

## Leaders Serving, Servants Leading

Our student leadership team has been learning about two pieces of Christian ministry: What does it mean to serve? What does it mean to lead? We have been studying how Jesus served by being available, by using his resources, and by having compassion. It has also been helpful to conceive of leadership as using your trust and authority to influence others. Our paradigms of leadership are shifting from “a job to do” into “a lifestyle to lead.” It is a joyful thing to empower these students by saying, “you are truly being a Christian leader when you help your friends work through their roommate conflicts.”



I enjoyed a chance to teach on Romans 12 as a guest speaker at IIT's InterVarsity chapter in September.

## September Eleven

Our first InterVarsity meeting of the school year was slated for Tuesday, September 11 — a date that now has historical significance. DePaul University was shut down on this day, since one campus is downtown in the Chicago Loop. The chapter leadership team decided that we should hold our meeting anyway, but we changed our topic for the evening to discuss the still-unfolding terrorist attacks and what it means

to love our enemies, studying Romans 12:9-21. This was a new challenge for me. How do I lead students through processing and grieving these events when I don't even understand my own response to them? I continue to ask God this question, and pray that he will use me in developing Christian leaders who care for our nation and our world and who desire to respond with the desires of God's heart.

## Shelf Life

### Book Notes from Ann

*Pain & Possibility* by Gabriele Rico has been a useful book for me this fall. The author grew up in Nazi Germany and was puzzled by her deep emotions from that time until she was an adult. She then developed a series of word-association and drawing exercises to help in understanding her own emotions. The sections about the physiology of emotion are fascinating. This is a good resource for anyone who spends a moment feeling bad, but has a hard time

identifying what is upsetting them. And it is especially fun and freeing to discover something of the artist inside us!

## Think Fast

Students say the darnedest things! How about this little nugget of honesty heard recently at DePaul IV: “I don't really like fasting that much, because I get hungry.” ☺

## Boyd's Eye View

Jon and I celebrated our first anniversary on October 8, 2001. We enjoyed a wonderful weekend away at a retreat center near Galena, Illinois, which included a small farm there where we had goats and llamas eating out of our hands. They even wanted to eat our camera case! We have been preparing for winter by cultivating our love for the indoors — through cooking and baking, illuminating our apartment entirely by candlelight, and reading children's books to one another. Jon has been tending to our many houseplants — and he is so good at it! The funniest part is to watch him breathe exaggeratedly on the plants to give them an extra boost of carbon dioxide. ☺

## Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

- Our student leaders, Kate, Troy, Caryn, and Allan
- “Vision,” IVCF's annual Black student leadership conference (November 9-11)
- Hearts to grow in love for reading, studying, and sharing Scripture
- Students to attend our GIGs (“groups investigating God”), taking first steps in learning about Jesus

Ann Boyd

2120 W Summerdale Ave  
Chicago, Illinois, 60625

(773) 293-3964

ann\_boyd@ivstaff.org



Extra! Extra!

## Having the Wisdom to Be a Problem Child

We have been studying the Gospel of Mark both in our weekly meetings and in our GIGs (“groups investigating God”). The character of the first disciples really stands out to me in this book. It is amazing to watch them hop up and follow Jesus at his word, to see their excitement at ministering with him — and also to see their humanity and to observe Jesus’ response to them.

Studying Mark 6:30-52 in preparation for a GIG was particularly moving for me. After the disciples are sent out on a long period of ministry, Jesus invites them to come away and rest. A crowd rushes ahead to meet them at their destination, and Jesus has compassion on them and begins to teach them, because “they were like sheep without a shepherd.” As it grows late, the disciples suggest to Jesus that they send the people away to buy dinner for themselves. But Jesus tells the disciples, “You give them something to eat,” and then he proceeds to feed the 5,000 men with just a few loaves and fish.

As I studied this, I wondered, “What would Jesus have wanted the disciples to say?” His response to their suggestion is almost confrontational, especially when at first glance it might seem that the disciples are compassionately trying to anticipate the needs of the crowd. But looking into their words further we can see that they are tired and hungry and probably have little energy for the crowd.

I wonder whether Jesus would have preferred them to come to him with the problem: “We are tired, there are all of these people, and how will they eat?” But instead, they try to nail down the trouble and jury-rig the solution themselves. Then

they foist their conclusions onto Jesus, telling him to send the crowd away. But he doesn’t comply. Jesus shows himself to be the Good Shepherd here, and I suppose the disciples don’t quite trust that he knows their needs too. Later in the story (vv. 49-52), sadly, the text says “their hearts were hardened.” They don’t understand who Jesus is, and they would rather not ask.

I’ve realized my own need to spend more time asking Jesus questions, bringing him my problems, frankly observing my surroundings and asking Jesus for help. How might I minister to students differently? What do they need today? What is the next step for the DePaul InterVarsity ministry? How can I be a good wife?...and a good daughter, sister, aunt, neighbor, and friend? What can Christians do to respond to the global conflict we are in?

I am so thankful that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and that he is faithful to provide for our needs.

For Christ & the University —