

End of the Line

I'm as surprised to be saying this as you might be to hear it: but right about the time you read this, I will no longer be employed with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

The Following Christ 2008 (FCO8) conference, which I've been preparing for as director the last couple years, has come to a very successful conclusion. Or rather, I should say "successful" in countless ways except one: we have not broken even financially. So as a cost-cutting measure, I have been laid off, effective March 1.

This brings to a close eight delightful years of ministry for me, for which I'm grateful both to God and to InterVarsity. I've worked with numerous world-class colleagues and learned a lot — professionally, spiritually, personally — from them in the midst of our labors together. It has truly been a privilege to collaborate on all the projects we've tackled, from FCO2 and FCO8 to the Ministry Exchange and The Well. Needless to say, the impact of these ministries will continue despite my departure from the organization. I'm thankful for that, too. I'll look forward to continued involvement with InterVarsity in the future, as a friend and volunteer.

Your interest, prayers, and financial support have been a joy and blessing to me these eight years, as well, and I thank you heartily. As I leave InterVarsity, my 1000+ colleagues continue to need that support (including my wife, Ann). Those of you in a position to donate financially, I urge you to consider doing so, as your means allow and as God calls.

Ann and I plan to stay in touch with you, and I hope you'll do the same. We cherish your friendship more than we can say.

See you around!

Tidbits

Not even a tome could do justice to **all that God did** at FCO8. Here are just a few highlights:

- ◆ Bishop N. T. Wright delivered three magisterial addresses, covering the importance of **wisdom, glory, and virtue** for human flourishing. Listen to him yourself at <http://fco8.info/fco8-audio>. And this is the tip of the iceberg of our 249½ total hours of programming.
- ◆ Our operations went swimmingly, with **fantastic planning** by my colleague Katherine Sager paying of handsomely, assisted by a cast of hundreds of staff and volunteers. (Were you one? Many thanks!)
- ◆ Despite the tough times, we had 5% more registered delegates than at the previous Following Christ conference, with **179 different universities**, 43 states, and several foreign countries represented.

Coming Up

I'm thankful to have a great new job: directing the online-media efforts in the admissions office at **North Park University**. This is the school where I taught an intellectual-history course two years ago as an adjunct professor, and it's literally just around the corner from our house.

The position is a new one at North Park, and the challenge of thinking through online recruitment media for undergrads, graduate students, and seminarians is an intriguing one to me. Ann and I already know lots of staff, faculty, and students from North Park who go to our church, and it's an institution we respect. I'm really excited to be launching this new chapter at an **urban, multicultural, thoughtfully Christian** school.

Site Seeing

Cutting edge or a blast from the past, take your pick:

- ◆ At **twitter.com** you post very short, text-only "tweets," a social-media service still proving its own concept. Good for anything? Certainly. Useful for normal humans? We'll see. I'm @octothorp.
- ◆ A major new update to **Google Earth** (not exactly a website, so sue me) includes underwater topography and the coolest feature: a historical slider that lets you "turn back the clock" to older imagery.

Boyd's Eye View

In two weeks, Rosie will turn one year old, and she continues her prodigious growth apace, tripping the tape at the 99.9th percentile for height. She has been standing, "cruising," and taking her first



wobbly shuffles as she considers the mechanics of walking. She continues to beam with joy and keep us all smiling.

Lucy will be three in April, and a precocious three she is. She loves to have a conversation on just about any subject, and she's clearly busy working out precisely how the world works. (For example, she as-

sured me the other day that "big airplanes don't go into your eye.") We just love to watch these two grow and open themselves up to all kinds of experiences, like train rides, classic movies, and prayer.

Ann and I were pooped, to say the least, after Following Christ ended on New Year's Eve — and with the flurry of post-conference wrap-up and job hunting ever since, we sort of still are! But we're very thankful for God's provision on every front, and head into new ventures happy and healthy. As always, you can catch the latest pictures, video, news, and recipes at boydsnest.org/news/.

Prayer Requests

Please pray with me:

- ◆ For the ongoing impact of the Following Christ 2008 conference into the future
- ◆ For God's provision in funding my many InterVarsity colleagues seeing shortfalls
- ◆ For continued smooth transitions in leadership for Graduate & Faculty Ministries

Facts

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