

When you think about great companies, organizations, or leaders, what aspect of their leadership comes to mind? Maybe their ability to motivate people comes to mind. Some might say their persistence and vision drives forward momentum. What if I suggested the idea of ownership?

Jenny and I are so encouraged at the recent steps of faith that Butler student-athletes are taking to “own” the Athletes in Action ministry. Just about every week after the Wednesday night AIA meeting, we have a renewed bounce in our step! Paige, a soccer player, is bringing new teammates to hear about Jesus in relevant ways. Sean, a football player, and Stephanie, a runner, recently led our study of Acts 4 with passion and energy. They took a step of faith to teach boldly amongst their peers!

In late January, our normal meeting room was taken, so we asked our student leaders to help with a creative meeting for the night. They invited teammates and friends to come play dodge ball and hear about what it means to play for an “Audience of One.” An athlete’s greatest struggle is with his or her identity. Our hope is that no matter a win or lose outcome in competition, their hope would be unshaken because of the love and acceptance offered in Christ, not their performance. The tendency to find our identity in something or someone other than Christ is a struggle we all battle, right?



Enjoying food after the AIA meeting

A common hurdle in effective leadership is the “passing of the baton.” When the group being led doesn’t see the vision ahead, the desire to press forward drains quickly. Proverbs 29:18 from The Message commentary puts it this way: *“If people can’t see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed.”* **Pray that God would give us fresh vision and direction as we spiritually lead student-athletes at Butler.**

Even though we are greatly encouraged to see how God is growing the AIA movement at Butler, we are aware that Satan doesn’t like our efforts and will seek to tear down what God is building.

Would you pray with us that God protects our unity and sense of momentum? Pray that our current leaders would continue to own the movement, and that new leaders would emerge to own it in the future? We cherish your partnership in ministry through prayer. Thank you!



Playing dodge ball after learning about “Audience of One”

Giving every student the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.