



The "Vetted by CBS" Issue  
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Don Paul Gross

www.gfmse.org  
www.emergingscholars.org



Jenny and her family



Our family camping



Vanderbilt grad students at  
kick-off picnic

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# Engrossing News

## Witnessing Community

A student who recently finished his time at Vanderbilt said the following about the Graduate Christian Fellowship .

*"Never in my life have I come across people such as these, people who are dedicated to caring about each other. It has caused to me reevaluate my standards as to what I expect out of a friendship, both with Christians and non-Christians. A good example would be the relationship I formed with a group of Christian guys who I can hang out with; they comprise the first close friendships I've developed with other males in a long time, and I can speak freely with them. Another different but excellent example is when the time came to decide on my choice of post-doctorate position, the GCF group came together as a body and prayed for me.*

Jesus said, "All people will know you are my disciples because of the love you have for one another." (John 13:35). I cannot take credit for the loving community – it is a work of God. I am thankful that I have been able to be a part of this community. My hope and prayer is that communities such as this will be available to Christian graduate students and faculty at every university in the Southeast. Please pray to this end with me.

## Area Administrator Hired

I may begin to appear more organized. Do not be fooled. It is not I, but an Area Administrator. Jenny Mullin has just started a 10 hour a week job helping me with the administrative work that is part of this job. She has excellent administrative gifts and experience in this kind of work. In addition to working for me, she is the mother of two young boys and the wife of a graduate student, Miles Mullin, who is working on a PhD in American Religious History. Please pray for Jenny and her family as she works with me (no easy task☺), and develops a support team for prayer and funding.

## Losing a Good Staff Worker

I am losing a good staff worker (Sharon Conley) in the next few months. It is hard to see her go. She has done wonderful ministry and has been an integral part of things the past couple years. She is a great colleague and good friend of our family. But, God is leading her elsewhere. It has been hard for me to process because my plans are to hire and keep good staff. I like my plans to always move forward and never backwards. I am wrestling with God, learning His plans are not my plans.

## Prayer Bookmark Please Pray . . .

**Sunday:** For us as a family - that this day will be one of rest, a time of good worship, and a time of renewal for the coming week.

**Monday:** For me, Don Paul, that God would grant wisdom, vision, and love as I serve staff and students in the southeast.

**Tuesday:** For student leaders on the various campuses – that God would be at work in their hearts and use them for His purposes.

**Wednesday:** For funding for the ministry – that God would raise up new financial partners for us and for staff I supervise.

**Thursday:** For God to bless our staff, volunteers, and student leaders in the various campuses in the southeast.

**Friday:** That God would raise up staff to minister to graduate students and faculty where we have no staff.

**Saturday:** That God would renew the hearts and minds of Christians in the academic world and use them to make a significant difference for Him.

Please tear, or if you prefer cut, along the dotted line. If possible, please put it in a place that will remind you to pray for us.

## What is Happening at Vanderbilt . . .

Activities are not a reliable indicator of God's work. However, I thought I'd still go ahead and list what is happening to give you a better feel for our life as a staff team at Vanderbilt. If you want to keep this handy to pray for these gatherings, I'd be grateful.

### Monday:

11:00 am International Student Leadership Meeting  
12:00 pm International Student Prayer Group  
1:00 pm Law Student Leadership Meeting  
8:00 pm Grad Student Small Group: "The Gospel a in Pluralistic Society"

### Tuesday:

1:00 pm Owen (Business School) 1<sup>st</sup> year Small Group  
8:00 pm Grad Student Small Group

### Wednesday:

8:30 am Grad Student Leadership Meeting  
9:30 am Vanderbilt InterVarsity Staff Meeting  
1:00 pm Owen's Weekly Fellowship Meeting

### Thursday:

12:00 pm CLS Weekly Fellowship Meeting  
1:00 pm Owen 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Small Group  
4:15 pm Law Student 1st Year Small Group  
8:00 pm Law Student Women's Small Group  
8:00 pm Grad Student Small Group, "Current Issues"

### Friday:

6:00 International Student Potluck and Bible Study  
7:00 Graduate Student Weekly Potluck and Fellowship Meeting

## Family Update

- a. Olivia is being home schooled for 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year and she and Ginger are enjoying it. Ginger used to teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade and has always wanted to teach the kids for at least a year.
- b. Victoria is at mother's day out on Fridays. She learned "A" is for apple this week.
- c. Nolan is playing soccer and having a lot of fun. I am assistant coach.
- d. Logan "graduated" off the soccer tram is and resting up for basketball.
- e. Olivia is on a swim team.
- f. I am teaching an adult Sunday School class at church. We are studying "Speaking of Jesus," a book about sharing one's faith.
- g. Ginger will be starting a new season for the kids Scripture Memory program at church.