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BRINGING ATHLETES CLOSER TO GOD IN A REAL WAY

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Hey All! Here's what's happening in the life of Jeremy!

Principles Speaker Training

I was in Xenia, OH (AIA's Headquarters) from January 19th – 22nd for a workshop/conference. Over the years, AIA has developed 5 core principles on how to compete with and worship the Lord in your sport. I went to this workshop not only to learn how to deliver these principles, but also to sharpen my communication skills. It was great meeting other staff from across the nation. I met some staff from Tennessee, NC State, Virginia Tech, Colorado State, and our headquarters in Ohio.

One of the most memorable things I took away was from Jon, my campus director, (who helped lead this workshop). He was telling us his steps in preparation for a chapel service. The day of, he will get to the place early so he can get a feel for the room. What caught my attention is that when he gets there he looks at the empty seats and recognizes that they are just empty seats. *But* when the athletes, coaches, managers start to fill the seats, it is no longer an empty seat, but holy space. God created each and every one of us in His image. This will continually remind me of the significance and impact I have as a minister of the Gospel and a worker in Athletes in Action. We are here for eternal purposes!

One Retreat To Go

Final preparations are being made for our Winter Retreat. Our staff at the University of Arizona met with the staff from Arizona State University at the end of January to get all the logistics and details sorted out. Nikita Motorin (staff from ASU) is leading the charge for this retreat. He emphasized and reminded us of the faith we need to have in the Lord. He is the One who will bring athletes to this retreat. And He is the One who is going to stir their hearts.

On a personal note, I am truly blessed and excited to be a part of this leadership team. I am continuing to learn how to work as a team and the communication we need to have with one another in order to be effective.

My Last Semester in Seminary

It's a bittersweet realization that I only have one semester left in seminary. On the one hand, I can finally say I'm done with school! No more homework, exams, essays to write. I can give more of my time to full time ministry. But on the other hand, I know I'm going to miss the classes, people, and learning new knowledge. It is such a rich and encouraging environment to be in. The good news is that my seminary allows its graduates to take one class per semester for free. So hopefully I can continue my education and take that opportunity.

The Word

Put together Matthew 13:24-30,36-43,47-52, Revelation 20:10-15, and Romans 9:1-5 and what do you get? A deep conviction of (1) where people are going to spend eternity and (2) the importance of sharing your faith. The Lord has been speaking to me a lot through His Word. I feel the Lord pushing me out of my comfort zone into areas where I can walk by faith. *And* it's so refreshing to have that feeling. I hope the Lord is speaking to you in mighty and profound ways cause I know He can!

With Him,
Jeremy

For more information, you can check out my website at www.wongside.com/jeremy



The winter weather has been beautiful in Tucson! A friend helped me fix up my old road bike, so I can ride around and get some exercise.



Here I am in Xenia, OH for the Principles Speaker Training. I think it was about 9° F outside at the time! I love snow!!!



Here I am at a friend's New Year's Eve party. Always fun to ring in the new year with friends. 2011 is going to be a good year!