

ADOPT-A STUDENT



THE CENTRAL STATE
UNIVERSITY
MARAUDERS

CSU IS ONE OF THE
OLDEST HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES IN
THE NATION



FOR GOD,
FOR CENTRAL,
FOR STATE.

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:5)

One of the most amazing realities about coming to faith in Christ is that He ushers us into His own family as His very own sons and daughters. Once outside the grace of God as orphans, we become children of the living God and co-heirs with Christ in His Kingdom. The degree to which we believe this truth and embrace our new identity as His children truly is the degree to which we experience real comfort, security and freedom.

My name is Matt Hardy and I have served for the past four years as the campus director of our Athletes in Action ministries on two historically black campuses in southwest Ohio, Central State and Wilberforce. In that span of time my heart has become burdened for the student athletes there and resolved to see them won to Christ, committed to follow Him, and captured by His mission. The vast majority of these students come from single-parent homes in tough urban cities and offered little hope to succeed in life. Many have witnessed and experienced domestic abuse, gang violence, drug addiction, object poverty and much more. They have overcome great odds simply to attend college.

In the course of a few years God has raised up a movement of student athletes on these campuses that hunger to know Him and are active in sharing their faith. Thirty-some students have given their lives to Christ; several athletes are leading Bible studies on campus and last year nine student attended summer mission projects with Athletes in Action. In a dark place where the pressure to indulge in sexual sin, drinking and the like is strong, God's

ADOPT-A-STUDENT

power to change lives is evidenced in their speech, their love for one another, and their passion to share the gospel.

As many as twenty student athletes at Central State and Wilberforce have expressed a desire to follow God in the mission field this summer. Some are still young babes in the faith. Others are more mature and have a heart for the nations. Each have said to the Lord, Send me! If they are able to go, they will not only learn to live a lifestyle of evangelism and discipleship, but they'll experience and see life from an entirely new perspective. In short, they will taste the sweetness of following Christ by living in community with other Christian athletes and living out their comfort zone.

Here's where you come in: These young college students need the encouragement and support of a godly family as they set out on their journey of faith. In the adoption process of Ancient Rome, the adoptee was taken out of his previous state and placed in a new relationship of son to his new father. All his old debts were canceled and in effect the adoptee started a new life as part of his new family. In a similar way, these students, who are far from home, need the family of God to take them in, provide for their needs, and show them a new way of life.

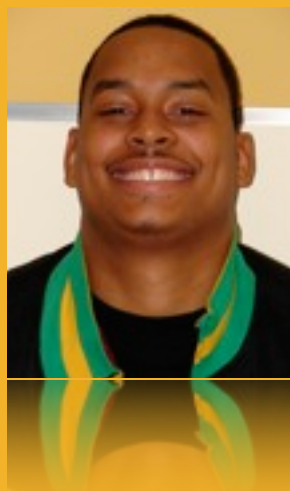
Would you consider adopting one of these students this summer? What would that mean, you ask? Inviting them into your home for a meal or two this Spring, praying for them, helping to raise and provide for their financial needs to attend a summer mission project or camp, and continue an on-going relationship throughout the year as a pseudo-family for them. In the next few pages I will outline in greater detail what it would mean to adopt a student and introduce you to some of them personally. As you read on, please prayerfully consider if and how you might get involved.

For His glory,
Matt Hardy
(AIA Campus Director)

Questions or Comments?
Contact Information:
937-901-2000
Matthew.Hardy@aia.com



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Andrew Miller-Babb
HOMETOWN: St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands & then Washington D.C.
SCHOOL: Central State University
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore
MAJOR: Physical Education & Health
SPORT: Football
AGE: 21
BIRTHDAY: January 6th, 1986
FAMILY BACKGROUND: My father left when I was 3, my mom re-married, and they are not Christians.
SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: February 2006
SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: I went to a bible study and got saved a year ago.
WHY COLORADO? I want to get closer to God and learn more about Him. I want to get involved with other Christian Athletes and see how they live day to day life as Christians. Also, I want to learn how to share Christ with others because I have a burden to spread the gospel to my teammates.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Leon Mack

HOMETOWN: Bordentown, New Jersey

SCHOOL: Central State University

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

MAJOR: Sociology

SPORT: Football

AGE: 20

BIRTHDAY: August 24th

FAMILY BACKGROUND: My biological parents are separated, so I live with my mom & step-dad, but still talk to my father.

SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: April 2004

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: In April 2004, I felt it was the right time to bring Christ into my life fully and actively spread his word and live how he would have me to.

WHY COLORADO? I am really looking forward to meeting new people and being trained to share my faith and study the bible. I know that living in a house with 40 other Christian Athletes will be like a spiritual green house for me, and I know I need that to help me to grow in my relationship with God.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

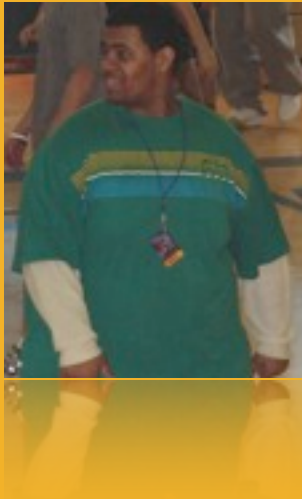
Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Gabriel Cannon
HOMETOWN: Miami, Florida
SCHOOL: Central State University
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Freshman
MAJOR: Accounting
SPORT: Football
AGE: 18

BIRTHDAY: June 2nd, 1988

FAMILY BACKGROUND: My parents are still married and I have 3 brothers.

SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: August 7th, 2002

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: I came to know Christ through my church youth group.

WHY COLORADO? I want to get outside of my comfort zone and grow in my relationship with God. I know that being surrounded by other Christians will challenge me in my walk with God - "Iron sharpens iron."

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE



NAME: Jude Diegue
HOMETOWN: Miami, Florida
SCHOOL: Central State University
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Freshman
MAJOR: Finance
SPORT: Football
AGE: 19
BIRTHDAY: September 20th, 1987
FAMILY BACKGROUND: My father died, so it's just me, my mom, sister, and little brother.
SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: April 2005
SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: I was born in a Christian family. I just decided to follow through with it about 2 years ago.
WHY COLORADO? I expect to grow in spirit and make new friends while in Colorado. I'm hoping that I can apply the Lord in all my activities because I can honestly say that I haven't done such a good job at that. I've only been to one program that AIA has put together and it has changed my life a whole lot. I've been able to expose myself even more as a man of Christ and i feel good about it.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Nicole Holt

HOMETOWN: Camden, New Jersey

SCHOOL: Central State University

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

MAJOR: Psychology

SPORT: Track & Field

AGE: 21

BIRTHDAY: March 6th

FAMILY BACKGROUND: I grew up with my dad and step-mom, older sister and two brothers. I still have a relationship with my mom, who lives in NJ as well, but am closer to my dad.

SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: October 18th, 2005

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: I became a Christian through the help and guidance of AIA. One of the leaders of my bible study group, Dee, showed me just how to become a Christian and accept God into my life and heart.

WHY COLORADO? I want to learn how to evangelize and share God through my sport, and to learn how to really become a believer.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Valmond Martin
HOMETOWN: Cleveland, Ohio
SCHOOL: Central State University
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Freshman
MAJOR: Hospitality
SPORT: Football, Track & Field
AGE: 19
BIRTHDAY: February 25th
FAMILY BACKGROUND: My parents are divorced and I live with my mom. My dad isn't really around.
SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: December 22nd, 2002
SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: I always talked to the Lord when I was young, even though no one told me about him.
WHY THE ULTIMATE TRAINING CAMP? I've been to three other "church" camps and they are a good experience and I always learn something new. God does a ton in my heart when I have done stuff like this before and I'm excited to do an AIA camp because it will offer something unique!

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

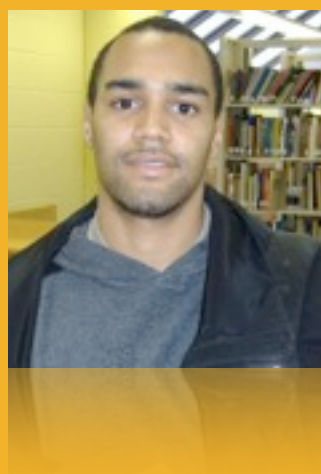
Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Chris Clark
HOMETOWN: Springfield, Ohio
SCHOOL: Central State University
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior
MAJOR:
SPORT: Football
AGE: 20
BIRTHDAY:
FAMILY BACKGROUND:
SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: Spring 2006
SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND:
WHY COLORADO?

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Imyyn Burton

HOMETOWN: Benton Harbor, Michigan

SCHOOL: Central State University

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Senior

MAJOR: Educational Studies

SPORT: Volleyball, Track & Field, Cross Country

AGE: 23

BIRTHDAY: March 6th, 1984

FAMILY BACKGROUND: I live with my mom, dad and brother.

SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: 2001

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: When I was a Junior in High School, I felt depressed, lonely, and that no one loved me. I ended up in the hospital and grew in Christ. While there, I realized that I could have peace and joy and could only find it in Jesus.

WHY I WANT TO GO ON AN AIA VOLLEYBALL TOUR: I think it will be a good experience and I want to influence other people's lives through my sport.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Aamea Ali-Drayton
HOMETOWN: Cleveland, Ohio
SCHOOL: Central State University
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Senior
MAJOR: Chemistry & Biology
SPORT: Cross Country, Track & Field
AGE: 21

BIRTHDAY: August 2, 1985

FAMILY BACKGROUND: I was reared in a single-parent household. As far back as I can remember, my mom was addicted to crack cocaine and alcohol. There was really no time for my siblings and I to be children and enjoy our childhood. It was very difficult to not have a father figure, and I know that my view and feelings towards my father have tainted my views and emotions of God.

SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: October 2005, age 19

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: I became a Christian my Sophomore year in college. I was reared in the church, however I really did not understand the work and commitment it took to actively walk with God.

