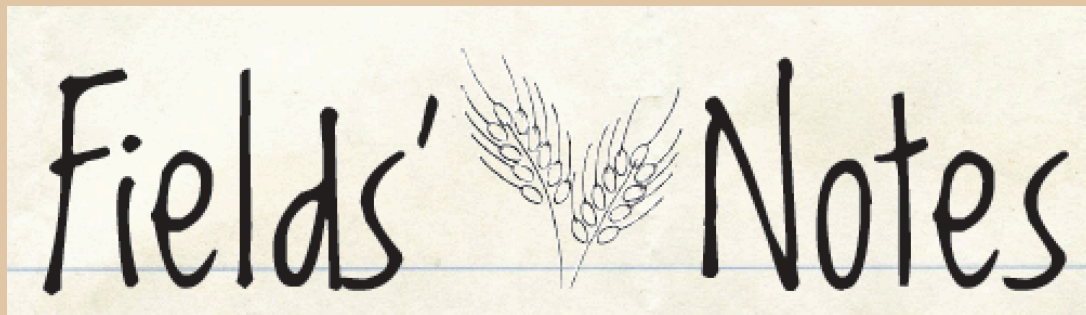


**From:** Lorri Harper Lorri@saclr.org  
**Subject:** FW: Ordering the Chaos  
**Date:** June 29, 2016 at 3:45 PM  
**To:** Beka LeMaster Beka@saclr.org



**From:** Nashfields [mailto:nathan.fields@intervarsity.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 8:30 AM  
**To:** Lorri Harper <Lorri@saclr.org>  
**Subject:** Ordering the Chaos

"We are not here to change the world, generally speaking. Indeed, the good news is the world is already changed, in a specific and astonishing way." Andy Crouch [Culture Making: Recovering our Creative Calling](#)



## Inviting God's Order into Our Chaos June 2016

Back when we were in Xiamen, Kairos, our Church's Youth Group, took a weekend retreat to a remote island. It was an hour away and was occupied by the island's lone human occupant, a nice security guard. Aside from fishermen, not many people frequent the island. While we were here, we found an old wartime ammunition bunker. It was littered throughout with trash that accumulated through the years and it functioned chiefly as a litter bin.





While it was most natural to see the chaos and clutter of the space, a few of us decided to put our hands to work and redeem the mess. That night it was used as a space for worshipping the Triune God of Grace who, in Jesus, came down into our chaos and gave us a new way of seeing God, others, and ourselves. Rather than a place to stockpile weapons of destruction, it became a haven of praise of students gathered from China, South Africa, America, Mexico, Australia, and Germany.

And so it is with the Gospel. The places, circumstances, people, and things, society tends to place less value in, God delights to dwell. And places where chaos inhabits, Jesus allows us to enter and restore order, assuring us, "Surely I am with you, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:20)



Living in a new city and in a new season has brought its fair share of chaos. But Jesus has been with us all the way through and modeled for us in the scriptures how to live and respond to a world in chaos. He lived out reconciliation, loved enemies, befriended different kinds of people, practiced forgiveness and extended mercy—all ways he demonstrated bringing redemption to a world in chaos. Near the beginning of his public ministry he sits in front of his hometown crowd and fulfills ancient prophecy. In quoting the prophet Isaiah, Jesus shares,

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

So where we see bondage, poverty, chaos, confusion, and hopelessness, Jesus offers a new way to see. Reacting to chaos in "fight, flight, or freeze" mode, though natural, can prevent us from both seeing and acting as ambassadors of redemption. In our day to day life, offering our moments and days to Jesus can be ways we participate with him in ordering the chaos under His Lordship.

As an Interservice staff member at Vanderbilt, I will be able to walk with Graduate students in the university and be part of God's invitation for them to integrate culture as agents of God's Kingdom. I'll have the opportunity to partner with students in manuscript studies, develop student leaders, and coordinate with students in outreach toward Graduate colleagues and Faculty. I'll have an opportunity to practice community development with students all while participating with God in His global pursuit of reconciling all people, places, and things to Himself, through Jesus.



We got to connect with one of Nathan's friends from elementary school as they were passing through on vacation. Please come visit us if you are ever in Nashville!



Our family is super blessed to have Rachel Arneberg from the youth group in Xiamen here as our nanny till December! She graciously volunteered to use part of her gap year to help our family through Nathan's 1st semester in grad school. She's amazing with kids!





Owen is taking good care of his sisters, Della and Tali.



Our neighborhood kids are such a special part of our lives here. We're all in the Nashville Public Library's Reading program and they often come over and play

with Owen.

## Intervarsity Update

I wrote about joining Intervarsity this last week on our new Fields Notes blog called [Nashfields](#). (It's our fieldsofchina blog just updated for this new season.) We're excited that I not only get to be part of growing in knowledge of best practices for special education, but I will also have the privilege of being on Vanderbilt's Intervarsity Graduate Staff.

While our family will have a modest stipend from the university, we will be on full support through Intervarsity. If you'd like to be part of our monthly team or contribute a one time offering to God's Kingdom work here, you can click [here](#) for online giving!

Thanks for taking time out of your day to check in on us and stay cool during these hot summer days!

The Fields



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We have added you to our monthly enewsletter list, but if ever you would like to stop receiving them, please see the link below.

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Nashville, TN 37208

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