

# New Beginnings

May 2012

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Missionaries on the campus of University of Illinois with Illini Life Christian Fellowship



### Semester End Wrapping up

As I write you this month, campus grows quiet with the silence of students cramming for final exams, and the absence of those already on their way home. Graduation ceremonies and celebrations sit just over the horizon of the weekend.

Another semester draws to a close and, as we've grown so used to doing each year, we enjoy our last moments with a number of students before they move on to the next phase of life. It's some of the heartache of being missionaries on a college campus - we build deep relationships with those we're reaching out to and discipling only to have them leave in a few year's time. Some off to graduate schools elsewhere, others to jobs in new cities.

Strengthened by the assurance that this is the work God has called us to, we chose to live in a place of joy and excitement for our dear friends. We remember what God has done and is doing in their lives and in a few days we say goodbye.

It's the rhythm of life we live here at the University of Illinois. Last week we celebrated our graduating class and

gave them their final instructions from this little campus church. We spoke on tithing, budgeting and saving - the practical financial lessons many college students have no outlet for before their first job (some just weeks away).

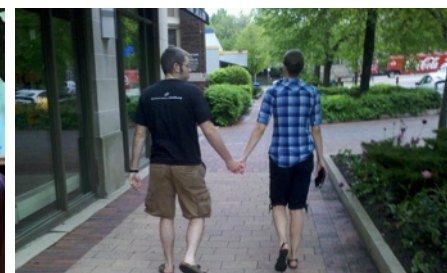
31 graduating students were being celebrated and congratulated. Some we have been working with since their freshman year.

As we look forward to graduation in just a few days, we also look back and remember all the great stories God has provided this year. In our Home Fellowship (a group of **13** at the start of the year): we had **6** students choose to become committed members of our community. **1** student came to know the Lord. **8** students saw a clear presentation of The Gospel and **4** others were equipped to share The Gospel with their peers. This is just one Home Fellowship, Illini Life is comprised of **6** and I haven't even begun to process all the work God has done through the **10** Connect Groups in Illini Life that met weekly in the dorms to study the Bible together.

It has been a fruitful year and we're thankful for the chance to serve on this campus. Thanks for making it possible through your generous prayers and support.

### Prayer Requests

- We're at 60% of our overall monthly support and trusting God to raise a significant amount in new support this Summer. Pray for new partners in this Gospel work.
- Pray for a quick and easy transition to the "real world" for our graduating students. That they'd find a new church home and community wherever their jobs take them.
- Praise God for the our new home even closer to campus!



REACHING STUDENTS AT ILLINOIS AND BUILDING GENUINE, LOVING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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#### Where We Live



Our new home! We now live less than 1/2 a mile from the dorms we work most regularly in.



Some of the folks we ran the Illinois Marathon and 1/2 marathon with on April 28th (students and co-laborers).



This year's Ilini Life congregation

The last few months have been full. Rather than read a lengthy reflection on them, enjoy some snapshots of the key moments.



Moving day! With several of our awesome church community that helped us move.



Some of our graduating students during Quad Grace (worship service on the main quad).



Amy and our co-laborer Kristin, baptizing one of our students Carly.

With students gone for the summer, we'll be traveling to meet new and old partners and raise additional support. We hope to see you this Summer!