

Progress Report

Students' comments during our final InterVarsity meeting of the year blew me away:

"TV has stimulated my mind to search more in the Bible, which I had never done before."

"Every single one of my classes connects with what God has been teaching me spiritually."

"God has met me through designing the DePaul InterVarsity website."

This has been a turning-point year for the DePaul InterVarsity chapter. I have been amazed at students' hunger for learning Scripture, at their hearts for community service, and their desire to grow in love for one another, and at the quality of leaders we have had. I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for us next year! May He grow us into the community he desires for us to be.



Troy, Kate, Erica, and Janet lead worship.
(Don't worry, they're not fighting!)

Summer Plans

People often ask me, "Do you have the summer off?" Summers are definitely different from the school year, but still very full. Some of my plans for the summer include:

- taking a week-long class on spiritual formation, taught by Robert Mulholland (a writer I've

mentioned before, the author of *Invitation to a Journey*)

- spending time raising financial support for my campus work
- prepping Bible studies and small-group materials for next year at DePaul
- developing materials for next year's student conferences
- serving as the Program Director for the "Encountering God" track at Cedar Campus, August 17-24.
- attending a week-long team meeting for Chicago-area staff
- and yes, enjoying some vacation time too!

Happy New Year

That's right: InterVarsity's fiscal year ends this month. Thanks for all your support, both in prayers and giving. Your generosity is incredible!

My deficit has decreased significantly, but I am still facing a year-end deficit of \$2400. My hope is to raise another \$500 per month — \$300 to cover my current expenses, and the rest to increase my salary a little (which still falls below the recommended level

even for a first-year staffworker, though this is my fifth year). I trust God to provide for my needs, and that's very freeing. And I am so thankful for the partnership of people like you! Thank you for being a blessing to me and to the university students I work with.

Boyd's Eye View

Miscellaneous notes from the home front: We have been eagerly awaiting every warm spring day we can get! Jon has planted a lovely indoor herb garden, and I have been cleaning out our closets. We celebrated our "19-month-iversary" with a tiny three-tiered cake, which was fun to bake and decorate with a few wildflowers. We enjoyed a vacation up at Cedar Campus with our friends and neighbors, the Marions, and their four kids. A highlight there was Jon's reading aloud *Over Sea, Under Stone* to us throughout the week (a very exciting children's book!). I have been enjoying knitting as a complementary activity during both out-loud readings and baseball games. My crowning domestic triumph this month has been removing a terrible black ink stain from Jon's best white dress shirt — I am very impressed with myself.

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- ☛ For God to provide increased financial support for this ministry
- ☛ For next year's student leaders: Mark, Erika, and Caryn
- ☛ For my GIG with "Wendy"
- ☛ For rest and renewed focus both for myself and for students

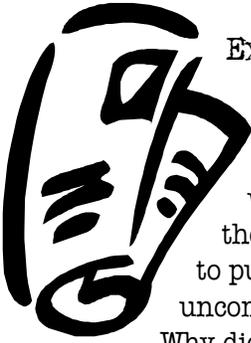
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Enclosed this month is a reply envelope. This is for your convenience if you would like to make an end-of-fiscal-year donation towards my work. Thanks for your generosity! Please make your check out to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.



Extra! Extra! Persuasion and Patience

One Friday evening I was driving home from the DePaul campus, trying to put my finger on the uncomfortable feeling I had.

Why did I feel so uneasy about my time on campus? I went back over my student appointments of the day: “Stanley” is struggling spiritually, and I encouraged him to go to a month-long InterVarsity program, the School of Leadership Training (SLT). “Wendy” is having emotional difficulties and is too afraid to follow the good advice that her counselor has given her. “Regina” is trying to decide what student group she will serve with next year on campus; I tried explain to her IV’s need for student leaders next year, while also giving her freedom to follow God’s direction in her life.

After looking at all of these situations, I realized that I spend a lot of my time on campus trying to convince students to do something or other. Most of the time they are things that the students themselves know would be beneficial to their life and health, but it’s still exhausting whenever I try to talk them through such decisions. They don’t always follow my grand plan for their life.

Though I’m being tongue-in-cheek here, the truth is that a big part of my job is influencing students — and that often means giving advice and helping students to find better choices for their lives.

However, it does not mean that I am responsible for their spiritual and emotional well-being. Similarly, but counter-intuitively, I am not responsible for the success of the DePaul InterVarsity chapter. I am answerable for listening to God and being obedient to him in my life. I have realized that it is a discipline for me

to be faithful in the words I need to say to students, but then to let go and allow the Holy Spirit to persuade their hearts.

This truth points me to my own brokenness — I see that my impulse to “be responsible” for students’ spiritual growth is based in my need to see them grow so that I can view myself as a “good staffworker.” The truth is that I need to go again and again to Jesus, asking him to remind me that I don’t need to be a “good staffworker” — I need simply to be faithful to him.

Here is a difficult discipline for me — to go to campus, listen to and care for students, teach them from Scripture, and then to release all their dilemmas and choices from my heart on my drive home. I have been praying recently that God would help me to use my homeward commute as a time to release the work I have done that day to him. I hope to continue to grow in the ability to trust God with these students’ lives more than trusting my own self. He is worthy!

For Christ & the University —

Ann