

Celebrating a decade in community at Carleton!

Setting the stage for campus ministry

I saw the sticky note on my door with just three words, “God help Carleton,” as I walked out of my office in the local church where I’d served as pastor for nearly nine years. I’d been praying this simple prayer for weeks at the coaxing of some friends, but I saw it in a different light that day. “You’re going to be the answer to your own prayer,” I heard the Lord whisper.

A full-time ministry at Carleton wasn’t on my radar at that time. Deb and I had come on campus in the spring of 1998 to advise Carleton

Christian Fellowship (see article by **Peg Craig**), then a year later I’d connected with Carleton Bible Study Fellowship (see article by **Jeong Hyun**). But the prompting in my spirit that day in December of 2000 took me by surprise. I didn’t understand what it meant.

Even as I pondered all of this, Gary Gilbertson, another local pastor, was starting a Bible study at Carleton called Sola Scriptura (see article by **Imran Babar**).

In the months that followed, our lives took some major turns. We left our church and moved toward ministering at Carleton full time, attending Sola with Gary G. and a handful of students. Deb’s business-writing career was winding down and gradually the ministry on campus became a joint venture.

SOul ZOne Ministries (*sozo* is Greek for salvation) came into being that summer to help students at Carleton navigate the spiritual challenges on campus. It had three distinctives: *Experience*—more seasoned (read: *older*) ministers applying a lifetime

Deb and Gary Hvass (back row), Cully and Will Craig (front row), at a dinner hosted at Rice House by students in 2004.

of experience to college ministry; *Equipping*—student leaders doing the ministry rather than leading our own Christian club; and *Proximity*—serving just a block from campus in the old “Nurse Cottage.”

Since 2001 we have had the privilege of providing Carls with resources for Bible studies, meeting with them one-on-one, holding seminars on a variety of biblical topics and spiritual skills, helping facilitate retreats and prayer gatherings, and hosting countless meals and social gatherings. Our relationships continue beyond the college years through a variety of alumni touch-points.

What you’ll find in this book

In celebration of these last 10 years, we asked Christians from Carleton to submit articles that not only summarize the years we have been on campus, but also recap the history of the evangelical community on campus starting in the 1960s.

As the articles from the 1960s to the 1990s came in, we discovered that we had a full-blown “Roots” section (the five articles with the red “Roots” tabs). Following these stories, students from the years we have been

Gary Hvass

on campus share their spiritual highlights.

Celebrating with thanks

We have much to celebrate as we consider the past decade of ministry at Carleton:

- New students come to Carleton and are often surprised to find a community of Jesus-followers that for a decade has grown up and passed down leadership, class after class.

- Students who have engaged in the evangelical community are leaving better equipped to represent Jesus Christ as confident and influential leaders in every sphere of their lives.

- Alums continue to network with us, and with one another, as they realize the significance of the spiritual deposit the Lord made in them during their college years.

While we cannot take credit for this, we rejoice that the Lord has called us as fellow-laborers in the work He has accomplished.

As we look back, Deb and I have many people to thank. Will and Cully Craig: for their friendship and sacrificial partnership in this ministry. My district superintendent in the EFCA, the Rev. Tom Mouw: for his wisdom, encouragement and organizational support in getting SOul ZOne off the ground. Pastor Gary Gilbertson: for providing an “on-ramp” to the campus, as well as his counsel and friendship. Nikki Reich ’10 and Kristen



Above: The Cottage, after some renovations. At right: The Cottage in the midst of remodeling, after the '50s siding was removed.



(Miller) Faroe ’08: for their loving labors with us as staff associates. Chaplain Carolyn Fure-Slocum: for her collegiality and fairness as the gatekeeper for the practice of all faiths at the college. Our fellow SOul ZOne board of directors—Pastor Dan Van Loon, Tammy Metcalf-Filzen, Will Craig and Greg Soule: for their guidance, accountability and sacrificial service. And all of you—friends and supporters, students and alums—who have enriched our lives and helped us in countless ways over the last 10 years. ♦

Now as you open this ‘zine, we hope you’ll do as we have done: Enjoy the stories!

Gary Hvass is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Free Church of America, and served three churches for 20 years before starting SOul ZOne Ministries in 2001. He enjoys swimming, golfing and spending time with his wife, Deb, two adult children and four grandchildren.

