



Campus Vitals – Fall 2006

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This issue of Campus Vitals has a theme of hope. I trust it will encourage you as you set goals for your group for the coming year.

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Encouraging Words

The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" The LORD is wonderfully good to those who wait for him and seek him. Lamentations 3:22-25 (NLT) (please read Lamentations 3:19-26 for a more complete context).

These verses came to mind as I rejoice and hope with the Louisiana State University as they move back to their New Orleans campus. Let's continue to remember in prayer the other campuses affected by Hurricane Katrina that are still working on getting "back to normal," especially the University of Louisiana–Monroe. This has been a refining time for many.



I also pray that you are filled with hope for what God is going to do on your campus this coming school year!

Getting the Word Out



We have heard your requests for a **POSTER** to use to advertise your NCF meetings. We have a few "kickoff" meeting designs now available for download at (<http://ncf.intervarsity.org/student/resources/main.html>). We also have smaller versions that can be printed as a postcard size invitation. We hope this meets the needs of your group. We plan to update these with seasonal designs. Please let us know if you have suggestions.

Statistics 101

Thanks to all of you who shared what things were like in your chapter this past school year. Here are the results of all of our active groups this year:

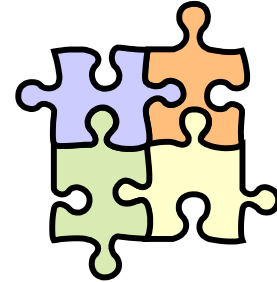
- 113 student groups
- 25 of these groups were new
- 1357 student nurses involved (10% increase)
- 168 faculty advisors
- 14 students accepted Christ as their Savior

- ➔ Pray for 20 new student groups who plan to start this fall.
- ➔ Pray for 9 groups that plan to reactivate this fall. Pray that they will be able to overcome the obstacles they faced last year.

We just used the survey information obtained from our groups to update our web pages. Please check the entry for your school at <http://ncf.intervarsity.org//area/areas.html> and let us know if any corrections need to be made. Thank you!

Witnessing Communities

We know that our NCF student groups come in different sizes and forms. Our hope and prayer this year is that each group would know the joy of having a student from their school come to know Christ.



We are working on some tools that will help students share their faith. Sometimes, though, God works through us just *being available*.

Here are two recent examples of groups being available:

Amanda, a student leader at **Louisiana State University**, shared with me the circumstances of how 3 students accepted Christ as their Savior this past year.

One was a girl who had been in NCF but we were aware of her poor grasp of the Gospel. God used Katrina to really shake her up and show her that she was trusting in herself and not in Him for salvation, so that's her story. Another girl is a girl we befriended in class and invited to Bible Study after Bible Study, to which she refused as an agnostic. She was watching a movie one night and something happened in her heart that really provoked her and she sat another officer and me down the next day and said she was ready to learn about God! The third girl is another classmate that went to a Casting Crowns (Christian band) concert with us, heard the gospel there, and accepted Christ. And they're all growing like crazy!

Four students at **Shenandoah University, VA** also accepted Christ. Vickie Morley, faculty advisor shared about how this came about.

I cannot tell you a magic formula, but I believe what happened this past Fall was unique and I believe contributed to the seekers coming to NCF and Christ was this: I taught an elective called Spirituality in Nursing. The class was advertised as a inter-faith class but taught with a Judeo-Christian persuasion since the professor (me) is a Christian. I had 27 students sign up for it. God used it in a mighty way and it was just absolutely awesome. I had several seekers who were not believers at all take the class. One was Wiccan, one Buddhist, one Muslim, one belonged to an African sect, and several had no religion at all. Anyhow, I promoted NCF in the class a lot and between the class and then coming to the meetings and the retreat, that is how the conversion happened. I think being exposed to the message, both in the class and the meetings and then among the students when they socialized together, all combined helped to make this happen. The friendships that developed and the relationships caused the hearts to soften and God to work.

God has also worked through outreach events of different kinds:

Missions

God is doing big things at **Southeastern Louisiana University**. Faculty advisor, Melissa Wafer embarked on her third Nursing Study Abroad program this past May.

She brought 9 nursing students to Talanga, Honduras to work collaboratively with 10 Honduran Nursing students to implement a medical mission.

Local Community Projects

The students at **Samford U in Alabama** were involved in several projects this past year. According to their faculty advisor, Margie Findley, they raised \$600 to give to a family in New Orleans. The family was able to purchase a much-needed washer and dryer with this money. Also, students were involved in the Operation Santa Claus Project with the Mental Health Association. This summer, a group will go to Perry County, AL (one of the 20 poorest counties in the U.S.) to participate in a community health fair.

Outreach among your fellow students

Seeking to serve her classmates, Natsuko, a graduate nursing student at **Dusque U, PA** passed out Smarties and encouragement before finals.



