only to think differently about sports yourself, but also to be a difference maker in the lives of others who are influenced by sports. Let The Assist become a regular stop on your sport-media journey and join the conversation!*

## AIA BASEBALL INTERNATIONAL

As many of you may recall I (John) spent a few years at Dallas Theological Seminary. During my time at DTS I served at El Camino Baptist Church in Lewisville, a hispanic church, as a youth pastor. One of the middle school students, Steven, is about to graduate from Lewisville HS and will be traveling with our International team to Panama and Guatemala as an intern. He will participate in the Bible Studies and outreaches while assisting with translations. If you feel lead to give please visit [www.give.ccci.org](http://www.give.ccci.org) and input the Account #0830633 or simply email/call me for details. He has a goal of \$3,800 to raise! Join me in prayer for Steven!