

FROM CAMPER TO COACH

This past week, Vanessa and I were reflecting on the growth of our youngest daughter Lucia. How she is starting to formulate words, the methods she is using to communicate, her desire and ability to play with her older sister and the clothes she is growing out of. I love watching and participating in the growth of others, which is one of the reasons working with coaches is so rewarding. Even better is getting to hear about those who attended AIA camps as a kid and are now coming back to coach because of the impact they experienced. Check out this story from Heidi, one of our camp coaches this summer in Saskatchewan.

From Camper to Coach

Heidi, who lives in Saskatchewan, attended AIA summer camps for years as a child. In 2017, when she was too old to participate as a camper, she decided to volunteer for her church's soccer camp. From her first year onward, Heidi showed exceptional leadership - not just in sport, but in sharing her faith with campers. Over the years, she has shared the gospel with numerous children, while also opening up to them about her own faith journey.

In 2020, Heidi was baptized. During her testimony, she shared how much AIA had impacted her faith, as a young camper through her time as a volunteer.

"Camp has been a good thing for my walk in faith because it pushed me to question why I believe and what I believe. Talking to kids and seeing their enthusiasm for God and all his power is so encouraging." Heidi shared. "Five and six-year-olds have shown me what it is like to have a child-like faith. They have shown me, without knowing it, what it is like to be on fire for God."



Heidi leading a small group at an Action Camp, July 2022

Last summer, we invited Heidi to step up again and become a coach. She said yes to trying it for one week - which turned into four! She's back coaching for summer 2022.

From camper to volunteer to coach, Action Camps have been an integral part of Heidi's faith journey. She has grown as a Christian, shared her faith, and served God in her community.

"Being given this opportunity was a huge blessing. I am super excited to work with AIA again and to spend all summer teaching kids about the gospel and working with new coaches."

Thank you for your prayer and financial support which allows us to continue to build into more campers, volunteers and coaches.



More Than a Game Talks happen every morning of camp. Participants are introduced to the gospel and able to spend time in small groups responding to and asking questions about the Christian faith.

QUICK HITS

- In early 2022, I was invited by some fellow staff members to join them at this years [Global Congress on Sport and Christianity](#). In just over two weeks, I will be heading to Cambridge, England for six days to take part in learning and networking with other sport ministers from around the world.
- Power to Change is hosting its National Staff Conference next week (for the first time in four years). This is the first time I will be participating in it since joining staff and I am grateful for the chance to bring my family as well. The theme for the week is "Jesus, Yesterday - Today - Forever." During this time, I will have an opportunity to represent the Community Division with some presentations to our staff.
- The month of August sees the rhythm of camps begin to wind down. As things begin to transition, we are looking forward to the beginning of another school semester and college season at Columbia Bible College.



A quick family update: Vanessa spent the month of July working in a summer school placement. We were also able to get away camping for a night (without kids) and appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in peace and quiet. Annalea turned four at the beginning of July. She has enjoyed berry picking, swimming, biking and playing with her cousins this summer. Lucia has enjoyed berry eating (no picking for her), playing in the garden, looking at books and does not like swimming,

HOW TO PRAY?

- We have had a few challenging dynamics between our coaching teams in BC. Please pray for wisdom as my co-workers and I navigate leading them through some difficult conversations.
- There are many children who prayed to accept Christ into their lives for the first time. Please pray that they would stay connected with the local church and find ways to continue to grow in their relationship.
- Please continue to pray for an individual to be found to fill the important role of BC Regional Director for our clubs and camps programs. If you know of anyone who is passionate about helping churches engage in sports ministry, please pass on their name(s) and I would be happy to follow up.

JASON & VANESSA

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We send our regular updates to those who have expressed interest, or are partnering in our ministry both prayerfully and/or financially.

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