

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5



Alec Hill and Jim Lundgren

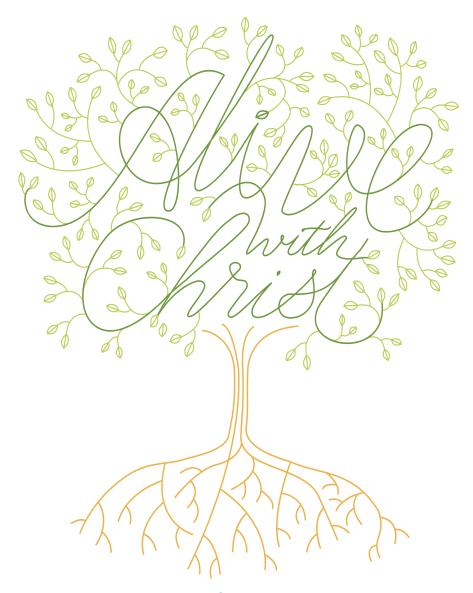
s I read and reflect about transitions of leadership in the Scriptures, the Lord is highlighting a few words in particular: "Be strong and bold; have no fear . . . , because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). These words are especially poignant to me because when Alec Hill stepped away from his role as president to enter intensive treatment for bone marrow cancer, InterVarsity entered an unexpected journey in leadership transition.

Saying farewell to Alec and his wife, Mary, was a deeply emotional experience. For 14 years, Alec led and shepherded InterVarsity extraordinarily well. For over 12 of those years, it's been my privilege to serve under Alec as senior vice president and director of Collegiate Ministries. It was humbling to be appointed as interim president by our trustees. I follow a great man of integrity and leadership.

By God's grace it's been a year of wonderful growth with InterVarsity, as we've helped students and faculty come to know Jesus better, reminded them and ourselves of God's past faithfulness, and together depended on the Holy Spirit to inform our prayers each day.

As you read through our 2014-2015 Annual Report, thank God with us for a year of celebrating new lives in Christ, flourishing as committed followers of Jesus, and welcoming others onto the journey of faith. We want to recognize the role you've played over this year by your encouragement, prayers, and financial resources—all forms of gracious generosity. Thank you. We are blessed.





Stories of Conversion

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Ephesians 2:4-5

ne of the deepest joys of ministry on campus is seeing students and faculty commit their lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior. It's in those moments of surrender that they are made alive with Christ. This year, we saw the highest number of students and faculty ever experience new life in Jesus.



Greek InterVarsity students at Greek Conference 2015

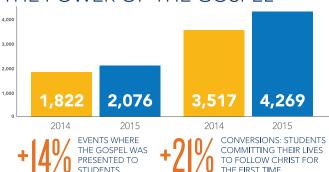
## At the University of Southern California

When Blanca stepped onto campus as a freshman, she wasn't looking for a Christian club. What she was interested in was a neuroscience club. And, like every college student, she was also interested in free food. The upcoming "LaFe InterVarsity Fellowship Churro Night" seemed like it might fill both interests.

Blanca was surprised to discover that InterVarsity was a Christian group, not a "fellowship" connected to research. "That was going to be the end of it for me," she said.

But to be polite to them, Blanca agreed to go to just one Bible study. Yet God persisted in his pursuit of her, and she later accepted an invitation to attend InterVarsity's Fall Conference at

## THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL



## "I want other Latinos on campus to experience the same thing I experienceda newfound purpose through God."

Campus by the Sea. When the speaker for the weekend gave a call to faith, she knew something was happening inside of her. "The Holy Spirit descended on me and all the barriers I had put up just fell," Blanca recalled. "[Eventually] I got up [and went forward], and it was then that I decided to follow Jesus."



Students on USC's campus

After being discipled, Blanca is now leading the LaFe chapter at USC with the help of her staff worker. "I want other Latinos on campus to experience the same thing I experienced—a newfound purpose through God as well as the family that God provided for me [through LaFe]," she said.

#### In the Midwest

For some students, life as they know it has always been full of pain.

That was the case for David\*—though not many people knew it. He was excelling at his prestigious Midwest university and leading on campus. But he was carrying with him the scars of a traumatic, chaotic childhood in which his mother tried to kill him more than once.

