

Coming Soon to a Staff Worker Near You...

Dec. 12th

CF Christmas Party: The Christmas party is our big outreach for the year. We'll be expecting 40+ students, many of whom are not Christians. I will have the opportunity to speak, sharing what Christmas is really all about.

Dec. 13-14

Upstate Team Meeting: All the IV staff in upstate NY will gather to plan and pray for the spring semester, and to celebrate Christmas together.

Dec. 19 – Jan. 2

Christmas Vacation

Jan. 13 – 15

IV's Women's

Conference: This year the conference will be held in Boston. We'll be talking about issues of ministry in our different stages of life (single, married, parenting).

Jan. 20-22

Leaders' Days: Our annual retreat to train our new student leaders. I will be directing a track for small liberal arts students again this year.

Totally Blessed!

My dear friends and partners in ministry,
I have much to be thankful for this Christmas season.

I am blessed to be Ian's mom. Ian Joseph Bailey was born on Sept. 18th at 8:13 am, after 26 hours of labor. He weighed 9 lbs. 7.8 oz, and was 22.5" long. He's a joy! I've found motherhood to be both very fun and very challenging. Ian's a fairly easy baby, but having any baby is still a big life adjustment. He'll be three months old on Dec. 18th, and I'm finally feeling like we kind of understand each other. I know when he's hungry, when he's sleepy, and when he needs a new diaper (though I think everyone around might know when he needs that!). I'm enjoying the change of pace, and the time that we spend together. Of course, who wouldn't enjoy spending time with such a cutie?

I am blessed to be Jeremy's wife. It turns out that Jeremy is a fantastic dad. He's really taken to parenthood. He encourages big burps (of course!) and gives the best baths. He's an incredibly supportive husband. He's very sensitive to my needs, he has been helping me to make the adjustments that I need to make, and he's making it possible for me to be back on campus now. What a gift!

I am blessed to be a loved child of God. I am learning to connect with Him on new levels as He guides me through this time of excitement, newness and exhaustion. I am thankful that He has been at work on campus this semester, even in my absence. I am blessed that He has sent His son that I might have a relationship with Him, and I'm looking forward to celebrating that with both the students on campus, and with my growing family this year!

I am blessed to have all of you in my life as partners in this ministry. You all have upheld me, my family, and the students in prayer this semester, and I am incredibly thankful for those prayers! This ministry goes forth only with the support of people like you! I hope that you are all experiencing the same great joy and blessings that I experience as we partner in ministering to students.

I am officially back on the job now, and you should expect to hear from me as usual from now on. But to catch you up on what's been happening on campus, I asked Dave, our chapter president, to write a letter to let you know what God has been doing. So, please enjoy reading what Dave has to share with you about what the fellowship has been up to this semester (on the back side of this letter).

May you experience great joy and blessings this Christmas season! Thank you for the gift of your partnership and prayers!



Ian at Thanksgiving

*With love in Christ,
Danielle*

Below is a letter that Dave Baker, our chapter president, wrote to fill you in on what's been happening in the fellowship this semester. Hope you enjoy hearing from him!

As an InterVarsity Christian Fellowship missing our staff-worker (due to maternity leave!) we made a few adjustments to accompany this change. Nevertheless, we continued to build and strengthen our relationships with fellowship members, Skidmore friends/faculty, and God this semester.

First of all, we expanded leadership positions to several more fellowship members in order to have different activities to honor and serve the Lord. Some of the new events that require more leaders include Art For God, Freshmen Bible Study, and Prayer meetings (which meet three times a week). We started Art For God last semester as another way to worship God. At Art for God we read scripture verses or Christian texts and then respond to it through painting, drawing, sculpting, writing, and/or coloring.

Freshmen Bible Study has been a great introduction to the Skidmore campus for Christian first year students seeking fellowship in a secular community. Another small group meeting we created this year was the upperclassmen Bible Study. We are reading Paul's letter to the Romans and discussing topics such as Righteousness by Faith and Life by the Spirit.

As always, the fellowship has continued to hold large group meetings on every other Monday with various guest speakers. This semester our speakers have focused on discussing Love for God, love for God's word, love for God's people, and love for God's purposes. Besides having speakers, the large group meetings include worship, some time for prayer, and some food!

Along with our regular meetings, we have held some recreational and/or outreach events. Some of these events include the Journey, a fun-filled dinner event, Chili Night at the Nailor's, and Operation Christmas Child.

The Journey is InterVarsity's fall retreat for Upstate New York College Students. This year's topic was Justice and God's justice for all. We had an amazing worship leader from the band Ten Shekel Shirt and had the opportunity to talk about injustices around the world and God's desire to stop these injustices.

Another event was a dinner prepared and made by one of our leaders Kyle Esposito. Kyle cooked a huge meal for over twenty people and many of the fellowship members and friends came to enjoy the feast! We held the dinner at another member's household and played video games, card games, hung out, and filled our bellies with delicious, delectable food!

At the end of October we went to Shiela and Joe Nailor's house for another dinner event called Chili Night. We ate amazing chili and desserts, hung out around a bonfire, sang songs, and just had fun! Fellowship members also invited other friends as well.

The most recent outreach event that CF held was Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a fundraiser where people buy toys, hygiene items, clothing, and school supplies for children who normally would not receive Christmas presents. CF spread the word around campus to all Skidmore students and in the end we shipped off 42 boxes! It was amazing to see other students not in the fellowship sending in money and creating shoeboxes full of supplies for the kids.

Although the semester is coming to an end we still have two more outreach events! One of the events is a movie night where we are going to travel to the movie theaters to see The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe. We hope to have a huge crowd and are all excited for this new film to come out!

Finally, we will have our Christmas Party on December 12th at Wilson Chapel. We will provide many baked goods, Christmas carols to sing, and an amazing speaker to talk about God's gift to the world: Jesus Christ! We hope to have many students who are not involved in CF at this event to spread God's love and Word.

Thank you so much for supporting Danielle as she returns to Skidmore this winter. If you could all continue to pray for our fellowship as we choose new leaders for the 2006 year that would be incredibly helpful. Also please pray for Danielle as she figures out how to be a mother and a staff leader at the same time! Thanks.

Sincerely,

David Baker '08
President of Christian Fellowship