

Andrew and Anna in Idaho: Eating, Sleeping, and Moving

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God-1 Corinthians 10:31

The Hand of God

"I'm so sorry to have to tell you that Michael ran away again..." My heart sank as I read the response from "Michael's" caseworker after asking whether he would be attending our next life-skills workshop. Michael was a previously incarcerated foster teen, who seemed to want to get his life back on track. Like many other foster teens, the state was unable to find a foster home for him, so he was placed in a youth homeless shelter. He didn't like that living situation, and he decided to run away—twice. Most of the teens we know who have attempted to run away have been incarcerated or sent to out-of-state facilities. We knew that would likely be Michael's fate as well, but we continually prayed for him. One of our volunteer coaches, Jim, who was beginning to get to know Michael, prayed daily.



Jim, Michael's Inspire Idaho Coach

A few weeks later, I was talking with the leader of a group home for foster teens that we partner closely with. She said, "we also have a new teen named Michael—we're excited to get him involved!" It didn't take us long to figure out that this was the very same Michael who had run away. Miraculously, the state had decided not to send Michael to juvenile detention, kept him in Idaho, and placed him in a home where we have an established partnership.

Since Michael has reconnected with Inspire Idaho, he has been thriving. Jim, the same coach who prayed for Michael daily when he ran away, is now Michael's Inspire Idaho mentor. With Jim's guidance, Malachi has finished his GED and has landed a job with one of our vocational training partners—a local car wash and detailing business owned by mission-minded followers of Jesus. As Michael prepares to age out later this month, Jim is helping him to find transitional housing and is preparing him to, Lord willing, be the first youth participant in the Inspire Idaho car program.

Looking back on Michael's story over the past several months, we can see the hand of God working in his life. It was no accident that Michael was placed in a home where he could continue to be connected with Inspire Idaho. We are grateful for your prayers and support that help to give teens like Michael a chance to change the trajectory of their lives and shape future generations.

Physical Health Workshop

There's nothing like having a new baby that makes you focus, sometimes excessively, on how well someone is eating, sleeping, and moving! Coincidentally, our life-skills workshop in April focused on physical health, and our presenters talked to teens about how what they eat, their sleep schedule, and exercise routine can impact every aspect of their health. Each week teens were given the opportunity to participate in simple physical activities (such as a walk around the block or a basketball game), to show that exercise doesn't have to be elaborate or intimidating.



Inspire Idaho teens and coaches connecting while rock climbing

We also spent a day rock climbing with six of our teens in the Owyhee Mountains! Many teens (and coaches!) conquered their fears and were able to connect with one another in nature and away from distractions.

Family Updates

Since we've returned from Salt Lake City:

- Aden's heart has been functioning perfectly, but his surgical incision still hasn't fully healed, and his doctors are monitoring it closely for signs of infection
- Aden was able to come off of his feeding tube and supplemental oxygen quickly
- Aden still has to have his milk thickened due to swallowing difficulties, and he has struggled consistently with gas and an upset stomach
- Abigail had a rough time with jealousy for the first few weeks after being home, but is slowly adjusting to having to share mom and dad with her baby brother
- We've received a lot of help from family and friends, but we still feel like we are in survival mode most days. Juggling two kids and Aden's frequent medical appointments and special feeding needs can often feel overwhelming



Prayer Requests

- Pray for our family:
 - Pray that Aden's incision would fully heal
 - Pray for Aden's tummy issues to improve and that he would begin to sleep better
 - Pray for Abigail as she continues to adjust to having a younger sibling
 - Pray for wisdom in how to nurture our relationship with the Lord and our marriage during this busy season
- Pray for Michael and the six other Inspire Idaho teens who are being mentored
- Pray for "M," the teen Andrew mentored for over two years. M has completely disconnected from Inspire Idaho and is not on a good path. However, we know that God is not done writing his story!



Aden is now 10 weeks old and is making babbling noises and responding with smiling and cooing when we talk to him. Abigail enjoyed participating in an Easter egg hunt with friends and a visit with her grandparents!