<sup>\*</sup>Name has been changed.

When InterVarsity students invited David to come to a weeklong InterVarsity retreat to explore Christianity, he agreed. But he didn't believe that God could really love him, and was wrestling to separate the reality of his alcoholic father from his understanding of God as a good Father.



Throughout the week, however, David started to see the truth about God: that he is a Father who hates abuse and cares for his

children perfectly. David also began to grasp the significance of Christ's death on the cross for *him*.

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By the end of the week, he surrendered his pain and hurt and sin to Jesus—and found abundant life and hope in return. He also gained something else: a new family of peers and staff members who love him, support him, and continue to model God's love to him.

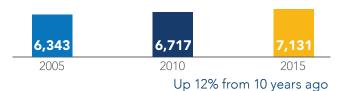


## At Fairmont State University

It was at Cedar Campus in Michigan that Claire\* and Chris,\* girlfriend and boyfriend at Fairmont State University in West Virginia, became fully alive.

Chris left the church a few years ago, frustrated by the lack of opportunity to dialogue about his questions. Claire was blaming herself for events that had happened in the past, which were keeping her from being able to receive God's forgiveness.

## ATTENDED INTERVARSITY CAMPS



But during Fairmont's annual Chapter Focus Week, both of them experienced freedom—freedom to ask questions, and to give and receive forgiveness. They gave their lives to Jesus for the first time, and also committed to sexual purity in their relationship as well as continued involvement in InterVarsity to keep growing in their relationships with God.

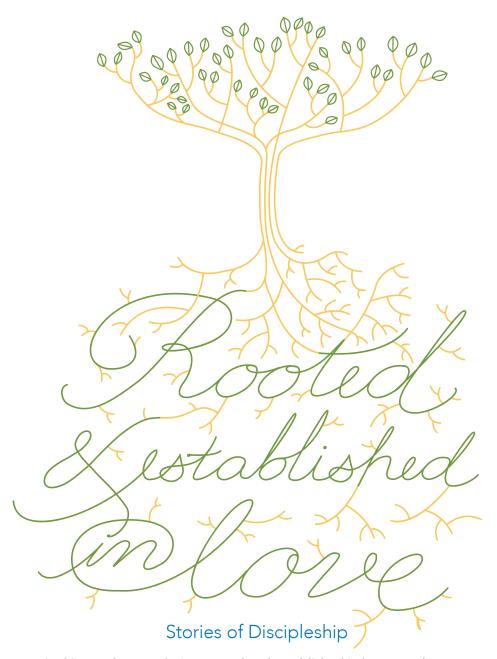
## At the University of Texas—Austin

Many times, students and faculty don't realize they're not experiencing true life because they've never tasted the goodness of Jesus.

## "Who is this God that is trying to find me when I didn't even realize how lost I was?"

Sarah,\* a Vietnamese student, comes from a Buddhist family and had never considered Christianity until she heard the Gospel for the first time at UT. She started attending an InterVarsity Bible study and going to church with friends. But all the while she was wondering, Who is this God that is trying to find me when I didn't even realize how lost I was?

As Sarah became drawn into the life of the Asian American InterVarsity chapter at UT, she began to also see the full life available in Jesus, and eventually surrendered her whole self to him. Her staff worker Marco said, "Sarah continues to thrive and is one of our most missional students."

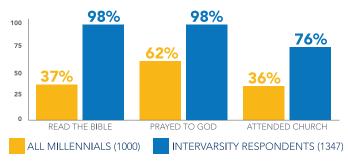


And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17b-19

nce students and faculty are made alive with Christ, it is crucial for them to sink their roots deeply into the soil of Christ's love and Lordship. Deep Bible study, prayer, mentoring, and retreats all contribute to the growth of students and faculty in discipleship.



#### PURSUIT OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN THE PAST WEEK



\*Barna Group, 2014

## Bible Study

Valerie, an exchange student at the University of Illinois, had read parts of the Old and New Testaments as a child. But when she began studying the Old Testament using InterVarsity's Origins curriculum, she quickly realized that she had only scratched the surface of what the Bible had to teach her.

