

MCLAUGHLIN



Be Strong | Stand for Truth | Live for Eternity



The team held a number of clinics with hundreds of children. One clinic was held in the stands because it was raining so hard.



Our coaching staff played an integral part in the growth of these players both on the baseball field and off.



JT got the opportunity to join us in Guatemala this year. He loved being a part of the team. This is JT and Jackson Beck, whose dad is the GM for our Alaska team. Wasn't too long ago that Jackson was in JT's shoes.

CLOSING OUT AIA INTERNATIONAL 2017

Every May we gear up for the travel that is ahead of us. The emotions and energy that has been building since September, when the baseball department begins to start thinking about the next year's team, peaks. Every May we make those final preparations for in-country travel. We check and re-check with players to make sure all their preparations are in order and everyone has everything they need. We prepare our own home for being gone so long and prepare our hearts to be apart as a family for the month. There are moments in that busy-down-to-the-wire season that the thought crosses our minds- "Do we want to keep doing this year after year after year?" ... and then we're off.

But when we hit the down swing of the international summer tour and we prepare to say good-bye to the players, we can't help but say, "It's totally worth it." We do what we do because lives are changed. Some players start out with us thinking they are believers, but as we open up God's word together day after day, they realize they really don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Players grow in their passion and love for Christ and develop a desire to better communicate their faith. The Gospel is shared with people in-country and they are drawn to His love. When we see the guys literally change before our eyes, we can't help but feel a deep gratitude to the Lord for letting us be a part of what He is doing in their lives. We are so thankful for your prayers and support over this summer and the previous years.

Please continue to pray for these guys. The transition back to the U.S. for some players can be challenging. It is like a spiritual 'high' when these guys are on tour together - they are surrounded by not only guys that love baseball, but guys that are pursuing the same goal of knowing and loving Christ. They form a brotherhood that is hard to re-create having lived together, traveled together, eaten together, laughed and cried together for a month. Some of these players will go back to environments in which they are the only believer on their team. Pray that they would continue to do the things that stir their affections for Jesus and God would provide some type of community in which they can continue to grow in their walks with the Lord. Here is a list of their names:

- Christian Bacon
- Hayden Hufford
- William Baker
- Spencer Locati
- Jackson Beck
- Ryan Mills
- Zachary Bobbitt
- Bryce Parsons
- Dylan Bowers
- Dawson Shelburn
- Connor Brown
- Caleb Stull
- Cordaro Cummings
- Trenton Thinesen
- Austin Dillion
- Graham Wiebe
- Tyler Fischer

Coaches: Don Keathley, Tim Cole, Chase Glaum, Michael O'Sullivan



The Guatemalan Baseball Federation thanking us for our presence and for the example we set in our faith to their players.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our time with the AIA Xenia Scouts baseball team. That we would gain trust quickly to speak both with grace and truth into their lives.
2. Pray for sweet family time amidst working with the Scouts. Although JT traveled this year with Natalie and I in Guatemala, I have not seen Hudson or Lucia for 6 weeks so we are looking forward to being back together.
3. Pray for John and the ministry recruiting efforts for 2018.
4. Pray for wisdom and direction in whether to continue with Foster Care in this season of life. We will make a decision in the next month or two.



This year one of the coaches wives came in to tag team with Natalie in being a woman's voice in the Sexual Integrity & Relationship Talk.

PHOTOS



It is truly a joy to do ministry together. This was one of the times we took the team to enjoy the culture and see the sites.



Worship with one of the local communities in Panama! Clearly a great time worshipping Christ with our fellows believers!



Leading clinics is often a highlight for many guys. These young athletes love baseball and the AIA team gets the opportunity to share the Gospel with these little ones through baseball!

OHIO XENIA SCOUTS 2017

As usual, as the players from the AIA International baseball team head to their respective homes to either rest for the remainder of their summer or work, our summer is only half over. We will spend the remainder of July and possibly the first part of August investing and assisting the Xenia Scouts GM and investing in the players on the AIA's Ohio team. We know that the Lord has much more work to do and it's not time to 'let down our hair' quite yet, so pray for us as we transition back to the U.S. and switch gears working with our in-country team. There are 5 returners on this team that we have had in the past so we are excited not only to catch up with these players and continue to encourage and resource them, but we are excited to meet new players and get into their lives. Pray for softened hearts as we continue to reiterate the Gospel to these players and help them understand that God's desire for them goes much deeper than just salvation... that He wants them to live the abundant life!