
10-12-2021

A New Goal in Life for Refugee Leader

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/news_releases



Part of the [Organizational Communication Commons](#), and the [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#)

This News Release is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 12, 2021

CONTACT: Mark D. Weinstein
Executive Director of Public Relations
[937-766-8800](tel:937-766-8800) (o)
[937-532-6885](tel:937-532-6885) (m)
Mweinstein@cedarville.edu
[@cedarvilleneews](https://twitter.com/cedarvilleneews)

A New Goal in Life for Refugee Leader

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Watching T.J. Milby's fast-paced college life from the sidelines, it may have seemed like he only had one goal in mind. Yet, years of combined soccer and theological training have equipped him with a game plan that is already making a positive mark in the lives of refugee children in Dayton, Ohio.

Milby will graduate from Cedarville University with his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree in December 2021, but he is already serving others through Dayton Soccer, a ministry of Athletes in Action. Dayton Soccer has already offered two soccer clinics with refugee children in mind, with two more scheduled for October 9 and 30. They are free and open to the public. For more information, visit the [Dayton Soccer website](#).

As a freshman at Cedarville in 2016, Milby enrolled in the combined Bachelor of Arts in biblical studies and Master of Divinity [program](#). He also joined the men's varsity soccer team as a defender.

"My favorite moments from playing at Cedarville were definitely a mission trip to Ghana I took with a small group from our team after my freshman year and our trip to the NCAA tournament my senior year," Milby said.

"I definitely came into Cedarville with a desire to pursue full-time vocational ministry in some capacity," he added. "The combined B.A and M.Div. tracks have allowed me to save a lot of time and money. I've loved the biblically rooted education I've gotten through Cedarville."

Opportunities like these allowed Milby to see how both soccer and theology could be used in a ministry context.

In the summer of 2018, Cedarville assistant soccer coach Isaac Nelson introduced Milby to a new soccer camp in Dayton, Dayton Soccer. The soccer ministry started under Nelson as a branch of Athletes in Action, an athletic ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. Dayton Soccer has since networked with other local ministries that often transport young soccer enthusiasts to Dayton Soccer for an afternoon of fun and instruction.

Milby soon became a regular summer volunteer at Dayton Soccer. As more people participated in the camps, Nelson and Milby began clarifying their vision, which Milby describes as building a healthy, high-quality and viable soccer program combined with holistic care through coaching.

To advance this mission, Dayton Soccer has hired staff members while still relying on summer volunteers and, as of this year, kicked off a select club team to provide more specific and intensive soccer instruction. This club practices at Athletes in Action headquarters in Xenia, Ohio, with two practices per week and friendly intrasquad games until they officially join a club league.

In addition to the club team, Milby initiated the free-to-the-public Dayton community soccer clinics to continue connecting with kids who wanted to play but were not able to join the club team. The first clinic took place on September 4 staffed by the Cedarville women's varsity soccer team. The rest of the clinics will be run by Dayton Soccer staff and Cedarville student volunteers.

The format of Dayton Soccer, including camps and a recreational league, has morphed over the years. However, Milby and his co-workers have kept their holistic coaching style through implementing "Coach's Spotlights" into each of these formats, allowing the Dayton Soccer coaches and volunteers to share their stories of how their faith has changed their lives.

Milby strives to maintain Dayton Soccer's relationships with like-minded organizations and local churches that offer involvement opportunities and support for the Dayton Soccer kids.

"I'll graduate in December with my M.Div., and I am open to how the Lord might use that degree," he said. "I know I'll be around in the area for a while continuing to work with Dayton Soccer. I want to be as faithful as I can in the place that he has me by continuing the vision of those who originally got this opportunity off the ground."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study, including the [Accelerated B.A. + M.Div. Degree](#). Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu.

Written by Anna Grace Galkin