



following **Christ**

study, work, and worship

for God's world

Summary Report

Following Christ 2002

a conference for graduate students, faculty, and professionals

co-sponsored by
InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries and
InterVarsity Press

December 28, 2002, through January 2, 2003
Atlanta, Georgia

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What Following Christ 2002 Delegates Have Said

God used the content of Following Christ 2002 to deeply shake the foundations of how I approach my life as a medical student (and as someone interested in a career in public health policy). It was profound – and yes, I will continue to reflect and consider the messages I receive for months to come.



God did mighty works there that continue to encourage me at my university, in the work I'm called to do, and in reaching out to colleagues. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I left Following Christ 2002 with a deeper sense of calling and commitment, knowing there are so many others who share a vision for seeing God brought into the ideas and discussions of the academy at large. I feel I can face tomorrow with a bit more boldness having been reassured I am not alone in

that battle. Thanks for all the planning and effort to put this conference together!

The conference was excellent – it was just what my soul needed after my first semester in a Ph.D. program at a secular university!

I've been thinking a lot...about what it means to approach my discipline from an explicitly Christian viewpoint. Following Christ 2002 confirmed much of what I've been thinking about while challenging me to take it further and to really consider what it means to live as a scholar while striving to have the mind of Christ.

Attending Following Christ 2002 was a life-changing event for me. I can't list all the highlights because each and every session held things I will remember for years.

I found the conference very shaping. It is rare to come away from an experience like this and have something remain a part of my soul like it did in this case.... I went to the conference knowing I would be a speaker, and I was privileged to become even more of a learner.

The conference did a terrific job of pinpointing the unusual (and strategic!) niche in which Christian academics find themselves within Christian culture.

Thanks so much for a great experience! I was overwhelmed by the showing of fellow Christian grad students and faculty who are dealing with the same issues I face. It is easy to feel isolated and alone as a Christian in academia, and being surrounded by nearly 900 other Christian academics was so encouraging! The heart InterVarsity has for the academy renewed my sense of purpose to serve Christ as a grad student and future faculty member as well.

Director's Report

A central objective of Following Christ 2002 was to bring glory to God – glory through the interactions of nearly nine hundred delegates as they considered together what it means to study, work, and worship for God's world, glory through the serious study and application of time-honored biblical and theological themes, and glory through rigorous thought naturally conjoined with excellent worship.

At Following Christ 2002, we sought to love God with both heart and mind! One plenary speaker observed that Following Christ 2002 exhibited a deep commitment both to intellectual rigor and excellent worship. In other words, the conference not only took the world of ideas and our need to enter into God's presence very seriously, but also served as a powerful demonstration that the two are inseparable.

The content of our conference – guided by the themes of Creation & Culture, Kingdom & Calling, Incarnation & Service, and Expectation & Engagement – offered speakers, track co-chairs, presenters, and delegates real grist for reflection. We also experienced the richness of the community that gathered in Atlanta – a fascinating mix of graduate and professional students, faculty, professionals at work in the marketplace, and InterVarsity staff. As people shared their stories, formally from the podium and informally in conversations, we gained a more complete picture of God's work in and through his people in the academy and professions. The presence of many international guests, and in particular a strong delegation from Africa, also enriched our experience and helped many of us think and pray beyond our national borders.



In all, our five days together were a rich celebration aided substantially by the arts – poetry, music, video, and liturgy – all of which deepened the experience. As we moved through the schedule from meetings to meals, from presentations to conversations, and from listening to prayer, our abiding sense was that God had invited his people to rejoice in his goodness.

Hosting a conference of this quality and scale is a great privilege and responsibility – and no small undertaking. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all who led, served, labored, and prayed. I am also grateful for the individuals and organizations who gave generously of their financial resources to make it possible for so many to attend.

For God's Greater Glory –

Cameron Anderson
Director, Following Christ 2002

The Following Christ 2002 Vision

It has been our conviction that, among every cohort of students, academics, and professionals, we must give fresh attention to two weighty matters: theology and vocation. The Bible and orthodox Christian tradition have much of great importance to say about the practice of the intellectual and professional (not to mention the spiritual) disciplines, and that's what Following Christ 2002 was about.

The imperative to bring our faith and our work together can, unfortunately, be neglected quite easily and without professional cost within the cultures most of us operate in, and so we need to intentionally reflect upon and put into practice the integration of study, work, and worship. God has endowed us with education and opportunity, so we believe we are accountable for spiritual stewardship of our talent and privilege. It is not the faith, still less Jesus Christ himself, which is in danger of falling silent about the nature of our professional work; it is we ourselves.



But at the same time, much has been learned about the compatibility (and even inseparability) of Christian faith and modern intellectual and professional work. Much has been accomplished, in recent decades especially, to make universities more open for Christians' working on and working out their faith within the social and intellectual setting of the academy and the professions.

Much helpful guidance is available in print and in the public record of discourse among Christians that can be passed along to scholars and professionals early on in their work. Perhaps even more helpful, there are colleagues and mentors who have gone this way before and who can offer their advice, their success, their failures, their encouragement, and their challenge to us and to one another. We are resource rich, and we have believed that the time is ripe to distribute those riches as widely as possible.

We have also believed that there is hope for us to bring ever more wisdom, more graciousness, more intelligence, more commitment, more integrity, more beauty, more charity to the world of the professional and academic disciplines.

At Following Christ 2002, we gathered Christians from the influential institutions of the world – academia, commerce, government, communications, medicine, the courts – in order to challenge and encourage one another. It's all too easy to lapse into either over-confidence or cynicism about the role our institutions (and we ourselves) play in shaping the world. It's wise, instead, to consider how we will be shaped. What discourses set the terms of our questions? Whose word and way will we follow? How we know and praise God and how we serve him with our days matter for us individually, for the quality and direction of our culture, and for the peace and well-being of the world.

