

AN INJURY LEADING TO A WORK OF GOD

**"For we are God's handiwork, created in
Christ Jesus, to do good work, which God
prepared in advance for us to do"**

Ephesians 2:10

The verse above is the continuation of Ephesians 2:8-9, a passage that my oldest daughter has been working on memorizing. It comes after the affirmation that we are saved by the gift of grace and reminds us that God has prepared works for us to complete. I often find myself on autopilot, completing daily or weekly tasks without taking enough intentional moments of reflection to think about the works God has prepared for me. Yet, when I do reflect, I am often able to knit together a picture of how God has either prepared me for a certain moment or placed people into my life for a certain time and season.

About four weeks ago, I eagerly jumped into a game of California Kickball with my team at CBC. Thinking I could show my athletic prowess when I was up to "bat," I pounded the ball with full power, sending it soaring to the back fence in the field. My pride in this kick was short lived as I immediately felt a sharp pain in my right groin and was reduced to an agonizing limp before making it even a quarter of the way to first base. Three days later, I was in physio getting treatment for a groin tear. Aaron, my physio, had treated me for previous injuries and over the past year we had several conversations outside of work. He was also a believer and we had discussed a few ways in which he could support our men's volleyball program at CBC and potentially be involved with some of our AIA ministry.

As I met with him several times over the past few weeks, we had numerous conversations, including one during my last treatment two weeks ago. We were discussing recent books that we had read, and he shared about a recent leadership principle he had been applying to his life. This principle had to do with spending intentional time with a few people or gifts in order to strengthen overall impact. I remember leaving that session pondering where and with who I was spending my time and if it was maximizing my impact.

This past Sunday, I received the news that Aaron had been in a bad car accident and was badly injured. He passed away Tuesday night from his injuries, three days before my last scheduled physio session with him this coming Friday. As I reflect on Ephesians 2:10, I am grateful that sometimes, God prepares works for other people to complete that are accomplished on my behalf. As a person in ministry, I can often feel the burden of making sure I don't miss anything God has and that my "works completion rate" is 100%. Sometimes, it is important to remember that we are also the object of the works God has prepared for others. I am grateful that one of the last works God had prepared for Aaron, was to encourage and challenge me.

Each one of you, through prayer, words of encouragement and financial support have played a role in the ministry of AIA and in doing so, have accomplished works, which God prepared in advance for you to do.

Thank you for being on our team.



Annalea is starting to enjoy watching our volleyball games when we play on the road.

QUICK HITS

- Since the beginning of October, I have been leading our staff team through a focus on the spiritual discipline of Sabbath. It has been both energizing and challenging to put this discipline into practice. If you want to know more about how we are doing this, send me an email.
- As you may recall, a consistent prayer request for the past several months has been for a BC Regional Director. Praise God that I am currently working with two applicants! Additionally, we have one other individual who is discerning about joining our AIA staff team. It is an encouragement to have more people join our ministry.
- This coming April, I will be helping lead our Men's Volleyball team at CBC on a trip with AIA to South East Asia. Preparations have already begun and we are excited to have the majority of our team participating in this trip.
- A quick family update: October has flown by as our family has spent most of the month sick. We are getting used to this reality as we have two kids in pre-school/daycare and a Kindergarten teacher at home. Annalea has recently been learning her letters and numbers and is starting to spell simple words (like CBC). She has also started to reflect some of our adult mannerisms when talking which is both cute and a little unnerving at the same time. Lucia has two feet squarely planted in the terrible two phase. This means that simple tasks like changing her diaper can range from a 10 second to 20-minute experience depending on her mood (prayers for us parents are always welcome). Finally, Vanessa continues to teach and has made it through her first parent/teacher interviews (no small feat).

HOW TO PRAY?

- Praise God for the BC Regional Director applicants and pray for discernment and affirmation about who may be the right fit for the position.
- Pray for Aaron's family, friends as well as players at CBC who are processing his sudden passing. He was also the main physio our players saw when they were injured. Pray that through his life and testimony, people would come to a personal relationship in Christ.
- In two weeks, our summer camps team will be meeting to debrief summer 2022 and plan for summer 2023. Prayer for clarity, wisdom and spirit-led decision making would be appreciated.

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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