

**November 2009**



# INTERVARSITY

## **Praise for what God has done**

- Students like Melissa have decided to follow Jesus
- God is reaching groups of students, like through the 5 Bible studies to Arts students at Northwestern University
- Our house has finally sold and will close soon

## **Special Items for Prayer**

- ✓ For students attending the Urbana conference: that God would transform them and transform the world through them
- ✓ For the Lord to provide 20 new financial partners in ministry.
- ✓ For our family as we move to temporary housing and prepare to move to Bartlett

## **Chain reaction**

Did you know that you led a new student to the Lord?

Melissa arrived to Aurora University as a freshman this semester. The first few weeks on a college campus can be overwhelming for new students. New surroundings. New faces. New responsibilities. Jumping from the nest with the hope they'll learn to fly before they hit the ground. But when Melissa stepped onto campus, she was welcomed by the students of InterVarsity. Melissa came to a few events and got connected with a small group Bible study.



Jinette (left) investing in students

Jinette, our staff at AU, met with Melissa to welcome her to the fellowship and get to know her. Only a few minutes into their lunch, Jinette shared her own story and asked Melissa where she was with the Lord. "I could tell she was on the edge...so I shared the Gospel (God took over my mouth)...and she decided to give her life fully over to Jesus as Savior and LORD!"

Just a few days before their lunch, Michelle had met with Jinette for their monthly mentoring time. Much of the conversation had been about helping Jinette to recognize and develop her gift of evangelism. When Jinette called us to share the story, she began by saying, "So about that gift of evangelism..."

Without your prayer and financial gifts, Michelle would not be mentoring Jinette to use her spiritual gifts. And without Jinette, students would not have welcomed Melissa to campus. And without the InterVarsity students or Jinette's leadership, Melissa would not have been invited to give her life to Jesus that day. Praise God for the community of witness that He uses!



Please join us praying for Urbana... InterVarsity's triennial conference that gathers 20,000 students to hear God's calling to be part of what He is doing in the world. Byron will help to lead a track that gives special training to student leaders, who are the hope of the next generation of world-changers. Michelle will lead manuscript Bible study from John for a group of about 300 students each morning. Pray for our preparation in the next month, that we would lead by listening to God's Spirit, and that God would transform the students who attend.

## We Grow Through Giving

### Pray for Divisional Schools:

AURORA UNIVERSITY  
ROOSEVELT & COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
UNIV. OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO  
LAKE FOREST COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
MORAIN VALLEY COLLEGE  
JOLIET JR COLLEGE  
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO  
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE  
ROCKFORD COLLEGE  
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY  
LEWIS UNIVERSITY / PURDUE – CALUMET

For 16 years it has been a privilege to partner with you in reaching college students with the transforming news of Jesus. During that time, the ministry has pressed forward because of the earnest prayers and sacrificial gifts to the Lord by our team of supporters.

But right now, we are experiencing a time of significant need. Our budget is running considerably underfunded, and our deficit is growing. Currently our deficit is over \$9,000. Even in a time of recession, our God still “owns the cattle on a thousand hills”, and we trust that He will provide so that thousands of students in Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana will continue to build the Kingdom.

You can help in one of 2 ways:

- 1) We have been offered a \$4000 matching grant toward any new giving commitments that come in between now and June 2010. **Do**

***you know someone that might be willing to meet with us and be invited to join our support team? Are you one of those people?*** Give us a call or a note.

- 2) We would like for 20 people to commit to be prayer warriors for our financial needs. ***If you would be willing to pray daily or weekly and receive regular internet updates, would you let us know over Facebook or email?***



## Graham Family Update

We did it. We can officially announce that we survived soccer season! Our first experience with AYSO may have been a bit over-ambitious, with 3 kids on 3 teams. Translation: 3 practice times and 3 games every week. But as full as our schedules were, it provided lots of family bonding around shin guards and scrimmages and cheering loudly for hours each Saturday.

The rest of the Fall has been just as eventful. Some of you may remember our nephew, Nic, from the last prayer letter. In September Nic became a more permanent part of our family when he moved in with us. Nic will be joining us at Urbana and is working to save for college tuition.

We also continue to be in prayer for Michelle's mom and her journey with cancer... one of grieving and patient hope. Join us in praying for her recovery from surgery in October, and for full healing.

The “cardboard box tornado” has hit our house with the recent news that our buyers are ready to close. So 2 1/2 years and 4 buyers later **WE ARE FINALLY MOVING!** (Insert deep breath here.)

On November 23rd we will move to a temporary rental home in Dekalb until we are able to close on a permanent home in Barlett. Please be praying for us as we pack, move, and then re-pack and re-move. The good-bye's will be difficult, but we are rejoicing that the wait is finally over.



**For Christ and the University**

*Byron & Michelle Graham*

**THANK YOU. . . your faithful prayer and financial support make the ministry of InterVarsity possible!**

**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 | [www.intervarsity.org](http://www.intervarsity.org)**