

## Northern Illinois & Northwest Indiana

MINISTRY UPDATE FROM BYRON & MICHELLE GRAHAM

June 2014



As the school year ends for InterVarsity, we have been reflecting on the ups and downs of 2014-15. While there have been many challenges, we have still seen God's faithfulness. Nationally, InterVarsity was removed from all California State schools, but after much intentional work building bridges, we were just reinstated this month. Our president, Alec Hill, announced his battle with cancer and stepped down. But with God's foresight, our leaders had already been preparing a succession plan for Alec's retirement. The events around race and justice in Ferguson, New York, Baltimore, and more recently Charleston have had a profound effect on college campuses and our ministry. But it has provided a platform to ask and answer difficult questions about what it means to follow Jesus as peacemakers and reconcilers. And it has caused our staff teams to take steps forward in prayer and love as a multi-ethnic community. We rejoice that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and that a day is coming when there will be no more



### New Talent

Hiring new staff means the ability to reach more students in Chicagoland. We want to introduce you to our new talent Leti Saenz (left) and Joy Pettigrew (right)

Leti is from Chicago and has been a great student leader at Northwestern LaFe. She graduated this year and will be serving at Northern Illinois University with our Latino ministry. Joy has been a rock star worship leader at Wheaton College and will be serving at Northwestern University with our multi-ethnic ministry. Pray for both of their transitions into full-time ministry and the learning curve they will experience this Fall.

### Graham Family

The big news: Natalie has her drivers license and is experiencing the freedom of being 16. The boys are enjoying summer vacation and look forward to the end of July when football begins.

We have the privilege to travel to the Middle East July 19-28<sup>th</sup>. We are eager to learn more the history, the struggle, and the conflict between Israel and Palestine. To join our support team, visit:

<http://www.youcaring.com/byron-michelle-graham-362979>



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#### CONTACT INFO

byron.graham@intervarsity.org  
michelle\_graham@ivstaff.org  
(B) 815.375.4977  
(M) 815.375.0160

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for Joy & Leti as they serve on campus this Fall
- Pray for our staff and our fellowships as we seek to become reconcilers on campus
- Pray for our trip to Israel, that God would make us "peacemakers" in our community