



Fighting the Good Fight

The Ministry of Andrew Brandt, reaching the students of Chicago for Christ

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“Anything is better than cafeteria food.” I usually get a reply similar to this when I invite students to my home for a meal. They are usually pleasantly surprised that I actually do know how to cook. Early this month, the same day I returned from our Christmas Conference in Indianapolis, I had the chance to host Sara, Becky, and Tomi, three of the student leaders from the University of Chicago over for dinner and to plan for the semester.



Myself, Becky, and Tomi hanging out at Christmas Conference after the day of outreach.

After a good meal we delved into planning for the semester. We discussed the outreaches they wanted to do. For example, early in February we are bringing in a speaker who will discuss how the Christian worldview, in comparison to others, is the only one that gives satisfactory answers to life's important questions. They are also hosting focus groups, small outreaches where our students simply ask questions and listen to other students talk about life, relationships and religion for an hour. When they are over students feel so cared for and listened to that they actually ask what we think about the issues that were discussed.

As our meeting went on I was amazed at how much these women wanted to tackle in addition to their difficult class load at one of America's most rigorous universities. It struck me how committed these women were to reaching their campus, especially in light of how difficult ministry has been there. Each of these women has struggled all year to raise up Bible Studies and have seen little fruit from that. Even as I've sometimes suggested that they give up and try something else, they continue to want to press on in getting these studies going.

After all of the discouragements of doing ministry at a place like U of C these women continue to want to serve God with their lives. Sara is applying to do a one year STINT with Campus Crusade in New Zealand next year. Becky is graduating and getting married this summer. In the next couple of years she and her fiancé are hoping to join staff in hopes of eventually going to a German speaking country. Tomi plans on going on her second summer project this summer. She plans on using the amazing voice God has blessed her with to travel the country sharing the gospel using music with Keynote, our music ministry. I count it such a privilege to work with such amazing students.