

FINDING CONFIDENCE IN THIS...

***"Yet I am confident that I will see the Lord's
goodness while I am here in the land of the living.
Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and
courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord."
Psalm 27:13-14***

I recently had a conversation with several athletes about confidence. Amongst the athletic world, confidence is a buzz word that is thrown around quite frequently. Players have it and don't have it, they perform better with it and poorer without it, they gain it from a variety of sources, but not always the same way. It is a curious thing that seems to walk alongside peak performance. As we discussed the topic, our conversation shifted to spiritual confidence, where it comes from and how it can accompany our faith.

For believers in Jesus Christ, confidence is a result of believing in his life, death and resurrection. It is the result of believing there is a loving and just God who created each of us in his image, who loves us regardless of what we have done, yet is just to deal with evil appropriately in his timing. I shared two areas I gain spiritual confidence in with these athletes:

1. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.....For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Eph. 2:8, 10)
2. "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." (Phil. 1:6)

Earlier this week as I was reading through Psalm 27, the word confident once again jumped off the page at me. David rooted his confidence in his understanding of a good God who would save him from his enemies and wouldn't abandon him. As you read this update, may you be rooted in the confidence of seeing "God's goodness in the land of the living."



Top: AIA National Staff team

Bottom: AIA Youth Initiatives Team (the team I work with day to day)

QUICK HITS

- In the month of January, I was able to attend our first AIA National retreat since 2019. It was such a blessing to connect in person with people I have been meeting with virtually for over 2 years. We focused on the theme of "Moving Into the Son." Fixing our eyes on Jesus and moving towards him with the actions of our lives and ministry.
- "It started with a ball..." Several weeks ago, a number of AIA staff had the opportunity to travel to Mauritius, one of AIA's national partnership countries. Click the link for a story of how a ball led to a group of kids hearing the gospel.
- Finally, this month I coached my last games as the head coach of the Columbia Bible College men's volleyball team in the PacWest. It was an encouraging, yet bittersweet last few games as coaching is a role that has been profoundly challenging and blessing. I reflect on my years coaching 62 athletes with gratefulness and look forward to finishing my time officially with our trip to Southeast Asia in April/May.
- **A quick family update:**
 - Lucia has had incredible language growth in the past several weeks. This is both extremely cute and/or challenging depending on how well we can translate what she is trying to say.
 - Annalea has started Wee College, a bible focused pre-school 1 day a week. Her ability to remember scripture and songs is amazing.
 - As a family, we are looking forward to having me home more on evenings and weekends as the season ends.



Top: Picture at my last home game.

Bottom: Picture after our last season game.

HOW TO PRAY

- We are in the final stages of hiring an Office Administrator. Pray that this is completed and for their integration into our team.
- Our Spring Action Basketball program is in need of coaches to run several gyms. Pray for people to be willing to join our programs to coach basketball and share about the gospel.
- Our staff team has come out of a time of discerning, brainstorming and reflecting. As we move into preparing plans for the spring and summer, we pray that we engage in activities that share the good news of Jesus with youth in Canada who are involved in sport. Pray for wisdom, courage, discernment and favor in our actions, relationships and decisions.

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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