To this end, we undertook to prepare a conference that would gather Christians from all over the map (professional and demographic, no less than geographic), to provide a rich mix of resources for their reflection, and to foster spiritual worship and the edifying interaction of delegates and program personnel. This report aims to describe what went on during our ninety-eight-and-a-half hours in Atlanta. We saw God's grace multiply our efforts at every turn, and we are delighted to share this good report with you.

In Christ –

Jonathan Boyd
Program Director, Following Christ 2002

A Conference Overview by Jonathan Rice

If assemblies of Christians make a space sacred, then the Atlanta Marriott Marquis was for six days a cathedral. From universities, businesses, and churches throughout North America and from among the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students around the world, nearly 900 participants gathered to worship God and learn from one another how to promote and explore Christian discipleship within the academy and marketplace.

The Following Christ 2002 conference (co-sponsored by InterVarsity's Graduate & Faculty Ministries and InterVarsity Press) began on the evening of December 28 with Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, California, speaking about the majesty of God described in Psalm 8. Each subsequent day's program was shaped by a dual theme: Creation & Culture, Kingdom & Calling, Incarnation & Service, and Expectation & Engagement.

Drs. Marva Dawn, Vinoth Ramachandra, Harold Dean Trulear, and Miroslav Volf – the featured speakers during the four morning plenary sessions – helped the convention's participants to better understand the biblical meanings and contemporary applications of those themes. Then during the final plenary session on the last night of the conference, Dr. Dallas Willard urged scholars, professionals, and students alike to express the truth of Christ through their work.

In addition to the inspiring featured speakers at the plenary sessions, each of the fifteen different daily Tracks – ranging from the Arts to Business and Social Sciences – offered participants lectures by renowned scholars, artists and professionals, and discussion times for reflecting as groups on the content of presentations.

But stimulating discussions about contemporary issues were hardly restricted to the tracks. Every mealtime, amid the laughter and light-hearted conversations floating through the expansive dining hall, one could find tables where people were discussing significant theological ideas.

One evening I happened to sit at the dinner table of a group of scholars and scientists who, between bites of grilled chicken, respectfully debated the relationship between recent discoveries about the human brain and biblical doctrines of the human soul. Despite their digressions into Quantum Physics – about which I understood, say, a

particle – I sensed my mind opening to new understandings of our Creator and my own humanness.

At the special InterVarsity Press bookstore, among tables laden with generously discounted volumes, other people shared names and occupations and stories about their lives. In another room nearby, prayer partners waited at appointed times to help anyone in need. And in the evenings after the plenary sessions, several organizations (*Re:generation Quarterly*/Veritas Forum, the International Institute for Christian Studies, and the C.S. Lewis Foundation, to name a few) hosted receptions to introduce themselves to participants and offer resources for Christian witness on campus.

InterVarsity's Following Christ 2002 conference demonstrated that discipleship of the mind matters greatly to many evangelical Christian scholars, artists, and business professionals. InterVarsity affirms the sacred value of intellectual discovery and artistic expression and believes that such endeavors, when they are dedicated to God as a form of worship, mark our lives as following Christ.

Key Facts and Figures

- 869** number of delegates at Following Christ 2002
- 38%** percentage of the delegation who are graduate students (revealing the growth of the ministry among faculty and professionals)
- 20** number of nations represented among the delegation
- 43** number of U.S. states represented (plus the District of Columbia)
- 6** number of Canadian provinces represented
- 152** number of universities and colleges represented
- 8** number of schools that had a dozen delegates or more
- 21** number of delegates from Harvard, the most from any single school
- 29%** percentage of the delegation who registered after the deadline (249)
- 67%** percentage of grad students who learned of FC'02 from their local InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries fellowship
- 46%** percentage of faculty who learned of it from a friend, colleague, or family member

- 134** number of program personnel (speakers, presenters, musicians, etc.)
- 90%** percentage of the delegation who say they would attend a similar IVCF conference again
- 92%** percentage who would recommend a similar IVCF conference to a friend or colleague
- 94 to 1** ratio of those thought the cost was 'definitely reasonable' to those who thought 'definitely not'
- 76.0%** percentage who describe their overall experience as 'excellent' (with 16.1% good, 4.8% fair, and 1.0% poor)
- 97%** percentage of attendees who enjoyed Richard Allen Farmer's After Hours session, the most universally appreciated program element
- 32,635** number of pages viewed at FollowingChrist.org in November 2002
- 20,769** average page views per month at FollowingChrist.org from August through December 2002
- 33.6%** percentage of delegates submitting an online evaluation (through 3/3/03)
- 6,664** number of email messages in the Program Director's 'Following Christ' mail folder



Plenary Sessions

Eight times we gathered the entire Following Christ 2002 delegation for plenary sessions. These occasions were rich with resources for worship, encouragement, and challenge, with nearly 900 people joining in musical worship, listening to biblical teaching, watching a four-part documentary film, and celebrating the New Year.

We were led in musical worship throughout these sessions by our Conference Liturgists, Stephanie Seefeldt of Blackhawk Church in Madison, Wisconsin, and Andy Crouch, the editor-in-chief of *Re:generation Quarterly*, who were assisted by a team of musicians and gifted readers. Also assisting throughout was Greg Jao, our irrepressible emcee, whose announcements and gentle admonitions (including one in favor of 'kinesthetic awareness') kept us all on track and in good spirits.



Major Speakers

We asked something extraordinary of the individuals serving as the main speakers at Following Christ 2002. We wanted to offer conference delegates the opportunity to witness our six major speakers working together as an intellectual and spiritual community and to gather the fruits of their collaboration in biblical exposition, theological reflection, and practical exhortation. To these ends we selected a group of people who were willing to join one another to explore and then teach about the major issues and themes of the conference.

