

Wednesday, August 08, 2012

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our meeting this year was a blessing. There were about 23 of us. We began by going around the room, introducing ourselves and answering the question, "What is your favorite Bible verse and why?" After this, we spent the remainder of our time in discussion. The topic was 'Randomness and Divine Providence.' The occasion was the request for grant proposals by the Templeton Foundation (see <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/math/randomnessproject/> for details). We spend the first 30 min. by breaking into three groups, each discussing the sample questions in the proposal, as well as their own questions. We spent the last 30 min. reporting on our discussions and exploring further as a group. Afterwards, 11 of us enjoyed dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory in the GasLamp District.

To keep it short, here are a few assorted topics I'd like to communicate to you:

- Grant proposal – If anyone is interested in collaborating with statisticians on the Templeton Grant proposal, please email me or check the Listserve for ongoing discussion. To join the listserve, send a request to: CSIDG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Listserve – It was quiet this year after the discussions following Andrew Hartley's talk died down (JSM 2011, slides on the website). I'd like to expand our field of discourse to include prayer requests and answers. For those of you already on it, I already put one serious request out following the meeting.
- Mentoring program – We had one very successful relationship last year, with no other connections. I have several male academic mentors, one male industry mentor, and two female mentees in need of pairing. If you are interested in being paired up, please let me know.
- Table – As usual, our table is a good place to connect with people and draws a lot of attention. All of our 125 flyers were taken. I had some very interesting conversations with non-members while sitting there. For example, a ProQuest representative came by and asked if we had any data on religious issues in the US. He said there was no good data on the topic. Now there's an opportunity....
- Next year, at JSM 2013 in Montreal, I do not plan to be there. We'll need someone to set up the table, and lead the meeting. Please let me know if you'd like to help. Here are some other opportunities as well:
 - Contribute an article so we could put out another newsletter (CFR)
 - Create a new logo (for brochure, newsletter, and table banner)
 - Create a table banner
 - www.christianstatisticians.org is our website; if anyone has any ideas for improvements, that would be great. If anyone has the back CFR articles #8,9,10,11,19 and could send them to me for upload to the website, that would be great, too.(If someone could put me in touch with Linda Davis, I think that would do it.)

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.... The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." (1 Thess 5:23-24, 28)

In Christ,
Jason