

noah&katie | April 2015 | Setting the Course



We are learning to leverage our Wednesday NavNight meetings as many UW-Whitewater students go home to work on the weekends. We try to plan a new "After Navs" event each week (although The Pinecone in Johnson Creek has become a regular favorite). The pictures above are from our first Nav Night Spring Banquet at the new Fin and Hooves restaurant in WW. Our students enjoyed a chance to dress up and eat delicious food and listen to a message from Noah on a biblical view of love. We hope this will become an annual favorite!

"...our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Our second year of ministry at UW-Whitewater is drawing to a close. Looking back, we have much to be thankful for as we've watched God provide for us personally, and bear much fruit on campus. We see evidence of the Holy Spirit's work regularly!

Students like Jerome and Sara have become followers of Jesus. Students like Kaitie, Naomi, Jake, and Alec are taking significant steps in owning their faith and using their influence among others for the sake of the gospel.

And now we look ahead to setting the course for the upcoming years of our ministry here. We shared how our two staff interns Nick and Leanne have faithfully served over the last two years and have made a significant impact. As of this fall, they both will be pursuing other direction in their lives. Their departure will leave a significant hole in our work and significant opportunity for our students to step up. Here are two areas where we're trusting God to work in our students:

1) Community: God has brought together a core group of twenty students who are ministering and being ministered to regularly in the UWW Navs. This semester, we have been trusting God to bring them together more deeply in love and community. We look to a growing community of *laborers*, everyday followers of Jesus who will trust God to use their lives to impact the campus (and world) around them. We invested our spring break in this community-cultivating effort (read more on reverse). Please pray 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 for us, that our community would keep moving forward.

2) Leadership + Initiative: Over the next month, we're implementing the *Catalyst Team*, a new initiative aimed at challenging our students to step forward in their walk with Christ, ministering to others, and serving in the UWW Navs. Please pray 2 Timothy 2:1-12, that these young leaders would continue to embrace God's grace and bring the gospel to others!

In short, the UWW Navs have launched! And we would not be here without you! Thank you for the part you play!

Noah + Katie

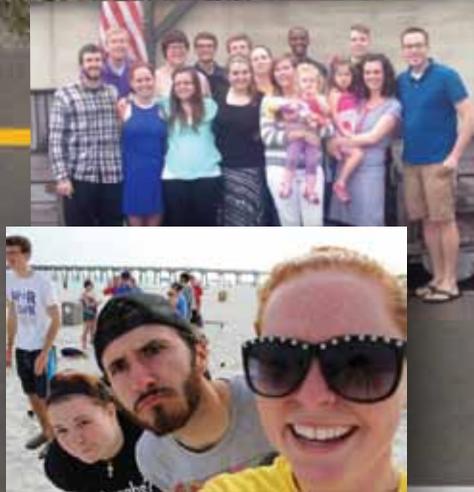
“WE WERE DELIGHTED TO SHARE NOT ONLY THE GOSPEL BUT OUR LIVES AS WELL” 1 Thes 2:8

We just returned from a nine-day camping trip with eleven of our students in Pensacola, Florida. The UW-Eau Claire Navigators have taken this trip for years (we both went as students) and they invited us to come along this year. We spent the week enjoying God’s creation, spending significant time in God’s Word, and deepening our community through lots of face-to-face time (and significantly less “face-to-screen time”). Our desire for this trip was to build a community among the students involved in our ministry. Through time together preparing meals for our group of 60 (without electricity), engaging in deep conversation at the beach and around the fire, and daily time in the Word without distraction, a community was built!

Pulling off a trip like this (our first camping as a family!) was no small feat, but we found it absolutely worth it (once the 20 loads of laundry were done :) And so did our students. Noah met with Alec (a junior RA) after the trip who pointed out:

“I returned to see people in my dorm crabby, fighting, and complaining. It was such a shock after a week full of friends pursuing Christ and genuinely loving each other. But then I realized, this is how they always are..and for good reason. They never spend time outside, their daily work takes on little significance, and they don’t know their Creator.”

Alec went on to share that he is more hungry than ever for God’s Word, and is seeing the Lord build this conviction into his heart.



DELLS SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

We’re calling our Spring Break trip a warm up for our summer. In less than a month we will be moving to Wisconsin Dells for ten weeks to staff a Summer Training Program (STP). What is a STP? Think one part seminary, one part mission trip and one part Bible Camp. We will join 7 staff and 45 students for a summer of learning from God’s Word, living for Christ among 4000 international student workers, and having lots of crazy of fun in the process.

When we told the girls we were moving to the DELLS for the summer, Ellie’s first question was, “Do they have pools in the Dells?” Let’s just say we are all in for an adventure. Ellie is turning 4 this month and is always baffling us with her questions like “Can I pray to Jesus and not God?”. Josie is 2 and wavers between saying “I do it myself” and “Help Me”. If she’s not busy making us laugh, you can find her reading books. They are most excited about “having to” share a room this summer and seeing anyone who comes to visit.



Thankfully Katie’s health is stable (provided she gets enough sleep) and the girls are at a good age to dive into life at the DELLS. We would appreciate prayer for all of us as we transition to a new home, new routine, and new roles for the summer.