

COME ALONG WITH J WONG

BUILDING SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS THROUGH THE PLATFORM OF SPORT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013



Join AIA

I only got one life to live. This is the tagline for our new recruiting video we've been working on. Creative Connections (our communications department) and I have been working for over two months on this short video to recruit people to AIA. Interestingly, this project was birthed out of an overwhelming amount of critique over a previous video that was rolled out this past summer. Since I am part of the Campus Ministry department, my boss, Steve, asked me to join in the process of making the new video. Personally, I've done minimal work in video editing, so this project has brought me to new depths of appreciation for the entire creative process of making a video. Hopefully, I can post a link on my website once we roll it out! It's looking sweet!

What Lenses Do You Have On?

Fifteen white people and I were walking in a lower socio-economic neighborhood in Lexington, KY when a black man suspiciously asked, "What are you guys doing here? Are you with the government or the church?" Stammering to find an answer, one of us said, "The church." "Which church?" *Silence.* "Wait you don't know which church you're from?" *Silence again.*

Finally, a collected sigh of relief was expressed as our conference leader finally stepped in and introduced himself. As Bret and Corey interacted we were all confused when they started laughing in a deceiving way. It was all a ruse! Our leader, Bret, had staged this encounter with Corey, a local resident of the neighborhood to see how we'd react to such a situation. The Lenses Institute is a five day intensive training to help AIA staff and others engage in the topics of diversity and unity in the kingdom of God and racial reconciliation. We seek to be cross cultural learners and ministers in the diverse world of athletics.

I had the privilege of attending one of the Lenses in Lexington at the beginning of October. I must say this was a remarkable experience. One of my highlights was thinking through diversity and ethnicity from a biblical viewpoint. It is speculation, but the first command, in Genesis, to "be fruitful and multiply" in the Garden of Eden could show that different cultures and ethnicities would've risen. This study of Scripture goes much deeper, but I'd encourage you to study it yourself.

Overall, there is a lot I need to deal with in my heart and mind regarding this topic. As an Asian American, I feel there are some unique elements I can bring to AIA. I've gone to the extent of asking if I can serve on the Lenses leadership team. I'm hoping I can fit this into my ministry! Pray that I would follow the Lord's leading in this.

My Soapbox

(This is a short sharing of how God has impacted me in a profound way.)

How deep is the gospel rooted in your heart? When I say gospel, I think of Tim Keller's quote, "We are more sinful and flawed than ever dared believe, yet more loved and accepted in Christ than ever dared hope." For me, I thought it ran deep. I told others it ran deep. But as I focus more intently, it's closer to the surface than I imagined. My Christian brothers and sisters, you may already know this, but the gospel is not just for the lost and unbelieving. It is for us as well. The gospel fundamentally says that we are not good enough, *but* there is Someone who is. We are considered worthy because of Christ. It's going to take an eternity to believe this. These months have been hard for me to continue to believe and accept this truth because of some of the situations I've been in and some of the mistakes I've made in my new position at headquarters.

The good part is acknowledging this struggle allows God to start planting the gospel deeper. If I take a moment to dwell on God's love for me my heart fills with gratitude. My mind cannot comprehend. I pray that we would all grow in the gospel.



(left) Lenses participants with one of the professors at Kentucky State University (right) I had the honor of going to SoCal for a weekend to celebrate my cousin Andy's engagement to his now fiancée Rachel. Congrats!



For more information, 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 jeremy.wong@athletesinaction.org