

AIA WITH J WONG

BUILDING SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS THROUGH THE PLATFORM OF SPORT

JANUARY 2013



Fundraiser for the Pacific Southwest Region at the US Airways Center (where the Phoenix Suns play). We got Jerry Colangelo, the Chairman for USA Basketball, to host for us! Awesome night!

From 8 to 3 to 0

Looking back I thought I had a subtitle similar to this in one of my previous newsletters, but apparently I'm going crazy since I haven't found it. On that note, I am referencing the number of staff we have at UA AIA. Just a year ago we had one of the biggest staff teams in the country at eight. Last semester, in the fall, we were reduced to a team of three (myself not included) and to this very day we officially have zero full time staff at UA. I'll admit this has been extremely difficult for me, but God humbly reminds me I am not the savior of UA AIA. I have talked to some of you wondering why I don't stay in Tucson. This requires a longer explanation than this newsletter allows me, but for now let me just note a couple of things.

1. The Lord has led me to Ohio where I'll become a more effective campus minister for AIA
2. Leaving Tucson, either short or long term, is best for me at this point in my life
3. God is uniquely placing our former staff members in different areas where we are at our best
4. It's been a crazy journey, but rest assured, the Lord is still at work on the UA campus

Let me to expound on the last point for a bit. This month I sat in a meeting with some of the higher ups in AIA and some of our student leaders at UA AIA. To say the least, I was extremely encouraged to see the students step up and take ownership of the AIA movement. Their heart and desire was not only to keep AIA alive, but thrive. Maybe my past couple of years here have been leading to this point where I can hand off the baton.

Along with this, I am realizing that the dynamic is different when we have AIA that is staff led versus student led. I'm not saying one is necessarily better than the other, but just different. As long as I'm still in Tucson, I hope to be a place where the student leaders can come for wisdom and guidance. They're doing a great job so far! If your heart so leads you to do, please pray for the student leaders and AIA as a whole at the UA.

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

Also, many times I like to send links and emails to my ministry partners showing more of my ministry with AIA. If you have an email address and would like to receive these notifications, please email me at jmwong@wongside.com

My Soapbox

(This is just a short sharing I wanted to add as something God has really been hitting me with, something that I am excited and passionate about.)

The complexity and depth of humanity

One of my favorite parts of ministry is engaging and learning more about a person. This in turn teaches me more about humanity as a whole. I often tell people if I could go back in time, I would major in Philosophy. I love dwelling on life's toughest questions and seeing what is truly important to humans. Recently, I've had some lengthy discussions with some friends in AIA that remind me of the complexity and uniqueness of a person. How is it that we are **so** different??? Why is it that I understand and interpret a topic one way, my friend sees it in a completely different light, and a third person different from that? When I view this in the context of ministry, I often feel inadequate to help, guide, and ultimately understand and love those I minister to. How do I find common ground with people who view the world in a totally different light than I do? That's when I look upwards and find myself in awe of a God who can relate with and understand **each and every** individual on this planet. The crazy part... He knows us better than we know ourselves.