

“ Pornography is a modern-day giant in the land. It stalks both men and women, believer and nonbeliever alike. It seems over 90% of young male believers claim to struggle. And around 30-40% of young females struggle with porn and its cousins – steamy romance novels and chick flicks. This giant is not content to distract people; it wants to destroy them. Some estimate that Internet pornography is the seventh largest industry in the US. It’s a big giant. The loss of spiritual vitality is unquestionably one of the main reasons that laborers stop laboring. ”

As I read these words in a recent email from our national leaders, unfortunately, I was not surprised. They present the reality that confronts us at the University of Illinois. No one disagrees that we lived in a sexualized culture, yet not all have the opportunity presenting itself to us: to observe closely the lives of a generation that has grown up in this culture. These “giants” of open, unbounded sexual expression and pornography are not so unusual or appalling to them. They are terrifyingly normal. And they are enslaving and destroying students by the hundreds and thousands.

*He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. -Proverbs 6:32 ESV*

God’s Word rings true. We are finding Christian students with lives increasingly dominated and destroyed by sexual brokenness. Many have been viewing pornography for years, exposed by friends or even family as a child or teenager. The advent of the Internet has placed a \$6B predatory industry inside their dorms rooms and pant pockets. We fear for their future marriages, and notice their spiritual fervor being sucked dry. Yet, there is hope.

*The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. -1 John 3:8 ESV*

Despite the darkness, the light of the gospel continues to shine, destroying the darkness it encounters. On Tuesday mornings, at 7am, a fellow staff member and I are joined by nine young men who are seeking hope. They are “giant-slayers”, trusting God’s love and power for redemption, cleansing, and freedom. And they are finding it, slowly but surely. They have gone several weeks without using pornography, their longest period of abstinence in years. The road will continue to be long and hard, but together we are trusting God for nothing but total freedom.

This is our second of such groups that we have helped on our campus, and a similar group for women has just begun. It has been a joy to watch those from the first find freedom, and come alive in the process. In a society desperate for strong, godly men, they are answering the call. And we look forward to watch as God uses them to slay giants in the lives of others. Please pray for our students! The battle is fierce, and your faithful prayers will power our efforts. We can never thank you enough for your prayer and support!

**please pray:**

- for freedom and light to reign in our students’ lives
- that truth would reign in our students’ minds and hearts
- that God would use STP to raise up laborers for His kingdom (see below)
- for wisdom and insight as we prepare a myriad of details for STP

Gratefully,

Noah & Katie

**this summer:**



Spring Hill 2012

Katie and I have been asked to direct this year’s Spring Hill Summer Training Program (May 9-June 2). We have been praying, preparing, and inviting students from around Illinois and Indiana campuses to join us for an intense three weeks of studying and learning from God’s Word, growing in fellowship, sharing the gospel, and helping a Christian summer camp prepare for its gospel ministry to children from Indiana and around the Midwest.

We helped staff this program two years ago under the direction of good friends from Ball State University, (who will be joining us again this year!) but are finding new challenges and new opportunities as we are directing the program this year. We have been reading through many student applications and wrestled through questions such as ‘who should we invite to speak?’ ‘what will the content of the Bible Studies be?’ ‘where will we host Jim Downing, a 98 year old veteran staff who will be joining us for a few days?’ and ‘how in the world do we pack for a month at camp with a one year old?’ Yes, it’s hard to believe, but Ellie will turn 1 on April 25th! (She loves finger foods, playing with her drum set, getting tickled, and finding a way to roll and reach to get to where she wants to go).

From May 9-June 2nd, we will be living in cabins at SpringHill Camp in Seymour, IN. Katie and I will be overseeing the logistics of the program, teaching and training our student team leaders, and shepherding the group of students participating. Please pray for us in the upcoming weeks.