**ENGAGING THE UNIVERSITY: GETTING PRACTICAL**

**US AND IFES EXAMPLES**

**Northern California Grad Winter Conference**

**2016**

**Engaging the University**

**Brainstorming Grad Fellowship Ideas**

DISCIPLINARY TOPICS

**Earth/Physical sciences**

Seminar series on **Stress**– lightning talks – interdisciplinary talks on stress – geophysics/stresses in the earth/earthquakes; engineering/stress properties of materials; . . . and eventually get to stress/mental health/psychology/therapy/and Christian approaches – with free exotic food – no pizza! lunch discussion with facilitators at different tables. **Earth/Physical sciences**

**Computer Science**

No resources on computer science and theology – do we need to popularize the disciplines in general? What are the key issues in computer science? Nobody knows! How to publicize and popularize these issues? **Computer Science**

**Humanities**

Convene discussion groups using different philosophical/theological literature that’s not overtly Christian – topics of interest to all people where no one is claiming to be the expert, e.g., topics like artificial intelligence; the knowledge about the animal kingdom (e.g., what is it like to be a bat?); Thomas Nagel. **Humanities**

Use TED talks as platforms to start conversations. **Humanities**

**Engineering**

Seminar structure on general questions/cross disciplinary questions – discussions on our research **Engineering**

Visual interaction on campus – proxe! Re Identity / I AM … **Engineering**

On Beauty: creating beauty; where does it come from? Why do we find things beautiful? Why does engineering have this thirst for things that are beautiful when there’s no real functional reason for it? **Engineering**

Find ethics resources that are deeper than the standard basic “credits” for engineers. Some resource that lays out these engaging the university issues – some kind of table that connects issues and scriptures? And with other theological resources? **Engineering**

**Biosciences**

Beauty in our scientific practice **Biosciences**

What is it to be a human who does science? What is the human element in science? What would we gain or lose if we had AI designing our experiments? **Biosciences**

Funding: should we be funding people, not projects? Interdisciplinary rather than disciplinary projects? **Biosciences**

Who are we? – Art projects where scientists can do visuals of their work; 3-D printer models of our scientific models. **Biosciences**

Serendipity in sciences – comparing serendipitous stories in biology between Christian and non-Christian scientists? **Biosciences**

**Social sciences**

How easy is it in social science fields to make connections with their research and with the beatitudes – to deal with problems and try to find solutions? **Social sciences**

How can we bring together academics to speak on these issues?

General topic – how do we structure the best society given human nature? E.g. what is love? A choice or a feeling? How do we vote? Education – play therapy – joy for children; What is life and how do think about life? **Social sciences**

PROGRAMMATIC IDEAS

Book club on any topic where books are chosen around such biblical/literary themes as peace, justice, awe, beauty, etc. **Earth/Physical sciences**

Pick a topic and invite faculty to talk about it – the goal is to make it easier for faculty to talk about their faith and their work. **Computer Science**

How do we work with grad students as a resource? How do find opportunities to think about faith and work, to find spaces to bring disciplines and theology together? Passion talks are one way. **Computer Science**

Focus on issues of women in academia – find a place, a time for women to get together to network and talk about issues, e.g., engage with social justice issues. **Computer Science**

Undertake a mapping exercise of your campus – where are the Christian faculty??? Track down them down. **Computer Science**

Resources: how to get access to good articles and books? How to invite visiting experts to talk? How do we find about what scholars are in town and would be prepared to meet and talk or present? **Humanities**

Create a blog to share ideas from these conferences? **Engineering**

Moral questions within academia – sharing credit; collaborating . . . . **Engineering**

Connecting with younger students our programs – encouraging notes – to encourage conversations about love and compassion. How do we encourage undergrads about grad school? **Biosciences.**

**ENTERING INTO CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BIG QUESTIONS IN THE DISCIPLINES**

**What are the big topics?**

**Engineering**

* Energy and environmental issues: e.g., how to reach sustainability in use of resources?
* Water conservation: how to ensure worldwide supply of clean water?

**Electrical/Chemical Engineering**

* Deep neural networks
* Artificial intelligence
* Virtual reality
* The big question of technological advancement – is it helping us? How does it affect how we relate? How do we use it and encourage its benefits?

