

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



*John's Woodworking Class (Wall Shelf):
Natalie has encouraged me to take on a hobby
of sorts since she has a number of them. I
reluctantly (not really) agreed and have
ventured into woodworking.*



*JT loves legos. I know many, if not all kids do
but he has developed a certain passion for
creating his own inventions. So we placed him
in a Lego First League to grow in his skills.*



*We will be celebrating Lucia's 6th birthday
on March 4th. I was able to have some
special time with her as she is growing fast!*

LOCAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

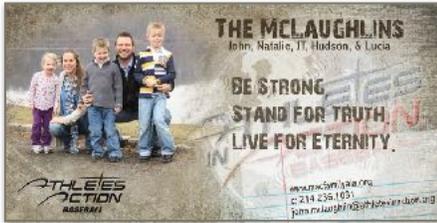
One of the joys of our particular ministry is the seasons of ministry work that are built into our yearly schedule. It allows for a time of focused, intense ministry work and yet a break to evaluate, recover and prepare for future ministry opportunities. The summers are long, (two and half months) but our falls and springs are not as cumbersome. We have a handful of local ministry outlets in the Xenia community but overall this ebb and flow allows Natalie and I to serve in some specific ministry ways in and through our local church.



Historically this has been leading and teaching at our home church. This past year was a little different as the emphasis was more on foster care. 2017, however, brings a return to our "routine" of small group involvement. This "return" draws from the reality that our Athletes in Action mission trip is right around the corner (from our vantage point) accompanied by the fact that we believe we needed to wait on any further foster care placements, at least until September (more on this subject below), due to the challenges of being established as a family before the summer hits. This family decision opened the door for us to engage and serve in leading and hosting a small group at our home and for Natalie to lead a women's Bible study in our home. We are excited for this opportunity as teaching is one of the core passions of ours.

Childcare : We are so thankful for Ari Nelson and Mandy McGregor. They are serving the families of our small group in a very tangible way. I highlight both of them to ask you to consider praying for them, in particular Ari Nelson. Her mom, Jacque and dad, Lance are on staff with Athletes in Action and her mom was diagnosed with breast cancer about a year ago. She is on the back side of this very difficult season of life and for that we praise God. The family however has an extensive amount of financial challenges (Ari has four other brothers and sisters, three of which are in college) and her helping with childcare is to earn some money for the family. She has such a sweet heart to serve. If God is leading you to give towards the family you can either give online (<https://give.cru.org/0359081>) or contact me for details (Their staff account # is 0359081)

Update: *John's Discipleship Classes* went well. It was fun to see him utilizing his gifting, challenging others to carry out the Great Commission. We are thankful that God sustained us through the intense foster care journey of 10 days allowing John to teach with relatively no hangups in his schedule or material. Thank you for your prayers



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

Family Updates

- Lucia turns 6 on March 4th. She completed her first basketball season and looks to the spring for soccer! She is a joy to watch.
- Hudson loves fast pace sports and has already claimed his is going to play professional football! A man with a plan! :) That will have to wait as he will play soccer this spring.
- JT loves baseball and legos. He has determined that he will be a Lego Master Designer!

Prayer Requests

1. Prayer for Natalie as she homeschools the kids this spring and she leads a women's Bible Study.
2. Prayer for endurance and joy as we work through foster care continued certification hours and discernment as to God's leading to continue in foster care.
3. Prayer for John as he prepares for the summer trip, aligning all the logistics and recruiting.

PANAMA / GUATEMALA 2017

We are in a good position as it pertains to staffing our team for 2017. I have enjoyed speaking with the 19 players and coaches we already have on our team. It is a sweet time of hearing how their life is going while spending some time praying for them.

We are however getting closer to the summer and we are in need of about 6 pitchers. This might seem strange as a prayer request but this is a significant prayer request. I will state the obvious but you simply cannot have a baseball team without pitchers. To help you understand the domino effect of insufficient player let me share this: Fewer players would mean having to play some players out of their specialty which would mean increased potential for injury which would, in the long run hurt our great reputation with the coaches of caring well for their players. They are, after all, on loan to us from the schools! We are trusting God to meet the needs.

NATALIE' UPDATE

Natalie is leading a group of women through the book of Romans. She not only meets with a group of 10 women on Thursday, but meets with two others on Monday mornings. She is enjoying getting into the lives of these women and encouraging them through God's word.

Natalie also started a biblical counseling class through ACBC (Association of Certified Biblical Counselors). She hopes to get certified as a biblical counselor to make her more effective at ministering to women who are going through various situations in life. So far she is enjoying the required reading and is already learning a lot.

FOSTER CARE UPDATE

The foster care journey has been a serious rollercoaster ride. Since September, we have had 11 children in our home. It has been hard and challenging in more ways than I can explain in this small space. Our last placement (a 18th month old little boy and a 9 month old little girl) was exhausting and they were only with us for 12 days.

Out of the 12 days they were with us, we spent 10 of them at the hospital for an appointment or in the ER. The little boy came into our home with burns all the way around both legs from the knees down. They ended up getting placed in a home with a nurse that was more capable of handling the medical care the little boy needed.

With that being said, we are really trying to evaluate whether this is the type of ministry the Lord desires for our family. We are evaluating our giftedness and resources and seeking the Lord's wisdom. We won't take another permanent placement until we hear clearly from the Lord, but we have told our agency we are open to doing respite for families that do have a placement and need a break.