

GRACE NOTES: Bruce and JJ Hansen

Mar 2009

Decisions:

You likely have noted that since finishing my PhD in '07, discernment over my next focus in ministry has been a regular theme in these letters. Three concrete options with InterVarsity are now clear. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for discernment.



IV staff studying John 1-4 at our camp on Catalina Island in February.

Thank you

for your prayers for the 4-day study retreat for 40 IV staff that I led in John 1-4 to prepare us for our leadership roles at Urbana 2009. We had rich, in-depth study and gained fresh vision for our teaching roles. I can't imagine more enjoyable ministry than leading such gifted teachers in Scripture study!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- ✓ God's guidance as JJ and I are visiting the seminary in Belgium Mar 8-16 to better assess that option.
- ✓ Quality preparation for the large amount of teaching I have coming up this Spring and Summer.
- ✓ JJ's success in finding more work to help us make ends meet.

3 Options:

1. Belgium: Through InterVarsity's international partnerships with sister ministries, I may be loaned to the Belgian movement, Ichtus, to serve as a New Testament professor at a seminary there that operates in English and trains church leaders from north, south, east and west Europe. I would also be a training resource for our sister movements in Europe.

2. Extend my present role: There are growing possibilities to develop my current work training IV staff in CA into an on-going and formal staff development curriculum that receives seminary credit.



Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven, Belgium (www.etf.edu)

that focuses on Christian academic engagement.

The good news is that each of these compelling ministries fits my gifts and training. Each has its own great opportunities and significant risks. We wish God would clearly call us to one of these, but so far He has us depending on our own sanctified discernment. Your insights and questions are most welcome!

3. Graduate student and faculty ministry

I was a pioneer in this arena of our ministries in the late 80s at Berkeley. The work has thrived and grown since then. There is now an opening for a veteran staff person to direct this strategic work at UC Berkeley

FINANCES

We thank God with joy for the many ways so many people enable us to serve in this ministry. These are sobering economic times for all of us. Thankfully, to date, our donations almost exactly equal expenses. But there is no margin, and usually following Dec we have a cushion due to year-end gifts. We will be praying and watching closely this Spring.



Stasia has just submitted her application to the International Baccalaureate program within Berkeley High School. Other BHS programs are also great, but her dad wishes he could enroll with her in the IB program!

JJ has completed her bookkeeping certification and is now working on her Excel certification. She has been diligent and makes it look easy. She was able to spend 5-days in NYC with a musician friend who lives on the upper west side. She loved her first ever visit to that great city.