**Computing**

* Human-computer interactions
* Strong artificial intelligence (AI) – what is intelligence? What are we striving for? Is it even possible anyway? If it’s possible, we need to ask big ethical questions
* The study of our own limits – computability theory
* Where does the strong AI question lie with respect to computability?

**Humanities**

* How to be open-minded to all perspectives
* Integration of people coming from diverse backgrounds
* Focus on the marginalized – fighting against the systemic oppression of these groups, and finding cohesion

**Social Sciences**

* What is human nature?
* Rational choice theory – the tension between structure and human agency
* Inequality and power – how are they distributed? How do we reduce inequality?
* How fluid is sexuality? Which family structures are healthy?
* What is the university? Can it be a place for discussion for even very unpopular views?

**Physics, Earth Sciences, Aeroastro –**

* Climate change: how do we address it? how can we reduce emissions? What are ways to protect humans from adverse effects of climate change? How to affect policy
* Drones
* Oil prices and Middle East
* Problem of inducing seismic activity with human activities – e.g., fracking

**Biosciences/Life sciences**

* Gene editing and related bioethical questions
* Compassion fatigue in biomed; financing issues but it doesn’t help
* Intellectual property as it applies to bio techniques and genetically modified living things
* How are we treating our samples, lab animals? Who do they really belong to?

**Graduate Christian Fellowship**

**4th Annual Winter Regional Conference**

January 16-17, 2015

Northwestern University

**Interview Faculty**

**A prime source of finding conversations is from approachable, thoughtful faculty members.**

**How would you begin a conversation with a faculty member?**

**What questions would help identify and elaborate aspects of the big conversations that faculty may be willing to share?**

**Interview a friendly professor – someone you know is kind or thoughtful or open to talk to students, etc.**

**Step 1: Ask for a meeting – coffee, in her/his office**

**Step 2: Try an introduction something like this . . . .**

**“I’m part of a graduate student of Christians on campus. We’re seeking to discover big issues we should be thinking about. What are big debates [in your own research or writing work], [in your field], [in your discipline]?**

**OR**

**“My Christian graduate student group on campus wants to discover big issues in the intellectual life of the university that we can reflect upon (theologically and ethically).**

**We’re interested in exciting developments, frontiers.**

**We want to know about really big debates or big unsettled debates.**

**We’d like to about deep divides, or where old established theories are being unsettled, challenged, and maybe reconstituted or replaced.**

**We’d like to focus on issues that cross disciplinary boundaries or relate to different areas of the university.**

**Step 3a: Ask the professor enough questions so that (a) you can understand what he/she says, and (b) you can convey this to non-specialists, e.g., students in your grad group. Don’t worry about sounding naïve. That can be a big advantage—you can see you need it expressed in terms that non-specialists, non[whatever field the person is in] can understand.**

**Step 3b: Ask, are there places online which are particularly good sources for non-specialists to read about these issues in accessible language?**

**Step 4: You might then ask, does this issue have any ethical or policy dimensions to it? What are they?**

**Step 5: You might go one step further and say: since we are a Christian group, we are interested in how we should think about ‘x’ or ‘y’ as Christians. Whatever your religious commitment, what would you encourage a Christians to be thinking about?**

**Step 5: Followup. Either in the “interview” or later you could ask: if our group explores these issues further, would you be open to meet with us?**

**And so on . . . .**

**Arts Festival for Justice**

**GEU Guatemala**





**A REVIEW**

As a local student group of GEU in Guatemala City, we recently undertook a project called “Arts Festival for Justice”. What follows is a review of this experience.

**CONTEXT**

In our country, justice has become a precious word and in a deep longing of every Guatemalan. Guatemala is a country with deep social problems, such as violence, corruption, inequality and racism. Injustice is visible in all levels of society. At the same time, Guatemala is a profoundly religious country (mostly Christian – Catholics and Evangelicals). The disparity between religious and social reality has caused many –among them many college students- to feel disappointed or indifferent towards religion. In generals, evangelicals are regarded as people who don’t care much –if at all- about social change or justice. Therefore, many have lost interest in Christianity.

