

In January, Ed and I went to New York to assist with our annual Super Bowl Breakfast, where we were honored to witness two of the greatest quarterbacks of all time on the same stage.

The focal point of the event was having Bart Starr present the Bart Starr award to Aaron



Bart Starr & Aaron Rodgers

Rodgers, quarterback of the Green Bay Packers. Bart was super excited to present the award to Aaron, because of their common experience with the Packers.

In fact, in his acceptance speech, Rodgers reminisced about his first few years with the Packers by saying something to the effect of: "I was playing behind a quarterback who wasn't sure he was ready to leave in a city that was not ready to move on." This made his first year as the starting quarterback especially difficult.

He said that at one point, he was feel especially down when he received a call from Bart Starr telling him to not give up. Bart said some encouraging words to him that really lifted his spirits and gave him confidence to keep pressing on. And if you look at Rodger's records, he has excelled in many areas as a quarterback.



Out of a little over 1100 people in attendance, 37 people indicated a decision to accept Christ and over 200 people requested some type of follow-up.

Aaron Rodgers also told the crowd of over 1100 people about the importance of his faith and how he grew spiritually during his teenage years as a result of being involved in Young Life.

Another highlight of the Breakfast was an interview with actor, Jim Caviezel (from *Person of Interest* and *The Passion of the Christ*) about his portrayal of legendary high school football coach, Bob Ladouceur, in a movie due out this August called *When The Game Stands Tall*.

The movie is based on the true story of Ladouceur's coaching career at De La Salle



high school where he turned his team from being a perennial loser into one of the country's winningest high school teams with a 151 game winning streak.

Former NFL player, Amani Toomer, was also part of this interview where he shared about the influence coach Ladouceur had on him during his high school career. Caviezel shared that one of his motivations for starring in this movie was



Emcees George Martin and Eric Metaxas (far left & far right) interviewing Bob Ladouceur and Jim Caviezel.

his desire to be part of something that could be on the

level of *Hoosier's* or *Remember the Titans*, in terms of making a huge positive impact in the lives of young sports fans.

The breakfast was a huge success, where the gospel was presented and Christ was glorified. As Ed has been making follow-up calls, people have shared how the event encouraged them.

## Praises

- ❖ 37 people indicated a decision to accept Christ at the Super Bowl Breakfast
- ❖ Many high school and college students have been impacted for Christ through Winter Retreats we hosted at our Retreat Center

## Prayer Requests

- ❖ Favor for Ed as he makes phone calls to individuals from our recent major events who have expressed an interest in knowing more about our Game Changer Partnership
- ❖ Please continue to pray for the changes that have taken place in Debbie's department. Pray that our staff will continue to demonstrate unusual cooperation as we strive towards fulfilling our mission.
- ❖ One of Debbie's main responsibilities right now is recruiting additional facilitators & staff for the Challenge Course. Please pray for God to bring Debbie in contact with someone who would want to take over the Challenge Course Director position when God provides a baby for us.
- ❖ We are beginning our adoption home study on March 31 with Catholic Social Services. Pray that the home study will go smoothly, that we will be approved to adopt a baby and for God to provide a child for us within the next year. Pray also for wisdom and unity in our decisions.

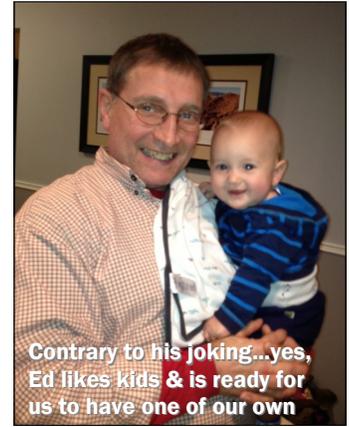
## Gersch Adoption Update

The time has finally come for us to begin our adoption home study. On March 31, we will begin 6 weeks of classes that are a required part of our home study.

We don't really know what all will be involved in completing the home study, but it will include these classes, filling out lots of paperwork, gathering financial and medical information, preparing a profile to be presented to potential birth moms, interviews with our social worker and home visits by the social worker.

We have been told that the home study will take 2-4 months depending on how quickly we are able to complete the various tasks that are assigned during the process. Once we have an approved home study, we will be one of the prospective parent profiles that is presented to birth moms who come to Catholic Social Services desiring to place their baby for adoption. If we are selected by a birth mom to adopt her child, we will be given the option to accept or decline the opportunity.

We do not know how long it will take for us to get selected. We are trusting God with His timing and sovereignty over when He will increase our family.



Team AIA with the team from Dayton Correctional Institution.

In the past couple of months, some of our local female AIA staff members have begun doing some outreach at a local women's prison by going to play sports with them. This has opened the door for us to begin sharing our faith with some of these inmates.

In the next few weeks, I will begin going to the prison on a regular basis to visit one of the inmates during visiting hours. Pray that God will use me in Beth's life to point her to Christ and help her to grow in her faith.

### *From The Heart (by Debbie)*

*Now that we are starting our home study, our adoption is beginning to feel more real. This brings many mixed emotions to me. I am super excited about the possibility of God fulfilling our dream of growing our family. However, I also am aware that the adoption process can bring many ups and downs emotionally. So, that brings up some fear.*

*In the midst of all the uncertainty, there are so many opportunities for me to trust in Christ who is truly our Cornerstone. I have peace that God will give us the grace to face whatever comes our way. And, I am confident that He will provide for every need that arises.*

*Ed and I want you to know how much we appreciate your partnership with us in this journey. God is certainly at work in our lives and in the lives of others around and through us. Thank you for your investment in God's work!*