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INTERVARSITY  
GRADUATE  
FACULTY  
MINISTRIES



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## *Julie Had a Sick Cat*

After an unsuccessful attempt to get the expensive pill into the cat's stomach, Julie hired a young woman to visit her home and administer the pill to the cat.

When Julie discovered Jill was a graduate student, she told her about InterVarsity. Jill replied: "You mean there's a place I can go and talk about my spiritual life?"

Our graduate students scheduled a social

event for the next week and invited Jill. She came and loved it. We pray that she will soon find a place with us where she experience the belongingness of true Christian community.

I have been so proud of the way our students have reached out and included new friends into their InterVarsity circle. These folk are finding the joy of this type of community as God builds and shapes them into the network of spiritual relationships which will bear



witness to the Gospel of Jesus in the university and later as they reproduce their ministry in their communities around the Southeast and the world.

## *Lord, Teach Us To Pray - Let Your Will Be Done...*

- in our developing missional communities of faculty and students
- in the Christian legal society in the Law School
- as we ascertain interest in a "Veritas Forum" for 2006. This is a campus-wide outreach to celebrate and encourage the discernment truth as it's found supremely in Jesus Christ
- in the follow up with our national grad-faculty staff conference March 14-17
- in the follow up with my home church's Missions Conference March 6-13
- in the various departments and colleges represented by our students and faculty
- in raising up new leaders as some of ours move on from Knoxville.

## *One Person's Story*

God directed my family to Knoxville in the summer of 1987, completing a fifteen year process of calling from the corporate world to education at the university level. I thought God wanted me involved in a tentmaker ministry with college students at a secular university like the University of Tennessee. But I discovered that the nature of ministry on campus is far more complex.

Faculty schedules are radically changed every semester, and time is a scarce commodity. A prayer group that met in the fall semester may be unable to meet together in the spring. Having a staff worker for the Christian Faculty Fellowship keeps kept faculty momentum rolling from semester to semester and enables me to meet with Christians from all over campus.

When I arrived on campus, I found an active Faculty Fellowship. However, the staff representative with that group moved on in ministry ten years ago, and since then faculty ministry has lacked coordination and focus.

I was elated when I learned that InterVarsity had designated Julian Reese to work with graduate students AND faculty at the University.

I am meeting again for prayer weekly with faculty I did not know before Julian introduced them to me. It is such an encouragement to meet faculty from other departments who see their position as a ministry rather than just a job! We are praying for God's direction and strategy in presenting the Christian worldview as an acceptable worldview on the university campus.

There are many signs on the UT campus that God is moving in a mighty way among faculty. The presence of the InterVarsity faculty ministry has been one very important and critical affirmation.

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## *Progress Report*

- Warmest thanks to those of you who helped with the new laptop computer, printer and set-up. I can now do so many things much easier, and look forward to having more time (and portability) for ministry with people.
- Bi-monthly gatherings of graduate students for worship and socializing. These Friday night events have seen new people almost at every outing, and it has been a pleasure to see these students not only take responsibility for their ministry, but to develop deep friendships with one another.
- Weekly meetings for prayer with anthropology students. These continue to focus on prayer for one another and for their sphere of the campus, and along with including discussions of how to integrate faith with their academic discipline.
- Book discussion – THE SCANDAL OF THE EVANGELICAL MIND. As we discuss this book, we have opportunity to consider the history of the discipleship of the mind in American evangelicalism, and to encourage students in their quest to love God with all their minds.
- Faculty Christian Fellowship: Believing that it is imperative to begin ministry with a foundation of prayer, we continue to meet weekly for prayer, and hope to develop a new group in another part of campus soon. Our vision is to see a network of these prayer communities reaching all over the campus.