

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



Here are 3 of our International Players who received our Minority Scholarship. (left) Steven O., Michael P. (center), Steven W.



This was our leadership team for our International tour. (left Trent Sullivan, Connor Tracey, me, and Case Smith.



A photo from JT's 9th birthday party. It was a blast and such fun since we were able to have a magic show performed for us.

WORDS FROM THE PLAYERS

We thought it would be special to hear from the players about how the summer with AIA specifically impacted their life. Let's praise God together with what he graciously allowed to happen!

Steven O.: (with our International Team)

"AIA impacted my life by showing me that there is still people that believe and God and are trying to grow in faith. I learned that being in a faithful and healthy relationship with God is the biggest good news you can ever receive. The clinics and games were the best part because We got to teach young kids baseball and after every clinic and game we got to share the Gospel and share the Word of God. I grew in my faith and my mentality of marriage changed big time. John really gave me this great opportunity and I know that not every teenage kid can receive this opportunity, so I'm very blessed to be apart of AIA. I can't wait to tell people back home about AIA and how it impacted my life. Thank You AIA And John McLaughlin for giving me this Great experience. #AroundTheMound"

Mike P.: (with our International Team)

"Participating in the 2016, Panama and Guatemala Athletes in Action baseball trip has been life changing. I signed up for this trip planning to go to Venezuela and Panama. About a month or two before we left I was told our trip was now going to Guatemala. This was God calling out to me, as my birth family lives in Jalapa, Guatemala. While on this trip I had the opportunity to meet my brothers and sister for the first time and see my birth mother for the first time in 15 years. Aside from my incredible times with my family, I had the opportunity to meet and grow in my faith with amazing teammates and coaches. John McLaughlin has taught me to grow in my faith and maintain the relationship with God that is expected of me. I cannot thank all of my supporters for helping me raise money for this trip, but also the Minority scholarship for making this a possibility. This trip has been life changing and I feel that I now have more direction in my life now. Thank you to John and the AIA coaches, my teammates, my supporters, the minority scholarship, and of course Jesus Christ. I will continue to grow in my faith and bring what I learned here back to my everyday life in college and at home."

Carry H. (with our Ohio Team)

"J-Mac and Natalie, Thank you guys so much for coming in the last few weeks!! I will never forget our car ride to Cincinnati and how y'all were so eager to help give me advice after only knowing me for 20 minutes. I couldn't have asked for better advice on the situation, but that's just one of the many ways y'all have impacted my life this summer. Thank y'all!! And I will definitely miss the kids!! P.S. Tell JT Happy Birthday!! Thanks Carry."



2017 Family Vacation photo in Hampton Beach, NH.

Family Updates

- JT has begun Fall baseball as is extremely excited these days about magic and card tricks. He is getting really good! Hudson has followed suit in wanting to learn the magic and cards but has ventured off into the world of Flag-Football. Lucia has her own magic skills and yet is not falling behind with the competitive genes. She will play basketball this winter.
- We recently returned from a family vacation with Natalie's family in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. It was a fun, memorable time together.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our family as we have begun foster care.
2. Pray for Natalie as she is working through the day with 5 kids!!!
3. Pray for John and the ministry recruiting efforts for 2017.
4. Prayer for new personal ministry financial partners for us.

Colt W. (with our Ohio Team)

"J-Mac, You have been an incredible disciple to finish off our season and I loved having you around. Thank you again for the Martin Luther book and investing so much time into me. I can't wait to continue growing spiritually with the tools you've given me. Also, I love your whole family and especially playing with Hudson after all the games. Best of luck to you and your family. With love Colt."

Isaac D. (with our International Team)

"JMac, Just Thank you. Thank you for a chance on me. A catcher is one of the most important positions on the field, and for you have faith in me to be able to player catcher, as a redshirt without playing an inning in college and haven't playing in a year means a lot. I needed this summer. It helped me fall back in love with the game, and playing was just a blast. Thank you for organizing this trip from putting the team together, with all those call-in-days and setting up the arrangements means a lot. Your servant attitude really reflects what and who is in your heart. Thank you for talking with me about seminary and my future. Your insight in that aspect is invaluable to me. Thank you for talking with me about my relationship. You and your wife's insight has really helped me and I will continue to call and learn from you and your relationship. Thank you for always encouraging me and always being there. This trip doesn't happen and 25 guys don't go home changed without you. Thanks, Isaac."

Brooks P. (with our team in New York)

"Just so you know even though the team really struggled this summer I have to say it was the best experience of my life this summer. Thanks for everything."

FOSTER CARE

God has graciously allowed us to foster two boys, ages 3 and 2. B and C have been a handful as we have had to jump back in time to pull from our repertoire of parental skills! Our house has been non-stop movement but by God's grace we are managing as a family, working to develop family plans and strategies to handle our life activities.

Our kids have been a huge blessing. Please continue to pray for them as they learn in a new, special way what it means to sacrifice as God has called us to sacrifice. From sharing toys to sharing time with Mom and Dad they are actually learning what it means to *need* God to work in their hearts for love, patience, and the ability to communicate how they feel.

There have been a few nights where Natalie and I have sat down to "debrief" with JT, Hudson, and Lucia to ask them what they enjoy and what is most challenging. Our hearts are warmed by their honesty and responses as we seek God grant us wisdom and discernment.

We wish we could share more about B and C but we are unable. Please simply pray for unity, wisdom, and spiritual strength for everyone. There are some beautiful glimpses of God's work in only a week of time together. We are uncertain as to how long they will be with us so we ask for pray for their parents also.

If you have interest in a more regular update please email Natalie (na.mclaughlin@gmail.com) to be added to a designated Foster care email list.