

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



JT is a part of Lego Robotics. He and his team had an expo a few weeks ago which he was very excited about.



Mike Pineda O'Donnell is training with the Guatemalan National Team this week!



The last two months have been busy for our family personally as we have strived to love our children and 3 foster kids with excellence for His glory.



2016 COACHES ACADEMY

This past October, AIA held it's yearly Coaches' Academy. The AIA Coaches Academy is an invite only two-week journey blending coaching instruction, leadership development and cultural experience. Coaches from around the world, converge at the AIA's World Training and Resource Center in Xenia, Ohio, to add to their coaching pedigree.

Thirteen countries were represented (*seen in picture below*) this year and we praise the Lord for His work! This is a sweet time for these coaches to 'recharge their batteries' not only in their coaching skills but also spiritually. They depart as coaches with a focused mission – to lead and guide their athletes not only on the court, but in their homes and communities, too. It is such a great bridge for ministry across the globe!

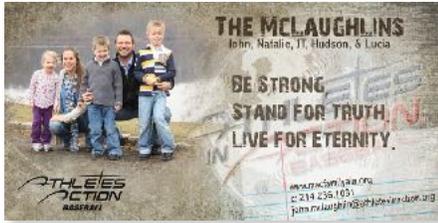
"It was a very busy and interesting two weeks. I was interacting with coaches from six different countries. During a very short time we became a group of friends. With our group we visited secondary, high school, collegiate and university practices, and attended all levels of basketball games, including an NBA game in Indianapolis (Indiana Pacers vs. Orlando Magic). It was amazing. We had a great chance to talk with many coaches and see many different styles of coaching. We met with successful people and attended their lectures. Daily 'team time' helped us to know more about leadership and growth as a person."

National Level Coach
from Eastern Europe



MIKE PINEDA

The name Mike Pineda should sound familiar as just this past summer he traveled to Panama and Guatemala with our team and we highlighted him in our last newsletter. If you remember, we shared that his mother was from Guatemala but Mike was adopted in the states and while we were in Guatemala, he had the opportunity to meet with his mother and some extended family members. Due to his Guatemalan birth ties and his athletic pitching abilities he was extended the opportunity to play with the Guatemalan National Team. In fact, this week he is away from school to play and train with the team in Guatemala. Please keep him in prayer and for the opportunity to have a national impact for Christ!



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

Family Updates

- Our three foster children moved to another home.
- John heads to Tulsa, OK for a personal ministry support trip. Pray for a gracious responsive to our current needs.
- We are heading to Connecticut for Christmas. Please pray for safe travels.
- John's parents were able to come and visit for Thanksgiving. Praise God for our time together and their safe travels to and from Texas.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for sweet rest as a family of 5 and direction/wisdom as we pray about our future with foster care.
2. Pray for support as we are in need of new ministry partners as some have transitioned off our team for various reasons.
3. Pray for Mike and his impact on the Guatemalan National team!

MINISTRY PARTNER DEVELOPMENT

December 9 -11 I, John, will be traveling to Tulsa, OK for a personal ministry support raising trip. God has been gracious to us over the last 15 years on staff and we continue to be humbled by God's provision. We are thankful that he has allowed us to serve the Kingdom in such a unique and special ministry.

We consistently are working to build and grow our personal ministry team as we trust God for the vision of AIA, its global impact for Christ and yet the personal interaction with college athletes in which we are able to disciple them as current and future ministers of the Gospel. We would not be able to fulfill God's calling in our life if it were not for generous donors who consistently partner with us to reach the world for Christ through sports. And so through the creative help of a current ministry partner there are multiple families in which I will be able to meet with and share the vision and mission of AIA while extending to them the opportunity to partner with our family. Pray that God would work generously in their hearts as we work to meet our personal ministry and financial needs.

If God moves your heart would you consider a special donation to our personal ministry this Christmas, we would be so grateful? If you have questions about the specific needs, we would love to talk with you. Please don't hesitate to contact us. You can also visit our ministry site to give.

www.macfamilyaia.org/contributions

FOSTER CARE

This past Friday, after 8 weeks, the three children that were with us moved into a different foster home. There were a number of reasons for the move. Without getting into too much detail here, there were a number of logistical reasons, but most dominant in the decisions was the reality that the challenges in caring for these three particular kids while still trying to invest in our own children was too much for the health of our family. What has only been 8 weeks has felt like 8 months if I am being honest.

With that being said, this past Friday the kids were moved to another foster home which is actually much closer to the county in which the kids are from, however they are still within our private agency (making staying in contact with the kids a possibility!). It was a tear filled good-bye that was not easy for anyone involved. It was heart-wrenching to say the least. We have laid our emotions at the foot of the Lord and trusting He will be care for them even through the transition from our home.

We have decided to take the next month or two off to heal from the past two months and process what we want our foster care involvement to look like in the future. We feel that the past 2 months have confirmed a number of our prior hesitations in accepting kids intermingled with our kids ages and taking an equal number of kids as our own kids. We are praying the Lord will speak clearly to our hearts as we seek wisdom and direction in foster care. Thank you for prayerfully partnering with us through this.