

Tim Adams



Kelsey Androit



Danielle Combs



Acacia Cosentino



Brittany Davis



Brian Darr



Clark Diedrich



Bethany Fletcher



**The Real World:** This is the true story of sixteen strangers led by the Lord to live in Xenia, Ohio; to work and grow together; to find out what happens when people radically engage and start getting real. Welcome to the Real World; Athletes in Action style. The world is living in an age of disengagement. Technology has morphed our communication, and our relationships are struggling. This summer, a team of college students from across the country came together to experience the joy of a Christ-centered life and learn what it means to live with intentional engagement. Through weekly Bible studies, discipleship and team times, the interns focused on a different engage theme each week, and they were given the opportunity to apply what they learned through deep fellowship with one another and outreaches in the community. The team also got hands-on professional experience in their field of study at the world headquarters of AIA. Here you'll be able to read some of the mighty ways God's moved on the X-Project. On behalf of the interns, thank you so much for your support and the role you've played in our lives this summer. Thank you for helping us impact the real world and engage the Kingdom of God.

### Week 1: Engage God



Starting the project with engaging God was crucial for me. Great experiences with a whole lot of great people really mean nothing if they are not all revolving around God and what He has done for us. Without figuring this out the first

week, and seeing every other week of the summer through the lens of engaging God, I would have missed the point of it all.

-Tim Adams, University of Connecticut

Getting in a car accident, missing home, and getting sick are just a few of the things that happened to me the first week I was here in Xenia. During this time I realized that God is protector, comforter and healer. I came to the conclusion that God really wanted me to go to Him rather than the people around me. He wants to take care of me and love me the way I am supposed to be loved and cared for.

-Kelly Thomas, Wichita State University

### Week 2: Engage the Lost



Through reading God Space by Doug Pollock and serving at a GLBT 5K race, I've learned that acceptance does not equal endorsement. We are called to love and accept

all people regardless of their lifestyle. Accepting them does not mean that we like or approve of their lifestyle. How are lost people ever supposed to know and love Christ if we aren't even showing them who He really is?

-Danielle Combs, Marshall University Graduate College

The second week was our first "Women's Night." We tackled the voice inside us that shouts insecurity and shame. Since then, we've come a long way. The last women's night we showed service towards one another, washing each other's feet and binding our friendships in Christ. That act of humility wouldn't have been possible at the beginning of the summer. The work God has done in our personal lives and relationships is a blessing. Growth in Christ is a miracle that happened this summer.

-Acacia Cosentino, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### Week 3: Engage the Body



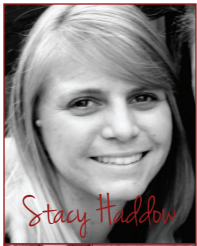
During engage the body week, I learned how to be more vulnerable and have more humility. It's easy to say, "I've got it all under control," but it takes more of a person to say, "Okay, I'm having a hard time and need help."

-Kelsey Androit, Texas Tech University

Getting to know the people on the X-Project has been the highlight of my eight weeks. I am a people person and have enjoyed getting to know each of the interns on a deep level. It's been awesome to see how God is working in everyone's lives and how everybody has a heart for Jesus. I am going to miss the fun times and the good conversations.

-Garrett Peters, Michigan State University





Stacy Haddow



Katie Laffly



Carly Lovett



Jenna Moore



Kylie Padgett



Garrett Peters



Travis Reish



Kelly Thomas

## Week 4: Engage Purity

This week I learned that purity is more than sexual purity: It involves every aspect of our walk with God. Being true to God is the best way I can stay pure, trusting in Him to lead every aspect of my life.

-Travis Reish, Ohio Wesleyan

The Lord has given me a great message of grace and mercy through my redemption to Him, and I am so excited to share with others. One key thing I learned while engaging purity was to center all your focus on the Lord. If the situation isn't honoring Him then it needs to be evaluated and turned so it does glorify Him. Focusing on the Lord helps to dissolve the devilish desires of your human body.

-Stacy Haddow, Grand Canyon State



## Week 5: Engage Serving

During the X-Project I was able to work with the Xenia Scouts baseball team. This really impacted my view of Christian athletes. I have worked with several Christian teams, but this team stood out to me in a different way. They helped me to see how a Christian athlete should perform and behave around non-Christian teams. This enables me to do the same in engaging their needs on a professional level but also on a service level in which God has called me to do.

-Katie Laffly,

Waynesburg University



## Week 6: Engage Prayer



Engage prayer week challenged us to be relentless and intentional with prayer. God's love language of quality time was revealed to us. The Lord has poured so much into us and given us undeserved life, so we should be honored in giving back to Him. Praise God for His desire for a deeper relationship with us. Praise Him for the promise of a prosperous future; the ability to rejoice with a confident hope in Him through hard times; and the reminder to "never stop praying" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)!

-Carly Lovett, Indiana University

To try to implement prayer and the idea that it doesn't have to be perfect, the X-Project interns did "Speed Praying" (a spoof of speed dating). Everyone wrote down prayer requests on a note card and took it around the room to other interns who would pray with them for a few minutes. After time was up, they moved on to pray with the next person. It was really awesome to see all of the interns praying for one another and lifting each other up. Through speed praying we were able to get to know each other on a more intimate level, and we also got the opportunity to share what God had placed on our hearts and to take those concerns to God in prayer.

-Clark Diedrich, Northern Illinois University

## Week 7: Engage Fasting

In Matthew 6:16 Jesus says, "And WHEN you fast..." The Bible never uses a conditional sentence when on the subject of fasting; the Word of God assumes we, as believers, will fast because that should be a part of our walk with the Lord. Interesting how fasting is not really emphasized in our American Christianity today. This, for me, was eye-opening and caused me to really dig into what the Bible says about fasting. This week the X-Project interns engaged in a corporate fast. I enjoyed this experience with the other members of the X-Project as well as learning some things that need to be pruned in my life. Psalm 73:25-26 were the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit kept pressing on my heart during this time. I would encourage every follower of Christ to fast.

-Bethany Fletcher, Dallas Baptist University

## Week 8: Engage Radically

This summer on the X-project has been incredible. I feel blessed to have formed deep relationships with all the interns, and I'm so thankful that I was poured into by the AIA staff in a way that pushed and strengthened my relationship with the Lord. The challenge now will be to take what I've learned and implement it in my life. I'm so excited for the opportunity I have to go back to school and engage radically for His kingdom.

-Jenna Moore, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

