

Serving Students — A Faculty Member Follows Jesus

September 2009



Dr. Kenneth Elzinga is in the economics department at the University of Virginia.

This past week I distributed his essay “Serving Students” to several thousand Christian professors. We thought you might like to read an excerpt:

“At the start of each semester in an introductory class that I teach of over 1000 students, I tell them what my teaching philosophy is, but I don’t use the word “Jesus” and I don’t use the word “Christian.”

“I tell them that I’m going to teach out of a Biblical model of leadership. That model means that I’m to be their servant; that they have every right to expect that of me; and that they can call me on that if I’m not doing that.

“How do we serve our students and ‘wash their feet’ as Jesus did in serving His disciples on his final evening with them? I have discovered one very practical way.



“I began praying about my office hours—that I would see them not as a necessary evil, but as an opportunity for foot-washing. I’ve found it helpful to pray that the Lord would bring one student to my office that day with whom I could share the love of Christ.

“On the last day of class I do let students know that

I’m a follower of Jesus. I have said this very brief and carefully thought out testimony to over 20,000 students.



“I have had people tell me how touched they were by this. More than once, I will get an e-mail or a letter from a former student—it might be five, six, or seven years later—that reads, “I became a Christian, and I thought you would want to know about that, because I know you are one.”

Andrew & Heather Getting Married



A wonderful event in our lives comes in October when Andrew marries Heather Holly. They met in architecture school at Texas A&M and at church. She is an architect now, and he is an architectural photographer. They will live in Austin, Texas.

Praying that you are discovering more of the hope that Christ brings to every situation —

Steve & Sarah