

New Beginnings

May 2024



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

i·life Finals & Summer Baptism & Community

Hello! We hope this finds you well. As May ends we have found ourselves in full summer rhythms here at Illinois. Summer classes begin next week and graduation ceremonies took place just two weeks ago, meaning campus is quiet these days. Champaign-Urbana seems to transform almost overnight at this time of year.

Wrapping up the school year we have held a tradition to gather as a church body to celebrate the Sunday before Graduation. We celebrate our graduates and we celebrate all who have faithfully served as Bible Study leaders, in coffee tent outreach, in evangelism times, and so on. Most exciting, we celebrate those that have chosen to publicly declare their faith through Baptism.

After a short service we move outside to offer baptisms. This year **5** individuals were baptized. These are students who have come to faith this year, returned to their faith after a period of wandering, and even others who had never been baptized despite following Jesus for many years.

Afterward we celebrate with a meal out on the campus lawn and students, families, and staff linger for hours delaying the “goodbye” to those leaving for the summer.

Speaking of graduation, we also gathered all the students completing their undergraduate or graduate program this year. We had a celebratory lunch and offered our last words of wisdom encouraging them to plug into a new church home wherever their jobs or future schooling take them. This year we had **15** students graduate. Pray with us for them to transition well to the next chapter of life and following Jesus.

That brings us to Summer where we gather mid-week for an outdoor service. We began those this past week with **35** people in attendance. The quieter campus lends itself to deeper community over the summer, and our service and weekly gatherings aim to capitalize on that.

Thanks for your partnership with Reliant on our behalf. We’re excited to continue to influence students for Jesus here at U of I and you play a key role in that work.

Continued Support Needs

We are so thankful for many of you responding to our needs for additional support, replacing lost support and accommodating the growing needs of our family. It’s a joy to be partnered with you all in this Gospel work. We currently are \$800/month under funded. If you’d like to increase your gift or start a gift, we’d love to talk to you about that.

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for the 5 individuals that were baptized!
- For our 15 graduates to get plugged into a new church home wherever the end up.
- For an additional \$800 in monthly support.

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Where We Live

