

FIVE MINUTES FOR MISSIONS—APRIL 2006

BRIAN AND BECCA FOWLER

Have you ever heard of an organization called “Athletes in Action”? What exactly is this group, and what does it do? A young adult from Columbia, Brian Fowler, knows the answer to those questions. He says, “Athletes in Action is the sports ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. This is a Christian organization that is active all over the world on college and university campuses. Athletes in Action directs sports camps for young people in the summer, reaches out to professional athletes, has staff on campuses to reach university athletes, and sends teams around the world to share Christ.” Brian Fowler works in this special sports ministry in a suburb near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. His wife Becca works at Simon Fraser University, a school in that same suburb, sharing Christ with girls one-on-one, leading Bible studies, and mentoring new leaders.

Some of you already know Brian because he was born and raised in Springfield, Virginia, attended Columbia Baptist his entire life, and worked with the day camp program here for three years. He is a graduate of West Springfield High and Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, with a major in accounting. He joined the staff of Athletes in Action as soon as he graduated.

Becca was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina. She also attended Appalachian State and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and a concentration in Spanish. Most of Becca’s work had been with children in summer day camps before she joined Campus Crusade for Christ.

Both Brian and Becca were raised in Christian homes by Christian parents. However, Brian said that even though he grew up in church, it wasn’t until he was in university that he truly grasped God’s grace and understood that it wasn’t by his works that he was saved, but by faith and God’s grace. Becca said she believed that Christ died on the cross for her sins when she was five years old, but that she did not truly begin to walk with Christ until her senior year of high school.

Brian felt the call to ministry during the summer of 2003 when he was playing with a soccer team in Guatemala. God asked Brian to give up his dream of playing soccer

professionally and to become a servant-minister by using his gifts and talents in this special sports ministry. Becca said her call to ministry came in “bits and pieces.” The Lord gave her a love for children, the ability to learn and pick up Spanish quickly, and sparked in her the desire to reach the nations for Christ. The Lord drew these two young adults together, and now they are newlyweds, married on January 7, 2006!

Brian and Becca have several prayer requests. First, this summer Brian is taking soccer teams to the Middle East and Ireland. They will play one national team and several top professional teams, so the Athletes in Action teams need to take the best players it possibly can. Brian says it is hard to find players who are good enough to go and are willing to raise the money needed for the trip. Becca asks for prayers for her transitions. She is getting settled into a new country, a new job, a new home, and a new marriage! Also, Becca has been given the names of some young ladies on campus who said that they would like to know more about a relationship with Jesus. Praise the Lord for this opportunity.

Let us pray. *Lord, we thank you for these two faithful servants, Brian and Becca. Thank you for their listening hearts and their obedience to Your call. Please give them health, patience, wisdom, energy, and grace as they work with professional soccer players and students at Simon Fraser University. We ask that Your Spirit touch the hearts of good soccer players who will be willing to go on these summer mission trips. May the Spirit go before Brian, even now preparing the way. May leaders be trained and new Bible study groups formed on campus this fall. May all the Fowlers' transitions be exhilarating adventures, blessed by Your love. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray; Amen.*

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