

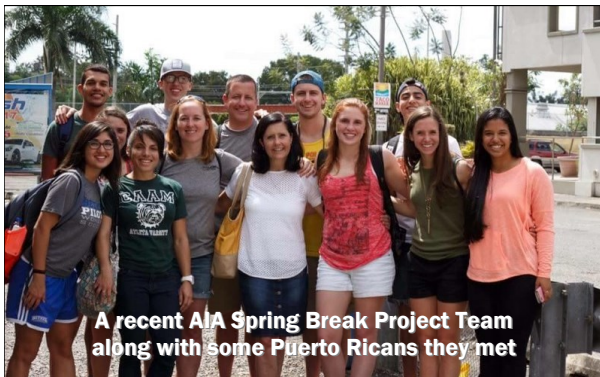


March 24, 2017

Every Team, Every Sport, Every Nation

Our Athletes in Action staff members and volunteers dream of a day when there are Christ-followers on every team, in sport, in every nation. We believe this is possible when organizations and individuals -- who want every athlete to know someone who truly follows Jesus -- work together toward the common goal of furthering God's kingdom.

One of the ways we pursue this dream is by sending teams of college students overseas for summer or Spring Break projects.



A recent AIA Spring Break Project Team along with some Puerto Ricans they met

During a recent prayer time, I heard a cool story about how God is working and building a multiplying movement in Puerto Rico. You may remember that Ed and I visited our AIA STINT interns who were serving there in 2015. So, when I heard this story, it encouraged me to know that God is continuing the work that he began through that team of interns.

Last year, one of our AIA staff members, Jennifer, went to Puerto Rico with one of our AIA Short-term mission teams. Jennifer met a Judo athlete named Maria and ended up leading her into a personal relationship with Christ. After the short term team left, Keila who leads the AIA ministry at Colegio, Maria's university, began to disciple Maria.



Maria is on back row second from left. Keila is in the CAAM shirt.

Maria has grown spiritually and desires to be used by God to help reach her campus with the Gospel message. She is now leading a Bible study with five other athletes on her campus along with one of her teammates, Melissa.

For me, it was so encouraging to hear how athletes who are young in their faith are being used by God to reach athletes from other sports on their campus. This is leading us closer to our vision of having a Christ follower on every team in every sport in every nation.

This month, AIA has sent several short-term spring break trips to Puerto Rico, East Asia and South Africa. Please join us in praying for these trips to be fruitful in reaching people for Christ and opening up new areas of ministry.



Ed, Debbie & Hannah with Puerto Rico STINT Team in 2015

Praises

- ❖ 28 people indicated a decision to accept Christ at the Super Bowl Breakfast and over 200 requested more information about AIA or being involved in a Bible Study.
- ❖ God provided safe travel for our trip to the Super Bowl Breakfast!

Prayer Requests

- ❖ God to raise up more partners for Skylar, the guy who is planning to take over my role as Challenge Course Director. Pray he will be fully funded by the end of May.
- ❖ Skylar's sister suddenly lost her husband in an auto accident a couple of weeks ago. He was only 29 yrs old. They have 3 young children.
- ❖ Wisdom for Ed as he communicates regularly with people who are considering the next step God has for them.
- ❖ Effective ministry with groups using our challenge course in April.
- ❖ Safe travel for a trip to Branson, MO & Bartlesville, OK (March 29-April 12). Ed will do a career fair on March 30 at College of the Ozarks. Then we will go to Oklahoma to raise additional support for our ministry.
- ❖ Ask God to provide new partners for our team so that we can be fully funded.
- ❖ Pray for God's provision of a second child for us to adopt.



From The Heart (by Debbie)

The past six weeks have flown by so quick. During that time, we traveled to Houston to assist with the Super Bowl Breakfast, went on a vacation to Orlando with my parents, and celebrated Hannah's 2nd Birthday (4 times).

We were pleased with how everything went with the Super Bowl Breakfast. God provided safe travels for both of us and worked in many ways through the Breakfast. My favorite part of the Breakfast was hearing Aeneas Williams (former NFL athlete) talk through grateful tears about the investment that Gill Byrd (former NFL athlete) made in his life during his early years in the NFL. The importance of having good mentors became a common theme among those who spoke at the Breakfast. It was a powerful message.

During our vacation in Florida, we had the opportunity to take Hannah to Magic Kingdom. My favorite moment was when we finished our first ride, "It's a Small World," and Hannah used her sign language and voice as the ride was ending to say, "More peas! More peas!" (meaning "more please"). Needless to say, we all had a delightful day! She still talks about experiences we had that day.

Ed has been working faithfully in his role as a staffing specialist. He has been connecting with many people over the phone and in person to help them consider where God may be leading them next in their life. He has felt a little discouraged recently that all the work he has been doing is not producing visible results in terms of more staff or interns for AIA. Yet, the Director of Sending shared with Ed that his role has played a valuable part in helping move AIA forward in the area of sending (recruiting).

We also have begun the process to adopt a second child. Our Home Study has been updated, and we are waiting to be matched with a birth family who wants to make an adoption plan for their child. We are walking by faith trusting that if God wants to grow our family, He will provide the right child for us in His perfect timing. Please join us in praying for His provision and direction in this process.

Thank you so much for your prayers and faithful support! We could not do this without you!

