

Amazing Gifts

I was so glad that my first InterVarsity event after my maternity leave was DePaul IV's end-of-year beach barbeque. (See photo below.) I really wanted to be there, especially since we were celebrating three incredibly faithful graduating student leaders. One of them wrote to me afterwards, reflecting on her experience as a chapter leader:

"[Sara] told me she 'wouldn't know where she would be spiritually' without my presence as her small-group leader. She asked me to mentor her next year. I feel so blessed that I had the opportunity to lead such an amazing small group, that I got to FEEL what that kind of Christian community can be like, and that I got to watch [Sean] and [Sara] develop into really phenomenal small-group leaders."

What a privilege to watch students growing spiritually and enjoying the growth of others! I love how God multiplies our efforts in his kingdom. I'm so glad I got to celebrate with them. Thanks for your prayer and financial partnership that helped these students mature and get so rich a taste of the Kingdom!



This Summer & Next

Most of our summer Chapter Focus Weeks (leadership training events) are over by this time of year. But for me, next year's work is beginning already.

I've been enjoying reading through notes from each week about the worship sessions, learning what worked well this year and what areas we need help in, and dreaming up ways that we can resource the worship leaders even better next year. My colleague Dan and I will soon begin laying plans for a worship-leader training event next spring.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

Operating Instructions: A Journal of My Son's First Year, by Anne Lamott.

This book certainly wins the prize for the most profanity in any book ever recommended in the Ann-a-Gram! But if you can find your way past the occasionally ripe language, you'll enjoy one of the funniest and most touching baby books I've ever read. Anne Lamott can vividly describe her son's silly antics while vulnerably disclosing her own journey into motherhood, all the while depending on her (somewhat unconventional) Christian faith.

In tough moments these days, I find myself thinking, "If Anne Lamott can do it, so can I!" Reading her journal motivates me to watch for Lucy's own quirks and enjoy her goofiness — like her recent tendency to rest her foot on my shoulder while she is nursing. I'm grateful to Lamott for inspiring me to be even more observant in these days of early motherhood.

Boyd's Eye View

Our little nest has been officially expanded to include Lucia Martha Boyd! Little Lucy arrived on April 25, nine days after her due date. (She must have finally heard Papa calling, "Come out, Lucy! Come out!" day after day.)

We are so delighted to be getting to know her. Lucy's favorite activities these days include eating, looking into Papa's eyes, gazing at her mobile, stretching, and going for neighborhood walks. She is alert and strong and charming, and we look forward to watching her grow every day! Jon and I are learning a lot, getting more sleep than we had expected, and sharing lots of smiles between ourselves and our daughter.

We have been writing regular updates (including "The Daily Lucy," a photo feature) on our family website, Boyds' Nest News, at <http://boydsnest.org/news/> Come on over to visit us if you get a chance!

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

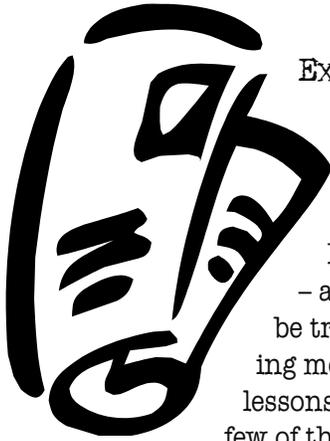
- with thanks for Lucy's straightforward delivery, good health, and lively personality
- for the new student leaders at DePaul, and those graduating
- for our planning of the April 2007 worship-leader training event

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Extra! Extra!

Lessons from Lucy

People have been telling me that motherhood will teach me a lot – and I’m finding this to be true! Lucy has been helping me learn a variety of new lessons about life. Here are a few of the highlights:

Keep your focus. When Lucy is getting a diaper change, she stares enthralled at the high-contrast mobile I made for her. We make faces at her to try to get her to smile, but we are mere annoyances to her work of mobile-gazing. I admire Lucy’s ability to stay focused on her task even in the midst of distractions. She is a model of concentration.

Ask for what you want. Lucy is not shy about making her needs known to us. Of course, sometimes we have difficulty understanding what that need is, but at least we know that she needs something. We grown-ups can occasionally feel shy about making requests of others (let alone the Lord) or asking for help. Let’s take this tip from Lucy: just ask!

Say it loud, say it proud. Lucy does not hesitate to make a lot of noise. She is unconcerned with the time of day or night, the general atmosphere of quiet in a church, or the risk of bothering the nice neighbors. When she has something to say, she says it no matter what. I hope that Lucy always knows that her voice is important and that what she has to say matters.

Forgive easily. We are displeasing parents. Sometimes, we just can’t feed Lucy fast enough. Or we have to change her clothes because she just spat up all over them. Or we must keep her in the car seat even though she has told us repeatedly that she dislikes it. Lucy will holler and holler, but she always is

able to forgive us so quickly. Even after a terribly upsetting event like getting a shot, you’ll find her grinning away at us just twenty seconds later. I hope to be as forgiving in my life as Lucy is.



Let yourself be loved. Lucy excels at letting people love her. We hug and squeeze and kiss her all day long, and she just soaks it up. She doesn’t try to please us back or thank us. She seems know that now is the time of her life where she simply needs to drink in all of the love we have for her. I know that God loves me even more than I love Lucy, and I hope to be as open to his love as Lucy is to ours.

For Christ & the University —

Ann

P.S. Please don’t miss Boyds’ Nest News (at <http://boydsnest.org/news/>) for family updates, “The Daily Lucy,” and the continuation of my Ann-a-Gram recipe series. :)