



Take Me Out To The Ball Game...

Around the country, it's a pretty traditional expectation for college baseball players to be part of a summer league team. Their coaches desire for them to develop their skills through this experience and it also increases their chances of being drafted by Major League Baseball.



The Rochester Ridgemen are a summer league team that competes in a high caliber summer league as part of the New York Collegiate Baseball League and is funded in part by MLB. The Ridgemen are unique though in that they are also partially owned by Athletes in Action, which allows them to experience progress on the baseball diamond, but also intentionally grow in their spiritual lives too! Players that join the Ridgemen are competing at a high level and getting great skill development through the league, and also embracing the environment of discipleship & community that encourages them to grow as young men spiritually.



Even though each player is open to faith development through the summer season, they each come to the experience with different spiritual backgrounds, journeys, and maturity levels. It is a really special opportunity to lead them as a team, but also meet them where they are at as individuals and help them take steps of faith growth personally.



Kyle's role as chaplain allowed him to teach the guys on a variety of topics. They learned about and processed things like:

- 3 H's (Highlight, Heartache, Hero- this is an exercise that builds team connection, trust, & understanding as they learn more about each other's background stories)

- Eradicating idols in our lives
- Worshipping God as an Audience of One
- Being motivated by God's never-changing love & grace
- Embracing an Identity in Christ- seeing ourselves in light of how God sees us, through the truths in the Bible
- Spiritual Gifts
- The role of the Holy Spirit in our faith journeys
- Spiritual Disciplines- prayer, reading the Bible, evangelism, fasting & solitude
- Submitting to God in the midst of trials & suffering
- Having an eternal perspective- living in light of the hope we have and allowing our lives to point others to Him.



While it was challenging for Kyle to be on the road and for us to be apart as a family for over two weeks, it was awesome to see God work in the lives of the guys! Them taking steps of growth in their love for Jesus was really special! We love our jobs and that makes the challenges totally worth it! Please pray for "The Ridgemen"...that the seeds of truth that were planted would grow deep roots and produce spiritual fruit that glorifies God!



Prayers of Praise for:

- a great summer mission opportunity through chaplaincy for the Rochester Ridgemen... please pray for continued faith growth for the coaches & 26 baseball players on the team

Please pray with us for:

- continued development through our upcoming time at Cru & AIA's biannual conference at the end of July
- monthly & annual financial provision
- for fresh vision & faith as we prepare to launch into the Fall semester for campus ministry



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Tax deductible gifts can be sent to our address above with checks written to AIA & staff acct #0581139 in the Memo Line. You can also give at <http://give.cru.org>



We appreciate the many ways you helped empower us for this summer mission opportunity!
Much love & thanks,
Kyle, Jayne,
AJ, Leisel, George & Simon