WHY CAMP? I want to grow in my spiritual walk and be able to be real, open, and honest with women in Christ without judgment. I am ready to learn, grow and, and live in Christ.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Tim Rudolph
HOMETOWN: Detroit, MI
SCHOOL: Central State University
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Freshman
MAJOR: Business Management
SPORT: Track & Field
AGE: 19

BIRTHDAY: December 18, 1987

FAMILY BACKGROUND: My mom and dad aren't together and I'm close with my mom.

SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: February 20, 2007

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND: I didn't grow up going to church, so when I got to school this year I wanted to know who God is and how to know Him. Matt Hardy and I started to meet every week to talk about God and after a month or two, he shared with me how I could invite Jesus Christ into my life. I prayed right there and asked Him to come in. It was amazing! It's only been a month or so, but already I see Christ changing me. I don't get so angry anymore. I feel different and want to know God more every day. I've been studying the book of John in the Bible.

WHY COLORADO? I just want to grow spiritually. I missed out on that my whole life. I want a real relationship with God. I want to be around other Christian athletes who are living this thing out and can help me grow.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.



OUR AIA SUMMER PROJECTS
GIVE STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO
REACH THEIR PEERS, WALK
WITH GOD FOR A LIFETIME AND
MUCH MORE. PLEASE
CONSIDER ADOPTING A
STUDENT.



NAME: Ernest Jordan

HOMETOWN & STATE: Cleveland, OH

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

MAJOR: Physical Education

SPORT: Football

AGE: 22

BIRTHDAY: December 29, 1984

FAMILY BACKGROUND: Grew up in Cleveland, OH. Lives with Mom and Dad and a couple of younger brothers.

SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY: Feb. 1, 2006

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND & HOW I BECAME A CHRISTIAN: I grew up going to church on and off. My life was defined by partying, chasing girls and living for the spotlight football provided. I was arrogant and conceited and did whatever pleased me. Then last year some of the other football guys started asking me to come to church and dragged me to AIA bible studies on campus. I couldn't believe how real their faith in God was. So, I started coming on my own and finally met with an AIA staff guy, Matt Hardy, to talk through how to become a Christian. I gave my life to Christ that day and I've been growing like mad ever since. WHY COLORADO? I just want to learn and grow. God has done so much in my life already, but I'm young in my faith. I want to learn from people who have been walking with God longer than me. I want to learn how to share my faith, study the Bible better and be a godly man.

ADOPTION COMMITMENT

CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP

BEFORE - they go. Have your student over for a meal, to do their laundry, etc. Let your student see your everyday life and a godly family up close.

DURING - the summer. Love and encourage your student by sending a care-package with lots of cookies!

AFTER - they return. Continue an on-going relationship when they return throughout the year and their time in school. Come to one of their games, bring them to one of your children's sporting events, and feed them real food whenever you can.

PRAY

Bathe your student in prayer, pray for their spiritual maturity and their personal needs.

GIVE

Give generously to help meet your student's summer support-raising needs for whatever mission project, tour or camp they want to attend. If possible, bring others on board to support your student as well by inviting them to share at a small group bible study, Sunday school class or elsewhere.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP



The mission of Athletes in Action is to build spiritual movements everywhere through the platform of sports. Our staff serve as team chaplains and campus ministers on college campuses throughout the US and in over 85 countries around the world. For the past 8 years or so we have had an on-going presence and ministry at Central State University and Wilberforce University.

As teams of AIA staff through the years have poured into the lives of these athletes and coaches, a spiritual movement has emerged. Hundreds have heard the gospel of Christ, dozens have come to faith, and over the past 5 years nearly 20 athletes have been sent out on summer mission projects. They are aggressively sharing their faith on campus and the impact of their witness for Christ is growing by the day. Their heart is to share their stories and to minister to others far beyond their campuses.

We believe God is doing something extraordinary among these student athletes. Most have experienced great hardships growing up in single-parent homes in tough urban areas. As they grow in Christ, their greatest need is to see godly families up close and be brought into the family of God. They need to see what a life devoted to Christ is all about and how godly people love their spouses and kids and live for Christ.

So, here's a rough idea of how we would envision a partnership with a local church body as yours. For our end, we would love to send athletes out to speak to your youth, do sports clinics, share what God is doing on campus, etc. They have so much to give and will benefit greatly by receiving the chance to exercise their faith.

From our end, our most immediate need is to raise nearly \$30,000 so that as many as 20 athletes can attend mission projects, tours, and camps this summer. Would you consider bringing some of these students into your Sunday service to share what God is

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

doing in their lives and take up a love offering to help with their scholarship needs? Additionally, I have outlined on Adopt-A-Student program in the pages to follow that I believe will be incredibly rich for both our students and those families in your church that participate.

Thanks for prayerfully considering how you might partner with us in this ministry and invest in the lives of these precious college athletes. I'll be in touch to see if and how you would like to be involved in the next week or two.

For His glory,
Matt Hardy
(AIA Campus Director)

Questions or Comments?
Contact Information:
937-901-2000
Matthew.Hardy@aia.com

