

New Beginnings

September 2022



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



Fall Semester Off and Running

It has been awhile since we wrote and a lot has happened in our lives and in the church.

As you may recall, last year we launched a ministry internship program with Reliant to give students discerning a calling to full-time vocational ministry a chance to work in ministry and test that calling. Last year we had three interns, two of whom decided the Lord was calling them to full-time ministry. This year we have four interns, one of whom has already decided this is where the Lord is leading him! Praise God for providing more workers for the harvest (Matthew 9:37), an answer to our prayers!

The start of the Fall Semester is a time on campus where there are abundant opportunities to meet both new and returning students. It's also a time when many of them are deciding where they are going to invest their time outside of classes. We strive to take advantage of every opportunity to present Jesus and life in the church as one of those options. This year that looked like tabling during New Student Orientation times, setting up our Free Coffee Tent regularly, surveying during Quad Day when all the student groups are out recruiting, and holding special events like Glow-in-the-dark Capture the Flag on campus. We've connected with over 200 students and we're beginning to see who will stick and prioritize

following Jesus. Pray with us for many of them to do so.

To cap off the start of the Fall Semester we get away for a retreat each year. Last weekend we joined with Cornerstone Church at ISU again for our retreat. We had 135 in attendance between our two churches. It was a sweet time of being together to be refreshed in the Lord.

Growing Family Growing Needs

In late July we welcomed our daughter to the world. We named her Alissa, a variation on the Hebrew word for "great happiness and joy" because the Lord has certainly increased our joy through her. At just over 2 months she is smiling and interacting with us and she loves to watch her always-moving, always-singing and dancing brother. Nathan adores being a big brother and takes every opportunity to tell everyone he sees that he has a baby sister!

This summer we realized the need to raise additional monthly support to replace lost support and cover the gap in our funding over the past year or so. With the arrival of a baby this has felt more urgent than before. Some of you have increased your giving and we're so thankful for that! We currently are still \$900 per month under funded and working to close that gap. If you'd like to partner with Reliant on our behalf, we'd love to talk with you about that.

Prayer Requests

- For God to continue to provide workers for the harvest here at U of I - more staff to work alongside.
- For the students we've connected with to prioritize their faith during their college years.
- For an additional \$900 in monthly support.

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Where We Live

