

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



Coach Cates gets an ice bath after the Scouts became the Great Lakes Regular Season Champions. He also received Coach of the Year from the league!



Team times are one of the many places where the out players get intimate with each other and learn what it looks like to be Godly men.



We had the opportunity to play a number of teams in Panama and Guatemala.

TRIPLE THE JOY



This summer John and I had the privilege of leading and participating in 3 out of our 4 AIA baseball teams. John spent 5 weeks with our Panama/Guatemala team, was home for two days, and then we packed up the kids and traveled to New York to help out with the AIA Ridgemen team as discipler/GM for a week while the primary GM, Justin Dillard, left for a prior commitment. Finally, we headed back home to help our very own AIA Ohio Scouts in Xenia for the remainder of the summer. It was incredibly encouraging to be able to invest in and love on 75 baseball players pointing them to Jesus both on and off the field. Below are a few highlights as we worked with both teams.

1. God is doing much work in Panama and Guatemala that we were blessed to be a part of. The president of the baseball federation in Guatemala has a passion for changing his country starting with the youth. Our AIA boys participated in 10 clinics with over 500 kids total. Not only they get down and dirty teaching the fundamentals of baseball to these little athletes, but every clinic the Gospel was shared and along with one of our players testimony with the kids and their parents. One parent in particular talked with the Guatemalan AIA staff following a clinic and expressed how God had encouraged her through the testimony of player and through tears said she needed to hear what was said as she is walking through a very rough season of life.

2. Two AIA baseball players, a host family dad and a host family sibling were baptized on our NY team in work with our host church Webster Bible! One of the players had accepted Christ as his Savior and asked,



Sharing the gospel with the kids at a clinic and this young boy was reading the Gospel to himself as the AIA boys read it out loud!

Family Updates

- The kids have had a blast being with each team this summer. They have loved hanging with the players, playing catch with the guys, cheering the teams on and just being at the field. We are encouraged by their love for the AIA guys and are praying that perhaps next year will be the year we go internationally together the whole summer.
- We have officially told our foster agency that we would be open for a placement(s) in September.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the new believers on each of our teams— that they would go back home, get plugged into a good church and continue to grow in their walk with the Lord.
2. Pray that each team that is still playing (Ohio, Alaska) would finish strong and faithful.
3. Pray for rest for each GM and coaches family after leading the teams this summer.

“Now what?” Justin Dillard, our GM for New York, brought him to the book of acts when Peters says, “Repent, and be baptized.” So, he chose to make this profession of faith before his teammates and a local church through baptism! Another player who has been a believer for a while but had never been baptized, felt the burden to do so as well and joined him. And finally a host dad who is a new believer and a host sibling joined the ball players in professing before their fellow brothers in Christ by being baptized! We are overjoyed at the growth of these ball players in just two months and the impact that they are having in the lives of those around them.

3. Danny, the player that received Christ (pictured to the right), holds a special place in our hearts. He rode with us in our car for 2 of the away games and we had a number of great conversations. Little did we know the impact we would have on him. He posted this message on Instagram prior to us heading back to Ohio:

“It’s amazing how God blesses people into your life when you least expect it. Even though it was only a week spent around the team, the impact that was left was unforgettable. This family is one of the most loving, kind-hearted, selfless, and (whatever other great things you can say about a family) I have ever been around. The long car rides to the games talking about life/scripture or laughing at the corny jokes made by the kids or just talking about faith and what it means to be a good Christian man while shagging balls during batting practice doesn’t even scratch the surface on the overall impact you guys had on my life. Thank you so much to the McLaughlin family for all the love and support not only to me, but to this team! Y’all will be missed greatly!”

4. Finally, but definitely not least, not only did our Ohio team win the regular season (we are starting play-offs today), but three of the players trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior! Two of those players are from a local university Wright State and one if from the Dominican Republic! Our desire is to continue to invest in his life during the school year!

