

# New Beginnings

August 2023



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



### Fall Semester Gospel Sharing

Hello!

We hope this finds you well as Summer draws to a close. We are wrapping up the second week of classes here at Illinois and so encouraged by all the new students we've had a chance to meet and all the returning students we've been able to catch-up with.

This Fall Semester we started with a team of 7 missionaries and 1 intern, the biggest staff team we've had in years. Thanks be to God for answering our prayers for more workers for the harvest (Matthew 9:35-38)! With more missionaries, we can reach more students, and make more disciples. That is just what we're seeing.

During move-in week we connected with about 240 students expressing interest in exploring faith in Jesus or finding a community to continue to grow in their faith. That is more than the number of students we've connected with the past 3 years (during Covid restrictions on campus).

We as a team and our student leaders are working to be faithful to following up with personal invites to small group, church, and meet-ups to share the Gospel with all those who expressed interest. We hope you'll join us in praying for the Lord to bear fruit through our faithfulness.

Two stories that stand out from the past two weeks - one of our leaders was texting a freshman named Kevin who expressed interest. Kevin came to small group this week and made it clear he wasn't a Christian, but was very interested in the passage we were studying (John 6:22-40). Kevin spent a lot of time reading elsewhere in the Gospel of John that night and is meeting up with a leader next week to hear the Gospel. Pray he puts his faith in Jesus.

Another freshman came to a different small group and shared with one of our staff that it was the second time he'd been to "church" since leaving home two weeks ago. He has decided he doesn't agree with his Hindu upbringing and wants to understand what Christianity is all about. He asked how he was supposed to pray and if he had to hold his hands a certain way! We made sure he had a Bible to take with him and that staff member is meeting up with him next week to share the Gospel with him. Pray he puts his faith in Jesus.

### Growing Family Growing Needs

As we've shared in past letters, we still remain underfunded and hope to connect with more of you over the coming months to catch-up and share about our support need. If you'd like to begin giving to Reliant on our behalf we'd love to talk with you about that!

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for faithful and fruitful follow-up of the 240 students we've connected with these past 2 weeks.
- Pray specifically for these two freshman guys to come to faith.
- For an additional \$1,000 in monthly support.

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#### Where We Live

