

# THUS FAR, THE LORD HAS HELPED US

*"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far, the Lord has helped us.'"*

*1 Samuel 7:12*

King Road Church

Our kids love routine. Each evening as part of our bedtime routine, one person gets to choose a story topic and then it is the job of Vanessa or myself to share a story on that theme. Often, these stories are linked to memories from the past. Significant, or insignificant moments that we remember. Reflection is an important part of life as it provides context to the story you are currently experiencing.

In my last update, I focused on the rhythm of *REMEMBER, FORGET* and *BELIEVE* found in Isaiah 43:18-19 and shared some questions I was challenged by for each rhythm. As we move through the month of April, we near the date of April 19, 2024. This date is significant because it marks the **50th anniversary of Athletes in Action Canada (AIA)** and gives us an opportunity to remember.

To understand the story of this milestone for AIA, we should start where it all started, the beginning of Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC). Bill and Vonette Bright, the founders of this ministry, responded to God's call in 1951, establishing the ministry on the campus of UCLA in California. AIA was then birthed in the USA from this campus ministry in 1966. Several years later, **Josh McDowell** was commissioned to the University of British Columbia to start a CCC ministry in Canada, now known as **Power to Change**.

It took another few years for AIA to form a Canadian ministry. This process began when professional Christian athletes from across the Canadian Football League (CFL) and various ministry leaders gathered together at **Teen Ranch** in Ontario to pray and seek God about a new national Christian sports ministry for Canada. Some early pioneers and directors of the ministry include Gord Barwell and Paul Henderson.

Within months, AIA began a coordinated effort to reach Canada and the world for Christ. From those faithful few many years ago, AIA Canada has grown from a 1974 grass roots Christian sports ministry into a national and world wide influencer for Christ - with over 100 staff ministering on university campuses, pro sports teams, club teams, sports camps across Canada while also providing opportunities to provide humanitarian aid, sport tours, camps and teaching to international partners.

As I enter my ninth year on staff. We are grateful for those who have gone before us to set a foundation to **Help people know Jesus and experience His power to change the world through sport.**

Thank you for continuing to support us and this ministry.

*PS - My first Arrow Leadership intensive is scheduled to take place next week at Teen Ranch in Ontario. On April 19, 2024 I will be at the exact same location that AIA Canada was formed 50 years ago. I am looking forward to celebrating this unique opportunity.*



**Above: One of my joys comes from including our family in various ministry opportunities. Recently, the girls were able to join me as I led games for athletes participating in a University retreat.**



**Above: Commissioning to full-time staff.**

# FAMILY UPDATE

- It seems like we are in a stage of constant growth. At any point, one of the girls will take a step, whether this is Elysia eating solid food and learning to roll over, to Lucia starting to ride a bike without training wheels to Annalea starting to confidently sight read words and do the monkey bars (a huge accomplishment that gives her a lot of pride). Additionally, though we are in a season where we witness the birth of new things through our kids, we are also experiencing the nearing of the end for others as we walk with grandparents who are aging.
- We are all looking forward to our first camping trip of the summer next month and several other trips planned for the summer.

# MINISTRY UPDATE:

- For supporters in BC, we are starting a new Action Soccer Club program in May. If you are interested, you can find more information [HERE](#).

- On March 21, I was official commissioned to join the religious order of Power to Change. As I mentioned in my past update, this transitions me from part-time, to full-time staff with Athletes in Action and also comes with a change in position title as I am now the Youth Initiatives Managing Director.
  
- The spring represents one of the busiest season across all of Athletes in Action Canada. Here are a few highlights of things occurring:
  - University campus ministries wrap up the school year
  
  - National Training Camp takes place in May
  
  - Spring Action Club programs begin across the country (basketball, soccer, beach volleyball and volleyball).
  
  - Several groups head out for international tours to SE Asia, Madagascar and Mauritius
  
  - Registration for Action Camps are opened across the country and we begin to hire and train our coaches to run these programs.



# HOW TO PRAY

- Pray for all of our camp coach positions to be filled this summer;
- Praise God for the decisions of several student-athletes to commit their lives to Christ at our Campus Retreats;
- Pray for families to register their kids for our programs this spring and summer;
- Pray for Vanessa and the kids as I am away for a week in April for my Arrow Leadership schooling;
- Praise God for a staff team that is growing.

*Jason & Vanessa*

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