Our six major speakers were:

- Mark Labberton, the senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California
- Marva Dawn, a theologian, author, and educator with Christians Equipped for Ministry of Vancouver, Washington, and a teaching fellow in spiritual theology at Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia
- Miroslav Volf, the Henry B. Wright Professor of Systematic Theology, Yale Divinity School
- Vinoth Ramachandra, Secretary for Dialogue and Social Engagement in Asia for the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students
- Harold Dean Trulear, the senior pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Twin Oaks, Pennsylvania

- Dallas Willard, a professor of philosophy at the University of Southern California

Leading off with an opening address was Mark Labberton, commending to us the privilege of 'paying attention' to the matter of our calling and to God's creation, based in Psalm 8. Sunday morning, Marva Dawn trained us to listen to the Word as a community with an intentional and heartfelt antiphonal greeting: 'The Lord be with you' – 'And also with you.' Miroslav Volf described the Kingdom of God's generosity, one rooted in abundance. Vinoth Ramachandra contrasted the Incarnation of 'God with us' against the human penchant for projecting power from a distance. Dean Trulear challenged us to regard our days here in exile with profound expectation of the power of God in our midst. And finally, Dallas Willard stepped back for perspective on learning to live like Jesus: without fear. In his elegant definition – 'fear is the anticipation of evil' – he delivered one of the many fruitful insights we heard from the lectern.

Audio of each of these plenary talks is available as a free MP3 download at the FollowingChrist.org website.

Documentary Films

On each of the four main days of the conference, we added another segment from a documentary film made by InterVarsity's 2100 Productions for the conference. These films provided a unique opportunity for us to think together about how to engage the world as salt and light. Filmmakers Pete Luisi-Mills and Nate Clarke partnered with local Atlanta institutions and individuals to create thought-provoking documentaries with interviews, background sketches, and location footage in settings throughout the academic, professional, and public spheres. They spoke with Christians where they live and work about how their faith has shaped their work (and vice versa), what the Bible has to say about their calling, and how their local communities have helped and hindered them. This series of four segments (of ten to twelve minutes each), shown during our morning plenary sessions, exposed delegates to real-life projects and problems that draw on all the intellectual, spiritual, and material resources Christian academics and professionals can bring to bear. We hope that showcasing Atlanta as a field of endeavor for Christian academics and professionals inspired delegates to think about returning home to explore their own communities for opportunities to engage their study and work for God's purposes.

Story Night

Theological truth and even a noble calling can be tragically wasted if Christians don't take that truth and calling out into the world, embodying the greater Kingdom on a personal level. So on the evening of Monday, Dec. 30, we gathered to hear the personal stories of four people active in the academy and marketplace – from a graduate student to a professor emeritus of medicine. Andy Crouch hosted the evening and engaged the group in conversation with his editor's sensitivity and insight.

D. K. presented the challenge of loving people you can't even trust. Daniel Byrd (assistant professor of strategic management, Stanford Graduate School of Business) vividly

portrayed the role of prayer amidst the challenges of professional work. Al Zambone (doctoral candidate in modern history, Oxford University) called upon us all to remember our first intellectual love, for God's glory. And Diane Komp (professor emeritus of pediatrics, Yale University) recounted a much-needed flood of memory, during a recent medical mission, allowing her to draw from the pathology textbook she had studied in med school decades earlier.

New Year's Eve

Andy Crouch again led us thoughtfully on New Year's Eve, guiding us through a 'Liturgy for the New Year' commissioned for Following Christ 2002. He drew our attention to the unspoken conflict we sometimes feel at this time of year: Christians who sense that the new year is somehow worth celebrating, but aware of the origins of our culture's revelries in not-so-veiled pagan forms. Andy used the figures of the visiting magi – pagan astrologers observing the turning of the celestial signs – to draw us both into awareness of the importance of the season and also into adoration of the true Lord of time. This liturgy is printed in full in the Following Christ 2002 conference handbook, and may well prove useful to the Church on New Year's Eves in future.

And then, as midnight drew near, Andy and our gifted emcee, Greg Jao, led us in a mix of fun and games. They read out greetings to the assembled delegation from individuals in attendance. They delivered a spoof lecture on how to write a dissertation title (complete with all-too-real dissertation titles). They led us in a communal celebration of milestones passed during 2002, from babies born to degrees granted to first court cases argued. And finally they set off a couple confetti cannons to help make midnight truly memorable.

Prayer & Sabbath

Both before and during Following Christ 2002, a team of intercessors faithfully prayed for the conference. Bi-weekly emails and emails sent during the five conference days kept the team up-to-date on prayer needs. Onsite nearly twenty people came primarily to pray for the delegates, leaders, plenaries, tracks, and much more. Many others served as prayer ministers during appointed times in the schedule and after Story Night when delegates were challenged to understand how their stories fit into the story of what God is doing in his kingdom. We are grateful to God for the ways he worked through his people's prayers to shape Following Christ.

On Sunday, December 29, we offered delegates a Sabbath – an opportunity to rest, meet with God, prepare for the rest of the conference, and celebrate God's goodness. The afternoon hours had no official programming, except for optional musical worship. We did, however, provide delegates with a guide for entering into the Sabbath, which included an essay on the meaning of Sabbath, ideas for spending the time, and reflective questions. Many delegates were thankful that we honored a practice that is sadly lacking in university culture and deeply appreciated time to rest and be renewed before Following Christ 2002 began in earnest.

After Hours

Among the conference highlights for many delegates was the opportunity to attend three arts performances held 'after hours' once the regular program was done for the day. We were delighted to host three world-class artists at Following Christ 2002, giving them the opportunity to offer their gifts to the delegation. Despite the late hour, the After Hours sessions saw a third or more of the delegation in attendance.

