

AIA WITH J WONG

BRINGING ATHLETES CLOSER TO GOD IN A REAL WAY

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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.)

“Sometimes we assume the relationship...” I heard this from Skye Jethani recently at the ACE Conference in Phoenix. He was pointing to the fact that sometimes we, as leaders/ministers/disciplers, assume that the believers we are leading and mentoring have, at the present time, a strong close relationship with the Lord. This might not be the case. When we assume their relationship is solid, we move them towards what they can do *for* God. We move them towards the Mission of God. Instead of assuming we need to simply ask how their relationship with God is. Our first priority is to help them understand that life is not primarily *for* God, but rather *with* God.

Back to Headquarters

As I wrote in my last newsletter, I went back to AIA Headquarters in Xenia, OH for internship training. The theme was **Refreshed, Connected, Trained**. With those goals in mind the conference was a success! One of the best takeaways for me was just the vision casting of our organization as a whole. It's helpful for me to hear what our leadership is doing and the vision they have. I was also able to meet some of the other interns from different campuses. We shared some of the successes and struggles we've gone through over the semester. It was definitely an encouraging time.



The guys on my staff team at UA getting ready for Regional Conference. There is a ridiculously awesome story behind our mustaches! I love my staff team!

Aside from the conference, I was able to spend a few extra days out there catching up with friends I met this summer at X-Project. I really enjoy these times not only to hang out with my friends, but also to get a little inside scoop on how they do ministry. One of the nights I was able to go to a Central State University basketball game with my friend and AIA campus director, Jared Wellman. This was an encouraging experience to see the culture and environment of an HBC (Historically Black Campus) and to see the similarities and differences compared to UA.

Back to Back Conferences

Right after my conference in Ohio, I headed to Phoenix for our Regional Conference. There was some overlap from my internship conference regarding the vision of our organization. Part of that overlap was discussing some specific goals, which we call our Mission Critical Priorities. It was good to hear more of the heart behind our leaders and where we're heading in the future.

One of the most impactful moments of the conference didn't come from our formal time, but rather a simple story during lunch. One of my friends from another campus shared at the table some of his story. It was a story of incredible trials and tribulations, yet in the midst of it all, he had profound revelation from and close intimacy with our Maker. His testimony has certainly encouraged me to seek God's presence and know His voice more clearly. This is an exciting time for me in my personal walk with the Lord!

Head Coach Found

Rich Rodriguez is our new head football coach. I don't know much about him, so I'll refrain from commenting. However, my friend, AIA staff member, and football chaplain Doug Gotcher had a meeting with him on Monday (11/28). So far it seems like God is answering our prayers. Rich is pretty open to keeping Doug as chaplain and has had other coaches on his team that are believers. Please continue to pray for us and our relationship with the new coaches coming to Tucson. Please pray not only that they would be open to us, but that we would build relationships with them and serve them in any way possible.



Me and the interns from conference!