

In Northern Illinois & NW Indiana

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM BYRON & MICHELLE GRAHAM

January 2012

Expanding the Kingdom



Greg Knowles, Jerrica Bell, Anne Miller

Jesus explained to us that the harvest is ripe. The only problem is a shortage of workers. So we rejoice every time the Lord of the Harvest brings us more workers. This means greater impact among students in Northern Illinois & Northwest Indiana.

God is expanding the kingdom at Joliet College where Greg Knowles will be serving. Greg has a background in collegiate admissions and comes to InterVarsity with a desire to be a part of an authentic community reaching the campus with the Gospel.

Anne Miller will be graduating from Aurora University in May and then will serve on IV staff. Anne is an example of the transformation we desire to see in students and we are thrilled that she will be growing the ministry the next four years.

Jerrica Bell comes to us from Georgia and will be graduating in June once she has finished her degree from Northwestern University. Jerrica has been a gifted leader and cannot wait to minister at the University of Illinois at Chicago, reaching out to the Gospel Choir.

Transforming Experience



We approach February with eager anticipation, as this is the month that we traditionally host Winterfest, our divisional conference for training and discipling students from the 19 campuses our staff team represents. In the past this has been a weekend of radical growth and life decisions for our students. They will be challenged in issues of prayer, leadership, Bible study, identity, purity and mission. Last year we launched the "Invite 2 Campaign", which asks every student leader to invite two friends who don't yet follow Jesus to attend "Finding God" with them, a training module that helps students to take steps forward in having a relationship with God by clearly presenting Jesus' love and forgiveness, and allows them to identify the barriers they've created to knowing and loving Him back. Our hope is that over 50 students will attend Finding God. We are also privileged to have the Urbana '12 worship team join us to lead worship for the conference. Urbana '12 (InterVarsity's massive triennial missions conference) is coming up in December. For more info, you can visit

www.urbana.org

Family Update



Bella & kids

The holidays were a wonderful time of quality family time, playing Wii, and hoping for snow during Winter Break. For Christmas, the kids got a new puppy named Bella. She is a beautiful flat-coated retriever mix. The kids are enjoying training her.

For 2012, our family has started a new way of doing devotionals called "Stair Prayer". Once everyone is ready for bed, we meet on the stairs for a short devotional and discussion. We trust it will stick!

Michelle has started her discipleship sabbatical by attending InterVarsity's National Women's Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. It was a great time for her to kickstart sabbatical with some refreshing and reflective time with God and good friends.

Prayer Requests

- For Greg, Anne, & Jerrica as they build their support team to serve on campus in August
- For students to register and invite their friends to Winterfest 2012 and that they would have a transforming experience.
- For Michelle's sabbatical to be stretching and restorative
- That we would love the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul, and with all our strength

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Thank you!

... for your faithful financial prayer and support as we minister with InterVarsity.

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