Scott Cairns is a poet as well as professor of English at the University of Missouri. On Saturday, Dec. 28, after an introduction from InterVarsity staff member Bobby Gross, Cairns read numerous poems from his recent volumes, including *Figures for the Ghost*, *Recovered Body*, and *Philokalia*. Cairns's gift for reading poetry (no less than for writing it) was fully in evidence. Afterwards, he fielded questions from an engaged and well-informed audience, giving great insight into the work and worth of poetry.

Bill Mallonee is an independent musician from Athens, Georgia (a hotbed of 'roots rock' as well as the University of Georgia) and the leader of the one-time Vigilantes of Love. On Sunday, Dec. 29, Bill unfurled nearly two hours of music and comment for an appreciative audience, ranging from a call-and-response version of his hymn-like 'Double Cure' to a telling performance of 'Opposite's True,' and including new material not yet on record. As is Bill's common practice, he stayed around long after the show was over, discussing musical and theological ideas with a circle of fans.

Richard Allen Farmer is fast becoming a favorite among InterVarsity conference-goers. His unique ministry style builds on his piano virtuosity and blends with classical, blues, and jazz styles, a gift of gentle humor, and artistic insight into the Christian faith. Among the highlights of his Monday, Dec. 30, performance was a showcase of improvisational cooperation with Stephanie Seefeldt (one of our Conference Liturgists), creating a seamless flow of musical ideas illustrating the continuity of ministry among the servants in the Body of Christ. No one will ever forget it.



Interdisciplinary Lunches

Another set of optional sessions also saw tremendous turn-out (with nearly a third of the delegation attending at least one): a trio of interdisciplinary 'bag lunches' focused on topics of prime concern to academics and professionals and featuring panels of speakers and give-and-take discussion.

Women in the Academy – On Monday, Dec. 30, five faculty and graduate-student women representing different career stages and fields of study opened a discussion of issues that women face in the university world. Personal situations no less than structural concerns were brought into the open for consideration and thoughtful interaction.

Multi-Ethnicity – The unique contributions and challenges faced by African American scholars and professionals (as well as those of other ethnic minorities) were the focus of the bag lunch on Tuesday, Dec. 31. A considerable delegation from InterVarsity's Black Campus Ministries joined us for these last days of the conference and shed light on the perspectives and resources available to Christians.

Global Development – Finally, on Wednesday, Jan. 1, a panel addressing global development drew input from experts in economic and community development, health care, and international higher education. The slippery definitions and practical problems in this area are of great concern to Christians seeking to live out the Kingdom, and here delegates had a chance to talk with both seasoned veterans and those looking ahead to new approaches.

IFES Partner Program

The International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), of which InterVarsity/USA is a founding member, was established in 1947, but ministry among graduate students and faculty within IFES has emerged outside of the U.S. only within the last five years. InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries has been eager to find ways to encourage the growth of IFES graduate-student and faculty fellowships and has developed partnerships with IFES, particularly in English-speaking Africa, to achieve this goal.

In order to deepen our partnerships with African colleagues and to foster new partnerships with IFES staff, faculty, and professionals from other areas of globe, InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries hosted the IFES Partner Program at Following Christ 2002 for sixteen delegates from eleven different countries. The IFES partners arrived a day early for a special orientation and finished the conference with a session in which they debriefed together what they had learned and how they might go about developing graduate-student and faculty fellowships in their home countries.

IFES partners were also matched with North Americans; the pairs met daily during the conference and the North Americans hope to visit their partners within the next eighteen months to further build relationships in which they can share ideas about ministry.

An offering taken at the conference raised over \$27,000 for IFES and will be used to fund a graduate-student conference, Institute for Christian Impact, to be held in Ghana in May 2003.



Benin

Cossi Augustin Ahoga, IFES Director of Graduates Ministry in French-speaking Africa

Bulgaria

Darena Zonena-Dimitrova, IFES Bulgarian Regional Coordinator

Fiji

Ema Tora Vueti, Chairperson, Pacific Students for Christ, and Entomologist,
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Sailasa Vueti, Medical doctor, Suva Private Hospital

Jamaica

Judith Johnston, Former IFES
General Secretary of Jamaica
Las Newman, IFES Regional
Secretary for the Caribbean

Kenya

Watson Omulokoli, Professor of
History and Chaplain, Kenyatta
University
Francis Opiyo, Graduate student,
University of Nairobi, and
Chairman of FOCUS (Kenya's
graduate-student fellowship)

Nigeria

Paul Akinola, Acting Director of
Graduates Ministry, NIFES
(Nigerian IFES movement)

Russia

Olga Loukmanova, Professor of English, Nizhny Novgorod State Linguistics
University

Uganda

Jonathan Baranga, Professor of Zoology, Mbarara University of Science and
Technology

United Kingdom

Ard Louis, Royal Society University Research Fellow, Theoretical Chemistry,
Cambridge University
Daniel Strange, United Kingdom Coordinator of the Religious and Theological
Studies Fellowship, Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship

Zambia

Lemba Davy Nyirenda, Professor, School of Engineering, University of Zambia

Zimbabwe

Femi Adeleye, IFES Regional Secretary of English- and Portuguese-speaking Africa
Affy Adeleye, IFES Assistant to Regional Secretary



Tracks

Each day, delegates spent several hours in tracks considering specific applications of the day's theological themes to their academic and professional disciplines. Scholars and practitioners from a wide range of fields addressed questions and issues raised by the conference themes, and small groups provided delegates with opportunities to further narrow the scope of discussion to the theoretical and practical issues they face in their daily lives. Thirteen tracks focused on particular academic and professional disciplines, while two others allowed delegates to take an interdisciplinary approach.

