

Asking for Wisdom

“What are some areas where you are seeking God’s wisdom?” I asked the InterVarsity chapter while speaking at Northeastern Illinois University this spring. Responses came first in a trickle, then began flowing — questions about career choices, part-time jobs, having integrity in friendships, contributing to family life. As we walked through Proverbs 2 and discussed spiritual disciplines helpful in seeking wisdom from God, heads nodded in affirmation and expressions became thoughtful, and I once again thanked God for my own career in InterVarsity. What a privilege it is to share biblical knowledge and life experience with students who are full of questions and longing for God’s direction in their lives!

Women in the Academy and Professions

I am really excited to be expanding my InterVarsity role to include working with “Women in the Academy and Professions,” a new ministry in InterVarsity aiming to equip women and men to become a redeeming influence for women in the academy and professions. As I join this team (led by Sharon Gartland), I’ll be helping to develop resources that address life and work issues particular to female graduate and professional students and faculty. Our current plans include launching a website and electronic newsletter, developing retreat materials, and fostering a supportive network of kindred spirits.

I sense God’s strong direction in participating in this ministry and am grateful for the good things he has in store. I will continue working on regional undergraduate projects



Northeastern Illinois U. students join me for a snap.

(such as curriculum development for our Chapter FOCUS Week training events) and plan to split my time between these two areas this next year.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

Finding God beyond Harvard, by Kelly Monroe Kullberg (InterVarsity Press, 2006).

God had a really great idea when he chose Kelly Monroe to spearhead the formation of the Veritas Forum, a movement of campus conferences designed to engage the university with real discussion about questions of culture, meaning, and Christian faith. This autobiographical work chronicles Kelly’s personal experiences in developing this model and watching God transform it into something above and beyond her expectations. Kullberg weaves in her personal spiritual journey seamlessly with the Veritas Forum journey.

If you only read one chapter, make that chapter six, “Road Trip,” an inspiring account of Kullberg’s spontaneous dialogue with a roomful of students hostile to Christianity. I’m really honored to be working alongside Kelly in my capacity with Women in the Academy and Professions. What a treat!

Boyd’s Eye View

After a very busy spring, the Boyd family is settling into the steady rhythms of summer. Thirteen-month-old Lucy fits right in with our family habits of regular neighborhood walks, barbecues, and reading nights. Lucy has re-introduced us to the joys of the kiddie pool — perhaps she will grow to love swimming just like her Mama? We are looking forward our first whole-family visits to Cedar Campus: once in June during InterVarsity’s Faculty Conference, and another week in August for Chapter FOCUS Week, where I’ll be leading worship (and Jon will be chief parent). We hope Lucy loves the smell of the cedar trees just as much as we do! As always, check out boydsnest.org/news/ for the latest family photos and updates.

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

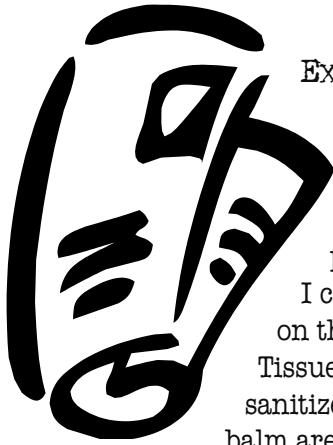
- for my preparation as worship leader for our August Chapter FOCUS Week
- for my transition into a new role, with InterVarsity’s Women in the Academy & Professions
- for spiritual replenishment and renewal for students and faculty during the summer months

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Extra! Extra!
Manna Reminder

I like being prepared. Just one look in my purse will tell you that I can get a little obsessive on this point sometimes.

Tissues, wallet, mints, hand sanitizer, cell phone, and lip balm are staples. In the past year, I've added a couple of diapers, baby wipes, and an emergency changing pad to that kit. Maps, granola bars, and water bottles float in and out. It's nice to have a little pack of emergency essentials by your side at all times.

Most of the time, this attention to detail serves me well. Other people benefit from my preparedness and forethought. But there is a shadow side to my gift for thinking ahead: I tend to worry. Like most people, I like to be in control of my life. So, when my thinking slips over from "being reasonably prepared for a likely event" to "trying to control all future possibilities," I know I've crossed into dangerous territory.

The other day, we were on one of our lovely family walks — Lucy relaxing in her stroller, Jon and I enjoying stretching our legs at the end of a workday. And I was worrying about something. I can't remember exactly what it was, but it probably sounded something like, "What if someday we have another baby and we never sleep again?" or "What if Lucy doesn't like going to Cedar Campus?" or "What if Lucy never eats anything other than fruit, yogurt, and cheerios?" Jon, who is ever-patient with my worries, gently responded with something very wise: "Ann, you need to ask the Lord for your daily bread."

Now, I have been saying the Lord's prayer

ever since I was old enough to read it at church, but this felt like a totally new concept to me. I clearly needed a refresher on the definition of the word "daily." Asking for my daily bread doesn't include asking for the bread I'll need in ten months, or in two years, or in a decade. God has provided daily bread for me every day of my life, and I still keep asking for some advance credit, or at least a little yeast and flour in case he forgets. I'm grateful for God's gentle invitation to ask for what I need today, and trust him to provide everything that will be required in the future.

So now, when I start worrying about if Lucy and I will get along when she is sixteen, or how we are going to find the perfect wedding dress for her, I take a deep breath and remind myself, "Give us this day our daily bread." I only need enough bread for today. The Lord knows what will come to us in the future, and he said he'll provide bread for those days too. Just ask!

For Christ & the University —

Ann

P.S. June 30 marks the end of InterVarsity's fiscal year. I've enclosed a reply envelope for your convenience, if you would like to send a special June gift. Thank you for all of your care and support for this ministry! You can also donate online at intervarsity.org/donate/to/ann_boyd