

## In Northern Illinois & NW Indiana

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM BYRON & MICHELLE GRAHAM

JUNE 2011

### Growth through Conversion



97 new babies this year! That's right, we're praising God that we've seen the vision for our Division happening... ministry growing because lost students decide to follow Jesus.

One of these births was Gabe, a freshman at DePaul. When he started coming to Bible study, he had no idea why he kept coming back. Maybe it was the warmth of the community or their hospitality towards his straightforward skepticism. Late one night, Gabe was having a hard time falling asleep and started to clean up his room. "I grabbed my Bible to put it away," he said later, "but instead I opened it up to the book of John and started reading. I've been reading the Bible with all of you for a while now, but this was the first time I felt like it was written not just for you, but specifically to me." Crying, Gabe called a few of his friends from small group and asked them to meet him. Soon, five students joined Gabe in the quad. With his hands shaking, Gabe said, "I think I'm ready to start following Jesus now." Each of his friends prayed for him, and then Gabe prayed for the first time.

### Leadership Institute

Imagine what could happen if you gathered 90 of the sharpest student leaders for a whole month and trained them to change the world. This July we get to do that during InterVarsity's Leadership Institute (IVLI) at Cedar Campus in Michigan.

Our last opportunity to invest in student leaders this way was in 2009. Of that student class, at least 5 of them have joined InterVarsity staff and are transforming students and campuses. Some are still undergrads, leading fellow students to the Lord. Many of them graduated and are serving God in their fields of study. And 3 others returned to places around the world where they are multiplying ministry.

Join with us to pray that God would transform the students this summer, and give them vision and skill to return to campus as bold and compelling leaders.

### Family Update

This spring we've spent countless hours cheering for Josh in soccer and Natalie in softball. Our 'goalie' and 'right-fielder' had a ball.

Natalie also graduated from elementary school and was awarded the Citizenship award by her peers. We are very proud of her. She will be attending Jr. high next year. (Most parents know this is a prayer request. ☺)

The kids are all excited for our time in Michigan... their favorite place on the planet. Exploring in the woods, fishing with Dad, and running loose at Cedar Campus with the 'pack of wolves' otherwise known as IV staff children. We're grateful for a job that allows for this kind of memory-making!

### Prayer Requests

- For wisdom and sensitivity as we teach students and lead the staff team at IVLI
- For more growth through conversion in the Fall
- For God to provide new staff who are gifted to plant new ministry, and for wisdom for us as we interview and hire new staff
- For more partners to join our support team, as we work to raise the additional ministry



Students at Leadership Institute



Visiting family at Apple Canyon Lake

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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."

Please include a note indicating your gift is for Byron & Michelle Graham. To give online, visit [www.intervarsity.org/donate](http://www.intervarsity.org/donate).