### **INTERVARSITY**

# Northern Illinois & Northwest Indiana

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM BYRON & MICHELLE GRAHAM

August 2012



### **Starting New**

Hundreds of thousands of college students will be moving onto colleges and universities this Fall. For some this will be a new part of their spiritual journey. For others this will mean carving out time in their precious schedule to grow in their relationship with God. Already there are stories of God at work. Just this week, as students at NIU were handing out sno-cones, they met a student who was ready to become a Christian right then and there!

The first few weeks are crucial for students to get settled into their classes and relationships. Our hearts desire is that as they attend an InterVarsity event, that the fellowship would feel like home. Pray that this would be so. If you know of students attending schools in Chicago, please email us. Our staff would love to meet with them and invite them into the fellowship.



## Growth through Conversion

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. This verse to the Church of Corinth has been ringing through our Divisional staff team as we long to see fellowships grow across Northern Illinois & Northwest Indiana. This past year we saw 127 students cross over from death to new life in Jesus. That's one out of every ten IVCF students! In addition, one out of every 4 InterVarsity students in our Division are not-yet believers and are investigating what it means to follow Jesus. Imagine if these students, who are already a part of our ministry, said yes to following Jesus this year. This love for lost students, and the culture of welcoming them in, has fueled our ministry to grow to over 1200 students who are being transformed by Jesus and becoming world-changers. Pray with us that our fellowships would not only grow by gathering Christians, but even moreso through students meeting Jesus for the first time.



Summer family time at Grandpa's house

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### Thank you!

### Family Update

<u>Faster pace:</u> Michelle has returned from sabbatical having learned transformational lessons about practicing the spiritual disciplines of solitude and silence. Although these do not come easy to her, they have been lifegiving. It may take a few months to adjust, but she's back in full swing.

Empty house: With Tyson starting Kindergarten, our house will be quieter during the day. Tyson is in the dual language program which will be taught 80% in Spanish and 20% in English. We are all excited about it!

<u>Sweaty kids</u>: Three of our four kiddos are playing sports this Fall. Tyson gets his first experience playing 4 on 4 soccer. As we predicted when he was a little brute, Jason is playing tackle football for the Bartlett Raiders. After a summer on swim team Josh is taking the Fall off, but he is the waterboy for Jason's football team. Natalie is playing Division III softball. Our lives and schedules are full but we are enjoying the activity and commradre.

# **Prayer Requests**

- For all the new students stepping onto campus this Fall, that InterVarsity will feel like home!
- For campuses hosting Fall Retreats and training events
- For Michelle as she transitions back from sabbatical and resumes her leadership fo the Chicago West Area Team.