

THE BIG CHANGE-UP

Sunday nights were my favorite times when I was a kid. Every Sunday night my Dad who worked all week would come home early on Sunday's and we would have a family dinner together. It wasn't anything great, but it meant the world to me. Can any of you relate? Do any of you have memories of having family dinners, talking about the week, laughing and just being a family?

Well, that got me thinking. There is one thing that you can count on college kids needing, and that is a good meal. At the same time, having a piece of home while being so far away from family might help their new transition NIU. I am sure that you are also aware that we have a decent number of people coming to NIU from other countries that bring very little with them. The hospitality of a meal is a great way to welcome them to our beautiful country and community at NIU. It is with all this in mind that we are going to be turning our Sunday gathering into Dinner Church. It will be a warm welcoming experience filled with good food, good dialogue, and good music. Dinner church will be a friendly inviting atmosphere where people from all places on their journey with Christ can connect, support, and grow together. It will include more participation from people in the service. It will also allow for greater dialogue between the kids with a focus on Christ. I can think of no way better to share the presence of Christ with people than by sharing a meal.

I truly believe this can make BCM stand out among the clubs and groups at NIU. There are a ton of churches and Bible studies, but dinner church is a unique way to evangelize to the campus through good Christian hospitality.

We are working with our student board to bring this new ministry to life. We are all very excited about this new mission to NIU and can't wait to share Christ in this new way.

Like all things at BCM, we can't move an inch without your support. Please keep this new ministry in your prayers. That the good Lord would bring many, who have not heard the good news to find their way to us

continued on page 2

AN AMAZING MINISTRY

Going through the records, I saw that our largest gathering last year was Friday night game night. At the peak of this ministry, we had 50 kids in fellowship with us. That is amazing! I asked Walt about this ministry, and he said that we had a good crowd of international students. He found that the people who had come to the game night were not Christian or were Christians who were hurt by churches. Friday game night became a fantastic ministry and place of community at NIU.

I wanted you all to know this story because this wonderful ministry is happening because of you. We are healing people's heart and perception of Christians at BCM. We are connecting with students from all over the world. Some of these students are from countries Christian missionaries cannot go and evangelize too. Indeed, God is amazing and working wonders at BCM.

There is a lot of steam and momentum in this ministry. I want to keep that going. To continue the ministry, we need more support and funding for this program. Due to the explosion of students, we don't have enough in the budget as it is to continue to keep pace at the same intensity. Usually, there are snacks involved with this ministry because it has gone on from 7 pm to near midnight. Can you believe that? Young people are staying in a church willingly for that long!

If you are feeling moved by the grace of God to give to this ministry even as little as \$20, please send us checks or provide electronically by following our ways of giving in our "Getting Involved" section.

Thank you for all of your incredible support and ministry to NIU.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Baptist Campus Ministry has always been your ministry. As Walt and I thought about the handoff between directors we found ourselves wanting to open the experience up to you all. We wanted a way

continued on page 2

to experience the Lord's table, hospitality, and fellowship.

Making dinner every week will have costs. If you would like to help in a physical way to provide for this ministry, please donate through by sending through the means described on the next page under "Getting Involved."

Another great way to get involved if your close by is to join us at the dinner. If you want to join us or would like to cook us a meal and have dinner with us, we would love to have you. If you would like to join us or prepare a meal for us, please contact me at niupastorzach@gmail.com.

As always thank you for your love and support. BCM is your ministry, and we thank you for the opportunity to share the gospel at NIU.

Love and Blessings,
Pastor Zach

IS IT HOT IN HERE?

As some of you may know, we had some vandalism to our air conditioning unit this summer. Some have graciously given to help repair it, and so I want to say thank you. At the same time, it grieves me to say, but the AC has much more work to be done. They found and replaced the part that was damaged by the vandalism, but while in the unit they saw that some little things were damaged as well. So the good people repairing our AC unit have been diligently hunting down parts and repairing it. Therefore, the front end of the building has been without AC this summer. Always thanking God, I have found myself losing weight because of the heat. Are you still looking for a great beach body? Come on down to BCM.

