

AIA Spring Newsletter



I think we all have felt the length and coldness of this winter and are we not all eagerly anticipating spring?! (The guy in the first cartoon has got to be based on myself – Hawaiian shirts for the win!) For me, this winter has felt a little longer than usual due to an accident I had in January. While on my way home from ministry in Castlegar, BC, I stopped over in Cranbrook for the night to visit my daughter. As I exited the hotel shower the next morning, I found myself none too prettily on the bathroom floor. I thought to myself “this can’t be good” as I looked down and saw that my leg was pointing in the wrong direction! So, I popped my knee back in and decided I better get back to Alberta and to a hospital, ASAP. Turns out my analysis on that bathroom floor was correct - I had surgery the very next day to repair a complete quadriceps tendon tear. I was SO thankful to have had the necessary repairs quickly, so I could begin the healing process without delay. After 2 months with a full knee brace and crutches, I am now in physiotherapy and every day my leg feels a bit stronger. A huge thanks to my wife Laurie and my daughters who took good care of me!

Reflecting back, if this knee injury had to happen, the Lord’s timing was good. As I shared in my last newsletter, I have begun a new position as Director of AIA Staff Care &

Development. With my limited mobility these past few months, I have been able to spend time connecting with numerous AIA staff members while planning a national strategy on how we are going to provide care and development to our missionaries so that we as a mission continue to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our sports culture across Canada! Proverbs 27:23 has been a guiding verse for me these past few months:

“Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds”

Through connecting with AIA staff and missionaries across Canada, I have the privilege of hearing their stories of fruitful ministry, and also hearing the pain and heartaches that occur in their lives as well. A missionary who spent 3 weeks in China getting treatments for a serious kidney disease; one who experienced the pain of finding out his wife was having an affair; one who had to adjust to a painful divorce and learning shared custody of his children; another who experienced much heartache over the pain of a child in trouble. Yes, even missionaries serving God live through and experience much brokenness and emotional pain. I spent several hours last week with two AIA staff from Bishops University in Quebec who had lost a soccer player on Spring Break down in the Dominican Republic. They asked me if I could walk them through how to lead a team through such a tragedy. I have also been coming alongside two Junior teams who have experienced sudden deaths among their players. While many of these stories are difficult and emotionally painful, there are also so many positive stories of what God is doing and many of my connections with AIA missionaries are full of encouragement, prayer, and cultivating of relationships.

In addition to coming alongside fellow missionaries, I have also been planning a national strategy for our mission on Staff Care & Development within AIA. With my job description in place, we are now asking the Lord how we can best implement this vision into a reality! I am focusing on a **4-Level Approach** to Staff Care & Development. **First** and foundational for any missionary (or one who wants to follow Christ) is a propensity for **Self-Care**. We need to have as our greatest priority a desire to walk with God and be his disciples. Hence, the development side of this ministry. **Secondly**, I am praying through and discussing with many on how we as AIA can be more intentional in our **Staff Care**. When I read the Apostle Paul's letters, I see that he mentions fellow co-labourers by name at least 75 times. The Apostle Paul knew the

importance of caring for one another! Paul challenges us to: care for one another (1 Cor. 12:25), be devoted to another (Rom. 12:10a), honour one another (Rom. 12:10b), love one another (Rom. 13:8), serve one another (Gal. 5:13), pray for one another (Ja. 5:16), and to encourage one another (I Thess. 4:18) - along with 12 more "one another's" in his letters!

Thirdly, along with my Care team, I will provide support, care, counselling, nurturing, and resources as I am called to **Shepherd/Leadership Care** for our missionaries across Canada.

Fourthly, and, perhaps, most importantly, if we are going to provide the best Care & Development possible to our staff, we as a mission are going to need to encourage the home churches of our missionaries to provide **Church Care** to them and their family. Having been a senior pastor for many years, and now a missionary for 8 years, I have a clear big picture on how missions and churches can work together more closely. I have been asking my own church to explore how we can be more effective in this exciting adventure and partnership between churches and missionaries!

In closing, I have three prayer requests. First, that I would have God's wisdom and guidance as I shepherd our AIA missionaries going forward. Second, for wisdom and clarity as I choose my Care & Development team to help in this ministry. Third, as I have now been assigned a ministry account that needs funds raised for travel expenses, that God would meet the need for financial support as I begin journeying across Canada more and more to meet with our AIA staff and missionaries. If you are interested in partnering with me to (literally) help in this journey, you can provide a one-time donation towards travel and resources in **Three Ways:**

1) By sending a cheque to:

Power To Change

20385 64th Avenue

Langley, British Columbia

Canada V2Y 1N5

**Please include a note indicating that you are making a one-time donation to Jack Knight, AIA Staff Care Account # 500130.*

2) By visiting the website <https://p2c.com/give/> (Jack Knight, AIA Staff Care Account # 500130)

3) By phoning **Power To Change Partner Care** at 1-855-722-4483 (*Jack Knight, AIA Staff Care Account # 500130*).

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and love for all of **you** - for the prayer, encouragement, and financial support you provide to this ministry. I could not do this work the Lord has called me to without all of you – my team! May this coming season of Spring be one of renewal, joy, and many blessings for you and your family.

Praying with you,

Jack Knight

Director of AIA Staff Care & Development

C: 403-601-1863

E: jackk@athletesinaction.ca