In this context, engaging the university creatively and relevantly is vital. Not to present an ‘alternative’ version of Christianity (there is no such thing), but rather to do justice to the Christian message and present the truth that transforms both the individual self and life in society. How can we do this in the university today? Which areas of interest do Christian and non-Christian students share? What do the Bible and the gospel have to say about our social reality? Is there hope? With these questions in mind, justice and the arts jumped out as two key areas where university students in Guatemala very much share an interest. Moreover, two areas on which the Bible has a lot to say. Two areas we could engage with and put together to make a contribution to our university and society, as well as an impact for the kingdom of God. In a prayer vigil we had in May 2012, the dream of organizing “something like” and arts festival for justice/transformation was born.

**THE PREPARATION PROCESS**

From the start, the project was embraced by the students. With fear perhaps, but with a lot of faith. With so much faith that we were planning on organising the Festival in October last year (that would have meant putting everything together in 3 months!) For several reasons –the main one being the closing of the university for two weeks in August- we decided to move the Festival for this year. Meanwhile, however, a door was opened providentially for us in the School of Political Sciences in October 2012. Through Anaely Sáenz, a GEU student leader, GEU were appointed as organizers of the annual arts festival promoted by the Political Science Student Association. This Festival was a great opportunity to get involved with the arts and the theme of transformation. GEU took care of the logistics and the Student Association provided the funds. It was a very lively event and it was appreciated by the students. It was a special way to engage the university and to show a Christian commitment in non-conventional ways –such as repainting a mural with historical significance for the School of Political Sciences. Perhaps you read about this first experience in a couple of articles IFES published (<http://ifesworld.org/blog/2013/03/serving-the-university> - <http://ifesworld.org/blog/2013/01/transforming-through-art>). It was a great initial approach to arts and justice, and we learned a lot from it.

The process continued, and towards the end of last year, a student team was created to organize the “Arts Festival for Justice”. Jhonny Corado, art student, was designated as coordinator of the Festival. We then divided into different teams to work towards the organization of the Festival. But we knew that God was calling us to something more than just organising an event: we were being invited to enter a transformational journey, where we would know God better, understand the true meaning of justice, have a closer contact with our social reality, and commit ourselves with God’s calling to justice. It would be a process to get to know “the God of justice and justification” as Carl F. H. Henry put it. This way, the Festival became a more holistic project, where service and discipleship would be developed, along with evangelism and university engagement.

At the start of this this year, the IJM (International Justice Mission) office in Guatemala donated GEU 20 copies of the book “Good news about injustice”, which we read and discussed with the organizing team for 5 months. It was a great way to approach biblical justice, the reality of injustice in our world, and fill ourselves with hope of justice and thirst for the kingdom of God. Parallel to this, we organized 3 visits to what we called “places of injustice”, in order to have a more closer approach to our reality, reflect on it from our Christian commitment, and also add life experience to what we were learning with the book. We visited the Guatemala City dump (the largest in Central America) and shared with poor families who live on the surroundings. On the second visit we went to the city’s General Cemetery (the oldest in the country), where we had a different approach to the country’s history and to urban poverty (the city dump can be accessed from the Cemetery). On the third visit, we joined a march called “I work for justice” on May 1st, International Worker’s Day, where we shared with non-Christians who are committed with justice. Each of these experiences was transformational.

Along with this immersion process in justice, we started working in the organization of the Festival. We had two main objectives: first, we wanted to create a space for students to freely express their vision of justice through the arts (literature, drama, music, photography, and painting); second, as GEU, we wanted to create original artistic presentations with the theme of justice, from the Christian worldview.

God showed his good hand from beginning to end. In February, we sent a letter to the university authorities requesting the university main hall, and we got a positive answer, by grace. It was wonderful that they accepted the project of an evangelical group and conceded this special auditor. We organized this activity in the national university’s central campus (Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala), the biggest in our country. This year, the rector denounced a deficit in the university’s budget, due to a lower funds transfer from the government. The university was lacking resources. In this context, when GEU presented the project to the university, not only did they approve our use of the hall, but as an initiative of theirs, we were given some funds to pay for the printing of the banners we hung in the university to advertise the Festival! What a grace.

A facebook page was created to promote the Festival (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Festival-de-Arte-por-la-Justicia/155021907989858>). The publicity team did an amazing work. They designed a very attractive logo for the event, as well of different kinds of publicity such as banners, flyers, letters for participants, etc. A video was recorded in different spots of the university, inviting students to participate in the Festival (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPlP8xzqnMc>). One team worked with the registration of the artists and other team carefully organized the schedule for the event.

