

Following God's Direction

"It is at once the most Christ-like and the most happy course for a believer to cease from living to himself. He who blesses others cannot fail to be blessed himself. — Charles Spurgeon

We want to share some exciting news with you in our journey to be "most Christ-like" and "most happy" in ceasing to live to ourselves, and be a blessing to God and others.

As of June 2, I (Ed) will be transitioning to the Sports Complex and Retreat Center (SCRC) Dept. Debbie and I will now be working in the same department to serve the needs of those who come to the SCRC. My role will mostly be behind the scenes caring for a lot of things that make it possible for us to do ministry at our SCRC. It will also allow for me to help Debbie and Bryan with groups on our ropes course. We are looking forward to serving together in the same department, and being a blessing to those who come to the SCRC.

I (Ed) have enjoyed my time with the development department and heading up our "Game Changer" partnership. I had the opportunity to be around the leaders of AIA and learn from them how to be more Christ-like in how I engage with others. This is something in which I really needed some mentoring because most of what I did before joining AIA was...let's just say...a little lacking in helping me learn how to empathize with others.

God may still have a role for me in development at a later time. The plan is for me and a human resources representative to re-evaluate the change in October or November to see what His leading may be.

The process of changing roles began

about six months ago through a thorough evaluation of who I am, what has God called me to do, and what are the critical needs of the ministry.

Those who were involved in helping me evaluate this change agreed this new role is something that God has uniquely shaped me for, and is vital to the mission of ministering to people who come to the SCRC, and our World Training and Resource Center. I am grateful and humbled that the leadership of AIA would entrust me with such an important role within the ministry of AIA. Please pray I will serve well!

As of Apr. 25th God has also blessed me (Ed) with the opportunity to be a support coach for eight interns who will be serving Internationally for one year starting in August. This fall, these interns (called STINT-ers) will head to five different countries, which are vital to the mission of AIA and our desire to build spiritual movements in every nation. I will be coaching them as they develop their team of ministry partners between now and August.

They are all recent college graduates and have amazing hearts for the Lord. I am not sure there is anything better than young people on fire for Jesus. It is a blessing for me to be a part of helping them begin their journey in using the gifts God has given them to share the gospel, and God willing, lead people into life changing relationships with Jesus. Please pray God will provide for each of them!



Jamie and Heather will be heading to Puerto Rico. Also pictured is Cristobal, AIA South & Central America Coordinator.



Debbie will also serve in Puerto Rico.



Jared will serve in New Zealand



Jason, Sophie and Amanda along with Chris Dirks, the AIA South Africa Director, where these three will serve.



Megan will serve in East Asia.

Upcoming Events

Please pray for our ministry with these upcoming events:

- June 2-4: Challenge Course Facilitator Training for X-Project Interns (Debbie will lead this training)
- June 5: Centerville 7th Day Adventist Church youth group on Low Course
- June 9: AIA Track and Field-Spain team on Low Course
- June 11: Cedarville Engineering Camp on Low Course
- June 16: AIA Xenia Scouts U-13 Baseball team on High Course
- June 18: Faircreek Church Youth group on Low Course
- June 19: Dayton Children's Hospital Residency Program on Low Course
- June 25: Cedarville Engineering Camp on Low Course

X-Project 2014

Last Friday, our 2014 X-Project interns arrived to begin their two month summer project. During these two months, each intern will serve in one of various departments within our headquarters here in Xenia. They will also have weekly Bible studies, weekly Team Times, weekly one-on-one meetings with a mentor as well as other events such as outreaches, meals together and socials.

Six of these interns will serve within our Sports Complex and Retreat Center department. One of those, Aly, will be specifically working with Debbie at the Challenge Course.

The X-Project historically has been a fertile environment where these college students form life-long relationships and grow significantly in their walk with the Lord. Please pray that God will work in each of these student's life this summer.



Adoption Update

On May 5, we attended our final adoption home study class. Now we are in another "holding pattern". The next step in our home study will be our interviews and home visits by one of the social workers from Catholic Social Services. We are just waiting for her to call us and tell us she is ready to begin this next phase. Please pray that she gets back with us soon. We are anxious to complete our home study.

From The Heart (by Debbie)

During the sermon this morning at my church, I felt confronted by the Holy Spirit from the story of Elijah. I hope you are familiar with the story. If not, you can find it in 1 Kings 18-19. The part that struck me was in chapter 19:1-4. In chapter 18, Elijah saw God act in a powerful way in his showdown with the prophets of Baal. Then, at the beginning of chapter 19, Elijah heard about the king's wife wanting to kill him. His response is a little shocking. This is the man who wanted the whole world to know that the Lord is God, and when he was threatened by a woman wanting to kill him, he shrank back and wanted God to end his life. His current circumstance blinded him from remembering the power and faithfulness of His God.

What challenged me about this is that I find myself behaving in similar ways to Elijah. I have seen God show His faithfulness and power in many ways over my lifetime. Yet, when I face adversity or difficult times, I still tend to shrink back in worry instead of trusting in God's power and provision. I think about this especially with regard to our adoption. I can't see what God is doing now, but I need to keep trusting that He is in control and His timing is perfect. Thank you, Pastor Greg, for reminding me that God is there and He is in control even when I can't see or feel Him working.

Like Elijah, our heart's desire is that the whole world would know that there is a God who is Sovereign! Ed and I are deeply grateful for your faithful prayers and support that assist us in advancing the Gospel! Cling to our powerful God and have a great summer!

Praises

- ❖ God is Good...All the Time!
- ❖ God has provided several names of people who may be interested in joining our staff to potentially take over Debbie's role as challenge course director.

Prayer Requests

- ❖ Wisdom for Ed as he connects weekly on the phone with the STINTers whom he is coaching while they are raising support.
- ❖ God's provision for each STINTER as they raise support.
- ❖ Ed's adjustment to serving in a new department.
- ❖ For God to call someone to be the next Challenge Course Director when Debbie pulls back to stay at home after our adoption (Lord-willing). Three candidates are considering this opportunity. Pray they will discern if this is where God is calling them.
- ❖ Strength for Debbie as she enters a busy season at the challenge course.
- ❖ Patience for us as we wait on God's timing for our next step towards adoption.
- ❖ Safe travels & relaxing & fun vacation with family June 7-15