Arts

Chair:

Richard Ashley, Associate Professor of Music and Cognitive Science, Northwestern University

Presenters:

Scott Cairns, Professor of English, University of Missouri

William Dyrness, Professor of Theology and Culture, Fuller Theological Seminary

Ed Knippers, Painter

Bill Mallonee, Independent musician and leader of the Vigilantes of Love

The Arts track dealt with a variety of practical issues facing the Christian in the arts, as well as more theoretical ones. Topics in the curriculum included:

- Scriptural and theological foundations of human creativity
- The relationship of the Church to artists and the arts
- Style, technique, materials, and artistic freedom and responsibility
- Making a life of it as an artist, whether as a "professional" or not
- An Artists' Showcase, where track delegates shared their work with one another

Business

Co-Chairs:

Albert M. Erisman, Co-Director of the Institute for Business, Technology, & Ethics, and Executive in Residence in the School of Business and Economics, Seattle Pacific University

John Terrill, National Director of MBA Ministry, InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries

Presenters:

Gerard Beenan, Chief Executive Officer, Block Center for Integrative Cancer Care, and Co-Founder, Institute for Integrative Cancer Research and Education

Alec Hill, President, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
 Katherine Leary, Director, Marketplace Ministries, Redeemer Presbyterian Church,
 New York City
 Will Messenger, Director of the Mockler Center, Gordon-Conwell Theological
 Seminary
 Barry Rowan, Co-Founder, Teleios Group LLC
 Jeff B. Van Duzer, Dean of the School of Business and Economics, Seattle Pacific
 University
 Ellen Whitener, Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Commerce, McIntire School
 of Commerce, University of Virginia

In the Business track, the track co-chairs and presenters added a theologically informed viewpoint to the mix of market and management analyses and addressed four sets of interlocking questions:

First, what did God have in mind when he gave man and woman work to do in the Garden? And how has that work been changed (for better or worse) since the Fall? Is the work of creating wealth worthy?

Second, what is it that businesspeople are after in the world? How might these aims be an integral part of the Kingdom of God? Is it possible to live out such aims in the real world?

Third, what difference do individuals make in today's business environment? Do burdens for creative, faithful strategies, for operational ethics, and for personal evangelism make any sense? How might delegates make a difference if they are not at the top of their organizations?

Finally, how can delegates keep all this in perspective in light of Christ's return? Can they find any enduring value in their "day-to-day" work? Are they in danger of taking themselves too seriously – or not seriously enough?



Communication Arts

Co-Chairs:

Steven D. Classen, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, California State University, Los Angeles

Janie Harden Fritz, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Director, Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh

Presenters:

Ronald Arnett, Chair, Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies, Duquesne University

John DeDakis, CNN Senior Copy Editor

Tom Lessl, Associate Professor of Speech Communication, University of Georgia,
and Second Vice President of the Religious Communication Association

Wesley G. Pippert, Associate Professor of Journalism and Washington Program Co-
Director, University of Missouri, and former UPI White House Correspondent

Quentin Schultze, Professor of Communication Arts & Sciences, Calvin College

As students and as professionals, how do Christians conceive of and practice the communication arts? Should they consider particular conceptions and practices to be distinctly Christian? How do they evaluate and redeem human communication in contemporary cultures? Sessions in the Communications Arts track devoted substantial time to interactive panel-format discussions of such questions. Delegates in the fields of communication, speech and rhetoric, media studies and the associate areas of

graphic and commercial art also considered topics such as:



- Conceptions of human communication and the activities of human meaning-making
- The redemptive co-creation of meaning and cultures
- The rhetorical and discursive resources that Christians should employ in a postmodern moment of competing narrative structures

Education

Co-Chairs:

Vernard T. Gant, Director of Urban School Services, Association of Christian Schools International

Charles Glenn, Professor and Chairman of Administration, Training, and Policy Studies, Boston University

Presenters:

J. Barry Koops, Headmaster, Lexington Christian Academy, Lexington, Massachusetts

Jack Leonard, Chief Academic Officer, Dorchester High School, Dorchester, Massachusetts

Rockne M. McCarthy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dordt College

Mary S. Poplin, Dean of the School of Educational Studies and Professor of Education, Claremont Graduate University

Patricia Wilson, Will Mariah Christian School, Lithonia, Georgia

Education is never really neutral. Teachers – and the schools or colleges where they

serve – always educate on the basis of some understanding of human nature, whether that is avowed explicitly or not. The Education track considered the implications of a biblical understanding for Christian educators. Presentations included a discussion of the emerging policy context which makes the distinctive mission of each school (whether public or private) more significant than ever; the opportunities for and constraints upon Christian teachers in public schools and colleges; and the vision for explicitly Christian education.

Much of the track time was devoted to working groups with a shared interest, whether in Christian, public, or independent schools or in colleges. Each group designed a school or college with a distinctive character, working through how the conference themes applied to curriculum and organization and to culture, climate, and relationships. The final session was devoted to presenting the working groups' visions for education.

Engineering & Technology

Co-Chairs:

- J. Gary Eden, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- William W. Smith, Jr., Senior Research Engineer, Georgia Tech

Presenters:

- Walter Bradley, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Baylor University, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering, Texas A&M University
- Stephen G. Hall, Assistant Professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Louisiana State University
- David W. Scott, Retired Businessman
- John F. Walkup, Horn Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Emeritus, Texas Tech University

We live in a world increasingly shaped by technology, and the pace of change is quickening, in communications, biotechnology, computing, and elsewhere. Engineering undergirds transformations in everything from agricultural production and manufacturing to transportation and electronics. But the public's fascination with technology is tempered by growing debate over technology's unintended consequences. In this environment, Christian engineers face unprecedented opportunities and challenges. The Engineering & Technology track offered a unique forum for exploring these issues.

