

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



Hudson and Lucia at the Pretzel festival in Germantown, OH. Got some special time as a family of food and carnival activities!



Mike Pineda O'Donnell traveled with our 2016 International team. He is now involved in SportLinc, our non-staffed AIA campus ministry at Souther New Hampshire Univ.



Will Zimmer, traveled with our 2016 International team. He is now involved in SportLinc, our non-staffed AIA campus ministry at Augusta State University.

2017 - INTERNATIONAL TRIP

We are already underway for recruiting for the summer of 2017. I often find it a bit challenging to already be thinking of the summer when fall has not even officially occurred, but it is simply the ebb and flow of our ministry outreach to athletes. What I have found is that it actually is quite helpful to have this system of early recruiting built in for us because it forces us to be intentional about planning in great detail as we trust God for his provision of our team and the future ministry.

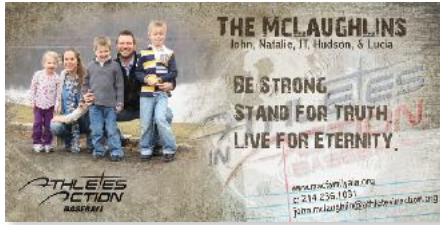
At this point in time we will be returning to Panama and Guatemala to build upon what we have established this past summer. We are excited to further the relationships that in place and see how God will work, especially in ways we had not anticipated. What is unusual, although, at this point in time for the team is to have our entire coaching staff in place. God has graciously allowed us to confirm Don Keathley as the head coach, Tim Cole, Chase Glaum, and Michael O'Sullivan as the assistant coaches. Please keep them in prayer as I know through their interview process they have a heart to serve God and love on the players along with those we will minister to this summer.

SPORTLINC

SportLinc is AIA's strategic ministry solution to non-staffed campus ministry. We want to continue to equip student athletes to ministry on the campus through out the school year and not ever let them feel like they are in it alone. This application based branch of our ministry is to give an opportunity for the athlete to be resourced and poured into as a leader to help start an Athletes in Action ministry presence on their campus. Ultimately we desire to equip them to make an impact for God's Kingdom within their athletic department and thus the focus is really not claiming the name of AIA but rather an avenue for the Great Commission.

I have the privilege of working with two players, Mike Pineda and Will Zimmer, in this ministry this fall. They both traveled with me our our International Tour this past summer. I meet once a week via phone or Skype to discuss the designated material we go through to help them establish a spiritual movement on campus. This material strategically moves them through both individual spiritual growth as well as larger ministry growth. It is so fun to continue hearing how God is uniquely working in each of their lives as we trust God for continued growth in their respective campuses.

Please keep both of them in prayer as they are obviously busy individuals working to manage well their school, sport and now ministry leadership.



*Just a reminder to download our Family prayer card from our website:
www.macfamilyaia.org*

Family Updates

- We have 3 new children living with us ages 7, 6, and 4.
- The Women's Retreat went well as the gals studied 2 and 3 John together.
- Ministry Support Trip - There is a strong possibility that I will be headed to Oklahoma for a support raising trip. Please keep the situation in prayer as we continue to build our ministry team to fulfill God's call in our life of mission.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our family as we care for a sibling group of 3. (E and J start school next week).
2. Pray for Natalie in particular as she is trying to figure out how to homeschool, keep the house organized, and love on 6 kids.
3. Pray for Mike and Will in their SportLinc ministry efforts on their campuses.
4. Prayer for new personal ministry financial partners for us.

FOSTER CARE

We recently accepted a placement for a sibling group of three! There are actually 7 total children from this family in care right now - ages 13 and below. The three with us are 7, 6 and 4. This has been a huge adjustment for us. Even when we told the agency we were willing to care for them for an unknown amount of time, we made it clear this was a step of faith for us. Without getting into too many details (although if you would like to be on a special foster care mailing list to hear more updates and get more specifics on how to pray and how we are doing, please let me know and we will add you to the email list), I have had many many moments in which I have felt we bit off more than we could chew.

We are still in the trenches as we adjust and figure out how to organize having 6 children 9 and under! It is hard. Period. But I must say, these kids are super sweet and we are blessed that they seem to be adjusting well and we don't have to deal with any serious medical or behavior issues. It is the sheer number and ages of the kids that is overwhelming.

Despite the challenges, the Lord has not left us alone. We feel extremely blessed by the outpouring of love and support from our friends and our church. We have had so many people cook us meals and even give words of encouragement through emails, texts and phone calls. We have felt loved on as we strive to love these sweet kids.

Please pray specifically for us and our kids... that we would all find joy in sacrificing and joy in finding a new normal. Pray for E, J, and L as they wade the tides of change and uncertainty as well. I can't even begin to imagine what it would be like to be torn from the rest of my siblings and family and then thrown into a strangers home, live by their rules and customs. It really is like living in a foreign country.

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.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Natalie had the opportunity to lead the women's retreat last weekend in which they walked through the books of 2 and 3 John. It was a sweet time for the ladies to dig into God's Word together while encouraging and challenging each other in their walks with the Lord. The theme was 'Walking in High Heels' (Walking in Truth and Love). This was a painting the gals did together as they were reminded that Truth must be inside love for it to be biblical love.

