

INTER VARSITY PRESS

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OUR HISTORY

InterVarsity Press began right before World War II as a small service branch of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) campus ministry, which had its U.S. beginnings in the 1939-1940 academic year. At first we simply imported books from our sister movement in Great Britain for use by college students and IVCF chapters in the United States. Our first home-grown publication was a Bible study guide, *Discovering the Gospel of Mark*, written by an IVCF staff member and published in the 1943-1944 academic year. In 1947 a formal publishing program was established and IVP made arrangements for distribution of its books to be handled by Fleming H. Revell (which did so until 1960). In 1951 Joe Bayly resigned as a regional director for IVCF to become the head of IVP. (The next year he also became editor of *HIS Magazine*, a publication for college students.) In 1952 IVP sold 178,000 books and booklets.

In 1960 our editorial offices moved from Havertown, Pennsylvania, to Chicago where the IVCF offices were then located. At the same time Elizabeth Leake was named to manage IVP. The 1960-61 total list of books in print included 48 books and 20 booklets. By 1965, when James Nyquist became IVP director, this list had grown to 86 books and 22 booklets. The next year brought the landmark publication of *How to Give Away Your Faith* by Paul Little. It remains one of our top titles to this day. In 1966 we also moved our offices from Chicago to Downers Grove, approximately 30 miles west.

In 1968 Jim Nyquist became IVP's full-time director and Jim Sire became IVP's first full-time editor. Four other full-time employees filled out the staff. Shortly afterward, we began publishing Francis Schaeffer's works—which put IVP on the map as a publisher of note. The IVP Book Club (1965) and the bookstore Rack program (1971) gave us a solid sales base and continue to be important parts of our publishing program.

In 1984 Linda Doll moved from the editorship of *HIS Magazine* to the directorship of IVP. The next year LifeGuide Bible Studies were launched; they have now sold over 7 million copies. When Linda Doll decided to go back to editing in 1990, Ken DeRuiter became executive director of IVP.

In that same year, the award-winning *Dictionary of Christianity in America* was released. While over the years we had published many reference books created in Great Britain, this was the first of many major reference books originating in the United States. In 1994 we published our first Bible, *The NIV Quiet Time Bible*.

We had built our own warehouse/distribution center in nearby Westmont during 1979. In January 1995, after 29 years in Downers Grove, IVP moved to new offices constructed adjacent to the distribution center. Then in 1997, after Ken DeRuiter's retirement, Bob Fryling joined IVP as director.

Today InterVarsity Press has a staff of nearly one hundred, working together to publish ninety to one hundred titles every year. Our catalog lists more than one thousand books, Bible studies and booklets. Many of our books are recognized as enduring classics, staying in print for years. Sales have grown steadily over the decades, with our distribution center now shipping more than 2.3 million books each year. Our books are distributed around the world and translated into dozens of languages.

We count it an honor and privilege to participate in the work of Christian publishing, and we pray that our efforts will continue to equip, edify and challenge people in every generation—heart, soul, mind and strength.

Read More

Heart. Soul. Mind. Strength.

An Anecdotal History of InterVarsity Press, 1947 – 2007

By Andrew T. Le Peau and Linda Doll

ISBN 978-0-8308-3369-6

Available from InterVarsity Press

OUR PURPOSE

As an extension of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, InterVarsity Press serves those in the university, the church and the world by publishing resources that equip and encourage people to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord in all of Life.

WE THINK GREEN

InterVarsity Press is committed to protecting the environment and to the responsible use of natural resources. As part of the Green Press Initiative (www.greenpressinitiative.org), we maximize our use of recycled and/or chain of custody certified paper in the books we print and publish in the United States.

OUR VALUES

Love for God, God's Word, God's People & God's Purposes in the World

Our identity is rooted in our affections for and allegiance to God, whom we seek to worship in spirit and in truth. We wholeheartedly affirm the authority and teachings of the Bible as foundational for our lives and for our publishing decisions. We love the church, respect and feed on its rich heritage, and desire to serve it with grace and truth. We seek to influence, engage and shape the university world and our contemporary culture for the sake of Jesus Christ and his kingdom in the world.

Thoughtful Integration of Life

We value ideas and their careful expression. We love the life of the mind and want to “take captive every thought and make it obedient to Jesus Christ.” We aim for integration of the whole person—our hearts tutored by truth, our minds shaped by godly affections, our bodies and souls surrendered with joy to God's good purposes.

Dignity of People & Relationships

We value all people as created in the image of God. We celebrate each person's contribution of gender, ethnicity, church heritage and personality. We practice a collegial approach to our work that entrusts others with meaningful opportunities and responsibilities. We value open and honest relationships. We care about authors, customers, students, campus staff, vendors and each other as people we can serve with joy, attentiveness and trustworthy business transactions. We love to work and have fun!

Beauty & Stewardship in Our Work

We value excellence, eloquence, creativity, skill and innovation. We desire to produce, package and distribute books and other resources in ways that reflect the glory of God. We like working in an environment that is clean and attractive, and exhibits the beauty of God's peace. We also value financial integrity and faithful accounting of our business activities. We strive to be responsible and wise in using our resources of time, energy and money.

OUR FAITH COMMITMENTS/DOCTRINAL BASIS

We believe in

The only true God, the almighty Creator of all things,
existing eternally in three persons—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—full of love and glory.

The unique divine inspiration,
the entire trustworthiness
and authority of the Bible.

The value and dignity of all people:
created in God's image to live in love and holiness,
but alienated from God and each other because of our sin and guilt,
and justly subject to God's wrath.

Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine,
who lived as a perfect example,
who assumed the judgment due sinners by dying in our place,
and who was bodily raised from the dead and ascended as Savior and Lord.

Justification by God's grace to all who repent
and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

The indwelling presence and transforming power of the Holy Spirit,
who gives to all believers a new life and a new calling to obedient service.

The unity of all believers in Jesus Christ,
manifest in worshipping and witnessing churches
making disciples throughout the world.

The victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ,
who will judge all people with justice and mercy,
giving over the unrepentant to eternal condemnation
but receiving the redeemed into eternal life.

To God be glory forever.

This statement of theological foundations was adopted on October 20, 2000, by the Board of Trustees for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.

OUR PUBLISHING PHILOSOPHY

Within the bounds of the InterVarsity basis of faith, and guided by the purposes and vision statement of InterVarsity and the goals of InterVarsity Press, the editorial department of InterVarsity Press seeks to acquire, develop and produce products that

Reflect Christ as Lord in All of Life

Since Christ is King of all created reality, IVP will publish on the broadest possible range of topics expressing how Christ is Lord in each aspect of life.

Are Audience-Oriented

It is not sufficient to hold the truth. Truth must be communicated effectively. Likewise, the truth in an InterVarsity Press publication is to be communicated to the intended audience for that book in a way that it can be understood and acted upon. This involves contextualizing the message of each publication to achieve the most appropriate response from the intended audience.

Develop People in Christlikeness

While being audience oriented, our books must reach more than those who already agree with and live out what is advocated in any given book (“the already converted”). We want to help people grow, change, move (whether in small steps or large) toward the image of Christ as a result of reading our publications. Thus we seek to reach those who do not know Christ and help those who do to grow in Christlikeness.

Exhibit High Standards of Quality

The thinking, the organization, the writing, the editing and the proofreading of every manuscript should reflect high standards appropriate to each book and to the intended audience.

Have Integrity

Integrity is important in two ways. First, the quality and character of an author’s life should match the content of the author’s book. Second, the message of the author’s book should not promote any cause or position which was not the author’s intent to advocate in writing the book.

Are Responsibly Biblical

Every manuscript must respect the authority of Scripture, be consistent with a biblical world view and be soundly defensible from Scripture.

Are Consistent with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

As a division of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, InterVarsity Press publishes to meet the purposes, vision and needs of the campus ministry. As the July 29, 1966, InterVarsity board statement recognizes, distribution of our products “to every segment of society is appropriate, provided such distribution does not hinder the primary ministry to IVCF constituents.” Thus while our books have risen out of the ethos of InterVarsity as a whole, they have had a legitimate and significant place of ministry well beyond the campus context and should continue to do so as we share with the church at large the good God has given us.

Are Broadly Evangelical

As a division of an interdenominational ministry, InterVarsity Press does not emphasize or exclusively advocate positions of one denomination, theology or interest-group over another. Rather, recognizing that Christians equally committed to the Bible disagree on various topics, we publish across a range of evangelical positions. This intentional openness arises historically out of taking seriously InterVarsity’s mission field—the university—which embodies a spirit of liberality that has traditionally characterized the search for truth while also encouraging sound reasoning and fair persuasion. In the case of InterVarsity Press, the Bible remains our standard while we humbly acknowledge our human limitations in understanding and applying it.

Are Prophetic

The large majority of our publications will represent what most evangelicals can readily adhere to. There will be occasions, however, when Christians will need to speak a corrective biblical word to society or to the church at large. InterVarsity Press may find itself in a position to do this, as it has in the past, keeping in mind both Paul’s mandate to speak the truth in love and the fact that our publications or InterVarsity Press itself is not above correction from the body. Indeed we desire serious interaction by society and the church with everything we produce.

Are Financially Viable

We are concerned that IVP as a whole operate “in the black.” But because money should not be the only factor in deciding what to publish, we will occasionally publish individual titles because our ministry calls for it even though we do not expect them to be financially viable on their own.

KEY BOOKS FROM OUR PAST & PRESENT

Discovering the Gospel of Mark (1943) by Jane Hollingsworth
Quiet Time (1945) by IVCF Staff
My Heart—Christ's Home (1954) by Robert Boyd Munger
Basic Christianity (1958) by John Stott
Three Kinds of Love (1961) by Masumi Toyotome
Know Why You Believe (1968) by Paul Little
The God Who Is There (1968) by Francis Schaeffer
Knowing God (1973) by J. I. Packer
The Singer (1975) by Calvin Miller
The Fight (1976) by John White
Out of the Saltshaker (1979) by Rebecca Manley Pippert
Beyond Liberation (1983) by Carl Ellis
Too Busy Not to Pray (1988) by Bill Hybels
Loving Justice (LifeGuide® Bible Study) (1990) by Bob & Carol Hunter
Darwin on Trial (1991) by Phillip Johnson
More Than Equals (1993) by Spencer Perkins & Chris Rice
One New People (1996) by Manuel Ortiz
Losing Face & Finding Grace (1996) by Tom Lin
Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (1997-) edited by Thomas C. Oden
Spiritual Theology (1998) by Simon Chan
The Challenge of Jesus (1999) by N. T. Wright
Urban Ministry (2001) by Harvie Conn & Manuel Ortiz
King Came Preaching (2001) by Mervyn Warren
IVP Women's Bible Commentary (2002) edited by Catherine Clark Kroeger & Mary Evans

CONTACT INFORMATION

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