

## Unlimited Opportunities for Worldwide Impact

This month, we would like to share with you about a group who is utilizing our Conference Center. Last Friday, Ed and I had the opportunity to attend our monthly AIA Chapel time. At our chapel service, we were pleased to be joined by **twenty-eight coaches from twelve countries** who are attending the International Basketball Coaches' Academy, which is currently being hosted by our basketball department.



Coaches from Uganda

This academy is just another example of the true global reach and impact Athletes in Action is having.

The academy began in 2009, born out of intense in-

terest in learning more about the game from coaches who had been exposed to AIA (through AIA's short-term international tours). Global sports director Eric Nelson says he would have coaches approach him at the end of a tour pleading with him for an opportunity to learn more about building a team and improving, not only their teams but the overall quality of basketball in their nations.

During the two-week academy, the coaches are exposed to high-caliber teaching from experts in various areas from coaching philosophy and skill



University of Cincinnati head coach answers questions from the coaches after practice.

development, to budgeting and leadership development. The academy participants take sev-

eral field trips to watch 4-5 local college and pro basketball games to see how the fundamentals they are being taught are put into practice.

"These are educational trips, not entertainment. We expect them to learn the techniques and principles we teach them. We have a final exam and they earn a diploma at the end, it's not called an academy for no reason," says Morris Michalski, AIA staff member who directs the Academy.

In addition to basketball training, every day, during what is called "team time," AIA staff share the Scriptures with the coaches and lead discussions about the spiritual aspects of life. "The academy is some of the best direct ministry time we have,"

Cyrus, AIA Director for Uganda, with Jason Stankus, AIA Basketball Staff



Coach Michalski leading "team time".

Megan Soderberg, AIA staff member says. "It's interesting to see how they open up to discussion of the Scripture and the spiritual principles—even the coaches from other religions are eager to participate in the conversation."

Michalski adds, "The endgame is more than teaching how to win basketball games, it's about teaching individuals how to build character and how to develop their spiritual lives (including having a personal relationship with Christ) as well."

### Thank God For...

- ❖ Many new partners God has already provided to help fund our ministry...we are only \$500 away from our monthly goal! Glory to God!
- ❖ In September and October, 266 people heard a spiritual message through our challenge course and 110 indicated a decision to accept Christ into their life!
- ❖ We had a refreshing time at the Ministry Partner Development Follow-up Conference in October.

### Please pray for...

- ❖ Diligence for Ed as he completes his New Testament Survey course by December 1. He has already completed 12 out of the 20 lessons.
- ❖ God to provide the final \$500 of our needed monthly support. Pray we have more appointments to invite people to partner with us in this ministry.
- ❖ Wisdom in health decisions we will be making in the next couple of months.
- ❖ Ongoing ministry at the sports complex and challenge course in Xenia.

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

*Over the past few months I've had time to reflect on how I got where I am today. I never set out to be a Christian, let alone a missionary. Oh, like most Americans I believed in God and that Jesus lived, but I had no idea what it meant to know Him in a personal way as Lord and Savior or to serve Him with my life.*

*I have wondered at times why would he save me? Why call me into full time missions work? Lord, there must be others more qualified than I to serve you? But is that not the point from God's perspective. None of us are worthy of salvation. None of us are qualified to serve Him. That is what makes what God does with sinners like us so amazing.*

*I am encouraged by verses such as, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (Eph 2:8-10)*

*As we enter into this thanksgiving season I am reminded of what God rescued me from- eternal separation from Him in unimaginable pain and suffering. "The Treasure Principle" by Randy Alcorn reminds us that we are just a dot on the line of eternity. I am grateful that God has shown me there is more to life than living for the dot (self), and by the power of His Holy Spirit I now live for the line (eternity).*

*I give thanks also for you, your sacrificial giving, and your love for our Lord. Sometimes we all need to be reminded, "Are we living for the dot or the line?" Just something to think about!*

### ❧ *From The Heart* (by Debbie) ❧

*During this season of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of many blessings which God has provided in my life. Most of all, I am grateful for a God who lavishes me with His love and pursues me relentlessly. Sometimes it is so easy to take His love and grace for granted.*

*I am also grateful that God is our Jehovah Jireh! We have been in full-time support-raising mode for about 4 months. So, far, God has provided all but \$500 of our monthly commitments. I am grateful for His faithfulness and for the many new relationships He has enabled us to develop in this process.*

*I often feel humbled that God has called me to serve Him in full-time ministry. And, not only has He called me, He has provided the means to enable me and my husband to follow Him in obedience. Therefore, I am deeply grateful for each person who gives so sacrificially to the LORD in order for us to be able to help fulfill the Great Commission.*

*Thank you for your faithful investment in the Lord's work! We thank God for you!*

*Ed & Debbie*

### Upcoming Events

**December 10-20:** our Sports Complex staff will be hosting the Guatemala Women's National Soccer team at our complex. They will be coming for a ten day training camp to prepare for some upcoming international competition.

We are hoping to have opportunities to help these women consider the spiritual side of their lives through team times. Pray that God will open lots of doors for us to minister to this team.

**December 5-12:** I (Debbie) will take another seminary level course which is required for all CCC staff to complete in the next ten years. Pray for wisdom as I study and complete assignments between now and Dec 18.