On the other hand, a group of students were preparing GEU’s artistic proposal for the Festival. God gave us an amazing gift in the lives of Benjamin Hernández and Hendi Espino, a couple who work as staffworkers with COMPA (IFES México). Benjamin studied theater and has written several plays. As a team, we agreed to contact them and invite them to Guatemala. We wanted them to help us prepare a play on the theme of justice. We knew it would be a financial challenge to bring them to Guatemala, but we took a step of faith. They welcomed the idea with excitement, accepted to come and arrived two weeks before the Festival to share with us and rehearse with a team students. They even raised the funds to cover for the most part of their tickets! Benjamin wrote the script based on Paul’s letter to the Romans, with justice as the central theme. The Festival provided a special opportunity for the student movements in Guatemala and Mexico to partner in the gospel! Our IFES region (Mexico and Central America) as well other movements around the world, joined us in prayer. It was such a gift to count with their support. Prayer was vital throughout the whole process. It united us and sustained us.

We have been greatly blessed by God in having a generation of very talented artists in GEU. On the music area, a student wrote a song called “Guatemala te quiero feliz” (Guatemala, I want you happy), which expresses a view of hope and justice for our country. We called it “the theme song of the Festival”. It was professionally recorded by other student and then uploaded and shared on facebook (you can listen to it here: <https://soundcloud.com/geusuena/guatemala-te-quiero-feliz>). Many students listened to it and it got many good comments. It was a great way to invite people to the Festival and sing along with us “Guatemala, I want you happy”. Apart from the play and the song, GEU also prepared a creative proposal in the area of photography. It consisted in a series of photographs of GEU students in the city’s most historical plaza, reflecting situations and longings of justice. Another group of students prepared a choreography based on a song which talked about justice, and prepared a short text to read at the end of the presentation. Also a speech on justice was adapted to be read the day of the Festival. In the area of painting, an alphabet soup with words regarding justice/injustice was painted on 5 big wooden boards. The words related to justice were circled to emphasize them. The final result was a series of wooden screens carefully painted with the colors of the Festival, which served as the scenery on the main stage. Lots of students helped out with this, and a few hours before the Festival, it was done. The preparations regarding the photo and painting exposition, the sound system, logistics, the program, rehearsals, publicity and many other tasks were completed only thanks to a collective and solidary effort.

In this preparation time the group shared a lot together, and we stayed over at the GEU house several times. It was a precious time to work as a team and get to know each other better. Disagreement and misunderstanding appeared at some point too, but love prevailed, and that too was a gift. It was such a blessing to see students’ energy, passion and creativity for God. Even in the midst of final exams and homework, they dedicated an incredible amount of time and effort. Two days before the Festival, with many things still to be done and with the team feeling with no strength left, Isaiah 40: 29-30 encouraged us: “Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint”. It was beautiful to realize how, despite our limitations and our lack of experience, God was blessing this project.

**THE FESTIVAL**

Wednesday, May 15th. finally arrived. Many students had responded to the invitation, signing up in the different art categories. The program was full! Many people were looking forward to the Festival.

Even though it was the week of final exams for many, little by little the students started showing up. The photographs and the paintings were arranged in permanent exposition and we set a space (two big wooden screens) for students to answer the question ‘What does it take to be just?’ in an artistic way. At the end of the day, the boards were completely full with artistic expressions as answers to be proposed question. For the program in the main hall, three different schedules were organized: morning, afternoon and evening, with a break at noon. We set aside a space in each schedule for the presentation GEU’s artistic proposals, so many people would be able to see one or several of the presentations.

The hours went by and many students attended. At the end of the day, more than 100 people had been on stage (35-40 presentations), inviting us to reflect on justice through the arts. In total, around 600-700 people attended the Festival! When on stage, many students said they were very thankful for the space the Festival had opened for them. It was evident that students had a great deal to say about justice. We were amazed by the creativity and content of the different presentations, which led us to reflect and from which we learned a lot. Different views on justice were expressed, but there was a general longing and a common cry for justice. In several of the presentations, however, a lack of hope could be perceived. Students denounced injustice and cried for justice, but stopped there: hope seemed to be absent and justice unreachable. What great hope we have in a God who is just, who declares us just in Jesus, and through whom we become servants of justice and believe things can be different in this world! And what a hope we have in knowing one day perfect justice will be established. What an amazing message God has placed in our hands. The Festival opened the precious possibility of sharing this powerful message of hope in a society which has begun to lose hope.

