

INTERVARSITY

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Empowering staff & student ministry in southern & western New England...to transform students & faculty, renew campuses and develop world changers

This fall, throughout New England, there has been an increase in activity designed specifically to engage more campuses (and more of each campus) with the good news of Jesus. We've experienced some good growth in the number of students involved in our fellowships over the past two years. But when we look at the overall student population of the region, the vast majority of them are unreached, unchurched and unconnected to what IVCF is doing on campus. So we want to press further into strategically reaching out to a greater portion of the campus population. A first step in that strategy is...

Equipping Students & Staff for Witness: This fall, we've been trying all kinds of different ways to train & empower staff and students to share the hope they have in the gospel. Much of our staff training this fall has been focused on witness. In each of the three areas I'm connected with (CT, RI & WMass) a portion of each team meeting has been focused on how to help our fellowships move forward and try new ways to reach out. And we've been training & encouraging students. For instance, at the beginning of the month, a number of Western Mass students gathered with John Bowen (professor at Wycliff College in Toronto) for a day of evangelism training (see picture below). We're hoping this will help students as they lead GIGs and set the stage for several campus-wide events we're planning for the spring semester.

What's a GIG? It's an acronym for a "God Investigation Group" (or a "Group Investigating God" - the G's work on either end!). More specifically, it's a group of skeptical or seeking students interested in checking out Christianity by looking at the "source documents" of the faith (Scripture). The groups usually meet for a limited period of time (4-6 weeks) and are led by a student or staff in the fellowship. We've been experimenting with GIGs this fall at Amherst, Mt. Holyoke, WPI, Hampshire, Smith, UMass and Williams.

Prayer Of course, none of this happens without prayer - from staff, students and from you all. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will be at work on each campus, drawing many students to faith in Christ!



Praises & Prayer Needs...

Looking back & looking forward, there are many things to rejoice in and to ask you all to be praying for:

- Thanks so much for your prayers last month for the Haystack bicentennial celebration and our Fall Conference. The Haystack celebration at Williams was amazing! The content was quite good, almost every session had some kind of witness to Jesus, and I think God continued to use it to build bridges between the college & IVCF. And we had a strong Fall Conference. We ended up with about 85 students & staff there, and in spite of a last-minute speaker cancellation, the theme of conversion to Christ and His missional community (the Church) came through clearly - and God touched students through it. I was especially grateful for several students who gave testimonies on Saturday night.
- Praise God for the 16 folks from the three areas who came to prospective staff events in the past month! Please pray for them as they try to discern where God is leading them in the future, and whether some of their future includes a call to minister to college students with IVCF. We're praying that at least a few of them will join us to work at several key schools in the Division that are without staff.
- Spiritual formation & prayer times. In mid-November, the regional leadership team will gather for three days of prayer, reflection and spiritual formation. And then in mid-December, we will gather the campus staff in the Division for a similar retreat. Please pray for these times that are foundational to our work
- Urbana. I'm excited that 65 Western Mass students (and over 300 from the region) are headed there December 26-31. Pray for the folks who are still considering going, and for the many preparation details that staff are busy with in the next six weeks. I'm also grateful that Claire & the girls will be able to visit with her folks in Wisconsin while I am away that week.

Thanks so much for your partnership in this Kingdom work. It wouldn't happen without you!

Scott