



Snowbound February 2011

With the Dallas area shut down for a second day due to a thick layer of ice and snow, much of the normal business of life gets delayed. And yet...the internet age means communication doesn't have to stop. Here were a few of today's conversations:



Eileen, a Christian professor in Florida, submits an essay about juggling the demands of academia with being a wife and a mother of two young girls. "I have finally faced reality — I will *never* be a superhero," she writes. We will use her writing nationally this month, but her Ministry Minute includes revision by our editorial team.



Brenda, a Christian professor in Texas, is part of a faculty group that meets at their university to discuss how to live for Christ. They use our "Ministry Minutes" as the basis for their meetings, and she wants to make sure she receives our weekly essays.



Gupta, a Christian professor in India, wants to know why some of our resources are available to professors globally, but others require them to be faculty in the U.S. It's a limitation we are hoping to remedy, but haven't been able to overcome yet.



Anne, a staff member in South Carolina, juggles emails and phone calls as one of my editors. She revises Eileen's essay, and we discuss what a life of faith looks like when life can be overwhelming. Anne's familiar with this — her husband has dealt with various cancers the past four years, and is going through yet another round of chemo this month.



Paul, a staff member in North Carolina, talks with many people who want to minister to faculty but don't know how to begin. He needs help in beginning his internet ministry. Though he has a doctorate in philosophy, he comes across as friendly, humble — and understandable!

From This Week's Essay for Professors: *On Taking Baby Steps of Faith*



"If students go through the university and never meet a Christian professor, they may conclude that there is no intellectual basis to their faith and gravitate toward whatever ideology catches their attention."

— **Dr. Walter Bradley (left)**

Walter Bradley has taught mechanical engineering for nearly 40 years, and mentored many graduate students and young professors in how to live for Christ. All spiritual growth begins with simple steps, he says:

"In all my years as an undergraduate and graduate student, I never had one professor identify himself as a Christian. When I became a professor I thought it would be fantastic to do for my students what no professor had done for me. It took many weeks that first year to summon the courage to do so; I finally said I was a Christian the very last day of class. A baby step ..but at least I had finally taken that step of saying *something* about my faith."