

Gospel Conversations

February 2018

I always get nervous before heading to campus for an evangelism (proxe') table. This day was no exception. We left Anna's house where we'd been meeting for our staff team training and made our way to the student center at the University of Memphis. It was cold and breezy as we walked to the location. Kevin had booked a table in the large circular foyer, a high traffic area. We started setting up right before the lunch rush. Thankfully the table next to us was unclaimed so we could spread out our large interactive display. After a few minutes students began walking through the busy building more frequently. A few glanced at the colorful display, while others grabbed something to eat. I decided to be proactive as people moved through asking them if they would like to participate in our interactive survey. Some were in a hurry while others stopped and engaged in lengthy discussions with our staff team.



I began a conversation with one student who at first seemed guarded. Two of the posters ask participants to identify things of beauty in their culture as well as areas where they have seen brokenness. I talked about my own experience and we got to know each other better. I then shared the story of how Jesus talked with the Samaritan Woman in John 4, how He crossed the prejudicial barrier that existed between the Jews and Samaritans. Then we began to talk about the Gospel and how through the cross Jesus forgives sin and heals brokenness. He shared that he had been making some poor decisions in his own life and I was able to point to God's grace and forgiveness. I even had a chance to

pray with him. *Please pray for this young man (God knows his name) to make an adult decision to follow Jesus.*

All in all we had approximately 25 conversations between the 5 of us. Seventeen people filled out contact cards for follow up. *Please pray that God would use this to birth a small group at the University of Memphis,* even though InterVarsity focuses on International Students at this particular campus.

Sophomore Leaders at Ole Miss

A few weeks ago I visited Lois, on staff in Oxford, MS. While in town I had an energetic meeting with 3 sophomores who have been apprentices or leaders in the group. Lois and I were both encouraged as these students represent 3 ethnicities-Black, White and Native American. *Please pray for these young leaders to be an example of living out the reconciliation Paul describes in Ephesians.*



And the Family...The kids continue to do well. Alyssa will soon make a college decision! This week Wendy and I travel to Phoenix for the celebration of my 25th year with InterVarsity (along with 13 other staff). *As we go, please pray for safety for our family. Also, please pray for additional partners to fund this ministry.* I began to whittle away at my deficit and then lost some support. We are back to needing the equivalent of 10 new partners to give at \$100/month. Thanks for praying and giving already!

Only by God's Grace, The DePurys