

# AIA WITH J WONG

BUILDING SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS THROUGH THE PLATFORM OF SPORT

SEPTEMBER 2012



Open air preaching and evangelism from some of the UA AIA athletes and ex-athletes. So encouraging to see them taking a stand at the UA mall.

## Men... this is for you

I was in a deep discussion with a baseball player and a track athlete about the importance of and need for sexual purity. As usual this topic revolves around the struggles and difficulties men tend to have. Let's just say we tend to focus on the "do not's." Well, Keegan (track athlete) shared a story that gave a more positive aspect.

There is a new girl on the UA track team, who, all the guys have said, is very attractive. As Keegan was in a conversation with his guy teammates, they started making bets on who, to put it lightly, would "get with her" first. In sadness, Keegan disengaged from the conversation knowing this is what lost athletes care about. A while later, Keegan went up to that girl, with the purest motives, and told her, "College can be a very tempting and trying time in a person's life. If you ever need protection or maybe just some advice about the guys on our team, I will be there for you." With a bit of confusion and surprise on her face she said a simple "thanks."

## 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.)

As a Christian, is suffering for our faith optional? I recently taught a Sunday School lesson at my church on this topic and it was a very interesting discussion to say the least. I wasn't satisfied in my teaching, so I proceeded to ask some of my friends. Again, interesting discussions. I don't want to sway your answer, so I'll refrain from sharing what I've learned, but I will say this question has caused me a great deal of thinking. If you have the time, I'd love to hear any thoughts or ideas you may have. Maybe I'll share my thoughts in my next newsletter ;)

I was choked up as Keegan shared this powerful story. Sure he barely knew her. And sure he didn't even know if she was a Christian. *But* he wanted to what little he could to protect her from the wickedness of this world. It touched the very depths of my heart because of the beauty and honor of protecting women. As men of faith, there's something inside of us that leaps in excitement when we have the chance to protect. God has called us to engage and fight evil where it is present. Who knows if this female track athlete will ever want my friend's offer of protection, but I know he will be there if she does. And as men, there are some women in our lives who are in desperate need for us to step up and protect.

Oh one more thing... I think a lot of times, in topics of relationships or sexual immorality, we tend to focus much of our energy on the negative; not doing this or that, keeping boundaries in a relationship, etc. But there is something to say for focusing on the positive. To put it best, I remember someone once told me, "If you're always doing good, you have no time to do bad." First John 5:3 says it this way, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome." As I walk my faith out, I am noticing that God's commands change from obligation and duty to desire and joy.

Wanting to protect,  
Jeremy

For more information, you can check out my website at [www.wongside.com/jeremy](http://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](mailto:jmwong@wongside.com)