

Dear Prayer Intercessors,

What a whirlwind the past few weeks have been! This is our favorite time of year here in Oxford – it's bursting with the potential of the beginning of a new academic year, new friends, new discoveries in one's field and one's personal journey! We also love it because of all the amazing opportunities to not only welcome incoming graduate students, but also to activate returning students to reach out and serve their peers. And despite hurdle after hurdle (e.g., Charlie getting a full-on case of the chickenpox which meant more than a week with a miserable little kiddo and no childcare), **we've seen God on the move with great turnouts at our launch events, wonderful energy from our students, and some fun new opportunities to serve as bridge-builders between ministry programs here and InterVarsity/USA.** Please join us in praising God for the following:

Amazing Turnout for the New Student Welcome Dinner: This year our venue's lighting/sound were under renovation. The space was also an active construction site during the work week which meant we weren't able to set up for our event until 1.5 hours prior, a tight turn around for an event of this size. Despite these challenges, we were still able to **host 250 grad students for a wonderful welcome dinner on the Friday before the official start to the term.** This year the food was excellent and we made the best of the little-to-no lighting by bringing in fairy-light lamps and a Christian jazz band to create ambiance. We had enough students show up that we had to use an overflow space and we were relieved to hear from attendees that the overflow room had a very "fun and intimate vibe". Overall we were thrilled to offer a group of this size a warm welcome from the Oxford Christian community.

Wonderful Meetings with InterVarsity's Grad & Faculty Leadership Team: Thank you for praying for the meetings we planned/hosted for InterVarsity's GFM national leadership team here in Oxford. Everything went exceptionally well and we think that this is the **beginning of some exciting partnerships between Developing a Christian Mind and IVCF/GFM!**

Momentum for David's Writing: We're so grateful that despite all the disruptions in childcare we've had over the last several weeks, David has still managed to make significant progress in writing for his dissertation! He's encouraged and is now preparing for his **Confirmation of Status**, the last hoop he has to jump through before the final submission and defense of his dissertation.

Will you join us in prayer for the following:

Protection & Health for Those we Love: We've gotten several requests from loved ones for prayers for God's healing. If you could generally be **praying for health and protection for those around us we'd be very grateful.** A concrete request is for healing for the little brother of Charlie's key teacher at nursery, Sharmeen. She is an outstanding young woman who has been a steady source of love and care for all the children she works with, but Charlie has a special place in her heart as he was the first child she was put in charge of when she came on staff. **While Sharmeen is Muslim, we've still made a special connection** with her as we regularly inform each other that we're praying for one another about different opportunities and challenges in our lives. **Her younger brother who is only about 17 years old has a very aggressive form of cancer.** While he is extremely brave and has been undergoing chemo for the last few years, things have taken a turn for the worse and he is currently in hospital. He seems to have a bad infection but they can't figure out where it's coming from. **Please pray for a healing miracle – first for his heart to know Jesus' love for him, and also for his body to respond to all treatments and therapies they are providing.**

Many thanks for your prayers! We know they can move mountains!

With love,
Alissa, David, Charlie