

Winterfest

Our annual student training conference (Winterfest) was a terrific experience. About 50% of our DePaul InterVarsity chapter attended the conference. The students bonded as a community in a new way at this conference — an answered prayer! I taught “The Joy of Bible Discovery”, which aimed to help students learn to study the Bible, and in particular, to hear what God has to say in the book of Ruth. I have learned so much through this teaching experience! God was speaking to me specifically about how he works through apparently hopeless situations to bring wholeness into our lives — what a beautiful message, and what a gracious Lord.



Mark doesn't want to appear in this photo with Janet and Troy.

“Fun”-Raising

Part of my job is raising financial and prayer support for my ministry with students. I have been working over the past few months to eliminate a deficit in my account. (Many staff have been seeing deficits this year due to our recessed

economy and donor attrition.) Through this, I have been remembering what fun it is to talk with people about my ministry! I recently had an appointment with a couple whom I've known from church for years, but with whom I never had sat down and had a long conversation. Three hours later, as I was driving home, I reflected on the wonderful richness of our conversation: church life, children, social concerns, politics, work, and student ministry. Whether God calls them to be part of my support team or not, it is a joy to share my life with people in this way.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

Invitation to a Journey, by M.

Robert Mulholland, Jr., (InterVarsity Press 1993).

Mulholland begins by giving a definition of spiritual formation: “the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others.” One of the most striking parts of this statement is, “for the sake of others.” I've been growing in my understanding of our spiritual lives and their connection to our communities — how our personal

spirituality is deeply integrated with the way we care for others around us, whether we like it or not! Mulholland gives a wonderful, holistic picture of spiritual growth and the natural links that occur between our personal relationship with God and our response to our friends, community, and world.

Boyd's Eye View

Jon and I have been trying to stay warm and connected despite our winter busy-ness. We have been reading James Herriot's *All Creatures Great and Small* aloud to each other — especially comforting while we fought off various viruses in January. I've been progressing on my knitting (which works well while Jon reads to me), and have finished three projects: a blanket for our incredibly cute nephew, a hat for Jon, and a hat for me. Recently, we used some free airline vouchers to have a long weekend in Florida — I was so happy to thaw out for a few days! We watched some baseball and sat on the beach — definitely a welcome respite after an intense few months.

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- for the GIG I'm leading with “Wendy”, and for two women on DePaul sports teams who are considering starting GIGs with their teammates.
- for new student leaders, as we seek wisdom in choosing leaders for next year.
- for my support. My deficit is significantly reduced, but hasn't disappeared. Please pray for provision for myself, and for other staff who are in deficit.

Ann Boyd

2120 W Summerdale Ave
Chicago, Illinois, 60625

(773) 293-3964

ann_boyd@ivstaff.org



Extra! Extra!
Making connections: faith and studies

One of the many perks of being married to Jon is learning about InterVarsity's Grad & Faculty Ministries. Jon spent many years involved with InterVarsity as a graduate student before I knew him, so I have been enjoying learning about both Jon and IV in this context. Most of you know that he is the Program Director of a major InterVarsity conference, Following Christ, which will occur in late December 2002. (You can see some of the fruits of Jon's labor at www.followingchrist.org. All of you graduate students, faculty, and professionals should consider attending!)

One of the particular hopes of Grad & Faculty Ministries staff is that they will assist those they work with in the integration of their faith and their work. This is a particular tension for those in academia, where one's whole life is poured out in the study of a particular subject, but where it is often difficult to answer the question: "what does Jesus have to say about my work and my studies?"

For undergraduate students, the question is slightly different. Often, undergraduates are still undecided about the course of even their studies — let alone their lives. It is hard enough to decide whether a subject even fits them. They ask, "Do I want to study economics?" Embedded in that question is a host of deeper puzzles: "Who am I? What are my passions? Am I an economics person? What are economics anyway? What if I end up hating it? What do economics people look like? Do I look like that? "

Quite a bit of my work is helping students ask these questions, come to some conclusions about them, and then to go deeper into looking for God's fingerprints in their lives and their studies.

I spoke with one student the other day who told me that she always prays before registering for classes — she figures that God might have something to say about who will be in her classes and about the topics she'll be studying. I cheered when I heard this! Another student is learning about her deep love for language, and how crafting words is a means of her own emotional and spiritual health. Another student thought he wanted to major in music, but is now realizing that performance is not his passion, and wrestles every day with this tension, "What am I going to do with my life?"

My prayer is that these students will continue to grow in self-understanding, and through that, to know God's great pleasure in them. I know that he created each of these students with talents and passions, and it is a joy to watch them discover themselves and to discover God's joy in their work.

May God bless you in this way too!

For Christ & the University —

Ann