

# Belated Christmas Gift

## **It was the best of times, it was the best of times ...**

It was the time of God's blessing! We're not sure how the RIT Bible study outreach could have been better. Texas BBQ Joint did a fantastic job with the food and their service. They made it easy for us to spend time with the athletes. God blessed with "mild" December weather. Those in the "Bibles and Brownies" group (name of the RIT Bible study) did a great job getting their teammates to attend. They were really excited that you provide an event such as this to help minister to their teammates.

We were thrilled with the turn-out, and even more excited about the 31 athletes that responded on their contact cards that they had spiritual questions they would like answered. Our efforts and your support will be multiplied due to the fact there are believers who can follow up with these athletes. Everyone left with an Ultimate Questions gospel tract along with the candy cane gospel story. Those in our study have reported that they have had a great response from their teammates. Several attendees indicated they will check out the Bible study when they return for the spring semester. They have also been seen wearing AIA shirts around campus already. Enjoy the pictures; you made them possible!

## **Some Assembly Required**

Scariest words were never heard on Christmas morning. Some instructions are hard to follow but with God, not so much. Love God, Love People, Serve Others and you will be able to tell somebody about Christ. Here is what a former Brockport athlete (who coached there after he graduated) said when I wished him a "happy birthday" and asked how his season went at the college where he now coaches:

"Also, I want to say I appreciate everything you've done for me as a player and as a coach. From just saying hello on some of my worst days and making sure I never went hungry. You're the brightness to a lot of individuals' lives. You always inspired me to be a better person and I greatly appreciate that!"

It might be easier than we think when we follow the Lord's well-written instructions!

## **Reppin' the Cause**

Just wearing our gear can be a witness and provide you with a blessing. One of our

supporters wore an AIA shirt to a doctor's appointment and you guessed it, a conversation began. "Where did you get that?! I have 5 or 6 of those shirts!!" She (a former Brockport athlete) was all excited speaking of how wonderful it was to have AIA's support for the athletes, and how sweet Jhan is. How did all that "sweetness" come oozing out? She attends their practices and watches their meets. She helps provide breakfast for home competitions, distributes roses on Valentine's Day, and stuffs care packages for long bus rides. She takes them out for coffee to build relationships and teaches their Bible study. You've got to be squeezed for the sweetness to come out. And one of them recently joined us for church and Sunday lunch!

Demonstrating the love of Christ to demystify the character of God.

Of course, none of these testimonies would be possible without all you do for us. None of them.

God bless and thanks for being a great support team!  
Gary and Jhan