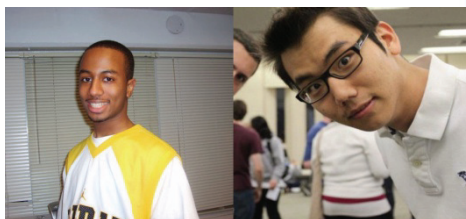


InterVarsity in Northern Illinois & NW Indiana

April 2010

Are you burned out?

No, but 17 years of ministry without a break can make one tired. Byron will be taking a sabbatical for 6 months, June through December. What will he be doing? He will be meeting with a spiritual director, having extended retreats, reading some good IVP books, and enjoying the break from ministry. We are so grateful to be part of an organization that values taking time to "recharge" so that we can return ready to serve.



New staff, Danny & Stephen

More Laborers

More laborers means more students reached! We praise God for 10 staff who have been hired to serve on campuses under our care. Pray for Taylor, LeeAnn, Brian, Danny, Robert, Matt, Stephen, Kathy, Debbie, and Sam who need to raise their budget in time for the Fall. Pray for us as we train and mentor these new staff.

PLEASE PRAY

- ✓ Pray for students as they end the year and spend a week of training at Chapter Focus Week.
- ✓ For God to continue providing for our ministry budget and for faithful supporters to add to our team.
- ✓ For the search for a new church and new friendships, and that our family would be salt and light to our new neighborhood.

God at Work

Quotes from Winterfest 2010

"God showed me that He is faithful, despite how many times I stumble. He also reminded me how powerful prayer is, and that He has equipped me and is working all around me to bring newcomers into His kingdom."

"God has continued to give me passion for His kingdom advancement."

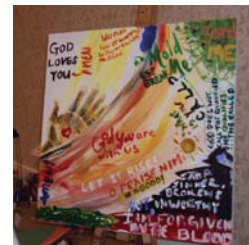
"renewed my vigor for campus evangelism"

"I accepted Christ as my savior on 2/20/10. Winterfest rocks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Cleared my eyes and reopened my heart... reminded me of God's mission for me on campus



Byron sharing at Winterfest 2010



Art by students during worship at W-fest

Growth through conversion

At Rockford College, students had an interactive table during the day asking people, "If you could change anything about yourself, what would you change?" Most people marked Lust, Greed, Pride, or Self image. That night at InterVarsity's meeting they looked at Luke 7, where a prostitute comes to a dinner and cries at Jesus feet. They talked about the freedom that comes from admitting we are sinful and broken and inviting Jesus to lead our lives and redefine us. After an invitation to follow Jesus, four students accepted Christ! One of them, Rachel, has been coming to IV for about 2 months. While at the table earlier in the day, she shared that she is intimidated by some of the members of InterVarsity because this God stuff is so new to her and everyone else seems to know so much. They talked about how God meets all of us where we are. Looking back it is clear God was preparing her for later that night when He would call for her to be His daughter.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE: Adjusting

What a blessing to finally be in our new home. The last 2 months have been a combination of rejoicing in the new and exciting things, as well as mourning the loss of our community and all things familiar. We are grateful for some super friendly neighbors.

Our kids are adjusting to their new surroundings, with a handful of play-dates and even a sleepover. Charlie, our puppy, has provided the healthy distraction we were hoping for... along with many challenges. Though he graduated from puppy class, he still has the deadly combination of a 6 month



old puppy brain in a 50 pound body! Let's hope we all survive this stage, including our flower bed.

THANK YOU!!

... for your faithful financial prayer and support as I minister at InterVarsity's national service center. To make a contribution please send checks to IVCF Attn: Donation Services P.O. Box 7895 Madison, WI 53791. Please include a note indicating your gift is for Byron & Michelle Graham. If you want to give online, visit www.intervarsity.org/donate