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Matthew Allen's May Newsletter



Stepping out and Following

At the beginning of May I gathered in Fredericton with 150 students for the MARKeast camp. These were students from Montreal to Saint John. We were coming together to study scripture for 40 hours in one week. I was a part of the Genesis track and it was so amazing to look at the first 12 chapters of Genesis so intensely.

There was so much that I had never seen before in Genesis, especially the way in which no matter what people do God is always trying to call back people into relationship. But the part that really struck me was Abram being sent out into the land that God would reveal to him. This is such a huge step of faith and it means that he has to leave his father and all of his other relatives in order to be obedient to God.

To me this really resonated because this feels like the space that I am currently in. Right now I do not know whether I am going to the French Caribbean or to France. And that is not the space that I want to be in. I want to know where I will be going but God has been so faithful through out the internship and so I know that God will continue to be faithful no matter where I end up.

One of the ways that God was able to so abundantly provide for me this year was in the area of fundraising. Coming on staff was dependent upon finishing fundraising the internship budget by the end of April. So I was nervous when I had one week left and I needed to raise \$3000. But through out the week God abundantly provided for me and I was able to finish off all of that fundraising. So now I am ready to start working with Inter-Varsity in whatever land God has out there to show me.



Prayer Requests

- 1) That I know where I am going to serve in the Fall.
- 2) That funding will come in for the next year.
- 3) That I am able to meet with previous donors over the summer.



Funding Report

The last time I sent out a newsletter I was still looking for \$3750. I am glad to say that I have received pledges or donations for all of \$15 000 of the internship budget. So thank you for supporting me. Now that I am starting to work for Inter-Varsity I am looking to fundraise \$40 000 for the salary and budget. I would love for you to support me as I step out in faith again.

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Student Update

This past year of school has been fairly crazy. Balancing a lot of demands is something I have always seemed to do, but never have been particularly good at. As a member of the Inter-Varsity executive this year, the task of balancing a lot of things took on a whole new meaning. However, this term has been a huge blessing in my life. Coming out of this year I have a new understanding of what it means to say yes whole-heartedly and wisely, and also to say no to things with the same conviction. I have learned that part of living in community is being able to be real with people, recognizing your limitations and sharing tasks. I feel I have a better understanding of and confidence in how God wants to use me as a leader.

What is most exciting to me is that God has been working not just in my life, but also in Inter-Varsity as a group. I feel as though our group on campus has taken on new life as we, together, came to understand what living as a diverse community looks like. I have been so blessed to see the friendships and authentic conversations that have developed in my life and in the lives of those around me. The sense of unity and support has flourished.

One of my favorite parts of my day is going through the hallways at school in the break period between classes. My class-mates think I am hilarious, as I proceed to hug and laugh with a Nigerian student, then a Columbian student, and chat with people in a variety of programs who are in none of our classes. However, now my school friends are pretty used to it; they understand that for us Inter-Varsity has become more than a school club: it is a community of friends.

My life personally, the relationships within our Inter-Varisty group on Campus, and our presence on our campus has been impacted this year. I feel radically blessed to have been a part of this.

Grace Allaby
Student at University of New Brunswick Saint John



What's Next

I have now decided that I am going to come onto staff with Inter-Varsity and so we are in the midst of discerning where exactly that location is but I am excited about this new step in faith that God is calling me to. I am also going to be back in Winnipeg and Toronto during the summer and would love to have the opportunity to meet with all the people that have supported me over the year.