

ISAIAH 58:11-12

“The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called the Repairer of Broken Walls; Restorer of the streets with Dwellings.”

PROGRAM

During our 6 weeks, we will grow together in our understanding of the city, the ways God is at work here, and our own response and involvement as Christians.

After initial orientation, we will serve as interns with a ministry which reflects our gifts and interests in order to see how our field of study can be used in the urban context.

Possibilities include working with a:

- ◆ Medical clinic
- ◆ Day camp for children / youth
- ◆ Neighborhood outreach
- ◆ Local church ministry
- ◆ Small business development

Evenings will provide time for us to debrief our experiences of the day together, hear from urban leaders, study God’s perspective of the city from Scripture, consider the complexities of the city and how we can respond faithfully.

Gateway



Details:

Housing

All participants will live together in community for 6 weeks. Gateway staff will live on site with students.

Cost

The cost for the program is \$1000 plus a non-refundable application fee of \$25. This includes training, housing, meals, trips, and public transportation in Philadelphia. Note: stipends may be available.

Please do not let lack of funds deter you from learning more about the program. The registration fee is due with your application.

Deadline for applying: March 25, 2005

Want more information? Contact:

Director: Barb Weidman
Barb_Weidman@ivstaff.org
215/769-1546

GATEWAY



INTERVARSITY'S
PHILADELPHIA
URBAN PROGRAM
JUNE 19—JULY 29, 2006

ISAIAH 58:9B-10

“if you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”

GOALS

PURPOSE

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship’s Gateway Philadelphia program is a way to give staff and students of differing ethnic and cultural backgrounds a shared experiential learning opportunity in the context of an urban community.

REGISTRATION

Applications:
Request via email from
Barb Weidman—Program Director
Barb_Weidman@ivstaff.org
Phone number: 215/769-1546

Email for your application ASAP—there are limited spaces.

HOW TO THINK ABOUT



To learn from urban ministers / workers, and to experience firsthand God at work in vibrant urban ministries.

To serve people while living in the Philadelphia community, through volunteering our time in area churches or agencies.

To live in community, allowing our experience to be shared, processed and internalized as we care for and learn from one another.

To challenge lifestyle and vocational choices.

To transfer our experience to campus engagement.

To explore the option of future involvement in the urban community.

A CITY

For many the city is home and no other place can equal it. The city’s music, its sights, smells and sounds stimulate them and make them feel alive. The city is PEOPLE—on the subway, on the street, part of a neighborhood, from every corner of the world, of every race and religion. The city is convenient and seldom boring.

For others, the city is unknown, frightening, and a place to be avoided. They may work in the city, or venture into it occasionally for a concert, a baseball game, or a gourmet meal, but in the corner of their minds lurks disturbing images—the homeless, crumbling buildings, drug addicts, acts of violence.

There is a danger in becoming calloused to suffering—both for those who daily see it firsthand and for those who only see it on TV. Yet, there is also danger in being too idealistic, especially by outsiders who presume that sheer tenacity and youthful optimism will bring transformation.

GOD’S PERSPECTIVE

God has already built His church in the city and is alive and well and active here. No outsider needs to “bring God” to the city. But God has commanded His people to be compassionate, and invites us to participate with Him in bringing transformation.

When we truly plunge into God’s blueprint for His church, we are compelled to learn the value of partnership with people unlike ourselves, Christian community that goes beyond racial and socioeconomic barriers, and a love for what God loves.