"As our study sessions went by, I got more and more excited about learning," Valerie said. "What I did not expect was to encounter God in a different way—growing in the knowledge of the Lord, as found in Isaiah 11. As God revealed his character to me, I left each session in awe."

Valerie's time immersed in Scripture led her to make a renewed commitment to following the Lord. "I want to be part of a new, God-centered generation," she said.



## **Small Groups**

God used a small group to draw Kawika and Arden, students at the University of Hawai'i—Hilo and Hawai'i Community College, respectively, more deeply to himself. Through different

friends in the combined InterVarsity chapter that serves both campuses, they had become alive with Christ separately during the first semester.

When the second semester began, Kawika started a new 'ohana group ("family" group), which Arden joined. And though the two of them

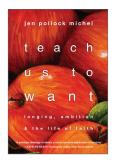


Arden and Kawika

are, at first glance, very different from each other outwardly, a deep friendship formed—one that is a source of encouragement and accountability for both of them. They are continuing to spur each other on toward growth in Christ and pray with and for each other—and they're eagerly reaching out to freshmen in the 2015-2016 school year, with Arden assisting in a new 'ohana group at his own school.

## Discipleship of the Mind

For years, InterVarsity Press has published books that cultivate deep faithfulness to Christ. This year was no different. Of the 113 books InterVarsity Press published, several were recognized as outstanding resources by such organizations and publications as Preaching magazine, Foreword Reviews, Outreach Magazine, Logos Bookstores, and the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association.



Additionally, IVP won four Christianity Today Book Awards, including the 2015 Book of the

Year Award for Teach Us to Want: Longing, Ambition and the Life of Faith by Jen Pollock Michel. Three others received Awards of Merit: Visions of Vocation by Steven Garber in the Christian Living category, The New Parish by Paul Sparks, Tim Soerens



and Dwight Friesen in the Church/Pastoral Leadership category, and Called to Be Saints by Gordon Smith in the Spirituality category.

## Whole-Life Stewardship

Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) ministers to both nursing students and nurses, helping them reach classmates and coworkers with the Gospel as well as equipping them to provide spiritual care—to be "the hands and feet of Jesus" —to patients.



NCF students Katie and Kayla

At the University of North Carolina—Greensboro, God has used NCF to lead nursing students like Kayla into a deeper lifestyle of following Jesus. Because of her experience with NCF, Kayla says, "Now I view [life] as less about what I want to do and have to do, and more about things that are eternal and lasting."

## Leadership Training

At Shaw University, in Raleigh, North Carolina one of America's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU), students Ezra and Kya were hungry to continue to grow as believers. They eagerly signed up for the chapter's

end-of-year training, held at Rockbridge Camp in Virginia. As they interacted with other InterVarsity students at the camp, enjoyed time in creation, participated in multiethnic worship, and attended specific training tracks, they grew in ways that prepared them to lead during the 2015-2016 school year. Reflecting on the Connect to God Track, which helped students grow in Bible study and prayer, Ezra said, "I learned different ways . . . God speaks to us. My [track] also taught us . . . to just calm down and relax before coming before God. There is no reason to worry or panic. God is omnipotent." These truths will serve him well as he fills the role of emcee for large group in the Black Campus Ministries (BCM) chapter.

Kya participated in the Identity Transformed Track, which used the Sermon on the Mount as the foundation for looking at deeper character issues. "Through Rockbridge I can say that I have finally developed a better understanding of my heavenly Father, his son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit," she said. Having gained a deeper grasp on who God is and who she is in him, Kya volunteered to use her gifts to do publicity for the chapter as well as to share her testimony with others.



## **Evangelism Training**

At the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, the InterVarsity chapter asks students to dive into outreach on campus at the start of the school year. Ian, a first-year student, was a Christian, but outreach of any kind was new to him. He felt God's persistent nudge to take a risk and participate.

After their New Student Outreach events were over, it was clear God had ignited in Ian a passion for evangelism. His heart for



God deepened, and the course of his year was redefined as a result of proclaiming Jesus' good news to his peers. He pursued training in leading evangelistic Bible studies and small groups, and quickly became a rising leader who was building community in his InterVarsity chapter, a trajectory that is continuing in the 2015-2016 school year.

