

Worshiping at Cedar

Leading 150 enthusiastic college students in worship during our August Chapter FOCUS Week training event was as joyful an experience as I had anticipated. One of the highlights is always hearing student testimonies as part of the worship service on the final night of our week – what a privilege to partner with God in the transformation of student lives! It was also a special treat to have a faculty member join us and commit to starting a Christian faculty group at his university. It was a joy to lead these people in worshiping God and expressing their thanks and praise for all of the good gifts he gave us that week.



Here I am leading worship at Cedar Campus—with a great band!

Into The Well

I'm pleased to be on the team working diligently on the launch of *The Well*, our flagship website for Women in the Academy & Professions, at <http://tothewell.org>. We are eager to see how God uses this offering:

- to encourage women in their callings, strengthen opportunities to network with one another
- to reach out to women with spiritual longings
- to provide resources for men and women to live out healthy and supportive work and peer relationships together.

We launched a pilot of the website this week, with our official launch date planned for January. If you'd like to be part of our pilot reading team, send me an email and we'll make sure you get notice of fresh articles.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

Sense and Sensibility, by Jane Austen (1811).

Jon would attest to the fact that I've been on a bit of a Jane Austen kick lately, trendy as it may be. I do find something immensely soothing about curling up with an Austen novel. Partly, I appreciate delving into an ordered and orderly society (much different from living in a household with a vivacious toddler), and partly I enjoy the tantalizingly restrained romantic stories.

But perhaps the most fascinating thing in Austen's novels is the character development, particularly observing the personal transformation that occurs to different characters as they live out their stories in family communities. *Sense and Sensibility* is an especially wonderful example of this, drawing you into the peaks and valleys of Elinor and Marianne's sisterhood and love interests. If you are looking for some good autumn reading, snuggle under a blanket with this one and a nice hot cup of tea.

Boyd's Eye View

The big news around our house these days is that Lucy is going to be a big sister! We are expecting our new baby in late March 2008, and we are all delighted. Lucy has been growing particularly interested in babies, giving the sign-language for "baby" whenever she sees anyone under the age of three. I had an exhausting (and queasy) first trimester but am grateful to be feeling pretty much like myself again.

Lucy has been keeping us on our toes as she runs around exploring our home and neighborhood. We find ourselves chasing her down the block occasionally calling, "No eat!" when she locks onto a particularly tempting piece of tree bark. Lucy has also been delighting us with her growing vocabulary, especially as she recently added the phrase, "Go Cubs!" (Unfortunately, that didn't help them any in the playoffs this year....)

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- for the Women's Staff Conference, held at the end of October
- for our launch of *The Well*
- for student small group Bible studies to be safe havens for people to grow in their faith
- for the faculty advisor to our chapter at Rose-Hulman as he starts a Christian faculty group

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Extra! Extra! Tiny Time

My life seems to be full of tiny things these days. In our house, you'll find an abundance of tiny shoes scattered about, tiny socks in the laundry, tiny pieces of food on tiny plastic forks, a tiny toothbrush.

Also, I get work done in tiny chunks of time—an email here, a phone call there, this newsletter written in tiny fifteen-minute bursts.

With so many little things to attend to each day, it is a challenge to keep my eye on the big picture of God's call on my life. In good moments, I remember that the email I sent will help a student to receive high-quality training and grow closer to God, and that the tiny pieces of food are helping my daughter grow into the woman God has created her to be. I try to remember that this is just a season of my life, to be cherished as much as possible. Even its duration is tiny!

While flipping through my marked-up copy of Anne Morrow Lindbergh's *Gift from the Sea*, I came across this interesting thought: "Distraction is, always has been, and probably always will be, inherent in woman's life. For to be a woman is to have interests and duties, raying out in all directions from the central mother-core, like spokes from the hub of a wheel" (22).

Lindbergh goes on to talk about the quest for balance in a woman's life. But this is where

I disagree with her slightly, for I don't think the goal is balance as much as *presence*. Balance seems unattainable, walking a tightrope while juggling just a few too many plates in our sweaty hands. But if I can learn to be truly present in each daily moment — soaking up tickle-fests with Lucy, giving my full attention to an evening phone call with a colleague — this is how I think I'll best be able to remember where God has me and why I'm here anyway!



While the extent of The Tiny in a young mother's life may be a bit more than some others, men and women all are faced with the challenge of keeping God's purposes for our lives in focus as we roll through everyday routines. The small details of life are perhaps one avenue the Lord uses to remind us of our humanity. And what good news it is: we are made in God's

image and get to participate in something much bigger than our tiny lives!

For Christ & the University —

Ann