

Our mission is to build multi-ethnic spiritual movements on every athletic department in Indianapolis that impacts the campus, city, and world for Christ.



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The "Williams Word"

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## "Building up" disciples of Christ

When we look at how Jesus did ministry while on earth, we see that He spent most of His energy and investment in the twelve disciples. He entrusted to them not only the message of the gospel, but also the development of future disciples and leaders (2 Timothy 2:2). *Have you noticed in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) we are instructed to "make disciples" not just gather converts*? Jesus also tells us to "teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." That is a high calling and privilege! As leaders of the AIA movement, it's our job to "build up" the people God entrusts to us into life-long disciples of Christ.



Recently we had our first annual AIA Fall Retreat for the Indianapolis Metro area. The goal of the retreat was to pull our studentathletes away from campus for just six short hours on a Sunday to connect with God, others, and themselves.

Sean, a former football player, gave a powerful message on surrendering fully to the Lord as a lifestyle. Hannah, a runner on our student leadership team, shared her testimony about living in the freedom found in Christ. We ate lots of pizza and played dodgeball. Myself and other staff led breakout sessions in the afternoon. In short, it's a way we sought to build into our students.

## Day-to-day challenges

As we head into the second half of the semester, we cherish your <u>prayers</u> for wisdom in developing and "building up" our students into mature disciples of Christ. Some days we can almost see the growth in front of our eyes; yet some days (and weeks) seem like a slow crawl.

Pray that our student leaders would see the long-term vision of building a *culture* of discipleship. As we seek to bring this change into action, there is a tendency to resist because of the unknown. We need to be united in the direction God wants to lead us. Pray our hearts are energized by the gospel first, and desire to love others second. Thank you for partnering with us through prayer!



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