

Utility Ninja Walking in Good Works!



UTILITY NINJA! What is that? The last month has been crazy with rain so our fields are the number one place people come because of our synthetic turf. Our fields drain up to eight inches of water an hour. There were many occasions where our field got such a good reputation because we were the only site that had games going on, particularly in baseball because their fields were flooded. In the midst of those baseball tournaments as member of our Sports Complex team for the summer I got a lot of opportunities to work and serve these teams.

The Holy Spirit has opened up many doors for conversation especially because of the incredible facility. A common line from fans is, "This place is awesome! Who owns this? What is the story behind these fields?" That gives me a great opportunity to share about the mission of Athletes in Action and my testimony. I shared my story with a grandfather during one of our high school baseball tournaments and he was really encouraged, wanting to me to meet his grandson and share with him. That it is an example of the countless opportunities to share my faith while just being available to walk in the good works that Jesus has for us. *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which he prepared beforehand that we should walk in them* (Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

I know this summer God has plenty of good works for me-us to be a part of here on our sports complex staff. Our schedule is ridiculous! Starting this Thursday we have sports camps every weekend through early August with plenty of opportunity to be Jesus and share Jesus with the groups that use our facilities. The groups range from believers, to non-believers, high school football camps to our very own AIA Xenia Scouts College Baseball team of which I have the blessing to help out with this summer. Please see our schedule online and pray-pray-pray for anything and everything from operations to salvations! We desperately need Jesus to be the hero this summer.



X-Project Interns & Staff growing at our Ropes Course

We also have just received our X-Project students who are interning with us this summer. They are getting credit in various degrees from Sports Management, Business, Kinesiology and want to see how a sports ministry operates. This is a great opportunity for our ministry to pour into them and equip them as they will eventually be sent out into the sports world.

Last Friday we took them through our Low Course and High Ropes Course to bring some unity and expose strengths and weaknesses on the team for them to best work together this summer. I was able to help facilitate the ropes course (pictured above from our 10ft. wall they had to all get over as a group). Hearing their heart for Christ was awesome! They are going to be a valuable asset to us this summer and I look forward to pushing them to the cross in different ways through teaching, supervising and rubbing shoulders with them.

I had an interesting incident of fear and vulnerability on the ropes course the week before our X-Project students came. I was getting evaluated to be a High Ropes Course Trainer(25-40 ft) in the air and we were practicing sending people down the zip line. As I sent someone down in my mind I freaked out and thought, "What if I didn't clip him in right? I don't want him to die!" Then my fear of heights and some other things almost paralyzed me. With that being fresh on my mind I really had to rely on Jesus and encourage others who were afraid of heights to trust him as our prince of peace.

God redeemed my zip line skills and brought me peace last Friday as I got to send plenty of people SAFELY off the zip line.

Speaking of vulnerability. I feel

Our Sports Complex in Xenia, OH!

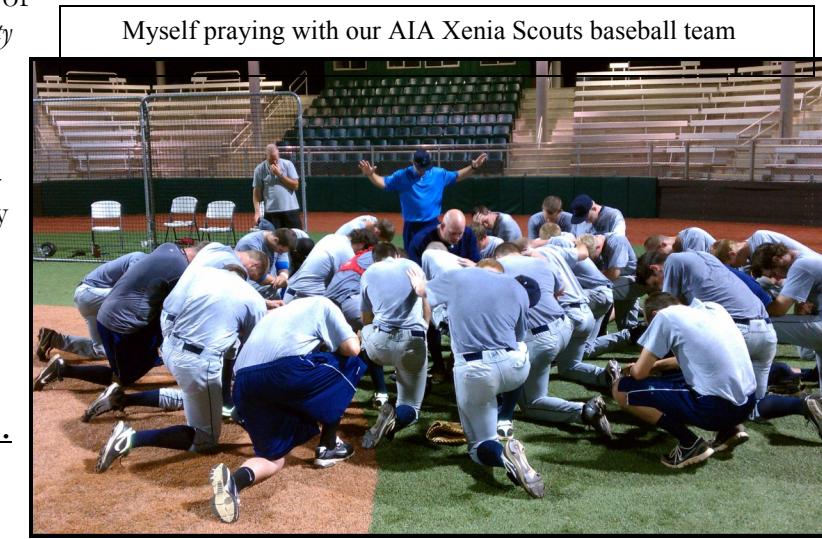




Zip line Redeemed! like that little story is accurate of the season that God has me in overcoming fears and vulnerability. This is the first time that I am back in a leadership position since Fall of 2009. It makes me have to trust Jesus and I am grateful as I am getting to help coach again with our Xenia Scouts with an excellent staff. I actually briefly played for the head coach in professional baseball so it is nice to be able to coach and learn from him as I have a great deal of respect for him. A Utility person does a little bit of everything and a *Utility Ninja* is my self-proclaimed title for what I have been and will be doing this summer. Of Course Utility Ninja for Jesus as you see I am all over the place walking in his good works.

I AM THANKFUL FOR...

- My Dallas Theological Seminary online class, it is kicking my butt and providing educational and spiritual growth!
- Night of Champions event last month, incredible Blessing !
- Finished my first Sprint Triathlon with some AIA friends.
- Mowing lawns on our complex gives me time with Jesus to pray over the place and meditate on Ephesians and keep me sane in our hectic schedule.
- Doing trash on our facility keeps my heart in check in a service attitude.
- The ministry opportunities our Sports Complex team will have the rest of this year!



Myself praying with our AIA Xenia Scouts baseball team

- I had some awesome time ministering to Southeastern University baseball team with my buddy Chris Rainwater when they came up for a tournament..
- I have four guys staying at my house this summer from our Xenia Scouts Staff: two coaches Emanuel and John, our Sports Information Director (SID) Chad and Derrick our Broadcaster. I am thankful to serve them and for the fellowship.

Prayer Needs...

- To walk with Jesus, being word saturated, worship-filled and others focused
- Sports Complex Team & people we minister to. (see our schedule here) www.athletesinaction.org/sportscenter/events.aspx

- Pray for the “Gospel” which means “good news” of Jesus Christ to penetrate into all those we are discipling; X-Project and Xenia Scouts college baseball players as well as all the people they will be and share the Gospel with.
- Pray for our staff unity and health

- Seminary Class this summer •Purity in thought, word and deeds.

Jesus thank you for this group of prayer warriors, friends and financial supporters who follow you and as a result of that I get to participate in what you are doing through sports around the globe. May you continue to woo their hearts on a daily basis. May they be filled with wisdom and insight to know your more. May they be rooted and grounded in love so that they may know the breadth, height and depth of your love. Thank you Jesus that you have

Friends after we finished a Sprint Triathlon!

Thank you so much for your sacrificial giving and your heartfelt prayers, without you I couldn't be on this journey!

prepared all good works for us. May those that read this be willing and able to walk in the good works that you have for them by the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus name. amen.