## INTERVARSITY GLOBAL & URBAN PROGRAMS

## NEARLY 2,500 STUDENTS ENGAGED IN 100 MISSIONS PROGRAMS

**OVERSEAS: 300 PARTICIPANTS IN 17 COUNTRIES** IN THE U.S.: 2,100 PARTICIPANTS IN U.S. CITIES

### Missions

Deep discipleship happens every year in students who participate in a Global Urban Trek. For seven weeks, students live in slum communities to learn from others and discern whether God is calling them to make a longer-term commitment to the poor.



Jorel, a University of California—Merced student, participated in the Manila Trek. The neighborhood where he was living had no electricity for a few days. Jorel reflected, "I was hungry, I was tired, it was hot, there were no electric fans . . . . I [was] so frustrated."

#### INTERVARSITY LINK

**50** ARE SERVING **2** OR MORE YEARS WITH AN IFES<sup>†</sup> STUDENT MOVEMENT OUTSIDE THE U.S.

<sup>†</sup> The International Fellowship of Evangelical Students

But, instead of asking God to fix the problem, Jorel sensed that he needed to sit in the suffering of the moment. When the electricity came back on, he celebrated with the neighbors. "In that moment," he said, "I realized that, yeah, I was able to share in their suffering, but because of that, I was able to share in their joy."



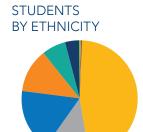
Past and present InterVarsity leaders at Multiethnic Staff Conference 2015

## **Ethnic Identity Training**

Over 300 staff members plus InterVarsity's Cabinet gathered in March for Multiethnic Staff Conference 2015 (MESC 15). Over three days, staff worshiped, studied the Bible, lamented,

celebrated, and received training on how to more effectively reach every corner of campus with the Gospel the good news that reconciliation has been made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

MESC 15 also offered much-needed encouragement in the midst of what was a painful and exhausting year, especially for Black staff, in the area of racial justice. As Joe Ho, InterVarsity's director of Asian American Ministries, reminded those gathered, Jesus has already brought reconciliation. Our role is to trust his work on the cross and then follow his example by bringing reconciliation to our communities.



INTERVARSITY

- 0.3% NATIVE AMERICAN
- **0.4%** MIDDLE EASTERN
- 4.0% MULTIRACIAL
- **6.6% LATINO AMERICAN**
- 12.3% AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 17.3% ASIAN AMERICAN
- 46.8% WHITE AMERICAN
- 12.3% INTERNATIONAL\*\*

<sup>\*\*</sup>We count international students as one category.



## Stories of Outreach

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

s InterVarsity students grow in their love for God and his Word, something beautiful happens: they grow in their love for others as well.



## **Knocking on Doors**

At York College in Pennsylvania, InterVarsity students Brandon and Phil set a bold goal: to meet every freshman in the incoming class—all 1,070 of them! They spent an entire evening knocking on doors, introducing themselves, and inviting the first-year students they met to stop by an InterVarsity outreach event.

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That experience helped launch Phil as well as Brandon into lifestyles of sacrificial outreach. Throughout the rest of the school year, Brandon (chapter president) and Phil (worship leader) continued to go out of their way to care for freshmen. Brandon also developed a passion for justice advocacy, organizing a schoolwide event to raise awareness of racism on their campus.

## **Starting Spiritual Conversations**

How do you proclaim the Gospel on campus when so many options compete for students' attention? InterVarsity's Arts Ministry developed the Story Project, a 6- by 9-foot mural depicting stories of people in the Bible who had healing

encounters with Jesus. "I wanted the mural to be so epically detailed that a student could look at it for five minutes and still not get it," said Shin Maeng, one of the artists who helped create it. "Then a staff member could walk up and say, 'Hey, what strikes you? Can I tell you a little bit of this story and how it relates to me?""



The Story Project Mural

The goal is to draw students into dialogue about spirituality that naturally bridges to the Gospel. But the Story Project was also birthed out of a desire to use the visual arts as an evangelistic tool. And it has already been used powerfully on campuses. "We've never had students approach us here," said Emmie Lancaster, a campus staff member at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. "But today, nearly all of our conversations were with students that were drawn to the mural. Students are hearing the Gospel for the first time!"

