

April 2008

INTERVARSITY

Praise for what God has done

- Changed the hearts of students through Winterfest and Chicago Urban Program
- Shown His love to the students of NIU and the IV staff serving there
- A contingent contract on our house

Special Items for Prayer



Pray for the eight students at Winterfest who made decisions to make Jesus the leader and forgiver of their lives!



Pray for NIU as decisions are made about what to do with Cole Hall. Pray for the students leading GIGs and for their friends who are hearing the gospel.



Pray for our time in Michigan (April 26—May 17) as we teach & train students to become world-changers.



Pray that we would live at peace with the uncertainty of our home sale, that the Lord would grow patience in us, and that we would make wise decisions in the months to come.

Spring Training

"Advancing the Gospel" was the theme of our weekend at Winterfest '08, and we were blown away with what God did in 48 hours. Eight students made a decision to make Jesus the leader and forgiver of their lives! In addition, hundreds of other students made commitments to a lifestyle of evangelism, of purity, and of serving with their InterVarsity fellowship. Read it for yourself...

february 22-24
winterfest 2008

INTERVARSITY

"I have been challenged to meet Him in prayer and to pray expectantly and faithfully "

"God helped me to realize that I need to make Him my 'number 1' priority in life!"

"God gave me a vision for how He wanted me to live my life! He showed me that He has made me who I am and placed me where I am for reasons, and I just felt God's presence stronger than ever! "

Wild and Crazy Spring Break



The Chicago Urban Program served students during four Spring Break weeks in March. Students had a chance to learn about the history of Chicago, see brokenness in the Austin community, wrestle with their own ethnic identity, and serve by helping with the demolition of a large building. One of the men in the community said that the students did the work of three crews for three weeks in a matter of five days. InterVarsity gave over 2650 hours of service to local urban ministries in March.

Meanwhile, the students themselves had a renovation of their own, as God gave them His own heart for justice and poverty. Historically, CUP has influenced the career choices of many InterVarsity students. Pray that God would continue to do so with the CUP class of 2008.

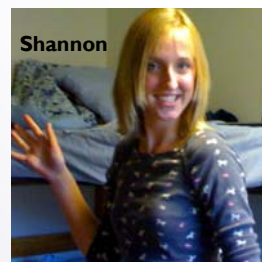
Forward Together Forward

...hangs in the windows and on banners all over the NIU campus. Lately many of you have been asking, "how have you moved forward since the tragedy on campus?"

Though the desire to move forward has created an atmosphere where students rarely talk about that day, we've also seen a heightened spiritual hunger on campus in 2 ways. First, the crisis seems to have dislodged other painful issues that students hadn't dealt with yet.

Conversations about past abuse, broken families, and deep pain are almost common, and we're watching Jesus bring healing in a way we never expected. Second, we have seen **softer hearts** toward spiritual things. So students like Matt have begun GIGs (evangelistic discussions) with friends who

don't know Jesus... friends like Brett, an agnostic student with lots of questions about spirituality. And students like



Shannon

Troy who's been meeting with friends in his physical therapy classes. Or like Shannon, whose floormates regularly ask questions about how God can forgive. In all there are 5 students who have begun GIGs since the shootings.

Pray with us that these students would faithfully share the good news, and that NIU students would give their lives to Jesus as a result.



Matt

On Campus on Purpose—New hires & Goodbyes

Pray for Divisional Schools :

AURORA UNIVERSITY
COLUMBIA COLLEGE
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
LAKE FOREST COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
MORAIN VALLEY COLLEGE
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE
ROCKFORD COLLEGE
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGE OF DUPAGE / HARPER COLLEGE
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
LEWIS UNIVERSITY / PURDUE – CALUMET
SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE

John Hochevar is celebrating 35 years on staff with InterVarsity this year. He has been directing the Chicago Urban Program for the last 24 years. He has been the face of InterVarsity in the Austin and Lawndale communities in Chicago. He loves ministering to students in an urban setting to help them understand ethnicity, injustice, and God's heart for the world. John has left an invaluable legacy among generations of college students and community partners. Though we are sad to see John leave Chicago, he will thankfully continue his ministry with InterVarsity. Please pray for John as he transitions to



Washington DC and for our region in hiring a new Director for the Chicago Urban Program.

As we say goodbye, we also get to welcome some new faces...

Colleen MacGruder, a Lewis University student, will be interning at Valparaiso next year. Please pray for



Colleen as she begins fundraising, for her transition to Valparaiso after graduation, and for a transformative year of ministry.

We also have **two applications** out that need to be completed and processed. Please pray for wisdom as we consider these two candidates.

Graham Family Update



“CRASH!” This is a sound we often hear in our household. Usually it's the boys playing rough, a toy slamming against the wall, or our adult bodies collapsing after a long day with 4 crazy kiddos. But last month it was the sound of Tyson trying to fly out of his highchair. Our little guy broke two bones in his forearm. As you can see to the left, he was quite the trooper, and in fact, quickly discovered he had a new weapon on his right arm. We can now say we're part of the “broken bone” club of parenting.

Our good news is that we have a contract on our house. We feel like this is a huge answer to prayer (yours and ours!) The down-side is that our contract is home-sale contingent. We need to continue to pray that the buyer will sell her house by June 30th. So while we continue to wait, and

wait some more, we are also learning to trust God with all the details that still need to come together.

We look forward to that time of year we spend in Michigan with students from all over the Midwest. Byron will be leaving for Cedar Campus in late April to train students in evangelism and how to encounter God daily. Pray that God would give Byron divine appointments with students and staff. Please also pray for our family who will be home without him for those first 2 weeks. The 3rd week our family will join Byron in the upper peninsula. Michelle will be the main speaker for the students that week, speaking four times on the book of Malachi. Please pray for her preparation of the passages and for the Holy Spirit to speak through her as she teaches the text.

For Christ and the University

Byron & Michelle Graham

THANK YOU!!

... for your faithful financial prayer and support as we minister with InterVarsity. 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