

Some major nation-wide college Christian ministries:

- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Campus Crusade For Christ (CRU, formerly CCC)
- Navigators
- Newman Centers (Catholic)
- UBF
- Many more--nation-wide & local

Two Resources for this Presentation:

(1) Keith & Gladys Hunt's book: "For Christ and the University—The Story of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of the USA/1940-1990

(2) IVCF's website: intervarsity.org

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FOR CHRIST

— a n d t h e —
UNIVERSITY

— *T h e S t o r y o f* —
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
of the U.S.A./1940-1990



■ Keith & Gladys Hunt ■

Ever heard of InterVarsity? (a.k.a IV or IVCF)

- In 2013-2014, IV had 949 chapters on 616 campuses. Not seeking to be a “super-organization” but to share life with fellow students
- “Chapters” can be AACM, MEIV, Greek IV, Grad IV, etc.
- Parachurch vs. Church (no SWS)
- Few staff (1000 for 40,000 students; recruit Christian stud. & professors)
- “student” movement with student initiative and student leadership
- Camps (esp. summer for student disciple/leadership training)
- IV Press
- Urbana conferences

Brief History of IVCF

- Began in the U.K. (U of Cambridge, 1877)—students met to pray, study the Bible and witness to fellow students
- In 1928, they sent to Canada Howard Guinness, who started and assisted evangelical student groups across Canada
- Then came to the USA in 1938 (Stacey Woods visited U of Mich.)
- Founding member of much larger IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students): 500,000 students in 154 countries
- Stacey Woods (Australian): 1st General Secretary of Canada & USA
- Contra Bill Bright (CRU: American)—focused on converts; IV focused on discipleship

IVCF's PURPOSE statement

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.

IVCF's VISION

- To see students and faculty transformed, campuses renewed, and world changers developed.

IVCF's CORE VALUES

- Context: College/University
- Formation: Scripture, Prayer, Spiritual Disciplines, Community, Christian Reading, Leadership Development
- Expression: Evangelism, Whole Life Stewardship, Ethnic Reconciliation & Justice, Church, Missions

Intervarsity Characteristics

- (1) Chapters of students who Evangelize, Disciple & Do Mission
- (2) Student Initiative & Responsibility (IV staff help students take responsibility for Christian witness)
- (3) Student Mission vs. Mission to Students (not a staff church-plant)
- “Each student chapter is autonomous. No one will do it for you. [Christian] students are mature enough to be obedient to God in their present circumstances as students.”

One down-side characteristic of IV

- “Lack of appreciative expressions has been one of the hurtful parts of IV history.”
- It is often regarded as “unspiritual” to express praise. IV is strong in analytical mode rather than appreciative mode (my comment: perhaps “correction” > “encouragement”)
- “...because of Stacey’s [Woods] leadership, none of us wanted to get into self-pity
- “our sense of approval [is] from students, alumni or a sense of call or privilege as an IV staffworker

Seeking Christ earnestly

- Charles Troutman: “students had an intense desire for holiness not seen in the American evangelical church.”
- “Students were seeking God—with a concern for character, to be like Him...pleasing Him...a desire to know Him and to be holy.”

IVCF Aims to Establish Student Groups of:

(1) Evangelism

(2) Christian Growth/Discipleship

(3) Missions

1965 Diagram highlights that Intervarsity is...

- “IN” the university
- Not “against”
- Not “at”
- Not “to”
- Not “thru”
- But IN

1960s characteristics (echoed again):

- Get students into Scripture
 - Emphasize daily (personal) Quiet Time
 - Lordship of Christ
 - Urge students to meet together and pray for their own outreach
 - And then...GO and DO IT!!
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- Note the high level of time commitment and dedication on the part of the student leaders!

OTHER MINISTRIES

- (1) Camp Programs, like “Campus in the Woods,” a summer 4-week intensive student leadership/discipleship training program. They call this their “2nd heart” of IV work (the 1st is student work)
- (2) Spring Break evangelistic outreaches (e.g. Florida beaches)
- (3) InterVarsity Press (Downers Grove): excellent evangelical literature
- (4) Urbana: IV spends much time and money to promote missions, not their own since they don’t send missionaries, but other ministries/churches missions!

Thank GOD for InterVarsity ministry!

- *God has used IV to shape thousands of students.
- *Beginning with only a few staff covering the whole country and a world war breaking out, IV grew beyond their expectation.
- *From Urbana conventions to Friendship Evangelism to in-depth inductive Bible study, from Nurse fellowships/ministries to promotion of missions to creative use of media, IVCF became a multi-faceted ministry.
- *Setbacks part of any human endeavor are found in IV too.
- *But God has worked through a handful of people who in turn influenced others.
- *Thank God for our fellow brothers and sisters in IVCF!
- *Be inspired and motivated to have faith in God for campus evangelism and discipleship!