

New Beginnings

October 2012

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



In Review Mid Semester

Seems like only the other day we were writing you asking for your prayers for the students about to arrive on campus. Now 6 weeks later we've made a number of new friends and had a chance to meet so many new students.

The highlight of our kick-off events is always the Fall Retreat. Each year about a month into the semester Illini Life heads off campus to a camp near Peoria, IL. This year Nick had the responsibility of running and promoting the retreat. While a lot of work, it was a blast!

Getting away for a weekend provides a unique atmosphere for growth in us and the students. Like a smelting fire, God refines and defines our relationships with him and one another. The result is a strengthened community of believers - a number of which are just getting to know us.

As staff we prayed for over 30 new students to join us this year. We had 31 come. We prayed for God to provide financially for those new students to attend the retreat for free. We had 31 scholarships come in from alumni and friends of Illini Life. God provides!

The topic for the weekend was Ephesians chapters 1&2. Our guest speaker and friend from Fellowship of Christian Athletes spoke a powerful series of messages reminding us of who we are, our need for Christ and the life we now have in Christ.

Simply put, The Gospel was preached consistently that weekend and shaped the heart, and minds of all 160 of us present.

For us, a goofy, fun event Nick titled "The Krispy K" made the weekend. We brought together our love for an active lifestyle - specifically running, everyone's love for donuts, and college students love of crazy experiences.

It was a 5K running race, where at the halfway point we had 10 dozen Krispy Kreme donuts. Each runner was allowed to eat as many donuts as they wanted to, knowing that 30 seconds per donut would be subtracted from their race time provided they were able to get to the finish line. It was a blast! 42 people ran the race - mostly students but also some of my staff colleagues and their kids. One student ate 5 donuts, while most only managed 1-3.

Shared experiences are key in building a strong community and deep friendships. We continue to build a community where Christ is the center but fun is common.

Prayer Requests

- We're at 70% of our overall monthly support.
- We've had a number of students struggling to adjust to life on campus. 2 have returned home for the semester.
- For the dorm bible studies Amy and I work with to be effective places of outreach and for The Gospel to go out.

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