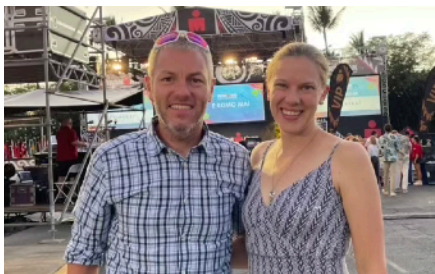


New Beginnings

April 2025



Nick & Amy Modrzejewski

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



Sabbatical Refresh & Refocus

Just over two weeks ago we returned from sabbatical. These past weeks have been a chance to resume day-to-day ministry responsibilities and reconnect with staff and leaders in the church.

The transition back has been aided by the fact that we still remained fairly connected to Illini Life during the sabbatical — attending Sunday service, monthly meals together, and visiting with our longtime friends in the church. It was a sweet gift to be able to be a part of the church without having the weight of leadership for this season.

Over the past 6 months we've had time to reconnect and realign schedules as a family. One of the challenging aspects of ministry is it often requires much of our weekend and evenings. Not having sermons to prepare, leadership meetings to lead, or small groups to engage with these past months allowed us to have more time together as a family and to attend church and church events together as a family, rather than Nick going early and staying late while Amy cared for our kids.

As we return from sabbatical, we are seeking ways to maintain a healthy balance of ministry work and family life. We invite you to pray with us for discernment and wisdom in this area.

Time together as a family was refreshing and encouraging, but so was time studying the Word, time in prayer, and time reading for pastoral growth.

Nick read through the entire Bible, a regular practice though not usually within a 6 month period. The fast pace read, rather than a slow detailed study, was enjoyable as he took in God's whole redemptive story. He also returned to old favorites, reading some essays from J.R.R. Tolkien, in addition to reading the Hobbit and beginning the Lord of the Rings with our son. He spent time revisiting some of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings and two books from Paul Tripp. These were a chance to be pastored by thinkers he admires and respects.

One of the most encouraging aspects of sabbatical came February when a grad student asked to get together for lunch. This is an individual we met during a time of evangelism nearly two years ago. He came from a Hindu background but identified as an atheist. He has gone on missions trips, served in the church, and attended a small group for these past two years. All along, a number of us have shared the Gospel with him. He asked Nick to get lunch to tell him how he had decided to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior!

Praise God for working in such powerful ways! We're so thankful for the work we've been called to and all you do to make it possible.

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Where We Live

Prayer Requests

- Thank the Lord for the season of refreshment and realignment.
- For wisdom and discernment as we balance family and ministry
- Praise God for the grad student who accepted Jesus.