Also, the faculty advisors and a former NCF student leader at **El Paso Community College, TX**, held a summer luncheon for students. They discussed positives that God says about us when we say negatives. Two nursing students (out of 7 in attendance) accepted Christ at the end of the teaching and 4 people took Bibles that were made available.

Faculty Corner



It is faculty members like you who really make a difference! This past year I worked with a grad student to start a group in Indiana. She said it was a professor who told her about NCF and she was so glad she became a member as an undergrad. Now she is a leader and making an impact on more people. Your efforts are no doubt being multiplied as well!

Outreach ideas as the fall semester begins:

One faculty advisor wrote "I appreciate the opportunity to be a "Johnny Appleseed" for NCF as I make a point of introducing the students during the first class session I have with them (either RN-to-BSN or freshmen associate degree nursing students) to the story of NCF, the journal, membership procedure (costs/benefits including the lovely pin and its origin, CEUs) and give them brochures. Not one class since I became an adjunct faculty member has ever known about NCF as an organization especially that there is such a professional organization in existence and for so long. One of the schools is private/sectarian; one public/state. Pray for me to be God's instrument for healing during interaction with the students as some are not at all into a living, personal relationship with the Lord Jesus."

Student leadership training:

There were many requests on our year end survey for student leadership training materials. We want to equip you with the resources you need. We will begin with some basics and continually add to this as a webpage on the NCF site. If any of you (the field experts), have training ideas that have worked for you, please share them with everyone by emailing me at bhann@intiversity.org.

Good ways to begin the year:

- ➔ Pray with your student leaders.
 - Ask God for wisdom and direction for your group.
 - For ways to reach out and meet the needs of others.
 - For God to draw students to your group.
 - For God to overcome the obstacles that many schools face – including finding a good meeting time.
- ➔ Set goals together for your group.
- ➔ Brainstorm ideas for your group and plan events or meetings for the semester or year.
- ➔ As you plan together, ask for volunteers or delegate some of the responsibilities to those who have interests in specific areas.
- ➔ Follow up with the leaders and encourage them throughout the year. Lead them to resources as needed.

I would like to share a terrific example of a new group that began this past school year at **Indiana University - Kokomo**. This is a chapter with a strong student leader who found a faculty advisor and networked with an InterVarsity staff worker to begin a well rounded chapter. I hope everyone who reads this will be encouraged and motivated to work collaboratively with InterVarsity chapters in your area (if applicable) to equip your students with Bible study leaders training or other training offerings.



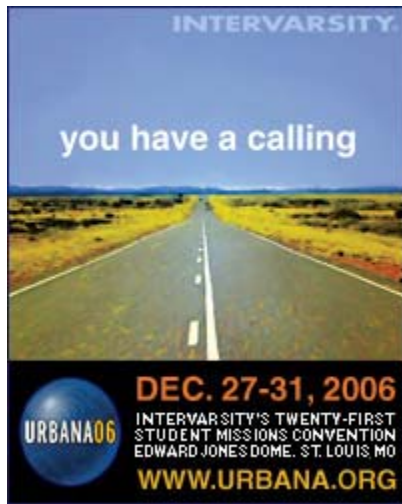
Emily started nursing school this past fall. She knew a bit about NCF and felt God leading her to start a group. She talked to her professor, Dr. Linda Wallace, whom she knew was a Christian, about partnering with her in this endeavor. At this point, Emily emailed me, to ask for prayer and resources. We sent her a *How to Get Started* packet and sent a faculty advisor kit to her professor. They planned their first meeting for January.

Dr. Wallace also referred Emily to an IV staff member, who was able to get her into the leadership training track at an IV winter conference. There she received training in leading small group Bible studies.

Three students attended the first meeting, where they started an NCF Bible study guide called [Following Christ in Nursing](http://ncf.intervarsity.org/publications/ncfpress/ncfbsmain.html) (<http://ncf.intervarsity.org/publications/ncfpress/ncfbsmain.html>). The next meeting brought ten students and they ended the semester with 17 students meeting for Bible study and prayer. This new group plans to co-sponsor the student/faculty prayer breakfast at IUK this fall.

I that all of these examples of God's work among us have encouraged you and filled you with hope for what He will do among you this coming year!

Urbana 06 – Student Mission Convention



Urbana '06 - You have a Calling

Consider an exciting opportunity -- attending *You have a Calling*, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Missions Convention for students and young professionals, December 27-31, in St. Louis, MO (formerly held in Urbana, IL).

At Urbana 06 over 25,000 people will gather to worship God and hear how he is using people to accomplish his purposes throughout the world. You are called to participate in God's global plan. You have passions, skills and resources that can make a difference in God's Kingdom.

There will be special healthcare seminars, including a track on HIV/AIDS. For more information, go to www.urbana.org, and watch for more messages from NCF. Note: if students register by October 15th, they save \$75.