In the Festival there was a feeling of ‘student unity’, which was very special. A reporter from the university’s newspaper approached us and interviewed us. He was very interested in GEU and asked many questions. Hopefully a story about the Festival will come out in the next number of the newspaper! Also a woman from an arts magazine took some pictures of the event and interviewed one of the students.

We could see that the students really enjoyed the exposition and had a very good impression on the Festival. One of the most common questions they asked was: Who organized this? When a professor was told the Festival had been organized by GEU, a Christian student group, he was surprised and said: “this is very relevant, because Christians aren’t usually involved in anything of this sort”. A paradigm had been challenged there. We gave away almost 500 bookmarks with a short reflection on justice and Matthew 5:6 at the end: “Blessed are the ones who hunger and thirst for righteousness (the word used in the Spanish translation is justice), for they will be filled.” This was another relevant way in which we could share about justice from a Christian view and also give students a little souvenir from the Festival. The bookmarks also helped us create a space to engage in meaningful conversations with students. For God’s glory, GEU’s artistic proposal was very well received by the public and the message of the gospel reached many through the arts. The play was an extraordinary opportunity to engage with justice, point to humans as the source of injustice, and present Jesus as the model of justice and the way to it. The rest of GEU’s presentations were channels to communicate a vision of justice full of hope, inspired in the gospel.

We are grateful for the way the Festival allowed us to challenge negative paradigms about Christians, Christianity and the God of the Bible. We are sure this too is part of our mission: we are called to reach students with the gospel, and many times this calling involves first breaking barriers students may have towards the gospel, in order for them to be open to it. The Festival was an amazing opportunity to do precisely this! In this way, it was a real testimony for non-Christians. But also for other Christians! Many Christian students were impacted, encouraged in their faith and challenged to seek justice.

We ended that day with a deep gratitude and joy in our hearts. Our greatest joy came from knowing that the name of Jesus had been glorified through the Festival, and that in his name we had made an impact on the university. We thank God for in His grace he let us be part of his plans and purposes in the universities in Guatemala. We thank Him for letting us engage the university and speak his love and justice through this project. We thank Him for this faithfulness. We thank Him for the opportunities this event has opened for GEU and for the gospel. We thank him for His justice and the hope we have in Him.

**WHAT WE LEARNED**

On biblical justice

1. Justice starts with being in a right relationship with God. This is possible through Jesus Christ. Justice (justification) through Jesus is ‘just’ what we need to become just and be on a position to express justice on an internal and external level. God’s justice is to be expressed in just lives and just relations between individuals and in society.
2. God loves justice and detests injustice. As Christians we have the sure hope that complete justice will be established one day. Meanwhile, we have the sure calling to do and seek justice. We live in a truly unjust world, but there are real possibilities of justice in this world and Christians are called to work for it.

In the preparation process and the event

1. As IFES student movement in Guatemala, we learned the importance of engaging students in alternative processes of discipleship. In GEU we have a discipleship program which is of central importance to our work, but the Festival helped us realize we need to explore new ways to enrich this process, in order to engage deeper with the university and our context. The process of the Arts Festival provided special ways to grow as a community, engage and serve the university, develop a biblical perspective on justice, serve our society, share the gospel and commit ourselves to justice.
2. Through the process, we were made more aware of our social reality and our role in it. We have learned how to see it better with God’s eyes and feel towards it with his heart. God has started to develop in us a heart for His justice and for justice in our lives, university and society.
3. Art can be a means of delight and of transformation, as well as a powerful way to build bridges between our culture and the gospel.
4. The festival was a great opportunity for students to develop their God-given gifts, for it was a project that involved lots of different tasks and skills. It was also a nice opportunity for other students to become involved in GEU.
5. Our confidence in the Christian worldview and the Christian gospel were strengthened and renewed. Our trust in God’s Word was deepened. Through the Festival we experienced the reality of “Jesus Christ – Lord of the university” in a powerful and fresh way.
6. Throughout the process, we learned to rely on God and trust Him more. The Festival was a project of faith. We didn’t have all the resources, but God was faithful and provided for every need, in His perfect time. We didn’t have all the experience or all the skills, but God qualified us and sustained us.
7. We learned the importance of learning to listen to others and being open to learn from both other Christians and non-Christians.
8. God uses those who are willing to be used by Him. Students’ potential in God is amazing. We learned, in the words of William Carey, to “expect great things for God, attempt great things for Him”.