## **Growing Chapters**

InterVarsity seeks to intentionally grow our chapters, in the hopes that more students might be made alive with Christ and become rooted and established in his love.

DENTS & FACULTY CAME TO 50% OR MORE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES THF MOST FVFR! At the University of Rhode Island (URI) in Providence, God used a commitment to chapter growth to change the lives of students like Taylor. When she first connected with InterVarsity, Taylor wanted nothing to do with faith. But, by using tools and strategies from InterVarsity's chapter growth model, URI students regularly followed up with her



Staff member Adam Croft greets students at a URI outreach event.

and encouraged her to attend a large group event. Later in the year, Taylor gave her life to Christ and is now enthusiastically reaching out to others with the Gospel. "Last year someone did this for me, and that's the reason I'm [a Christian]," she said. "Someone just knew so strongly that Jesus loved me, and wanted to let me know. There are so many who don't know that yet, and those . . . are the ones I really hope to reach."

## Planting Chapters

Chizu Buckalew, an InterVarsity Urban Program director in San Diego, felt God directing her to Imperial Valley College as a place for a new chapter plant. Imperial Valley is easy to forget about; it's nestled in the desert, two hours east of San Diego and an hour west of the Arizona border. It's a place that's well off the radar of everyone—except for God.

Starting a new chapter was out of Chizu's comfort zone, but she couldn't let go of the campus. She kept wondering, "Who is going to reach these students?" she said. "Who is going to share the Gospel with them?"

In faith, Chizu began driving to Imperial Valley College to pray. And, as is so often the case with God, he did beyond what she



Chizu with students at Imperial Valley College

could have imagined through this one act of obedience, connecting her to missional students who went on to also plant a chapter at San Diego State University—Imperial Valley.

TOTAL CHAPTERS 985 UNDERGRAD 796 GRAD & FACULTY 189 ON 649 CAMPUSES

## **Praying for Others**

It doesn't take a huge chapter to bless a campus. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, six faithful students in the InterVarsity Arts Ministry chapter created and then set up a display on campus that helped passers by think about the things they turn to when they're stressed (such as food, Netflix, beer, drugs, exercise, and prayer) and identify a current source of their stress (such as finances, academics, or relationships). As a final step, the InterVarsity students offered to pray for each person who stopped to engage with the display.

# "Each of my students admitted to feeling apprehensive... but each of them stepped out and took the risk."

Staff member Meghan Sikes said, "Each of my students . . . admitted to feeling apprehensive about [offering to pray for others]. But each of them stepped out and took the risk." The InterVarsity students saw God at work in them, deepening their compassion and courage, but they also saw him at work in others, as students were surprisingly receptive to being prayed for.

## Walking with Others

Graduate & Faculty Ministries staff member Tammy Gonzaga has longed to see international students caring for other international students at the University of California—Irvine (UCI), where she ministers. She got to see God bring that desire to fruition through her good friend Chen,\* an international whose husband is a professor at UCI. Tammy had been mentoring Chen for a while, helping her discern how to walk closely with the Lord and how to rebuild intimacy that had faded.

At one of their meetings toward the end of the school year, Tammy suggested to Chen that she was grounded in her faith and ready to begin reaching out to others with Christ's love. But Chen was already doing it, having sensed on her own that God wanted her to care for other international women on campus. When she knew that an acquaintance of hers, a researcher on campus, needed some encouragement, Chen invited her to take a walk, which opened the door for a long, heart-level conversation between the two of them. And God continued to bring other women to Chen's mind.

As international students grow closer to Jesus, God is raising them up to pour his love into others.

## Reflecting God's Diverse Kingdom

In a year that highlighted the brokenness of race relations in the U.S., staff and student leaders continued to pursue multiethnicity in their chapters. InterVarsity's Multiethnic Ministries and twentyonehundred productions partnered to produce the The Diverse Worship Matters video series.



INTERNATIONALS

**NVOLVED IN** INTERVARSITY

IN 2015

"Diverse worship isn't just this thing on the side.... It is the response of a diverse people to a diverse and global God."