Delegates focused on the pursuit of the discipline of engineering and technology from a Christian perspective and engaged several questions, including:

- What worldview is expressed by the core practices and ideas of their discipline?
- What are the responsibilities of Christians regarding the development of technology? How are engineers accountable to God and our communities for the effects of our innovations?

- What might be the outworkings of a Christian worldview in the practice of engineering? Could there be such a thing as "Christian engineering"?
- What does it mean to be called by Christ into the university and the discipline of engineering?

Environmental Studies & Natural Resources

Co-Chairs:

Bob Clark, Campus Staff Member and Team Leader, InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries

Tatsuji Ebihara, Assistant Professor of Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering, University of Kansas

Presenters:

Jonathan Baranga, Professor of Zoology, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda

Todd Lundberg, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Urban Tree House

David K. Paylor, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia

Steve R. Simmons, Professor of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota

Christians involved in the various disciplines of the environmental sciences, policy, and management face challenging questions: How do they define responsible care? How can they find congruence between an urban lifestyle and our stated environmental values? How might a Christian worldview complement or contradict the ultimate objectives of governmental and non-governmental environmental-stewardship institutions? How can they learn more both within and without the Christian community to develop their careers in environmental management? What does Christ have to say about their motivations, attitudes, and actions with respect to natural resources?

Delegates in the Environmental Studies & Natural Resources track were challenged with foundational theological issues regarding covenant obedience, the created order, and their call as Christians to be agents of transformation within a complex world. Guest presenters with considerable experience in forming community and governmental partnerships discussed how Christians can be involved in creating lasting, positive social change regarding environmental issues. Delegates, working together with track facilitators, were given an opportunity to develop plans to address targeted environmental issues within their own regional or professional communities.

Government & Public Policy

Chair:

Kevin Hula, Associate Professor of Political Science, Loyola College of Maryland

Presenters:

Stanley Carlson-Thies, Acting Director, Civitas Program, Center for Public Justice

Peter D. Feaver, Associate Professor of Political Science, Duke University; Director, Triangle Institute for Security Studies; and Visiting Fellow, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University (2001-2002)

Diane L. Knippers, President, Institute on Religion and Democracy

Don M. Snider, Professor of Political Science, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York

James Madison suggested that if we were angels, no government would be necessary. In the Government & Public Policy track, delegates investigated the tension between the will to power and the call to public service, considering questions such as:

- How might they glorify God in the study and practice of governance?
- How can they be incarnational – making real the presence of Christ – in their study of political science, in their research and shaping of public policy, and in their service in government?
- What is the role of the Christian citizen in a society where the metaphor of a "wall of separation" dominates much of political discourse?

Track participants wrestled with the relationship between God's ordination of government and the creation of contemporary public policy. With presentations by practitioners and academicians, small groups organized by fields of study and expertise, and a conscious focus on their calling to be salt and light wherever they serve, delegates had a unique opportunity to investigate their calling to Christ and how that relationship might be lived most faithfully in the context of government and public policy.



Health Sciences

Co-Chairs:

Jane Bacon, R.N., M.S., M.A., Campus Staff Member, InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries, University of California-San Francisco
Robert Greene, M.D., Private Practice, Occupational Medicine

Presenters:

Thomas Corson, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins University Hospital
Lewis Hsu, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Emory University
Bonnie J. Miller, R.N., D.Min., M.S., M.Ed., Professor Emeritus, Xavier University, Cincinnati
John Q. Young, M.D., Psychiatric Resident, University of California-San Francisco
Jenny Young, M.S.W., M.P.H., Geriatric and Child Specialist for Alameda County, California

Practitioners, researchers, and students in the health-care professions play a special role when taking up the call to be "servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries" (1 Cor. 4:1). They face the God-given challenge of finding – and employing – the good resources he has given in the effort to ameliorate the physical, spiritual, and psychological breakdown of his creatures and our culture. In the Health Sciences track, delegates sought to address pressing issues confronting today's health-care providers:

Given a central role as healers in the lives of people encountering health challenges and ultimately death, do delegates' calling as health-care providers give them a place of ministry in the academy and the profession that is comparable to that of ministry in the church? How can they help forge the intersection of "church" and "mission" so that they are sent and released to be ministers of the gospel in their health-care settings and institutions?

As cutting-edge technologies bring into question the core of what it means to be human, created in the image of God, how will they continue to be co-creators with God, preserve the sanctity of life, and develop boundaries and guidelines that protect, value, and define ourselves as a "people dependent upon God for our well-being"?

How can they discover and practice disciplines of life – for both their personal and professional lives – that foster and demonstrate wholeness to a fragmented, disintegrating world?

How do we impart and embody hope in the midst of individuals and institutions caught in the conflict between good and evil? How do they recognize, name, and extend the grace of God to lives filled with impending crises, with unpredictable, unknown, and uncontrollable challenges to be faced?

As Jesus' sent ones, how do they live and speak prophetically to a system of "care" where God is most often excluded for fear of giving offense?

