

Tag-Along Day

One highlight from these past few months was attending a session of a business-ethics class with a DePaul IV student leader, Mark. I have been talking with students about how their faith intersects with their studies, and so I asked if I might tag along with them to a class once in a while. I thoroughly enjoyed myself! Mark gave me the class reading beforehand (an excerpt from a book called *The Time Bind*, by A. R. Hochschild), and the discussion was fascinating: How are business and work structures in the U.S. contributing to the health or unhealth of families? I considered how God was active in this discussion, helping business students consider the holistic impact of their profession, and challenging them to think about how to influence the system for the benefit of all. I look forward to attending other classes with my students!



Erika and Mark (two student leaders I've written about often) staff the IV info table at DePaul's "Involvement Fair" this fall.

New Life

I have been so privileged walk with "Wendy" as she has sought God in our Bible study times. I was very excited to learn several weeks ago that she has committed to being a follower of Jesus! What I most appreciate about her decision is the careful way she went about her process of investigation — never bowing to any kind of social pressure to believe in the same God as many of her friends, but instead seeking to learn what is true in this world. I am proud to call her my sister in Christ.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

Leaving Deep Water, by Claire S. Chow.

Chow gives us an intimate and fascinating look at life from an Asian-American woman's perspective. One feels honored to be invited to share in some of the key moments of these women's lives, especially as they navigate the complexities of being both Asian and American. I was surprised to identify personally with some of these experiences, too. My grandparents emigrated from Sicily as toddlers, and my own family has wrestled between traditional Italian values and those of the dominant American culture.

I'm always encouraged to hear what my supporters are up to — like writing books! Check out *Paul on Trial*, by John Mauck — an interesting look at the book of Acts from a legal perspective. You can find it at Amazon.com, or contact me for his information.

Boyd's Eye View

The past few months have been filled with house projects: unpacking, painting, de-wallpapering, looking for things, mowing the grass, raking leaves, shoveling snow. We are so glad to be settled in our new home. Every once in awhile I turn to Jon and say, "Hey, we actually live here!" We have been enjoying our winter haven with the help of our fireplace, newly cleaned by a chimney sweep (who, despite my hopes, failed to sing and dance like Dick Van Dyke). We have about 60% of our books unpacked, and now we are waiting for our favorite Ikea shelving to come back in stock so that we can unpack the rest. In the meantime, we have graced our piles of boxes with candles and pretend that they are part of our dining-room décor.

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- with joy for Wendy and her newfound faith! Pray for these crucial months of spiritual growth.
- for students to grow spiritually over their long winter break.
- for the student leaders (Caryn, Erika, and Mark), especially as they take on greater responsibility next quarter.
- for God to provide financial supporters so that my deficit might be eliminated by January.

Ann Boyd

5321 N St Louis Ave
Chicago, Illinois, 60625

(773) 588-0231

ann_boyd@ivstaff.org

Enclosed you'll find a business reply envelope. This is for your convenience if you would like to give a year-end gift towards my work. Please make checks out to "IVCF." Thank you for your support! Merry Christmas!



Extra! Extra! Tidbits of Year-End News

Here's a little thought: I've been musing quite a bit lately about personal quiet and solitude. Earlier this month, Jon and I heard a remarkable sermon on Sabbath, during which I realized how difficult it has been for me to slow down this fall. It feels a bit like having extremely dry hands: when you finally put lotion on them, your hands sting for a few minutes until they are able to absorb the moisture. This is what quiet has been feeling like to me lately — stinging at first, but then replenishing.

∴

One fun note: If you're a financial donor to InterVarsity, chances are you've received the IVCF annual report in the mail recently — and you may have noticed that a certain Ann Boyd was quoted on p. 11. Yup! That's me! (If you'd like a copy, please let me know.)

∴

DePaul University is out of session in December, which means I have a bit of flexibility in my schedule for a while. Here are some of my hopes and plans for the next few weeks:

• **Quiet times with God.** In addition to times in Scripture, study, and reading, Jon and I have planned a retreat day this month — and that will be refreshing in the midst of all the holiday busy-ness.

• **Planning time for DePaul InterVarsity.** We have made a few changes in our structure: students will be taking on a bit more leadership, we will be inviting more speakers to come to teach us, and I will be focusing more on training student leaders to take on the jobs I have been shouldering. December will be prime time for me to prepare training materials and to seek God's wisdom amid these changes.

• **Student Ministry.** Although classes are not in session, many students will be staying in the area throughout December. I hope to have one-on-one meetings with several, and also to have a group over for a movie night.

• **Support Raising.** I'll continue to ask new and old donors for financial support for my work, aiming to eliminate my deficit early in the new year. One fringe benefit of this hard work is that I'll get to catch up with long-lost friends during some of these calls!

• **Regional staff meetings.** I'll be attending a four-day conference for the growth and instruction of InterVarsity staff in the Great Lakes West region. Staff will be grouped by generation, and each will receive teaching about personal spiritual growth and life-stage changes. I look forward to hearing from some very well respected teachers! I'll stay for another two days of meetings with a team of staff to revise our region's New Staff Training program.

• **Following Christ 2002.** Jon has been working hard as the Program Director for this national InterVarsity conference for graduate students, faculty, and professionals— and it is just around the corner! December 28 through January 2, Jon and I will be enjoying the fruits of his labors, hearing from Biblical expositors such as Marva Dawn and Vinoth Ramachandra, and considering the calling of faith and work. (Jon insists that I say you can learn more at www.followingchrist.org!) I look forward to absorbing wisdom and bringing nuggets home to my ministry with undergraduates at DePaul.

May the Lord bless you as you celebrate the coming of his Son into our world this season.

For Christ & the University —

Ann