

# Seeds of Revival at Harvard



NT Wright speaking at Harvard

In 1692, Harvard drafted its motto, *Veritas Christo et Ecclesiae*. Truth for Christ and the Church. Now it is simply *Veritas*. Gone are references to Christ and the Church. InterVarsity helps students recapture the original vision of Harvard as a place where truth leads to Christ and serves the church, but also looks to the future, praying for God to do a new thing in our midst.

We see this revival in the many grad students who came to our fellowship meetings this year. We see it in partnering with groups like Veritas Forum, which InterVarsity staff helped create at Harvard in 1992. Most of all, we see it in people who pray faithfully for Harvard students to know the truth of Jesus Christ. Please join us in that prayer.



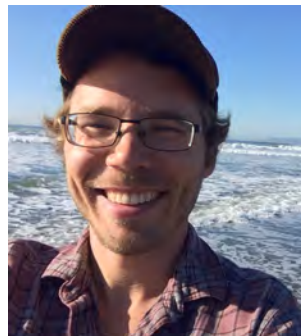
# Impact



As a person who grew up in church, I learned to memorize Bible verses and Biblical narratives. However, I didn't know how to REALLY read the Bible - understanding the context and interpretations. Jeff Banks helped me fall in love with reading the Bible again. He helped me ask a new set of questions that has strengthened my identity as a believer in Christ, and worship leader. I am incredibly thankful for his leadership and development.  
**-Dantrell Cotton, Ed.M '18**



From the beginning, Jeff dove right into the role and took the time to actively get to know everyone. He maintains prompt communication and does everything with a joyful smile. Jeff's commitment to the fellowship is evident through his genuine interest in the GSAS group members, his intentionality, and his diligence.  
**-Chellie Zou, MA Marketing '18**



Jeff Banks has been a real godsend for our Graduate Christian Fellowship at Harvard! His intellectual engagement with students comes with a pastoral touch, and he's a spiritual leader in our group. As co-president of the fellowship, I've also come to rely on Jeff's thoughtful and creative perspective on leadership, and his friendship has really helped me serve the group better.  
**-Ryan Gregg, PhD Religion**



## Harvard University

*Cultivating multi-ethnic communities of students who seek Jesus and make him known on campus.*



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Harvard has  
**15,000**  
graduate students

*"The harvest is plentiful.  
The workers are few."  
Matt 9:37*

Harvard graduate students go on to shape our world:



Barack Obama  
Harvard Law  
School '91



Ban Ki Moon  
Former U.N.  
Secretary  
General  
Kennedy  
School '85



Ellen Johnson  
Sirleaf Former  
President of  
Liberia  
Kennedy School  
'71



Michael  
Bloomberg  
Harvard  
Business  
School '66

## *For most students, however,*

questions of God and faith play no part in their development as leaders. Christian faith, in particular, is often considered to be irrelevant for students as they pursue their careers. When Christianity is so frequently dismissed, many Christians at Harvard find it difficult to connect faith with their chosen field.

The world is an increasingly complex place. Poverty still rules the lives of most people in the world while some enjoy unprecedented wealth. Despite the rapid pace of globalization, people still struggle to cross racial and cultural divides. Violence abounds as cultures collide, and religion is at the centre of global conflict. Truth and ethics are increasingly relativized. Secularism continues to grow as the preferred worldview in the West while other views are often sidelined.

## Mission and Strategy



*"The absence of Christian perspectives has diminished the university's own commitment to academic freedom and to providing universal education."  
— Mary Poplin, Professor,  
Claremont Graduate  
University*

In light of this need for the world's rising leaders to be shaped by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our mission with InterVarsity is to cultivate multi-ethnic communities of believers at Harvard who reach out to curious seekers and cautious skeptics on campus. Through teaching, mentoring, and counseling, we aim to spread the good news of Jesus on campus and help the next generation of professors, senior partners, CEOs, and presidents become faithful to Jesus in their calling.

At the heart of this mission are *relationships*. We want to help students develop and deepen a relationship with Jesus Christ and, through him, with their classmates and others in their field. It is only through relationships that students are transformed and equipped for a lifetime of faithfulness and ministry.

We cultivate relationships through these five key areas of our campus ministry:

- New Student Outreach—Connecting with new students
- Small Groups—Bible studies, prayer and reading groups
- Weekly Fellowships—Meetings at every Harvard grad school
- Monthly Worship nights—Coming together across the different graduate schools to pray and praise God

## Opportunities to be involved

More than 65,000 people and many organizations partner with InterVarsity to reach students and faculty across America. I am eager to find people passionate about reaching graduate students at Harvard University!

Leadership Gifts	Major Gifts	Sustaining Gifts
1 giving \$10,000/yr	5 giving \$300/mo	15 giving \$75/mo
1 giving \$7,500/yr	6 giving \$200/mo	10 giving \$50/mo
1 giving \$5,000/yr	15 giving \$100/mo	10 giving \$25/mo

Donate online

<http://givetoiv.org/jeffbanks>



Born and raised in Wilmette, Illinois, Jeff came to faith in Jesus at l'Abri Fellowship in Southborough, MA after a long journey. Along the way, he studied English at Davidson College and theology at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Having been a question-asking student, Jeff is passionate about introducing skeptics and seekers to Jesus in the context of a loving community. He also wants to help Christian students deepen their faith so that they might work for God's kingdom at Harvard and as leaders in their professions afterward.