

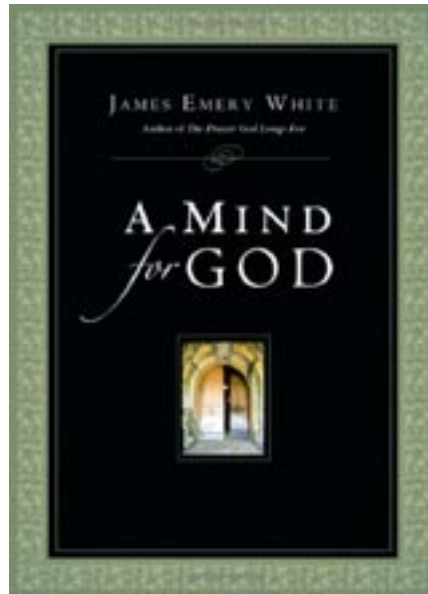
Campus Kickoff

DePaul InterVarsity started off the year with a bang: six people decided to follow Jesus at the first large-group meeting! The chapter is working to help these (and other) students to deepen and expand their faith through small-group Bible studies, community service, and prayer. Many of the student leaders never thought they would be able to lead their peers in Bible study and serve the Lord in this way. They can feel quite overwhelmed at times. God is using them to shape the lives of fellow students, and he is using this experience to shape their own spiritual journeys.

FD 102: Examen

One of the ways I've been serving students these days is by helping train InterVarsity staff in fund development. InterVarsity chapters grow best when they are served by a spiritually vital, fully funded, emotionally mature staffworker. I've been enjoying leading staff in a reflective activity that exercises all of these muscles, using a variation of Ignatian "Examen."

Fundraising is hard work for most staff — it can bring up questions of self-worth, anxieties about money, and concerns about God's provision. During our training seminars, we take time to reflect on these challenges. "What draws you closest to God in fund development? What pulls you away from God? What gives you life, and what drains life from you in this area?" Taking a few moments to look for ways God is shaping us through fundraising helps us to grow and mature personally and professionally — and reminds us of his sovereign work in all areas of our lives.



Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

A Mind for God, by James Emery White (InterVarsity Press, 2006).

This slim volume voices a simple but profound message: ideas matter in the world. Ideas have consequences (as White quotes Richard Weaver), so it behooves Christians to read up and think intelligently about the state of our world. As a minister in an academic context, I've heard this message before (and agree with it). What feels fresh to me about White's book is that, instead of making me feel silly or inadequate about my time spent watching chick-flicks or poring over *Martha Stewart Living*, he paints an attractive picture of a full life of reading and thinking that glorifies God. I came away from reading this book inspired to increase the depth and breadth of my engagement with the ideas of our culture — and I've actually followed up on it by keeping current with the news (no small task for the mother of an infant). Kudos to White for this beautiful vision of a thoughtfully-lived Christian life.

Boyd's Eye View

Lucy celebrated her sixth month at the end of October with squeals, giggles, and lots of rolling — her most frequent expressions of glee these days. She has grown from a tiny newborn into a chubby, cheerful infant, and we are enjoying every day with her! Life in our little nest has developed a pleasing sense of normalcy, complete with opportunities to cook, take walks, and enjoy each other's company as a family. I am back into my knitting habit, with a pink cabled sweater for Lucy well on its way to being finished, and Jon continues to find time to update the Daily Lucy (<http://boydsnest.org/news/>) in the midst of his busy schedule of conference-leading and class-teaching. Mama and Papa have even been known to go on a date every once in awhile, which Lucy doesn't seem to mind at all.

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- for God to teach DePaul students about his purposes in the world as they study the book of Luke
- for InterVarsity staff as they work to raise ministry funds — and are transformed by God in the process
- for students and faculty to receive refreshment and spiritual renewal at Christmastime

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Extra! Extra! Peace Be with You

Living life in a relaxed and peaceful manner is one of the current lessons God has on the blackboard for me. Combining ministry and motherhood with my already Martha-like domestic sensibilities can often add up to frantic

activity and frustration. (That's "Martha" as in Luke 10:38-42, not Martha Stewart.) But aren't I called to all of these ways of being? Would God want me to discard my love for student and faculty ministry? Or shed my taste for a cozy home environment? I'm inclined to think that he has developed these passions and preferences in me, and that he can help me find a way to live them out, even with increased demands on my time.

As I've wrestled with God about this, I've come across some helpful tools: David Allen's *Getting Things Done* system has been tremendously helpful in becoming more efficient with my tasks. We hired a 12-year-old church friend to be a "mother's helper" for a few hours a week, which gives me some more time for ministry (plus, this fabulous girl cleans the house better than I do myself!). I now use an aisle-by-aisle grocery list to make shopping go faster. Little things here and there add up to a lot of help.



But by far the most important thing I am learning is to be at peace with the day's tasks and interruptions. When I grasp my day's expectations tightly, hoarding the checklists I want to tick off, then every little unforeseen event is an irritation. But when I hold my day's hopes loosely, offering them to God and watching for his activity around me, I live much more peacefully — hopefully more like

Jesus. Interrupted projects can be noted and put aside for now; a cranky baby can get bundled up for a walk outside; a quiet dinner can be received as a blessing, not an entitlement.

Looking at even a few moments of each day as a gift to be received (as opposed to time that needs to be "spent") helps my gratitude to grow. As we wait for Jesus this Advent, I hope to continue exercising my growing skills of paying attention to one day at a time, appreciating the sweetness and longing found in each day. May

Christ come to you also in simple moments this season.

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. :)

Please fill out the enclosed card and send it in using the enclosed envelope. Thanks!
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