

# Ministry News

November 2003

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## A Renewed Sense of Calling

We will be returning to full-time ministry with Intervarsity in 2004. After a lot of prayer and discussion, Laura and I have concluded that we are called to a ministry to university faculty, graduate and professional students.

I have been wearing several hats vocationally over the last year. In addition to my ministry at Vanderbilt, I help out with pastoral care and counseling at our church, St. Bartholomew's in Nashville, and I'm still working in the Division of Water Pollution Control for the State of Tennessee.

Honestly, this arrangement was not one I had imagined, especially during this time in our life, and it has been difficult and challenging at times. At the same time, the diversity of work within my week has been surprisingly satisfying. I have explored many other options, but God has not opened any of those doors. God has continued to meet our needs, and many lessons have been learned as we have endeavored to be faithful and obedient in the place that God has us.

Through prayer and the discernment and affirmation of many we are in community with, we determined God was leading us to return to this ministry full-time. I will be returning to Intervarsity with additional leadership responsibilities that I am very excited about:

- Team Leader for the Vanderbilt University ministry.
- A regional/national role as a resource for ministry to professional students (Law, MBA, and Medical students) in the areas of spiritual formation and curriculum development.
- A regional/national role as a resource for Intervarsity staff personal and professional development

In the next few weeks, Laura and I will be traveling to InterVarsity's national headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin, to finalize these plans. We are very energized by this vision of our future, and believe it is a wise stewardship of our ministry experience and gifts. The ministry demands a combination of intellectual acumen, relational ability, and pastoral know-how that is a perfect fit for us.

I'll give a more specific update in my next letter in December.

*(See back for Vanderbilt Ministry Updates)*

We must accept the circumstances we constantly find ourselves in as the place of god's kingdom and blessing. God has yet to bless anyone except were they actually are, and if we faithlessly discard situation after situation, moment by moment, as not being "right," we will simply have no place to receive His kingdom into our life. For those situations and moments *are* our life.

Dallas Willard

## Vanderbilt Ministry Updates

The virtual monopoly on ways of thinking about business life exercised by the business schools as schools of hard-nosed practicality has had an unfortunate effect upon the moral and religious dimension of economic life. It has tended to focus exclusive attention on material things, on the bottom line, on means and methods, rather than on ends and purposes.

*Michael Novak*

- We held our annual retreat September 26-27, focusing on helping graduate and professional students develop spiritual habits and disciplines to maintain their spiritual life while in the rigors of their graduate or professional degree program. 42 graduate, law, and business students attended the retreat.
- Dick Gygi, a business executive and community leader, will speaking to students in the Owen School of Management about how business leaders can develop a vision for impacting their surrounding communities.
- I've had many opportunities for teaching this fall. I've taught twice at Owen; on "Gospel and Calling in the Marketplace," helping students expand their vision of how they as business leaders can be involved in Kingdom activities and on "Thinking Christianly About Business," encouraging the students to develop a Christian worldview to enable them to exercise creative and imaginative leadership to their calling as business leaders.