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*Food for Thought discussion group*



*At Vanderbilt on Friday nights, Rich (our VU staff) hosts CrossCulture, a gathering of international students*



*Shepherds and sheep at Christmas*

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# Engrossing News

## Food for Thought

Did you hear the one about the Christian bioethicist, the economist, the doctor, the English professor, and the neurology student getting together to talk about medical ethics? Sorry, I do not have a punch line. However, we have been gathering people from various sectors of the campus to come together for lunch once a week to be part of various discussion groups. We call it **Food for Thought**, and it is an experiment for us. We invited faculty, grad, law, and MBA students, people from the community, and undergrads to gather for various discussions. Copied straight from the flyer . . .

**1. The Fiction of C.S. Lewis** – led by Kenny Benghe, campus staff, InterVarsity Graduate and Faculty Ministries

**2. Christian Classics** – led by Brian Griffith, Ph.D., Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Human and Organizational Development

**3. Issues in Bioethics** – led by Michael Poore, Executive Director, The Humanitas Project, and Joy Riley, M.D., The Center for Bioethics and Culture.

It has been said that the result of specialization in the modern University is that “people know more and more about less and less.” It has been refreshing to bring people together to think outside of their field and explore how we, as the body of Christ, have much to offer one another as we think “across disciplines” engaging various topics and seeking to have the mind of Christ.

## Law Student Ministry 20 years from Now?

I continue to devote time to the task force that is exploring how to dramatically grow ministry to law students nationally. I spent a couple days in Chicago in January in meetings with other InterVarsity Staff and staff from the Christian Legal Society. We prayed through and discussed the questions, “What do we want law school ministry to look like 20 years from now?,” followed by, “How do we get from where we are to where we want to be?” I love this type of discussion. The general sense is that we are barely getting started in ministry to law students and so much more can be done to shape young people heading into the profession of law.

## The Tug of the Campus

In the last six months, my work has consisted almost exclusively of Area Director responsibilities with almost no campus involvement. To be honest, it has driven me nuts. In January, after prayer and talking to my supervisor, I have decided to get back on campus in a few limited ways, starting with Food for Thought. I love students and have missed directly working with them.

## 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, especially in Atlanta.

**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.

## In Search of Staff

Currently, of the 19 campuses we are seeking to develop ministry to graduate students and faculty in the southeast, we have ministry at nine of those and staff at only six of those. The few campuses with ministry and without staff are struggling to survive. Bottom line, we need staff to accomplish our mission in the southeast. The kind of staff we are looking for are not falling off turnip trucks (no disrespect to turnips intended). We look for people who are spiritually mature, possess intellectual acumen, have pastoral skills, and feel called to our mission of helping the body of Christ have a redemptive influence on the university. Currently, in addition to supervising the current staff team, I am focusing more and more on finding new staff. You can help in the following ways:

1. Pray. Please pray that God will lead me to those who He has prepared for this type of work.
2. Refer. If you know someone who would do this sort of work well, I'd love to talk with them.

### Financial Update

Because of generous giving in December, we were able to finish the calendar year without a deficit. Thank you for your prayers and generous giving. We continue to feel tremendously blessed by the way God has given us partners (like you) in ministry who pray for us and give financially to make it all possible.

### Family News:

Logan finished basketball yesterday. Nolan starts soccer today. I will be coaching soccer – a new frontier for me. Olivia is swimming and Victoria attends a dance class once a week. Our lives are full, and we feel like these years where we are between diapers and teenagers are precious, though full.

### If you are interested . . .

On a semi-regular basis, I have started sending out prayer updates via email. If you would like to receive these updates, please email me and let me know.