

# AIA Update January 2019

Happy New Year to all of you! We thought we would give you a glimpse into what happened at Brockport during the fall semester. Be encouraged as God is at work!

## **Is that Tarzan?**

Even though they were swinging in the trees, it was just one of the volleyball players doing "Heaven Bound" at Camp Li Lo Li as part of their overnight team building event in August. Last year it was the women's basketball team and this year volleyball. We were able to strengthen our relationship with the returning players and got to know the new ones. It still amazes us that a secular college would allow a Christian ministry to take one of their teams to a Christian camp. To God be the Glory! Picture #1 is from the event.

## **Out of the mouth of babes.**

In this case, baby Huey! Tiny is 6'5" and 272 pounds and he is a senior, and a first team All American for all of D3! At the end of their season the seniors get a chance to address the team as they say "goodbye" and give words of wisdom to their teammates. What's the first thing he says? "Thank you to Athletes in Action, Gary, and his staff for all they do for our program." And he was not even part of our Bible study! People do notice when you demonstrate the love of Christ.

## **Is that Tarzan? Part Deux**

The Lord opened the door up for us to do a team building event for gymnastics. Utilizing space in one of their gyms and then traveling to Rock Ventures in the city, the activity spanned seven hours. The goal for the team was to bring them closer together in preparation for a long season. Our goal was to use the time to demonstrate our desire to help them grow individually and as a team, and to build relationships with the individuals. Win-win!

## **One little, two little, three little gymnasts...**

Well, let's make it nine! After nurturing our relationship with the team through breakfasts, care packages, Valentine's roses, dinners, a picnic and a team building event, Jhan launched a Bible study with them this past fall, and nine different gymnasts have attended the study, averaging eight per week. What a blessing to have several young ladies trying to figure "life" out and wanting God to be part of their

plans. Picture #2 is from one of the studies.

### **A Handful of Purpose**

During their off season workouts, Jhan met with the softball team in the fall to see if any of the players had questions about spiritual things, and five indicated that they did! She has begun following up with these ladies and looks forward to their return in a couple of weeks to meet with the others. Please pray for these initial contacts to determine where they are spiritually and to have wisdom to deal with their spiritual needs.

### **The Three Amigos**

Generally known for being a "rough" bunch, the hockey team responded positively when Gary recently met with them to see who might be interested in spiritual issues. They are generally older than the other athletes as many of them are recruited after playing in junior leagues. Three of the players indicated they would like to meet to see how faith and their sport intersect. And just about everyone wrote a thank you note on their info card for all that AIA has done for them. Pray as we follow up with these athletes.

### **Who dey?**

The whispers traveled further than they thought. The glances turned into glares. The "Hellos" seemed very hollow. What would bring on this envy among the families and friends at a recent gymnastics meet? The fact that the ENTIRE TEAM came into the stands to greet us as we sat with the Brockport faithful at Cortland to see their meet. Those around us did not know who we were so they were surprised to see this show of appreciation. We were blessed and pleasantly surprised by their excitement to see us.

None of these stories would be possible without your faithful support, prayers and volunteering for our events at the college. We are so blessed to have your partnership in this endeavor. We are still amazed at the open doors the Lord has provided us. Please pray for softened hearts as we follow up with the athletes.

Thanks for being a great support team!  
Gary and Jhan

*Photos on next page*

