

## Building Character



While attending the three day football camp sponsored by the Anthony Muñoz foundation, the Impact for Eternity campers participated in football training, chapel services, small group discussions and the challenge course.

While at the low course, the final teambuilding activity of our nearly three hour session was called Bullring Bonanza. In this activity each team of nine campers holds a string attached to a bullring in the center. The task is to use the bullring to pick up a tennis ball off a pedestal and then carry the tennis ball to another pedestal a short distance away.

The tricky part for the Impact for Eternity campers was that we had three teams carrying three dif-



ferent bullrings and the three pedestals where they were to set down the tennis balls were only a few feet apart. This made the small group activity into a large group activity.



For me, it was exciting to see how these urban youth, who typically are known for being independent and uncooperative, work together and accomplish the mission.

Throughout the camp, coaches and chaperones reinforced lessons to help the campers learn and grow in positive character qualities. On the final night of camp, NFL Hall of Famer, Anthony Muñoz shared his testimony with the boys and



challenged them to become men of God who are champions of character in their homes and community.

### Upcoming Events

Please pray for our ministry with these upcoming events:

**May 12:** Victory Temple youth on high course

**May 12:** Athletes in Action Night of Champions (evangelistic outreach and fund-raiser)

**May 19:** Faircreek Church Women's Community on low and high course

**May 26:** Ohio Force Baseball on high course

## ❖ *Something to Think About* (by Ed) ❖

*When I was a kid I loved riding roller coasters, the more twists, the faster, the higher, and the scarier the better. The bummer was that the ride only lasted for a few minutes at best, and then it was over. Then you got back in line, for over an hour at times, waiting to ride again. Why did we do that? Could it be that we enjoyed coasting so much we ignored the wasted time waiting to coast again?*

*Before AIA my life was like that, just coasting along not really going anywhere. I was making good money, going to church, and having fun with friends. But there was nothing in my life really challenging me to stop coasting. Now I am being stretched in ways I never imagined. Honestly, sometimes it is just too hard look at who I really am and do something about changing. Life was a lot easier when I was just coasting along and wasting the waiting time.*

*Is God calling you to change something in your life to bring further growth? For me, it was a career change. What is God using in your life to stop you from just coasting? "Just something to think about!"*



### **Thank God For...**

- ❖ Ed received excellent public speaking training at the Comm-Lab workshop
- ❖ Debbie's surgery went well and she is on her way to a full recovery.
- ❖ AIA March meetings went smoothly and AIA staff members were encouraged and inspired to continue trusting God to accomplish much through us.

### **Please pray for...**

- ❖ Ed's work in following up with people at the Super Bowl Breakfast who indicated an interest in becoming AIA Game Changer Partners. Pray he will get in touch with people and God will call many of them to partner with AIA.
- ❖ Effective ministry for each upcoming retreat being hosted at our facilities. (see front page)
- ❖ AIA Night of Champions-that God will be glorified and the Gospel proclaimed through this event, and that many people will attend.

## **Ed's Ministry Training**

Ed was excited to take some time away from his regular duties to participate in a five day public speaking workshop hosted by Cru's music ministry in Indianapolis. Attendees learned new skills that are involved in being an effective public speaker.

Each day Ed had a chance to give a small speech which was taped and critiqued by others in his small group including a trainer. Tremendous improvement was evident when comparing his talks on day one and on day five.

The skills he learned will be helpful as we serve in ministry for the long-term.



## ❖ *From The Heart* (by Debbie) ❖

*How do you respond when God's plan is different than your plan? Though I've dealt with this question many times in the past, it has come up again for me over the past few months. When I was growing up, I always dreamed of getting married and having my own kids. So, when I finally got married two years ago, I was hopeful that we could soon start our own family. These dreams were dashed last fall, when I received the news that I would not be able to bear my own children.*

*The reality of that news hit home hard over the past eight weeks as I was recovering from my surgery. However, in the midst of my sadness and grieving the loss of a dream, I have truly sensed God's presence. He has been filling me with His hope and peace. I feel grateful for His sustaining grace.*

*God has not yet revealed His plan for building our family, but I know He is in control. Even though His plan is different than what I had dreamed, I still trust Him and know He will direct our steps. We are beginning to investigate adoption, but are waiting for God's timing and direction.*

*Thank you so much to those who prayed for us, sent encouraging notes, prepared meals or came to clean our house while I was recovering! We truly felt hugged by God through the kind acts of those in the body of Christ. We are also grateful for your faithful prayers and support on behalf of our ministry!*