

In Northern Illinois & NW Indiana

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM BYRON & MICHELLE GRAHAM

August 2011



Students at Leadership Institute

Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

Hiking shoes? Check. Bible and journal? Check. One whole month investing in the next generation of leaders? Check. July in Michigan's upper peninsula proved to be a transformational month for the 80 students who attended InterVarsity Leadership Institute (IVLI).

Mornings and evenings were spent in intensive training, Bible teaching and worship. And afternoons were a blessing to enjoy the beauty of Cedar Campus. Byron served by directing the program and staff team, and Michelle enjoyed being part of the teaching team that led the morning sessions. After 4 weeks of this daily routine of training, recreation, worship and community, God took eager but young students and created vision-focused, Spirit-filled, risk-taking leaders who are ready to hit their campuses with faith and zeal.

Since returning to campus, one student wrote, **"I've really been noticing a difference in myself this year already. God is on my mind all the time now and I know it's because of the growth I experienced at IVLI."** Another shared, "In the past two days a person who I have been praying about asking to join my small group asked me if they could join, and I was given the opportunity to share the gospel to three different people in conversations. God is Good!"

New School Year = Fresh Start

Campus ministry is like a computer. Sometimes you need to reboot to get it working smoothly. With InterVarsity, each new school year is like a reboot with it's own fresh start, boost in momentum and hopes for the year. The most important part is welcoming new students onto the campus and into InterVarsity.

Already, stories are pouring in of InterVarsity students welcoming their fellow pupils and introducing them to Jesus. "Tom" is an international student from China, who just spent his summer doing an internship in Texas, where he lived with a Christian family that helped him to start reading the Bible. While moving into his dorm on campus, "Tom" stopped for water that InterVarsity students were handing out. That night some IV guys met up with him and shared the gospel. "Tom" was ready and responded by saying, "I want Christ to be my king." Now "Tom" has a fresh start of his own!

Family Update

Home, sweet, home. We enjoyed our traveling this summer – especially all the adventuring outdoors in Michigan - but nothing is quite so good as the feel of your own bed!

Favorite things from the summer...
Natalie: our day at Mackinac Island
Josh: jumping off of "swimmer's rock"
Jason: my birthday at Legoland
Ty: playing carpetball at Cedar Campus

We welcome the new school year in our household as the kids are excited for meet new friends and teachers in preschool, 3rd and 4th grades. We've also made the transition to "official parents of a Jr. High-er" as Natalie began 7th grade. Insert deep breath here. So far she loves it!

Prayer Requests

- Praise for all the Leadership Development through InterVarsity's Leadership Institute
- For students to be welcomed onto campus and into InterVarsity
- Wisdom in hiring 4 staff candidates in September
- For new ministries being planted at College of Lake County & Loyola University



Graham family at IVLI Banquet

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Thank you!

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

To make a contribution please send checks to "IVCF" Attn: Donation Services / P.O. Box 7895 Madison, WI 53791.

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