

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



Had a great time having alumni swing by the booth in Anaheim. To my right is Doug Wren, who traveled with me to Nicaragua. He is at Tyler JC and awarded his 2nd National Coach of the Year award in his career.



*With John (JJ) Miller, alum from 2007. Now he owns his own photography and videography company in addition to producing a few inventions of his own. jjmillerphotography.com
www.pitcherspowerdrive.com*



JT (The Great JTinnie) and the kids decided to put on a fantastic magic show for Natalie and I one evening. They are certainly an entertaining crew!



2017 COACHES CONFERENCE

Each year God renews our commitment to be at the National Coaches Convention. There is always some form of surprise that we enjoy as alumni swing by our booth to recount the stories of their involvement with AIA Baseball. We even had a gentleman story by who coached with our AIA team from 1987-90.

The pictures on the left column are a small sample of the alumni that stopped by. These two traveled with me a few years back. Doug Wren has been making a great impact in the lives of his players as well as receiving national recognition through his multiple National Junior College championships and national Coach of the year awards.

JJ Miller has also been experiencing another form of success. His has been within the world of photography and videography, coupled with some simple yet effective baseball inventions!

Additionally I was able to spend some time with another alum coach Matt Fox (Rice Alum) who is a high school coach at Episcopal High School in Houston, TX. God has granted him a wonderful ministry outlet through his position as a teacher and coach.

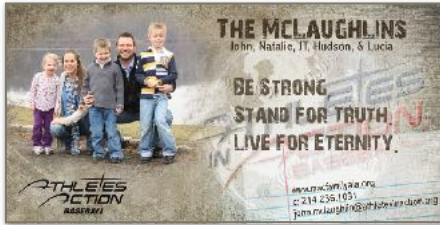
Please keep all these men in prayer in their respective ministry locations.

KEITH HODGES

Keith played with AIA Baseball in 2013 with our team to the Dominican Republic. At the time he was studying at Saint Louis Christian College. He is a great example of someone who was new in his faith, who overcame a lot of personal addictions and a hard home life. Ultimately, by God's grace and mercy, he fell in love with the Lord and grew a deep desire to serve Christ. He was an incredible servant during the trip and he grew leaps and bounds that summer.

The beauty of the story of Keith is that, after graduation, he committed to work as an intern with Athletes in Action in St. Louis for a year. Part of that commitment includes serving on a summer project in which he has been assigned to travel with me again! His role will include working alongside me in leadership, serving as a chaplain and simply loving on the guys.

I am thankful to God for the privilege of serving alongside Keith this summer. Pray for him, in particular as he works to discern God direction in his life as his internship commitment comes to a close.



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

Family Updates

- Hudson turned 8 on January 7 but due to my travels we delayed his football themed party for Saturday the 14th.
- All the kids are playing basketball with Upwards this winter. It is fun to see them enjoy the game and get better.
- John has signed up for a few woodworking classes in the next few weeks primarily based upon Natalie's encouragement to "take up a hobby."

Prayer Requests

1. Prayer for Natalie as she homeschools the kids this spring.
2. Prayer for Natalie as she leads a women's Bible Study.
3. Prayer for John as he leads a three week disciplshp training series at our home church.
4. Pray for endurance and joy as we continue to foster. Prayer for peace and discernment as to which children we should say yes to.

PANAMA / GUATEMALA 2017

At this point in time we are committed to return to Panama and Guatemala to build upon what was established this past year. Of particular excitement is what we will be taking place through our close work with the Guatemalan Baseball Federation.

They have developed a national plan to enhance and build upon the baseball talent in the country. They are very serious about this strategy and its vision for Guatemala which has steps to move them forward to a particular level up to and through 2030! That is some major planning, dreaming and strategizing! Their desire to use sports, particularly baseball, as a means of impacting all of Guatemala is an answer to prayer, especially for our local AIA Staff member Cristobal Chamale! He has faithfully served there for 20+ years.

The special element to this long-term plan is their inclusion of Athletes in Action (Baseball) to be a major component of their strategy. They have embraced the wholistic approach to athletic development that AIA teaches; mental, physical and spiritual development. They even want AIA to openly share the Gospel as we work closely in and around the country with coaches, players, youth and city and government officials.

Please continue to pray for God's favor as we reach Guatemala for Christ!

NATALIE

This spring Natalie continues her pursuit of homeschooling. She has grown in some amazing ways as a wife, mother and teacher. Not only is she tutoring for their homeschool coop, but she will also be leading another women's bible study (the book of Romans). Further more, she continues to have a heart for the kids that are in foster care. As she continues to serve, not only in our family, but outside of our family and to those we meet and engage with, please pray for wisdom, discernment, endurance, joy and a divine love for others.

FOSTER CARE UPDATE

In the past 4 months, we have had a total of 7 kids live under our roof... 2 for a little under a month, 3 for a total of 8 weeks and 2 for a little less than a week. As many of you know, the last sibling group of 3, stretched us and challenged us in many ways... probably more ways than we had expected. We have taken the past 6 weeks off to pray, reflect, process, talk, process some more, pray some more, read a lot and talk with various people who do foster care. After changing our 'parameters' for saying yes, we have decided we will accept more kids fairly soon. As one book I am reading describes foster care as a rollercoaster ride, we are not ready to get off the ride. There is great need... and there are sweet innocent children that are broken and need to hear the type of love that Jesus offers... they need to feel it. Our prayer is that every child that enters our home, we see and experience Him and forever be changed... so because He loved us first, we will love His little ones and keep riding the coaster at times screaming with our hands up to Him.