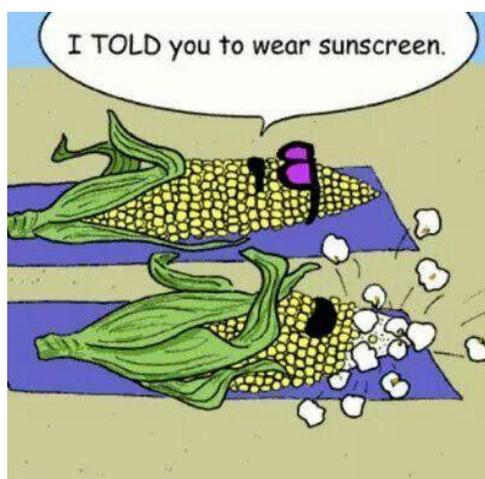


# AIA Summer Update



## **Greetings, AIA Support Team!**

I hope you have all been having a great summer so far. Hard to believe we are already halfway through July! I officially returned to full-time work with AIA on April 26<sup>th</sup> following my surgery recovery. That same day, I flew out to Ontario for work with visits in Guelph, Toronto, Hamilton, and Vancouver. Among all these trips, there is one in particular that I would like to share with you; my trip to Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> around 6pm, I received a call relaying to me news of the Humboldt Bronco's bus accident in which 16 people were killed and 13 injured when a westbound semi-trailer truck struck the Bronco's north bound bus near Armley, Saskatchewan. The following morning, I took an 11:30am flight to Saskatoon and went directly to the Royal University Hospital to visit and pray with the families of the injured and killed Bronco players. The visiting room was thick with anguish, sorrow, worry, and anger. Myself and a fellow chaplain also went to the house of Darcy Haugan, the head coach who passed away in the accident. We spent time with Darcy's widow, children, and family. It was a hard visit, yet a needed visit. I was personally touched by how God's grace was sustaining this family and especially how Darcy's two boys were responding. The last words Darcy spoke to his 12-year-old son before he left was, "now you're the man of the house until I come home." It was amazing how this young boy stepped

up, prayed for his family, and called everyone together on Sunday morning to say, “we need to go to church, that’s what dad would want us to do.” We went to church to provide support to the family and to the Bronco’s team chaplain, Sean Brandow. We spent the next couple of days back at the hospital, visiting former players and other community folk and attended the Sunday night prayer vigil. Over the next few days, we chaplains dispersed to visit the surrounding towns and junior teams, which is when I came home to spend time with my two junior teams. Many of my players were deeply affected by the accident, having known and been personally close with the four Alberta players who had passed away. This tragic accident changed so many lives, but also brought together a grieving nation in love and care for all the family, friends, and community members of the Humboldt Bronco’s.

Over the course of 2018, I have continued to transition and work within my new role as Director of Staff Care & Development. This new role has brought on much new and exciting work, resulting in very busy – yet satisfying - days! For the rest of this update, I would like to share an article that AIA wrote on my new role. I hope this article will give you a clearer idea of my pulse and calling in this new role. Before the article, however, I would like to thank you for your financial support, encouragement, and prayers - I could not do this ministry without my amazing AIA support team. Please pray for my travels over the rest of the summer that will take me to Hamilton, Edmonton, Vancouver, Regina, and Winnipeg. I would appreciate prayer for wisdom and safe travels during these trips. As always, please let me know if there is anything YOU need prayer for – I would love to connect with you! I trust you will all have a wonderful rest of your summer enjoying the weather, your family, friends, and community. If you are interested in learning more about my new role, please continue reading.

It’s not the first time that Knight has served in a ministry position. After beginning his journey with Christ in 1980 and subsequently participating in a mission’s trip to Mexico, Knight became a youth pastor in Enderby, B.C. It was here that he met his future wife Laurie, along with fellow Enderby native Rushia Klassen and husband Dave.

After 26 years in pastoral ministry, Knight felt a nudging from God to consider the world of athletics as a new opportunity in his ministry. Once he had joined staff with Athletes in Action Power to Change Ministries in 2010, and Knight became the assistant chaplain for the Calgary Stampeders (CFL), Flames (NHL), and Roughnecks (NLL).

“It was something I really did enjoy,” he recalled, “but I knew it was not the conclusion. I knew there was something more for me to do.”

That ‘something’ became apparent to him once his old friend Dave Klassen had been appointed as AIA’s National Director, and proposed a Staff Care and Development team under Knight’s direction. It brought Knight a great deal of excitement to employ his shepherding gifts in a new context.

“These men and women at AIA are honestly some of the sharpest people I’ve met,” he said. “They have such a vision for ministry, and are ready to say, ‘here I am, Lord.’”

“It really is a big family.”

The purpose of *Staff Care and Development* is to ensure the continued thriving of staff members at all points in their respective’ journeys. Knight will be leading a national team dedicated to the full-time prayer, and spiritual care, and professional development of the AIA body.

“There are 75 times in Paul’s epistles that mentions his coworkers,” Knight explains. “He is constantly praying for, encouraging, and shepherding the people around him.”

In order to be effective servants for God, one must consciously care for their outward actions *as well as* their inward health. Consider the following analogy of two cups: If one cup is filled with water and constantly pouring into another cup without being replenished itself, eventually the

first cup will run out of something to give. On the other hand, if a cup is constantly being filled up but never pours its resources elsewhere, the water will still be plentiful but isn't benefiting others because it isn't being utilized for its intended purpose. Thus, in order to successfully pass on the water to everyone, both cups must be in a continuous cycle of being filled up and pouring into other cups.

Each AIA staff member - and Christian, for that matter - is seen here a cup, and the water is the spiritual knowledge and wisdom that we aim to pass along to those in our community. We can't pour into others unless we have something to give.

*Staff Care and Development* is the water jug, a stable resource helping the cups fill up and pour out.

"We need to be intentional in the way that we equip our staff to care for one another," Knight said. "Sometimes, in times of crisis or pressure, things happen, and we need one another for encouragement.

"We have to focus on what God's asking us to do, which is care and show up."

With all of this in mind, *Staff Care and Development* is not the sole water jug or resource from which the AIA staff can draw its nourishment but is a rather supplementary source that draws from the main body of water - the local church.

"We are not NOT a replacement for the church," Knight emphasized, "but are rather coming alongside of it, and helping move people to where they need to go.

"If I'm going to be effective in this role, I need to spend time in prayer," said Knight. "And if I can help people move closer to the Great Commission, then there is no higher calling."

A beautiful parallel to this can be seen in the dichotomy between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. In the former case, water flows into the sea via the Jordan River and other tributaries but has nowhere to go upon its arrival (the shores have the lowest land elevation on Earth). This is a pivotal reason behind the sea's moniker - life is not able to flourish because the water is not in motion. The Sea of Galilee, however, is bookended by the Jordan River, meaning that water both inflows to and outflows from the sea - and ends at the Dead Sea. Not surprisingly, the Sea of Galilee is teeming with flora and fauna and captures a beautiful image of God's creations on this side of heaven.

May we all aim to live like the Sea of Galilee.

**PRAYING WITH YOU**

**JACK KNIGHT**

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