



December 2005

The "No comment about Vanderbilt beating Tennessee Issue"

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Regular dinner attire at our house



Kids playing in backyard



A way to get kids to smile for a picture

Engrossing News

At Vanderbilt

I have begun coordinating a Campus Minister's Prayer Breakfast that meets monthly for prayer and encouragement. We have broad participation, and God appears to be creating a greater spirit of unity among the ministries. Currently, we do a campus-wide Christmas and Easter service. We are looking at doing a *Veritas Forum* together (www.veritas.org).

At the Law School we have had a strong semester with a lot of student participation. We have had several Christian attorneys from the community come speak, including Sam Bartholomew, the namesake of the "Bartholomew Room" in the Law School. I am always amazed and encouraged by the passion and vision of law students.

The ministry to international students continues to grow. This fall, two Chinese students who are involved in the ministry became Christians. One had begun exploring Christianity while still in China. When he arrived at Vanderbilt, he was struck by the moral compassion of Christians who were reaching out to him. In addition to our staff worker Rich Zeigler, we have wonderful team of four volunteers from the community who play a vital role in this ministry.

In the Southeast

One of the more frightening moments this fall was receiving a phone call from a staff worker that started with "I was working with a chainsaw and had an accident" Amazingly, he only got twelve stitches and no permanent damage. Gary and Marlene, our staff at U of Miami and Florida International, had to move out of their home two times for two-week periods because of hurricane damage. Though their lives have been in upheaval, God has doubled the breadth of their ministry on campus.

The southeast staff team gathered for three days in early December for reflection, renewal, and training. Many have seen ministry grow in dramatic ways this fall. Most were weary. It was a good time to be refreshed by God through times of rest, prayer, and fellowship.

We are in the process of "courting" a couple staff candidates for ministry in Atlanta. Please pray for Gods leading and direction for them and for me.

A Deep Sense of Gratitude

I continue to marvel at the opportunity I have to do this type of work in partnership with people like you. The work does not seem easy, but it is significant. I am grateful to get to see God at work among graduate students and faculty in the southeast.

Addition for our Family

Did I make you read that twice? We are adding on to our house for our family. During the past ten years we have been able to squeeze the four kids into two relatively small rooms. As we draw near to the teenage years (Olivia is 12), we have thought it best to give them more space. In addition to adding a bedroom, we will add a family room and an office for me. With me in a new office, I suspect you will expect better quality newsletters, eh? I'll do my best.

Family Picture Overdose

In this issue, I am on the brink of giving you an overdose of family shots. Please forgive me. Some readers keep asking for more family pictures – this issue is for their indulgence. Of course, another factor is that I tend to carry our camera for family events more than for ministry activities. On a final note, these are particularly fun years as our kids are all out of diapers but not yet teenagers☺. Please note: The captions are full of lies. We were in two weddings this summer – Ginger's brothers, Clay and Clint, got married.

Financial Update

As this calendar year draws to a close, we are about \$4000 behind budget. If you would like to make a year-end gift, please know it would be greatly appreciated and helpful. Enclosed is a postage-paid envelope for your convenience.

Year End Window of Giving Opportunity

Due to Hurricane Katrina, Congress has changed the limit on deductions for charitable giving by raising it from 50% of adjusted gross income to 100%. This opportunity applies to only cash donations made between August 28 and December 31, 2005 and provides substantial benefit to certain donors in making year-end gifts or fulfilling giving commitments by the end of 2005. The cash can be from any source, including IRAs for those who are at least 59 years old.

We encourage you to check with your tax advisor if you have been wanting to make cash gifts before the end of 2005 to InterVarsity or another qualified charity that would put your total giving over and above the normal deduction limits, because those limits have been relaxed considerably.