Humanities

Co-Chairs:

Marc Baer, Professor of History, Hope College, Holland, Michigan
 Kathy Bassard, Associate Professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University
 Michael J. Murray, Associate Professor and Chair of the Philosophy Department,
 Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Presenters:

Harold K. Bush Jr., Assistant Professor of English, St. Louis University
 Lendol Calder, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History,
 Augustana College
 Nigel M. de S. Cameron, Dean, The Wilberforce Forum
 Caitlin Corning, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of
 History & Political Science, George Fox University
 William Lane Craig, Research Professor of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology
 James Marcum, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Baylor University
 Wilfred McClay, SunTrust Bank Chair of Excellence in Humanities and Professor of
 History, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 Timothy O'Connor, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Indiana University
 Marie C. Parette, Instructor and Assistant Chair, English Department, and Assistant
 Director of Professional Writing, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
 University
 James K. A. Smith, Associate
 Professor of Philosophy, Calvin
 College

What does it mean to be a person of faith when it comes to scholarship and teaching in the humanities? Like all followers of Jesus, Christian scholars in disciplines such as literature, philosophy, history, classical studies, and languages are called to love God with their minds. But just how do Christians in the humanities engage in the scholarly life in a way that



distinguishes them from their colleagues? For example, what does excellence mean for Christians as scholars, as teachers, and as colleagues? What about such seemingly prosaic matters as working with or as a mentor, investing in church life, and nurturing family relationships? To get at such questions, the Humanities track considered biblical and theological foundations for the academic vocation in humanities disciplines and for successfully integrating faith, learning, teaching, and their lives beyond campus.

Delegates were challenged through theoretical and practical issues to make their faith a part of their scholarly work, to think faithfully about their own and cognate disciplines, and to consider approaches to teaching from Christian perspectives.

Law

Co-Chairs:

James Paternoster, Campus Staff Member, InterVarsity's Graduate & Faculty Ministries, Metro-Detroit Area

William Stuntz, Professor of Law, Harvard University

Presenters:

Barbara Armacost, Professor of Law and Class of 1941 Research Professor, University of Virginia School of Law

Kyle D. Logue, Professor of Law, University of Michigan

Richard Moore, Deputy Commonwealth Attorney, Charlottesville, Virginia

Jonelle Tetteh-Ocloo, Staff Counsel and African Liaison, Advocates International

In the Law track, the goal was to affirm ways that lawyers and law students can honor God in contemporary society, without papering over the systemic and personal sin that pervades legal education and the legal profession. Delegates wrestled with questions like these:

- How should Christian law students understand and respond to what they study in secular law schools?



- What does a Christian legal career look like? Is it possible and practical to follow Jesus while working in a corporate law firm, a prosecutor's office, a public defender's office?
- What are the opportunities for global missions in the legal profession?
- How can believers be salt and light in our law schools and law firms?

Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Co-Chairs:

Terry L. Gustafson, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Ohio State University

Francis Su, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont Colleges

Presenters:

Catherine Crouch, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Physics, Harvard University

Edward B. Davis, Professor of the History of Science, Messiah College

Ian Hutchinson, Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Division Head of the Alcator Project, Plasma Science and Fusion Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

William T. Newsome, Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Professor of Neurobiology, Stanford University

Martin Price, Executive Director, Education Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO)

Jennifer B. Wiseman, Visiting Scientist and APS Congressional Science Fellow, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Johns Hopkins University

The mere mention of "faith and science" is typically avoided in polite company. Contemporary culture assumes that the two are warring factions, destined to battle each other for the hearts and minds of each successive generation. How then should a Christian in the natural sciences or mathematics view this apparent dichotomy? Are Christians in science constrained to live a schizophrenic existence, chastened by their faith community for participating in science while also being scorned by their scientific colleagues for allowing faith to affect their objectivity? The track co-chairs and presenters communicated clearly that they don't believe this should be true.

Delegates in the track were challenged to consider how a theology of creation has provided a grounding for our understanding of science and technology. Presenters addressed the following questions:

- How do Christians relate science to their understanding of God?
- How does the Kingdom of God function through science to influence the kingdom of mankind?
- How can scientific disciplines serve the Kingdom?
- How do science and mathematics reflect and influence our culture?

Small- and large-group discussions, along with three special interdisciplinary panels held in conjunction with the philosophers from the Humanities track, provided a format to address these and other issues related to our calling to reflect the glory of God in the realm of science and mathematics.

Interdisciplinary Panels

During track time on Tuesday, December 31, delegates in the Natural Sciences & Mathematics track and for the philosophers within the Humanities track were presented with a special opportunity: a trio of interdisciplinary panels tackling crucial scientific and philosophical topics.

Mind, brain, and soul: what are human persons (made in the imago Dei)?

Panelists: Timothy O'Connor (philosophy, Indiana), William Newsome (neuroscience, Stanford), Ben Witherington (New Testament, Asbury), and moderator Peter Payne (InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries)

The world as object of scientific study and as construct of human culture and language

Panelists: William Lane Craig (philosophy, Biola), Catherine Crouch (physics, Harvard), and James Smith (philosophy, Calvin)

Genetics, artificial reproductive technologies, ethics, and the sanctity of human life

Panelists: Nigel Cameron (Wilberforce Forum), James Marcum (philosophy, Baylor), and Michael Murray (philosophy, Franklin & Marshall)

Social Sciences

Chair:

Terence C. Halliday, President, Qontent Corporation; Senior Research Fellow, American Bar Foundation; and Adjunct Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University

Presenters:

Kenneth G. Elzinga, Professor of Economics, University of Virginia

Julie Exline, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Case Western Reserve University

D. K., Anthropology

Derek McNeil, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Wheaton College

David Richardson, Professor of Economics and International Relations, Syracuse University

Christians who are social scientists know that God's workings with his children are social from beginning to end. The Garden of Eden, the Kingdom of Israel, the twelve disciples, the church of Acts and the Epistles, even the heavenly host around the Lamb upon the Throne – all demonstrate that God sees us, his creatures, as social, political, psychological, anthropological, economic beings.



