# **New Beginnings**





October 2024

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

### i · life Fall Retreat The People of God

Hello! We hope this finds you well as fall settles in. Midterms just wrapped up here on campus as well as Illini Life's Fall Retreat.

For the past number of years we've joined together for Fall Retreat with Cornerstone Church at Illinois State University (ISU), a fellow Collegiate church Illini Life planted in 2001. This year we had a great turnout with a number of new students attending from both churches. With **137** in attendance, it felt like a return to pre-covid retreats.

Not only was that been the case at the retreat, our Sunday service is trending upward in attendance as well. Last year we averaged just under **50** each Sunday, this year we are averaging over **70**, with weeks above **80**. Praise God for more students responding to invitations to church and a chance to encounter Jesus!

Those aren't the only upward trends. This past Friday with our regular time of Spiritual Conversations, just **1/3** of the way through the semester, we surpassed the record number of times we shared the Gospel in any previous full semester. God is on the move and students are responding to Jesus. Pray it continues and that Illini Life is able to be faithful to reach this campus for Christ.

#### Sabbatical Prayers & Needs

After nearly 15 years of full-time vocational ministry, our family entering into a season of sabbatical for the first time. We are so thankful for the policy our missions agency (Reliant) has regarding sabbatical and feel well prepared and taken care of as we enter this season.

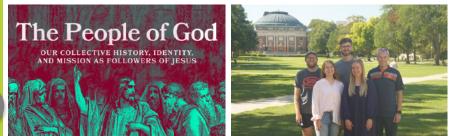
For the next 6 months, we'll lay down our day-to-day vocational ministry responsibilities, pouring out our lives and into others, and focus on being poured into by God and refreshed for the years of ministry ahead. This season will involve reading, retreats, studying and resting. We have a few retreats and trips planned, chances to get away on weekends to visit friends and family and be encouraged in the Lord.

We invite you to pray for us during this season. For God to refresh and energize us for the work ahead in the coming years.

Our work continues as Reliant missionaries during this season, so your continued support is needed and appreciated. Additionally, to cover the cost of sabbatical travel and retreats we are prayerfully asking God to raise an additional \$6,000 in special giving, the amount Reliant approves for sabbatical expenses. Would you prayerfully consider giving a special gift toward our sabbatical?

### **Prayer Requests**

- Praise God for the 137 in attendance at Fall Retreat.
- For continued growth of Illini Life and opportunities to share Jesus with students on campus.
- For \$6,000 in special giving toward sabbatical.
- For sabbatical.



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