Multiethnic resource specialist and worship leader Andy Kim, who developed the project, explained, "Worship is not just about singing our favorite song. . . . It's about responding to the almighty, great, ineffable God. And diverse worship isn't just this thing on the side. . . . It

is the response of a diverse people to a diverse and global God."

Chapters that used the videos saw God immediately change students' perspectives. Betsy Staudt Willet, an area director in the Mid-Atlantic region, said this about the series:

It reignit[ed] passion for quality worship leading and the missional aspects of worship. Students at Franklin & Marshall College did a multicultural worship "potluck." God brought new understanding of their own cultural backgrounds as well as laid the groundwork for reconciliation across cultures.

A White student leader at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania who watched the videos for the first time said, "Wow, it all just came together for me. I get it now." She is helping lead her chapter into multiethnic work.



## Seeking the Good of the City

Vivacious and full of energy, Lizzie joined a sorority and jumped into college life at the University of Connecticut with enthusiasm. But struggles with disordered eating and broken relationships before college left her feeling empty inside and self critical.

When friends from Greek InterVarsity invited her to a Bible study, she agreed to go, even though she didn't believe in God. The peace she experienced there kept her coming back over the next couple years. During her junior year, a one-on-one

exploratory Bible study with Alexa Randall, Greek InterVarsity staff member, Lizzie gave her life to Jesus. As a result, she was able to forgive people who'd wronged her and learn to see herself as God sees her.

After graduating in May, Lizzie boldly moved across the country to Las Vegas to work for Teach for America. The move was hard—but, as Lizzie says, "My relationship with Jesus has

SORORITY AND FRATERNITY PARTICIPATION UP 5% IN 2015

been really getting me through my move." She has committed to a church and is continuing to "walk in the way of love," even inviting others in her Teach for America training group to church. As Alexa, reflected, "It has been such a gift to have seen her move from cynic to seeker to follower to leader to world changer." As Lizzie continues to reach out with Christ's love, she will likely get to see a similar journey unfold for others.

## Our Leadership

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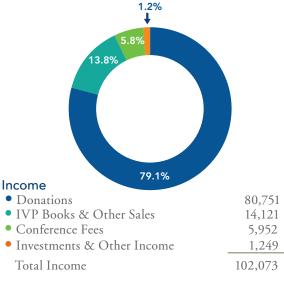
Director of Advancement Vice President

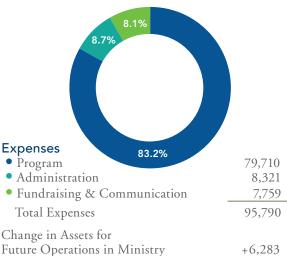
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Director of Campus Engagement Vice President

#### **Our Finances**

Our income and expenses in thousands of dollars.







InterVarsity's financial reports were audited by Capin Crouse, LLP, and an unqualified opinion was issued on these reports. InterVarsity pledges financial accountability through our charter membership in the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). The ECFA seal assures that gifts always will be used appropriately for InterVarsity ministry.

Read this online at annualreport. InterVarsity.org

#### **Our Ministries**

#### **Collegiate Ministries**

#### **Graduate & Faculty Ministries**

Black Scholars and Professionals

**Emerging Scholars Network** 

Faculty Ministry

Graduate Student Ministries

Healthcare

MBA Ministry

Women in the Academy

and Professions

#### Missions

Global Programs

Global Urban Trek

InterVarsity Link

Study Abroad

Urban Programs

Urbana Student

Missions Conference

## **Strategic Ministries**

Arts Ministry

Athletes InterVarsity

Evangelism

Greek InterVarsity

International Student Ministry

Nurses Christian Fellowship

#### **Multiethnic Ministries**

Asian American Ministries

Black Campus Ministries

Latino Fellowship

Native Ministries

#### **Retreat & Training Centers**

Campus by the Sea

Cedar Campus

Toah Nipi

#### **Twentyonehundred Productions**

## Our Purpose

In response to God's love, grace, and truth:

The Purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is to establish and advance at colleges and universities witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture and God's purposes in the world.





