

# New Beginnings

July 2016

## Nick & Amy Modrzejewski

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



## Adirondack LT Wrap-up Summer Assignment

As you may remember from our previous letter, we've been in Upstate New York for the Summer staffing the Collegiate Church Network's Adirondack Leadership Training Program.

We brought 15 students from Illinois with us. As we enter our final week here, we've been reflecting on and celebrating all that God has done. It is been a fruitful and fun Summer. One were we've watched God take young men and women deeper in their walk with Him and more fully on mission to reach others for Christ. Thanks for making this work possible!

Included is our program newsletter with stories from different campuses and snapshots of what we've been up to these past weeks.

Grace and Peace,  
~ Nick and Amy

## Prayer Requests

- We're currently at 79% of our needed monthly support.
- For safe travels across country as we and our students head back to Illinois for the start of the school year.

Phone

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Where We Live



GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRIES IS BECOMING RELIANT.



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



# ADIRONDACK LT 2016 | A SUMMER IN REVIEW

Adirondack Leadership Training (LT) is an eight-week summer discipleship program for college students. Those who attend LT work a full-time job at the Silver Bay YMCA, learn from great teachers two nights a week, and spend an entire day each week with other participants in a Leadership Community. They attend a weekly Life Group as well for accountability & growth. This program allows students to grow in their relationships with God and others and below we have some highlights from the summer.

## STEPPING UP TO LEAD

**HANNAH CHAIT**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

A year ago, I never saw myself coming here. The pressure for an internship in the engineering world was at the front of my mind; LT seemed like a waste of time in comparison. However, God worked a lot in my life during my sophomore year, which brought about the heart change that led me to Adirondack LT this summer.

Then, a week before I came, I was asked to lead a life group. I was humbly surprised! It was a bit of a daunting task, and I didn't want to take it lightly. I had led a bible study at my campus ministry the past year, but life group has proven to be different. God's been showing me how I can better love and support the ladies I'm leading, and how I can better help us to disciple one another as we share parts of our lives with each other. I'm excited to use the skills God's been refining in me back on campus!



*Hannah facilitated a weekly life group with the women in her Leadership Community group. The group provided a space for vulnerability and accountability throughout the summer.*

## GROWING IN VULNERABILITY

**JIM ROSNER**  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

This summer at LT has been one of growth, challenges, hardships, joys, and all of it for God's glory. A major blessing is that earlier in the summer a friend who I've had a developing relationship with, accepted Christ. That was one of the most amazing moments to see the Holy Spirit enter his life and watch him experience true joy. It makes the daily drudging through life seem so worth it when you get to witness someone go from being dead to being alive!

One thing my time being a Leadership Community leader has taught me is that if you want your community to be open and transparent, you as a leader need to imitate that, and that is a beautiful thing! As a leader, you don't have to have it all together or fake that you know 100% what's going on. You can bring your struggles, stresses and hardships to your community and watch as they do the same.

One of my favorite moments was after having some alone time with God in our community day, our community came back together and shared what God had taught them. I had been struggling through my relationship with my girlfriend and was concerned about some areas of growth we both needed. When I brought this before the Lord, I felt the Spirit say to me, "Why do your relationships have to be perfect, Jim?" I then was able to share this with my community and create an area of unity with them. Ephesians 4:2-3 says, "Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit though the bond of peace." God had not only helped me see what was important in my relationship with my girlfriend, but also created unity in the bonds of our community.





**48**  
PARTICIPANTS

48 students from four different campuses (Michigan State University, University of Illinois, University of Pittsburgh and Virginia Tech) participated in the LT program.

## TAKING INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS

**TYLER DRYDEN**  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



Every week during Adirondack LT, we have had a speaker come in to discuss different aspects of leadership and its context in our everyday lives back on campus. Some have come in and talked about how to start spiritual conversations, how to reach different groups of students and how to live out Christian faith in the workplace. But the speaker that had the most impact on me was Wayne from the University of Illinois. He spoke about initiative and its role in meeting and engaging people.

This made me think back to an idea my girlfriend had mentioned last semester called Fratcakes. It was an event where people would serve pancakes outside the Fraternity houses to engage with them. I wanted to take this idea to my roommates next year and asked if they would want to do something similar from our house near Pitt's campus to engage with the partiers walking by throughout the night. Wayne's talk on initiative really got me thinking about what I could do to take that first step and engage a group of people that don't know Jesus yet and interact with them in a manner that would serve them and let our community be a light to them.



**4**  
LEADERSHIP  
COMMUNITIES

There were four Leadership Communities this summer. Once a week, they got together to hear from a pastor, be equipped in leadership skills and to engage in community with one another.



*Tyler played the guitar in the worship band at Sunday LT services.*



**3**  
BAPTISMS

Three people who have committed their lives to Christ were baptized in Lake George to publicly declare their faith at the end of the summer.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for being a part of what God did this summer. Through your support and prayers we have had an incredible opportunity to see God move in the lives of students—both in LT, and in those they are reaching out to. Please continue to pray for all of the LT participants as they transition back to their campuses—that they would continue to grow in the areas God has challenged them in this summer. We're so grateful for the time and resources you've generously invested in our group. We hope you have an amazing end to your summer. God bless!

*The Adirondack LT  
Staff Team*