

CAMPUS MINISTRY Areopagus

@ Iowa
State

June 2016

Pray...

-For our ministry to international students, scholars, and their spouses that continues this summer; that they might be drawn to the glorious grace of God in the gospel.

-For new student orientation, and the several thousand students who will visit campus; that even now they may get connected with our ministry.

-For our planning for the fall semester's activities.



We give thanks for another year of God's work on the campus of Iowa State University, and in and through Areopagus in particular. We have seen several new students join in our Bible studies, dinner discussions, and worship at Trinity Christian Reformed Church. Our ministry continues to grow more diverse, serving students and faculty from Tanzania, China, Colombia, Zimbabwe, and Mexico. And, furthermore, I have had numerous opportunities to speak to, and influence, other Christian groups and university organizations. In all of these ways and more, Areopagus continues to fulfill its role in witnessing to the Kingdom of God, and equipping individuals to reflect the gospel in all aspects of their lives. To illustrate, I'd like to mention a couple stories:



Cole is a student from California who came to me asking to know more about reformed theology and philosophy. Each week this Spring, we met for conversation about worship, vocation, and ministry, as well as the philosophical ideas of men like Francis Schaeffer, C.S. Lewis, and Cornelius Van Til. In the final weeks of the semester, I asked Cole what his spiritual goals for the summer were, and among them, he mentioned a desire to lead a Bible study with some of his friends. So, for several weeks, we discussed how to interpret Scripture and organize a Bible study. I am excited to hear how God uses him in the lives of his friends.

Minxian and Meifang are Chinese international students who have been involved in our conversational English program and, more recently, in our family group. The first time Minxian and I met for coffee, our conversation centered around three questions that Minxian asked: 1. Why did Jesus have to die? 2. Why Jesus and not someone else? 3. What if he had not done it? Since then, we've talked about who God is, prayer, and God's calling on our lives. They have come to our home for dinners, discussions, and parties, and have become good friends to Christina and I. As they prepare to move to Michigan, one thing that Minxian said struck me about the way we witness to the Kingdom: "People like you and Christina are our only friends. Christian people have cared very much for us, different than others."



Party with international students and spouses

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