

Academy Glorifies Christ



"For the Glory of Christ and the Honor of His Word." These words are painted on the wall of the Cedarville University athletic training room and they embody the theme of our International Sports Medicine and Strength Coaches Academy. The heart of the Academy is to develop leaders who can return to their country to serve others for the glory of Christ. AIA Sports Performance hosted four international guests with a variety of sports medicine and strength and conditioning backgrounds. Guatemala, Honduras and Singapore were represented in the second year of the Academy. These countries representatives listened to instruction from faculty and staff at Cedarville University, Wright State University, the University of Dayton, Kettering Sports Medicine and Ignition Athletes Performance Group as well as Athletes in Action staff.

Each morning featured "Team Times"...Bible studies and discussions on leadership with 33 basketball coaches and international staff from 14 countries joining in with our AIA USA staff to form a truly international Bible Study. The focus of the Bible studies was leading self and others, culminating with a challenge to those in attendance to consider what they are going to do with God's Son. Marcos from Honduras said, "The Academy has taught me how to be a better leader. How to share with others through the example of the AIA Staff. I am impacted and motivated to continue serving. Now I have more commitment to Jesus Christ."

After the daily team times, each day was filled with instruction on sports medicine and strength and conditioning at various sites around southwest Ohio. These sessions covered a variety of topics from functional testing and rehab to taping and speed training. Jia Xian from Singapore commented, "This was a lot of knowledge. I'm excited to put it into practice in Singapore. The Academy definitely will make an impact. It's just a matter of time and opportunities back home."



Marco, AIA's National Director in Honduras, is planning on holding seminars on sports medicine and strength and conditioning in his country. He has worked as a soccer national team strength coach and said, "The impact is very big in our work. It will be executed at the seminars and we can transfer this knowledge to others." Patty from Guatemala is a physio (physical Therapist) for her country's Olympic Committee who attended the Academy despite having cancer. She desires to start an Academy in Guatemala, partnering with a basketball coach who attended the International Basketball Coaches Academy. Their goal is to train and equip coaches and physio therapy students how to improve their skills and minister to others. Patty summed up the Academy with these words, "The Academy was a dream come true. I needed to come, and the cancer was not keeping me from going. It helped me grow in my faith. With what I learned from the Academy I want to keep helping athletes and people in need, as a physio or as a cancer survivor."

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