

Ministry in the Round

We recently invited Syler Thomas, a Theatre School alum and founder of DePaul InterVarsity, to hold a discussion about "Spirituality and the Theatre School." The theater students in our chapter were overjoyed by this opportunity and peppered him with questions, from "What do you do if you are cast in a show that is morally offensive?" to "How can I share my faith with people who don't even seem to care about spiritual things?" Syler did a wonderful job encouraging these students and sharing his own experience with them. I continue to pray that God will use these three women to be ambassadors for Christ in the Theatre School.



It's been a chilly winter here in Chicago, so it's a good thing Kirra is bundling up as she leaves DePaul IV large group!

Spring Forward

We are experimenting this year with choosing a new leadership team to begin in the Spring Quarter. This

will give us a bit of overlap between old and new leaders, and students can begin to do some planning for the fall. Also, some students will need to make a decision with God about where to focus their ministry efforts — with InterVarsity or with another Christian fellowship on campus. I am praying that God will lead them to make the very best decision, and that he will provide strong student leaders for all of the student groups at DePaul.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

Sacred Companions, by David G. Benner (InterVarsity Press, 2002).

I can always tell that I really enjoyed a book when I notice that I have plastered it with little multicolored post-it flags! Benner describes his experience of learning about spiritual direction and "spiritual friendship." He introduces concepts that are extraordinarily rich and life-giving. One example is a section on friendship: "Anything that calls a person to a firmer grasp on reality calls him or her to growth." Benner goes on to describe his friends who care about his spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical development. "They want nothing less than my wholeness and holiness." What a

beautiful picture of friendship! And how wonderful that reality doesn't need to be avoided, but embraced, to encourage our growth. Good news for sinners like me. :)

Boyd's Eye View

The conference Jon has worked on for two years, Following Christ 2002, was amazing and wonderful. (You can listen to plenary talks online at FollowingChrist.org.) What's next for Jon? He'd like to know too! We are seeking God's wisdom about the job possibilities before him.

I have been going positively crazy about cooking. I find it so empowering to create yummy things to eat! The other evening, I tried a new recipe for a French-style macaroni & cheese with Gruyère and prosciutto. So delicious! I've published the recipe and my notes at my brand-new website, www.annagram.org, so that you can try it out, too. I almost put a cookbook into the "Shelf Life" section of this newsletter. :)

An Invitation

Jon and I have been longing to invite everyone to see our new home. We are having an **Open House** party on **Sunday, March 9, from 1-6 pm**. **Please join us** if you are able! We plan on having delicious little snacks and many good friends.

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- For the Theatre students: Sarah, Kirra, and Maggie.
- For our leadership selection process.
- For continuing spiritual fruit from Winterfest.

Ann Boyd

5231 N Saint Louis Ave
Chicago, Illinois, 60625

(773) 588-0231

New: ann@annagram.org



Extra! Extra! Winterfest Works Wonders

We just had our annual student training conference, Winterfest 2003, from Feb 21-23. God showed up (as usual!) and met students right where they are. This weekend is especially wonderful as students are particularly conscious of their spiritual needs, and they are open and teachable in a special way. I directed a brand-new track entitled "Transforming Power: Doing Justice, Loving Mercy." We spent the weekend wrestling with what Scripture says about how we use the resources God has given us — and learning about inductive Bible study all at the same time!

Here are a few highlights from my experience there:

- I taught from Luke 1:26-56 on the Annunciation and Mary's song. This is one of my very favorite texts. I made a connection between creative abilities and bringing God's Kingdom on earth, which I continue to wrestle with. How might I use my God-given creative abilities and talents to foster his Kingdom on earth?
- Students in our track became frustrated during our study of Nehemiah 1-2, and finally asked, "What does Nehemiah have to do with social justice?" One of the teaching staff then beautifully described the parallels between Nehemiah's position and ours as college-educated adults. How can we use our power to bless others and to do God's will?
- I had a long, late-night conversation with one student who is engaged to be married. She was overflowing with questions about marriage, and hasn't had anyone to ask! I was honored to be able to share with her the few things I have learned in my 2+ years of marriage, and to pray with her, bringing all of these requests before God.

- One pre-law student was profoundly affected by watching a video by the International Justice Mission and began to think about how to use their training in law to bring God's Kingdom on earth.

- Another student decided to read the newspaper more thoroughly so that she can understand the complexities of this world and bring them before God in prayer.

- One DePaul student is sensing an invitation from God to begin to disciple other students. She is a junior transfer student, and I'm overjoyed by her desire to serve our chapter in this way!

- Three students are seriously considering attending the Chicago Urban Program this summer. They are currently seeking God about how to find the funding they will need for this summer experience.

- I felt a nudge from God during our quiet times on Sunday. InterVarsity has a lot of resources to help students think about issues of power and social justice — perhaps we need to share these with some of the other Christian groups on our campus? I'm eager to hear more of God's leading in this, and I'm encouraged by the positive responses I heard from the InterVarsity students when I briefly mentioned this.

I'm looking forward to meeting with the DePaul students who attended Winterfest for follow-up appointments. I continue to trust that "the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

For Christ & the University —

Ann