

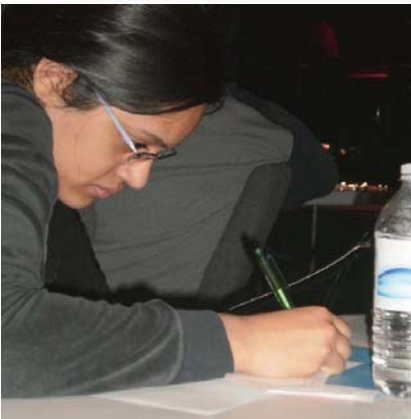
InterVarsity in Northern Illinois & NW Indiana

December 2010

Fueling the Ministry

Our thoughts during this season of thankfulness include you! Without your prayers, we would be fighting a losing battle. Without your financial gifts, students all over the Chicagoland area would be like sheep without a shepherd. We know that many of you have been giving sacrificially during hard economic times. We pray you have deep joy over the fruit that your giving brings.

Our mid-year assessment shows that our incoming gifts still have not reached full support. We are averaging a shortage of \$1000 a month. This means that although we've had a number of folks join our support team this year, we still have a significant hill to climb. Please join us in praying for additional support. If you'd like to give a year-end gift to help, you may use the web link or address below.



Ana Maria, student leader, studies the passage about Philip and the Ethiopian

PLEASE PRAY

- ✓ For students who attended Fuel to lead their friends to Christ.
- ✓ For the Lord's provision toward our financial support.
- ✓ For the 17 students and staff traveling to Texas for the national Latino student conference. (Dec 27-31) Pray one of these students might join staff.

Fueling the Vision

Students leading students to Christ. That is what our team of staff has been asking God to increase this year. In light of that prayer, we gathered about 40 student leaders from our 4 campuses for "Fuel", a day of training and vision-casting in evangelism.

During the day, we studied Philip and the Ethiopian, and asked "Will you listen for the Holy Spirit to prompt you? And will you obey?" Later we talked about building genuine friendships with lost students and gave them training in the "how to"-s of sharing their faith.

That afternoon, students were encouraged by Anne, a student leader at Aurora University. She shared how her small group had taken a week to share the gospel message. Later that week they were having a girls' night, and she noticed one of the students was sitting alone, looking introspective. As Anne talked with her, she shared that she hadn't yet given her life to Jesus, but couldn't stop thinking about it. They stepped onto the porch and talked about Jesus for a while, before Anne had the privilege of leading her to pray and make Jesus her Lord and Savior. "I don't even remember everything I said," Anne beamed. "All I know is that the Holy Spirit was leading me."

Our favorite time came at the end of the day. When studying Scripture that morning, we'd asked students to write the names of their friends who don't follow Jesus on tealight candles. As we brought our day to a close, students were challenged not to miss an opportunity to "make the ask" and invite their friends to follow Jesus. After a time of reflection, they lit the candles of any friends they felt the Lord urging them to share the gospel with and "make an ask". About 200 candles lit up the front of the room... 200 students who could potentially say 'yes' to Jesus this year! Pray that these candles would become true followers of Jesus!



Candles represented friends we commit to share the gospel with

ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

The last few months have brought a sense of finally settling in. Visits with neighbors, trips to get groceries, and the routine at the kids' school are all feeling normal. It's been a delight to settle into a small group Bible study through our new church.

Fall was a blur of activities around our house. Joshua enjoyed soccer. Jason was all about karate. Natalie performed in her first major musical (School House Rock). And Tyson was excited to start pre-school. We even fit in a trip to the apple orchard with the families from small group. We all had fun... despite what the photo indicates! ☺



Byron has been in full-scale refreshment mode, and is savoring his last month of sabbatical. We are looking forward to time with family over the holidays, and wish you all the same!

THANK YOU!!

... for your faithful financial prayer and support as we 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