All kidding aside, if you would like to help out by helping us tackle the bill to come for the work and parts of the AC unit we would be sincerely grateful. As always the ways to give our found in the section "Getting Involved."

Stay Cool Everyone,
Pastor Zach

to celebrate Walt and every minister before him who has served faithfully at BCM while looking forward with great hope.

One way that we do this in the American Baptist tradition is through an installation service. A time when we, as a gathered people, give our blessings and commission the next leader of a ministry.

We at BCM are inviting you to join us in celebrating the Installation of Zach Dyrda as Director of BCM. It will be a time to celebrate with past directors like John Peterson and Walt Hoshaw. We hope you will join us for the service and welcome Zach as the new director and celebrate the wonderful ministry that is the Baptist Campus Ministry.

The Installation Service will be held at First Baptist Church of DeKalb located at 349 3rd Street DeKalb, IL 60115. The Service will be held on Sunday, September 23rd at 3 PM.

Thank you and God Bless,

Baptist Campus Ministry NIU

UPDATED WEBSITE

We recently updated our website. We have all new sections, a blog from the pastor, new pictures, and more. Keep up to date on what is new and happening at the ministry through the website. It is also a great way to connect people with our ministry. Just direct them to our, and we have all our information there.

We also have joined the digital age by adding a donation page to our website. This safe, secure, and easy to use system allows you to help minister to our students anytime and anywhere.

Want to know what outreach we are doing in the ministry? Find out through our ministry page. This site will keep you up to date on when we are meeting and what things we will be focusing on during the year. It will also tell you when we special events are happening.

The updated website is www.baptistcampusministryniu.com
The website is live. Check it out and let us know what you think on our Facebook page. Baptist Campus Ministry NIU.

Getting Involved

Baptist Campus Ministry will remain in DeKalb just as long as you want it to be there. Your prayers, donations, and participation allow the American Baptist Mission and message to stay at NIU, serving students and the youth of DeKalb. In a world full of messages God has called us to continue to offer His message of salvation to the next generation. They are our children and our future.

For many congregations, BCM is their only youth outreach program. Please donate as you feel moved and as you have the means to give without financially impairing your home church. Together, we can continue to Know Christ and make Christ known to the next generation.

Thank you for your faithful support. It means so much to the students and to me to know that you are there. God bless and thanks. Please donate by sending to the address below or donate through our website.

Baptist Campus Ministry

449 Normal Road

DeKalb, IL 60115

(815) 756-2131

or

baptistcampusministryniu.com

Please email me at

baptistcampusministry@gaill.com

Do You Need a Place to Meet?

Baptist Campus Ministry is ready to host your event. Call or email Zach at BCM and let him know what you have in mind. DeKalb has excellent accommodations and restaurants. The Baptist Campus Ministry is ready to help your group make their event a success. Better yet, when you use the BCM building, your contribution goes directly to the core BCM mission, making converts to Christ and spreading American Baptist theology throughout the student body of Northern Illinois University.

Why don't you give us a call today and see how we can help you make your group's event a success. We look forward to hearing from you. Zach is available to take your call.

Do You Need a Prayer Partner?

We have said before, the notes and suggestions that you send back with your donations are more important than you might think. It is so nice to know that you are interested in our campus-based church community. Your suggestions are great. One of you wrote in and asked if we had a prayer chain. We do now.

The students at Baptist Campus Ministry are interested in your challenges and your blessings. They have set up a Facebook page that has a prayer section. If that format is too public for your request, you can always send me a private message to me at niupastorzach@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and sharing in your life.

Upcoming Events

Life at BCM takes on a frantic quality as the semester winds down.

August

- 26th Involvement Fair
 - First Dinner Church
- 29th First Catalyst Bible Study
- 31st First Ignite Bible Study
 - First Game Night

September

- 9th Student Board Elections
- 23rd Installation Service

October

- 14th Trip to Jonamac Orchard
- 28th Board Meeting