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Last week was definitely a week of CELEBRATION. We have three things to celebrate:

1. On January 30 Ed was ACCEPTED to join me on staff with Athletes in Action.
2. February 2 marked my 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY of joining staff with AIA.
3. Our AIA Midwest Regional Retreat was a huge success.

Yippee!! Yahoo!! GO GOD!!! I am so excited about each of these exciting pieces of news and want to share more about them.

Ever since we got married in October 2009, Ed and I have been anxiously awaiting the day when he could join me to serve full-time with CCC/AIA. We submitted his application in mid December and had been waiting to hear back a decision regarding his acceptance. We finally received our answer.



What this means for us now is that over the next few months, we will be interacting with the AIA Human Resources team to determine exactly where Ed's gifts and abilities can best be used in our ministry. We may also investigate the Campus Crusade Military Ministry as an option where we could serve.

Along with figuring out Ed's role on staff, we will also be preparing to attend Campus Crusade's New Staff Training Conference. When a spouse joins staff, both people have to attend the conference. The next time this training is offered will be this summer. So, Ed and I will be going to Colorado in June to attend the training conference. We will both be taking classes to further equip us to serve. Since I have already been through the training, I have been told that I will be helping by serving on the NST Conference team. I'll find out more about this in the weeks to come. We will be in Colorado until the end of July as we will also attend the Campus Crusade for Christ Bi-Annual Staff Training Conference.

Between now and then, Ed will continue to work in his trucking business and I will continue my role on the Sports Complex team here in Xenia. The main reason Ed will continue to work is that we still owe some back taxes from Ed's business from before we were married. Plus, my salary alone is not enough to sustain us. We will provide you with more information about our needs and plans in the coming months as more details unfold. For us, this is truly a walk of faith. Ed made the comment last week that he feels like Abraham. He knows God has called him, but does not know why or where. We are just taking one step at a time.

I remember my faith being stretched in a similar way twenty years ago as I joined staff with Athletes in Action. This is the second item we are celebrating this week! I can't believe it has been twenty years since I began serving the Lord through AIA! Wow! Time really flies when you're having fun!

I am struggling to find the words to describe how it feels to reach such a "marker" in my life. I can say that I feel very blessed and humbled that God would choose to use me in the ways that He has! I can only boast in Him! By next month, I hope to make up a historical time-line that will celebrate the many lives that God has impacted through various areas where I have served.



Debbie with Bill & Vonette Bright at New Staff Training February 1991



The final event we are celebrating this week is the good reports we received after the AIA Midwest Regional Retreat. This retreat marks the last of three busy weekends of retreats held here at our facilities. During the two weekends before

this one, we also had retreats for Student Venture (CCC's high school ministry), a father-son retreat for Campus Crusade at Miami University of Ohio, an International Coaches Clinic (hosted by our AIA Basketball Dept), and a couple of church retreats.

As you can see, many people have been on our campus over the past month. The best news is that we know of many high school and college students who accepted Christ into their lives through these events. And many others were equipped or challenged to take their next step in their walk with Jesus.

Introducing Bryan Dobkins

Bryan is an AIA staff member who recently transferred into our department so that he can serve as the Interim Challenge Course Director while I am away to attend New Staff Training and while Ed and I are out for support-raising.



I have been training Bryan on all the aspects of my job and will continue to do so between now and May. He will serve in this role until me and Ed finish developing our team of ministry partners. I am grateful God provided Bryan to keep the challenge course ministry moving forward in my absence.

❧ From The Heart ❧

As you can imagine, I am delighted at the way God has been answering our prayers for Ed to be able to join me on staff. I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us as we serve Him together full-time.

I also feel that words are inadequate to express my deep appreciation for each of you who give sacrificially to support our on-going ministry. Some of you have been with me from the start, others have joined my team of partners over the years. Regardless of when you joined my team, you have played a vital role in making it possible for me to obey the Lord by serving Him in this ministry. Together, God has used us to touch so many lives!

Thank you so much for laboring with me through your prayers and giving. To God be the glory for all He has accomplished through us! None of this would be possible without you!

Debbie ☺

Thank God For...

- ❖ Quality retreats that happened at our facilities in January. The Gospel was proclaimed and believers were equipped and challenged to grow deeper and stronger in their walk with Jesus.
- ❖ Ed's acceptance to AIA staff.
- ❖ The amazing 20 years of ministry with which God has allowed me to be involved.

Please pray for...

- ❖ Me to use my time wisely during the challenge course off-season. During this time, I am helping with Sports Complex and Conference Center planning and events as well as training Bryan to direct the challenge course while I am away for new staff training and ministry partner development.
- ❖ Effective ministry for our Sports Complex staff team with upcoming groups that will be using our dorms and sports complex fields. Pray we will have more opportunities to talk to people using our facilities to help them know Christ in a deeper way. Our clientele includes believers as well as non-believers.
- ❖ Wisdom for Ed and I as we discern what area of ministry will be the best fit for Ed's gifts and abilities.
- ❖ Ministry Partner Development— with Ed coming on staff, our support needs will double. We are beginning to invite new partners to join our team. Pray that God will lead us to people whom He has already called to partner with us.
- ❖ Safe travel as Debbie and Jen drive back to Ohio from Seattle (Feb 20-24). Jen and her husband, who is currently deployed in Iraq, are part of our church small group. She and her two young children have been staying with relatives while her husband has been deployed. She is now ready to return home to Ohio, and I am going out to help her with the cross-country drive. Her husband will return home in March. Pray for good weather and clear roads as we travel.