

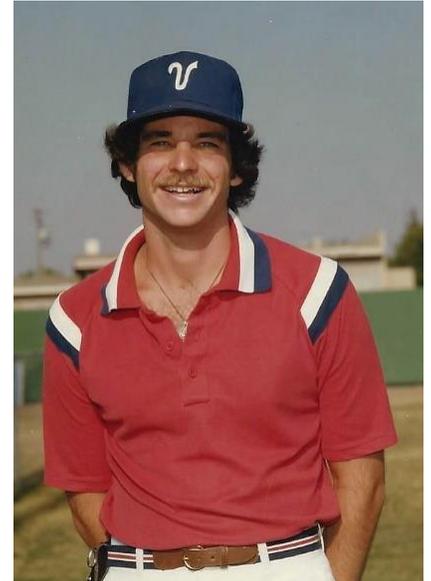
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

September 28, 2018

The year was 1977. Jim just turned twenty, and he got the job as athletic trainer/clubhouse manager for the Visalia Oaks professional baseball team. He ordered the Cramer student athletic trainer's handbook - and that was the start of Jim's career as an athletic trainer! He was with the Visalia Oaks for three seasons.

In 1978, the team won the California League Championship using only 22 players, including 9 pitchers. Recently, we attended the 40 year reunion in California. Most of the players were able to attend. What a fun and memorable time of listening to stories, being together, and honoring the team at the Visalia Rawhide game. It was also interesting to hear what the players had done since those baseball glory days.

Even back in Jim's early days with the Oaks team, he realized the impact that an athletic trainer could have on players and coaches. God planted the seed back then, and it has grown over the years. While Jim is still a certified athletic trainer, his desire is to encourage and equip athletic trainers/strength coaches for a lifetime of influence for Christ. How thankful we are, that through the ministry of Athletes in Action, we are seeing that happen!



Over the summer, approximately 1000 athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, strength coaches and others volunteer with AIA to experience ministry in their field of expertise on over 40 mission projects. God uses these opportunities to change their lives. The vision is that these volunteers/interns take the skills they learned this summer and use them to impact more lives wherever God takes them in their careers.

The following quotes are from athletic trainers who worked with Athletes in Action this summer.

"Thank you for being open to discuss how personal life and athletic training collide with a mission field as well. The best experience was the homeless outreach in Cincinnati; it helped me see how anyone could become homeless." –Janell (Athletic training student who served as an intern at the X-Project in Xenia Ohio.)

"Never have I experienced a place where a missional mindset is so consistently displayed within the world of sport. I realized something: this summer, athletic training finally started to make sense...through the



consistent discussion of worship, persistent challenging from peers, and continual opportunities to apply both professional and missional skills, I guess something 'clicked.' I have an understanding, albeit small, of why I am in the major I am, how I can use it to make a difference for people, how my work really is worship"– Heather (Athletic training student who served as an intern at the X-Project in Xenia Ohio.)

"My first days as an athletic trainer were more powerful than I'd ever imagined. Learning how to glorify God and incorporate Him into my career has without a doubt created the best foundation possible for my future."–Jordan (Certified Athletic Trainer who served at the Twin Cities Ultimate Training Camp.)

What a joy to see these individuals grow in their service to others, their knowledge of athletic training, and their faith. Making a difference for Christ, one person at a time!

MOVING FORWARD ON OUR KNEES:

Jim found out a couple weeks ago that he has **two cancerous nodules on his thyroid** (papillary thyroid carcinoma). We are very thankful that his doctor felt the lumps and had Jim get a scan and a biopsy. We are also thankful that this type of cancer has an excellent prognosis with a very high cure rate. So we would appreciate your prayers as **Jim has surgery on October 4th** to have his thyroid removed. We are hopeful that the surgery will take care of the cancer.

October 16-19th Deb is in Austin Texas to attend the Cru National Intern Coordinators Guild. Pray that I continue to grow and learn how to do my role as Athletes in Action's intern coordinator with excellence.

November 5-15th Athletes in Action International Coaches & Sports Performance Academy at AIA headquarters. Laura, a physiotherapist from Honduras that Jim worked with during his June trip, has registered to come. Pray for her and several others who are working on their visas and financial support to attend. Also pray for the logistics that need to be finalized for the Academy.

IT's ANOTHER BOY!

Yes, we have another grandson. John Paul was born on September 18th (induced early because Amber developed cholestasis of the liver). So that makes four boys for Amber and David. The hospital stay was extended due to jaundice but all is well now. We have MUCH to be thankful for!



Thank you for making a difference in our lives. Your faithful prayers, financial support and encouragement over the years have been HUGE. Together we can continue to make a difference for HIS kingdom.

Blessings,

Deb & Jim

Jim.rumehart@athletesinaction.org ** 513-518-6485 deb.rumelhart@athletesinaction.org ** 513-444-6945

8948 Wexford Place, Maineville OH 45039 Online giving available at: give.cru.org/0244524