

It Must Be Summer

It never feels quite like summer till we've been up to Cedar Campus, InterVarsity's training center in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. DePaul student leaders and I (among others) spent a week there in June praying and planning for the upcoming school year.

We had a fruitful and enjoyable time refocusing on God and his plans at DePaul. We studied the book of Nehemiah together, brainstormed about our ideal chapter and community, made plans and goals, talked about vision, ate ice cream, and laughed a lot. We all left feeling spiritually nourished, excited about the next school year, and glad to have the summer ahead of us to firm up the nuts and bolts of our plans!

Reciprocal Grace

Also in June, Jon and I were invited at short notice to Southern California to serve at a graduate student conference. We had a terrific time connecting with graduate students from half a dozen Southern California universities, leading them in worship and reflection, handing out nametags, and lending a helping hand in a number of ways. (Jon's expertise with clogged plumbing and a mop can be a ministry, too!)

It was a joyful thing to give and serve while simultaneously experiencing God's gifts and grace to us. Jon and I couldn't resist extending our trip for two days as a mini-break in Los Angeles. We visited some friends from college, ate Mexican food, and drove around in our rented convertible like real natives. One highlight was seeing a baseball game at Dodger Stadium. Next time: surfing lessons!

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

In the Company of Cheerful Ladies, by Alexander McCall Smith.

My aim in reviewing this work of fiction is really to recommend an entire series to you — the series



Ann beside our newly planted flowering crabapple.

entitled "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency." Precious Ramotswe is a "lady detective" in Botswana with a love for her country, a high sense of integrity, and a "traditionally built" figure. These books chronicle her adventures as she solves mysteries, navigates her relationships, and blesses people with her kindness and compassion.

I especially appreciate the opportunity to reflect on the completely different culture described in these books — a culture in which it is important to sit on the verandah with a mug of tea and talk about things. Reading these novels gives me perspective for my own life, and reminds me to be disciplined about rhythms of work and rest.

Boyd's Eye View

This spring we inherited a beautiful upright piano that dates to 1903 from our dear friends Shannon and Kriss Marion (who moved to Wisconsin). I'm looking forward to many happy hours with an instrument I haven't had the chance to

play regularly in years. We've kicked off our summer gardening season by planting a tiny flowering crabapple tree, half a dozen tomato plants, and lots of flowers. Jon and I love working together to make our little plot of ground a fruitful place!

We are especially thankful for the comfort of our little nest as we have been recovering from a third, extremely early miscarriage in May. Doctors and books all say "keep trying," which we will, all the while praying for 46 chromosomes and riding the waves of our grief and hopes.

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

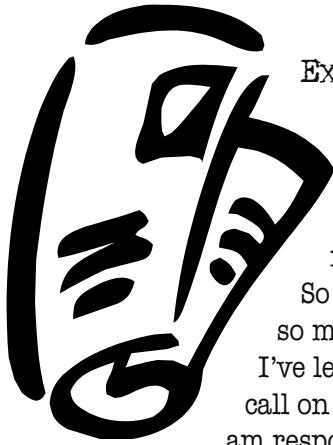
- ☛ for next year's student leaders, Allie, Eric, Kirra, and Kristine.
- ☛ for New Student Outreach, which will begin in September
- ☛ that my new job would be an avenue for God to produce fruit
- ☛ for peace and healing as Jon and I continue to grieve our miscarriages — and for a healthy baby!

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Extra! Extra! Call and Response

I can hardly believe that I'm beginning my ninth year on staff! So much has flown by, and so much has been packed in. I've learned a lot about God's call on my life, and this year I am responding to him by changing my job to reflect new facets of that call. May I tell you about my "new job"?

Call #1: A colleague reminded me of a great definition of *spiritual formation* by Robert Mulholland: "Spiritual formation is a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others." I've learned that I particularly love thinking about the variety of ways individuals and communities are shaped to reflect Christ better. We are always looking for people to think creatively about how to help students and faculty connect with God.

Response: I'll be helping to provide students and staff with resources, training, and vision for their own journeys of spiritual formation and for their ministries. This year I get to think about spiritual formation particularly as I revise elements of curriculum for various student conferences, and develop prayer and worship materials for campus use.

Call #2: My own InterVarsity staffer, Ann Beyerlein, strongly influenced my view of Bible study. "Learning to feed one's self from Scripture is one of the most powerful gifts we can give a young person," she said. Something I'm most pleased with about my ministry at DePaul is that students there now have a tradition of Scripture study — and they love it!

Response: I am privileged this year to help more students and staff fall in love with Scripture. I'll focus on this as I spend time teaching Scripture, both with staff (at a year-long

fundraising-training program for newly hired InterVarsity staff), and in student contexts. I'll also have an eye for this passion as I revise conference curriculum.

Call #3: The DePaul chapter is poised for growth, especially with a successful new structure centered on small-group Bible studies. I love DePaul students and want to help individuals grow to reflect Christ — and the chapter to reflect his Body.

Response: I'll continue to work with DePaul University students, in a more tightly focused capacity. My hopes for the year include working closely with the leadership team, training new leaders for the future, and infusing my love for Bible study into the rising generation of students.

Call #4: God is inviting me to slow down a bit! For me to be the most effective minister I can be, I need some time and space to grieve, heal, and grow — especially after a hard year with three miscarriages.

Response: Part of my job change includes shifting to part-time. Since, in fact, my salary all along has been equivalent to a part-time salary anyway (even though I've been working full-time), my support needs remain the same. Your financial and prayer partnership in this ministry has been, and continues to be, incredibly valuable.

I am grateful to God for the work he has done among students these past eight years and for your faithful partnership in my ministry, and I look forward to what's around the bend on this journey God has called us on together.

For Christ & the University —

Ann