

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.)

I've been reading the book *The Barbarian Way* by Erwin McManus. Summarizing, McManus wonders if we, as followers of Jesus, have been domesticated and tamed in the Christian faith. Have we civilized ourselves like the Pharisees? Rather than becoming civilized, we should choose the barbarian way of faith. I have really reflected on this in my own life. Have I domesticated myself? I also think of the guys I am discipling. Am I just trying to keep them on par or am I pushing them to be all who God has called them to be? These seem to be two very different things in our Christian culture today.

March Meetings (and March Madness)

Every other year in March our entire staff team (state side) comes together at our headquarters in Xenia, OH for March Meetings. It's a time of recasting and recatching our vision. It's also a time to connect with other staff. This was my first time at March Meetings and it was great. The formal meeting time helped me understand more about *Athletes in Action* as I heard from our leaders. Sometimes, in an organization, there can be rifts between the leaders and the people because of the lack of relationship. So I'm always encouraged when I get to hear the hearts of our leaders.

One of the issues we've been trying to address as an organization is diversity within AIA. It's really interesting to see that AIA lacks diversity in terms of ethnicity and culture. As an Asian American, I was able to give some of my thoughts during a debriefing session with our Diversity Taskforce. I felt privileged to be a part of such a significant meeting. Moving forward, I feel like we can make great strides towards becoming more diverse, ultimately giving God the glory and honor.

At the end of the day, for me, the best part is always the people. I had a great time catching up with some of my old friends as well as getting to know other staff I hadn't previously met. I love to hear their stories of how God is moving on their campus, in their pro team, or at headquarters. And it's great to hear how God is changing and growing my friends and co-laborers in their individual lives.

Be a Man

Men's Bible Study is flowing like butter! We decided to stick with the topic of manhood (biblical masculinity) for the rest of the semester. One of the reasons its going so well is we've started to have some of the students lead. So far they've been doing a great job. They've been very teachable as we walk along side of them in their preparation. Another reason it's been exciting is because of the realness of the group. I feel like Ben, Jon, and I have done a pretty good job at creating a safe environment for guys to share. And they haven't pulled back. We're able to have deep, honest conversations about what it means to be a man and how our society lacks godly men. Men, we need to step up to the plate!

Seeking God,
Jeremy



Me and some of my fellow interns hanging out on the last day of March Meetings. Some of them are coming back for a 2nd year internship, while others are moving on.



Chaz Miles leading worship through music at March Meetings.