

## GOOD NEWS IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS!



Athletes in Action sends out around 800 athletes on missions trips every summer all over the world. With a presence in eighty-five different countries sometimes it works out that the athletes come to our headquarters. This was the case with a Bulgarian basketball team mixed of college and professional basketball players.

Larry Sharret our AIA staffer in Bulgaria (who played on the tour in 2008 when I was chaplain of our South Africa and Mozambique basketball team) was empowered by God along with many of his supporters to bring the team to America. This team's theme was "Who is Jesus?" With other AIA staff, this Bulgarian team made up of no Christians took a leap of faith to the United States where God really rocked their world.

The team toured the USA playing in basketball games but also taking a faith journey to consider, "Who is Jesus?" Because of our amazing sports complex and world headquarters being in Xenia, OH one of their stops was with us. I got to help lead their high ropes experience sending zip line. It much people with their don't The in-twice as safety is important on a high ropes course and everything had to be translated from English into Bulgarian. One interesting thing I learned is that a head nod up and down actually communicates "No" and a head shake side to side communicates "Yes" The



once again people off the is amazing how people trust you life even if they know you. instruction took long because REALLY im-

portant of most cultures around the world. After they were finished overcoming fears and having fun on the 25 and 40 foot high course. I got the opportunity to share the story of Jesus winning my heart as Lord and Savior and challenge them to accept Jesus as Lord of their life above basketball or anything else.



Bulgaria AIA Tour on High Ropes Course

I am thankful for the opportunity to talk about my first love, Jesus. Think about your first time in love, usually no matter the outcome you have fond memories. When I hear older couples retell how they met or their engagement story there is joy in their voice and a renewed sparkle in their eyes. Jesus is our first love and it is important to tell others how he won

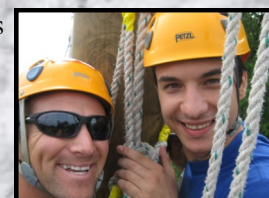
our heart. That will help us and others see how beautiful He is and that is what makes our feet the feet of good news! As we walk and the Holy Spirit gives opportunity we are to share how Jesus became and still is the lover of our soul. Revelation 2:3 says that the church in Ephesus abandoned their first love. Have you abandoned your first love? I know I do all the time! Repent and remember how he won your heart past and is winning heart. If we see Jesus as then we want to talk others him. But we remember how he has written beautiful stories through hard times we see and can proclaim to the nations HE IS A GOOD LOVER!



Our translator next to me as I spoke of Jesus work in my life!

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS and GIVING!**





## **"Proclaiming Good**

**News"** Over 250 coaches and collegiate baseball players will have heard a personal testimony and the good news that Jesus Christ saves people from sin and wants a personal relationship with them. At least 7 young men have given their lives to Jesus as a result. The 30 Xenia Scouts have become disciples by praying, studying God's Word and sharing with their peers.

Our Team is currently 19-14 working today with a churches VBS. They hope to play in a local prison on Saturday and make the playoffs. Please pray for their perseverance and to take the gospel back to their campuses.

These pictures represent a simple model of the summer for most of our tours and for the Christian life. We are to be people of prayer, studying and applying His Word and share the

## **Prayer**



good news that Jesus saves people from sin!  
**I AM THANKFUL FOR...**

- My summer roommates !
- Garrett my summer intern!
- My Family reunion in Colorado during July 4th!
- **Prayer...** To have a Spirit-

Filled-obedient-loves-sick passion for Jesus!

*Jesus show your goodness to the just and unjust alike,*

## **Discipleship**



*pour out your love like a flood and overwhelm people with your pursuit of love in their life. Let your kindness*

*lead them to repentance and to bask in your glory. To you who are able to keep us from stumbling and present us blameless before the presence of your glory with great joy. In Jesus name amen.*

Pictures taken by Emmanuel Wheeler

## **Evangelism**



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