

PRAISE & PRAYER



Daniel in his element - talking with students in the Philippines, 2017 (Photo: IVCF Philippines)

THANK YOU DANIEL

"At the age of 14 in a Bible study on Revelation 1, I first grasped the vision and passion to see students saved for the Lord."

In the 45 years since that day, Daniel Bourdenné's impact on IFES ministry cannot be underestimated. From high school and student days in IFES groups in Chad, Togo and Côte D'Ivoire, to working as a professor and then in 1990 being employed by IFES, Daniel has served and inspired generations of Christian students. His gentle wisdom, incisive intellect and pastoral heart have benefited IFES in ways we cannot begin to measure.

Daniel was recently asked about highlights of his life in IFES. His response focused on seeing God "take the unusual path" by inviting unexpected people to join in a journey with God, as well as the joy of witnessing how God opens doors in the most challenging contexts.

At a time in history where huge growth in higher education runs alongside increasing divisions across the world, it is an exceptional thing for a single organisation to span more than 170 nations. Daniel's unique ability as General Secretary to grow and to hold our movement together, united

in Christ and in the mission to serve students together, has earned him huge respect throughout and beyond IFES. A man of prayer, Daniel has worked through listening to and empowering others, by encouraging innovation and creativity, and investing in younger leaders. He describes leadership as two postures – standing to go out and kneeling to pray.

"Jesus Christ has gone before us into the university. We do not claim to bring Jesus to the university but rather to say yes to his invitation to follow him there, and to do so as an honour and privilege."

Daniel does not yet have any specific plans for the future beyond a commitment to serve his family. The Bourdennés will remain in the UK while their youngest child finishes his schooling, but have a desire to be involved in ministry in Africa.

VIBRANT EVANGELISM

"All that we have done in IFES has been in response to Jesus' invitation in Matthew 28:19-20. It is from this calling that IFES draws its mission and vision 'to see students formed into communities of disciples,



GHAFES Ghana students trained to share the gospel with Muslim friends

transformed by the gospel and impacting the university, the church and society for the glory of Christ'. It is also the reason why I personally am so encouraged to see the momentum for evangelism gaining in pace and vibrancy in most of our national movements." - Daniel Bourdenné, final report to the Fellowship at World Assembly 2019



Left to right: Daniel with IFES and national movement leaders at the IFES Latin America conference, Panama, and sitting with UESI India staff, both in 2012. In the circle: Daniel met the Rwandan Minister of Education at GBU Rwanda's third national congress, 2005. Far Right: Daniel with pioneering staff in Timor Leste, 2019.

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IFES



THANK YOU DANIEL continued...

Daniel asks for our prayers for IFES to remain true to our calling to see students built into disciples who impact those around them; for God to be with IFES during this time of transition, and for himself and his family to discern God's future for them.

In Daniel's own words to IFES as we move forward: "God gave us a clear mandate, we have to go out and touch students with the good news of Jesus in the universities, and we need to focus on that again and again. The approach may change completely, but the focus must

remain the same. Please keep engaging, embracing the university holistically. It's an ecosystem and we need to be part of it and address the new challenges. I have been observing that fear has been killing the church. I pray that we, as Christians, build our courage and hope in Jesus – that will help us to remain bold in sharing the good news. I am not suggesting acting without care, but we are holding hope and we should not be fearful people. **The gospel is so beautiful, presenting the beauty of the gospel is the best thing that we can do for students.**"

GENERAL SECRETARY TRANSITION

On June 18, IFES announced that Chris Clark, who had been nominated to succeed Daniel Bourdagné as IFES General Secretary, had withdrawn his name from consideration.

Chris Collins, IFES Board Chair, writes: "The Board respects Chris' discernment process and decision... though it is with sadness that we accept his decision to withdraw."

You can find out more here: ifesworld.org/leadershipnews

Please pray for insight and wisdom for the Board and IFES leaders working through steps forward in collective commitment: to IFES core beliefs; to extending the mission and ministry of IFES across the campuses and universities; and to changing lives and transforming communities with the good news of the Gospel.

VIBRANT EVANGELISM continued...

North American movements are seeing more students turning to Christ and significant developments of new evangelism initiatives and resources. This increased passion for evangelism is also seen in Europe and Eurasia where there is continued investment to encourage evangelism through mission and events weeks and through small group Bible studies. In the East Asia, South Asia and South Pacific regions, we praise God for fruit in pioneering and from growing international student ministry. In the Caribbean and Latin America, students are making use of art and creative tools including the Mark Drama. Movements across Africa and the Middle East are seeking to equip their students to communicate the Gospel more clearly to classmates from Muslim backgrounds.

These are just a few snapshots of how God is working to make his name known in universities.

Please pray for Christian students across the world to catch and share God's passion for evangelism and look out for more updates in coming months.



Flyer for Mark Drama by ABUA Argentina students



Three students chose to follow Christ after this InterVarsity Canada camp in Ontario



SKSK Georgia mission event, Tbilisi

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