**Arts Festival for Justice**

**Outline of the project**

The Festival was conceived as a holistic project with 4 main objectives and 4 strategies to achieve them.

**Objectives**

1. **Evangelism**

Reach the University of San Carlos with God’s message of justice and justification through a creative, biblical and relevant biblical proposal.

Strategy: to prepare and present a set of artistic presentations (a poem, a song, a drama, photography and painting) with the theme of justice, rooted in the Christian worldview. This is what we called “GEU’s artistic proposal”

1. **Engage the university**

To open a space of expression for students. To provide a platform to listen to the vision of justice of different groups. Take advantage of the potential of art and justice as themes that unite us with the rest of the university students and where we as Christian students can share the perspective of the kingdom of God through the arts. To break the paradigm that Christians do not get involved with art or with justice.

Strategies: promote the Festival through a facebook page and flyers in the university. Invite students to create original artistic proposals on justice. Send invitations to participate in the Festival to university art groups.

1. **Formación and discipleship**

To reflect from Scripture and our context on the theme of justice and turn the preparation process for the Festival as an opportunity for personal and community transformation.

Strategies: prepare bible studies on justice with the organizing team and talk about justice in other activities of our local group. Book discussion: ‘Good news about injustice’ by Gary Haugen, and articles of our social reality. A practice of prayer and fasting during the process.

1. **Service**

To have a real experience with our context in three different “places of injustice” and to serve our neighbor in a practical way.

Strategy: organize service trips to the city dump, a jail and a rural community in extreme poverty. (Finally, instead of visiting the jail we visited the general cemetery and the poor neighborhoods surrounding them; instead of going to the rural community we joined a demonstration for justice on Worker’s Day)



**U of Queensland Engaging the University**

Professor Ross McKenzie

I am happy to report about an event which was stimulated by this list,  
particularly Wendy Quay's post about Student Passion talks in San Francisco.  
  
Last Saturday more than 20 people met at University of Queensland to consider "Christians Engaging the University". Most were faculty, postdocs, and grad students.

The disciplines covered included:

* international relations
* biochemistry
* chemistry
* physics
* computer science
* law

There were 5 staff from AFES (the local student movement) present. One came from Sydney just for the event.  
  
First we listened to Terry Halliday's talk "Engaging the University" from the 2011 IFES World Congress: <http://ifesworld.org/media/audio/wa2011-aen-engage-terence>  
  
Then 10 different people each talked for 5-10 minutes about their research field and ways they thought it may be related to the Gospel or issues for Christians in the field.

* the political scientist discussed a recent paper he wrote about the issue of the "Right to Protect" and how views of it have a long history and are shaped by Christian ethics.
* A chemistry postdoc discussed initiatives he was involved in to help chemistry education and research in the developing world.
* A quantum physicist mentioned randomness and issues about the sovereignty of God.
* The law Professor discussed how when he teaches foundations of legal theory he discusses ideas going back to Aquinas. Furthermore, the tension between law and grace is there.

This all generated a lot of lively discussion.  
  
Officially the event was sponsored by the Centre for Science, Religion, and Society  
at Emmanuel College, University of Queensland. They provided a free room, morning tea, and lunch. We were very grateful to the college principal, Dr. Stewart Gill, for his support.

The AFES staff present acknowledged a desire to move beyond the "pietistic" model of ministry on campus and their focus on undergraduate students. They are keen to work more closely with the faculty and grad students present.  
  
I was pleasantly surprised by the response. When I planned it I was expecting about half a dozen people would attend and not any AFES staff. I was humbled by my lack of faith (pessimism).  
  
The event was relatively easy to organise. No money or formal registration or program or committee meetings was involved. It just required me sending a few emails.  
  
The feedback was uniformly positive. We are discussing more events, both formal and informal, including elsewhere in Australia.  
  
Thanks again to people on this list for stimulating me.  
  
Please pray that we would all follow up on this event with new initiatives.  
  
Ross McKenzie  
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