



## South Africa & Mozambique AIA Basketball Tour

June 2008  
by Taylor Hargrove



Several months ago I was challenged by a mentor who was reading a book called *Good to Great* by Jim Collins. Collins did a study about successful CEOs of large corporations. One of the concepts was differentiating between being “good” and “great” as a CEO. Being “good” can actually work against the very thing that we can be the greatest at in life. For example, I know I am good at a lot of things, but I want to be great at a very specific skill set—the passions and desires with which I have been designed to influence this world. I recognize that my small lifespan has an eternal impact, and it is up to me to decide what that legacy will be. I want to be a man, like David, who fulfilled his purposes in his generation and then fell asleep (Acts 13:36). I don’t want to be satisfied with good. The three questions Collins asks are: 1) What can you be great at? 2) Where is the economic engine? 3) What ignites your passion? I challenge you to ask yourself these questions.

For me and my ministry, these questions have been answered. You are my #2—my financial backing to support guys who pour out the love of Jesus Christ into influential athletes who can use their platform to transform communities, cities, and cultures.

Thank you for being part of this team. I ask and encourage you to now to dive deep in your prayer life and cry out for the specific prayer requests (as noted later in this letter) to take place on our AIA basketball trip to South Africa and Mozambique, which takes place July 2-23.

### Quick Updates

1. Praise God for teammates like you as I’ve reached 100% monthly financial support!! Thank you so much for being faithful givers. May the fruit of your giving come back to bless you as you invest in thousands of lives of influential athletes. I love you all!
2. My “Peace Out Party” was awesome, and I got to see so many people before I left Colorado. My move to Ohio involved several stops to rekindle relationships. In Kansas City I stayed with the Baileys from Nyack, saw John Thurlow and International House of Prayer (check out their web site [www.ihop.org](http://www.ihop.org)), and watched former AIA baseball player, Steven Trout, play for the Kansas City T-bones. Then I went to Bloomington, IL to see Kevin and Brooksie McCarty. Now I am staying in Lebanon, OH with the Lester family. My first week has been awesome with only one day of shock.

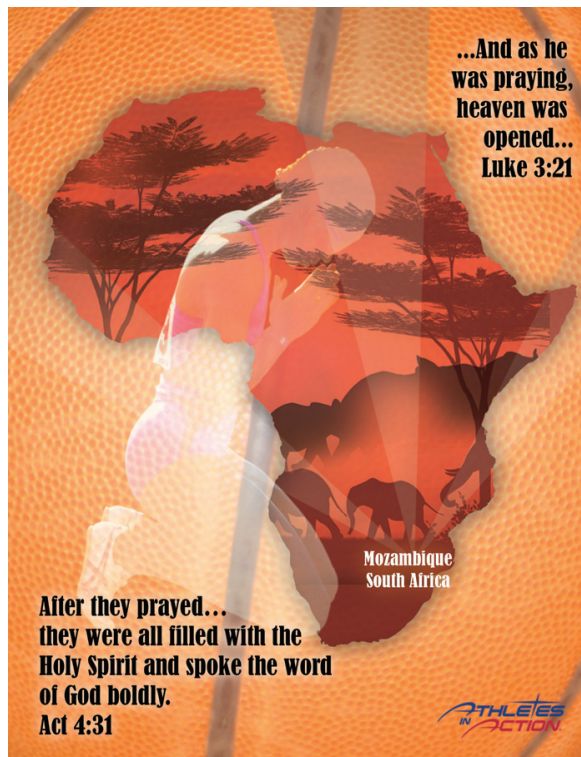
### Specific Prayers

\* Commitment to work through conflict and to have wisdom, discernment in, and joy despite chaotic situations (John 17, Romans 14:19, James

1:5, Acts 13:52)

\* Team to play basketball with physical and mental excellence for Jesus Christ (Luke 10:27, 1 Timothy 4:7-8)

\* For our AIA Missionaries in South Africa (Agery and Dirk) and Mozambique (Fernando) to best use our time (Ephesians 5:16)



\* For the strongholds of racism, hatred, social injustice, and poverty to be broken down (Jonah, Micah, Isaiah 58, Luke 10:27-35)

\* We will be teaming up with three South Africans and one Bulgarian. Please pray that our racial unity would be a witness that all people are created in the image of God, and Jesus loves all of mankind. For the way we interact with each other to be the gospel to others who struggle with racism and wounds from Apartheid (John 17:23)

\* Pray for the reception of the love of Jesus for the Zambia, South Africa, and Mozambique national and local teams as we share our story and the story of the love of Jesus Christ at game halftimes (Acts 4:31)

\* To be helpful and bring useful tools to the communities we will serve

\* Empowerment for AIA staff members already located in-country (Ephesians 4, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Peter 4:10-11)

\* Vision for how to best minister before the World Cup 2010 (Proverbs 29:18, Matthew 28:18-19)

\* Physical protection from diseases, violent crimes, and accidents (2 Samuel 22:32-51)

For prayer mixed with music check out [www.JasonUpton.com](http://www.JasonUpton.com) or buy the CD from either Dwayne Roberts or Corey Russell. I just got them from International House of Prayer, and they are *awesome*. They sing scripture and really dig deep in prayer for the church.

Ephesians 6:18: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Matt 9:37-38: Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Ezekiel 22:30: I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

Acts 4:31: After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12: With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **FYI**

My new address is:  
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Additional contact information:  
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