Delegates in the Social Sciences track were challenged to confront boldly a calling to a life that fuses social-science training with God's work in our world. Christians in the social-scientific disciplines – sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, and psychology – are called to vocations of analysis and practice in God's social world. They are called to comprehend it, to heal it, to build institutions, to nurture integrated selves, and to offer the church and the world their insight and thereby God's grace. Delegates

debated what this means through large-group and small-group discussions, in collaboration with guest presenters and each other. Each discipline had its own discussion groups, but participants benefited, too, from talking with each other across disciplines.

Delegates wrestled with such issues as:

- Can Christian social scientists offer a critical perspective on the institutions and processes of a fallen world?
- Does a Christian worldview offer us a distinctive vision of a polity, economy, psyche, and society?
- How do Christian social scientists help redeem economies, polities, and cultures?
- What vocations or avocations can enable Christians to deploy fully our training and skills?

Theology & Religious Studies

Co-Chairs:

Robbie Castleman, Assistant Professor, Biblical Studies, John Brown University, Siloam Spring, Arkansas, and National Coordinator, Religious and Theological Students Fellowship

Timothy George, Dean, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, and Executive Director, Christianity Today

Track program personnel:

Breck Castleman, Pastor, Mt. Comfort Presbyterian Church, Siloam Springs, Arkansas

J. Norfleete Day, Associate Professor of New Testament, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

Mark Dubis, Associate Professor of Christian Studies, Union University

W. Ward Gasque, Founder of the Center for Innovation in Theological Education and President of the Pacific Association for Theological Studies

Laura & Jeff Ice, Kathleen United Methodist Church, Lakeland, Florida

Daniel Strange, National Director for the Religious and Theological Studies Fellowship, United Kingdom

Ben Witherington III, Professor of New Testament, Asbury Theological Seminary

If the local congregation is to be the hermeneutic of the Gospel in the world today, as Lesslie Newbigin insisted, then both pew and pulpit need to be better served by the exegetical understanding gained by theologians in seminaries and universities. On one hand, the suspicion directed by all too many within the church toward theological scholarship has contributed to a diminished understanding of the Christian faith. On the other, the all-too-common disregard of theological institutions for accountability and connectedness to the church has resulted in the loss of the proper sapiential gift that was once given to the people of God.

The Theology & Religious Studies track was planned for student and faculty scholars in divinity schools, universities, and seminaries and for pastors, lay leaders, and educators in the church with the hope of building a new and trustworthy bridge

between the academy and the church. Gifted academic scholars who love and serve the church addressed the daily conference themes and were followed first by open cross-discipline discussion and then by discipline-specific small groups for prayer, ministry, and practical application.

Ideas and Idols

Dallas Willard, Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern California

J. Randolph Bare (Host), Executive Director, Westminster House, Presbyterian Campus Pastor, University of California at Berkeley



In the Ideas and Idols track, Dallas Willard and fifty delegates gave close scrutiny to some of the major assumptions that are likely to undermine the confidence and effectiveness of followers of Christ in the contemporary academic setting, acting both internally on the individual's self-image and efforts and externally through the attitudes of colleagues and policies of institutions. Among the main questions by a Socratic dialogue between Dallas and the delegates were:

- Does Christian teaching contain a unique body of knowledge essential to human life, or is real knowledge restricted to the output of scientific or other human efforts?
- Does religious conviction hinder or even preclude one's pursuit or transmission of knowledge? In this vein how does anti-religious conviction – or simply a lack of conviction – compare?
- Is it realistically possible to regard careers of research and creativity as a service to God? What would be the hallmarks of such endeavors dedicated to him? What is the effect of thinking of academic and artistic pursuits in other terms?
- Will the universities be able to sustain devotion to truth in a world devoted to human desire? If not, what can they be expected to produce? And how might Christians advance plausible options?

We plan to produce a DVD version of the track for future use by Following Christ 2002 delegates, churches, and InterVarsity chapters.

People of the Book

Chair:

Bob Trube, Team Leader, Great Lakes East, InterVarsity Graduate & Faculty Ministries

Presenters:

Helen Cepero, Director of Spiritual Formation, North Park Theological Seminary

Donna Laird, Independent Scholar and Adjunct Professor of Hebrew, Ashland Theological Seminary

Daniel Treier, Assistant Professor of Theology, Wheaton College

The followers of Jesus are rightly described as "people of the Book." In this non-disciplinary track, delegates examined the meaning of this inheritance by unraveling three related strands:

- What has been the place of the Bible historically in the life of believers and their cultures? What can delegates learn about their own attitudes toward the Word by considering how the Jewish and Christian community has read and used the Bible over the centuries?
- What are the stakes involved in current debate about methods of textual study and interpretation? What hermeneutical techniques for individual and group Bible study might be freshly effective for us? Does Jesus the Teacher have a word for us in these days of both biblical controversy and apathy?
- What roles can the Bible play in their spiritual formation? What spiritual disciplines involving Scripture will deepen their relationship with God, their self-understanding, and their practice of discipleship in the pursuit of our calling?

It's not rare for one of these strands to be covered by a Christian retreat or conference, but rarely are all three brought together. In the People of the Book track, delegates devoted attention to all three approaches to Bible study – historical, methodological, and spiritual-formatinal – to see what light each shed on the others and on their journeys of faith.

FollowingChrist.org

A crucial adjunct to the actual event of Following Christ 2002 has been – and continues to be – our state-of-the-art website, FollowingChrist.org. Developed by a gifted team in InterVarsity's Information Services Department, chiefly Nathan Lenz and Brian Beitzel, the site has allowed us to offer secure online registration, a wealth of logistical and orientation material, and an ongoing program of feature articles.

Now during the follow-up after the event, the website is no less valuable. From our comprehensive online evaluation form to free MP3 downloads of plenary speakers' talks, FollowingChrist.org continues to serve delegates and (judging from our tremendous traffic figures) the wider world, too. We hope you'll have occasion to visit the site yourself.

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