



Update from InterVarsity in Western NC

Hello and thank you for another year of partnership in ministry. Here is a brief update of an eventful semester.

Karen, the InterVarsity staff at Salem College texted 2 weeks ago to tell me that Susan wanted to reconnect with the InterVarsity chapter. Susan is the student whose angry departure from the movement last spring led to the eventual student uproar this fall. This uproar nearly forced the administration to deny us access to campus at a time when the chapter had doubled in size largely through gospel ministry across ethnic lines and to students wrestling with significant brokenness. Susan never intended for her anger to fuel a student push to kick us off campus and when Karen reached out to her in September to listen to her experiences, Karen rebuilt trust by not being combative. Thankfully, the opposition has subsided and our presence on campus appears safe. Susan's desire to reconnect with Jesus and pursue Him with other believers has been rekindled and our humble and gracious approach to this fall's conflict has borne witness of the gospel's power.

It is my passion to assist staff to establish and advance gospel-centered movements on Colleges and Universities from the mountains to the triad of NC. We believe these movements will bear witness to the kingdom of God at work among us and will develop leaders for the workplace, our churches and the world. While the last 18 months have brought tremendous opposition and difficulty on campus and in staffs' lives, as the story above illustrates, we are seeing the Lord work. Twelve students began following Jesus this semester alone, and our chapters continue to reach new corners of our campuses. Please pray with me that our staff and the thriving chapter at Elon University are allowed to remain on campus. Their status will likely remain in limbo into the new-year. Please pray with me for chapters experiencing recent and / or ongoing transition at several schools I supervise. Pray with me that discipleship and witness increase amidst struggle and change.

And pray for me to walk in wisdom and in dependence upon the Only One who can truly bear these burdens for us.

Your partnership has meant so much this semester. Some gave, some prayed and many reached out to ask how I and our ministries are doing. I cannot convey how much it has meant to hear and experience this level of partnership. As this calendar year ends, would you consider making a special end-of-the-year donation to my work with InterVarsity? Your partnership enables me to continue devoting my time to the 8 staff and 370 students in my area. I need to raise \$6,000 in new support in order to avoid a disruption in this work. If you are willing and able, please go online to donate.intervarsity.org/donate#1038. Otherwise you can mail a check to my address made out to InterVarsity and I will forward it on.

Now for a short family update: Rachel continues to progress as a tutor trained in the Orton-Gillingham method. She is passionate about reading and is great with kids, so this is exciting for her. Plus, her part-time work helps supplement our family's growing needs. (Our 4 sons now weigh a combined 350lbs!) Justin in 8th grade loves school, the band and books. Nathan in 5th grade continues to notice and value all of the people around him. He loves his friends and loves to play whatever and whenever. Joe is a happy 3rd grader who is perfect as a middle brother, playing so well with 1st and 5th graders. Desmond is a sweet 7 year-old who loves to create, make, read, pretend and have his back scratched. I have read several fascinating biographies (John Boyd, William Sherman and D.D. Eisenhower), am enduring another hamstring injury and have begun coaching Justin and Nathan's YMCA basketball team (there are 2 other sets of brothers on the team...Lord Jesus help me!). And...drumroll...Rachel and I have decided to take the family out west this summer. I will squirrel away enough vacation and comp days in order for us to take a 4 week trip across the central and northern Rockies. We don't know exactly where, exactly what we're driving or exactly what we're sleeping in. But we're going!

Serving with you,

Doug (Rachel, Justin, Nathan, Joe and Desmond)