

Reveal, Renew, Respond

Over the past couple years, UTCCF has endured much hardship during the era of COVID. During that time, every Committee of their respective year listened and prayed for guidance on how to unify the fellowship given their situation. Last year, the vision was focused on creating unity and relationships that had our identity and purpose **centred on our understanding of God and His kingdom**. Coming forth from this understanding, the fellowship would be able to develop deep and “kingdom-oriented” relationships. Under this vision, our fellowship saw a great increase in number and truly became a place where life long bonds were formed.

However, within this unity, we saw a potential pitfall in how the fellowship may have interpreted and executed these kingdom-oriented relationships. Instead of a desire to spur each other on in Christ, **we saw at times a culture where the relationships we formed with others in UTCCF fixated on socialising and comfort, with less of an emphasis on Christ’s relationship with us as individuals**. This can prevent the growth of meaningful, Christ-centred bonds and it detracts the focus away from our personal relationship with God to those around us.

As we dove deeper into why our focus as a fellowship may be getting off track, where we as a body have fallen short is understanding – **how** to know who God is. Many of us already know about God: our all-powerful Father who is perfect in his love for us. And many of us also know what our calling is as Christians: to spread the good news and to seek God in all aspects of our lives. But we sometimes neglect to act on this knowledge and may have little desire to pursue him deeper. As a fellowship, we may become **desensitised to the character and revelations of God, resulting in the lack of response within the body**. This includes forming social focused relationships in UTCCF rather than those focused on his kingdom.

That being said, we believe that God wants us to build upon last year’s vision. If last year defined what it meant to have kingdom-oriented relationships and what they could look like, then this year, we will pursue **how** to truthfully and earnestly understand who God is. We should turn our attention to the Holy Spirit, as a guide into how we can understand God.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to you remembrance all that I have said to you.”

- John 14:26

As Christians, the Holy Spirit is already present within our lives, given to us as a helper to see and remember God in all his glory and perfect love for us. But there are also many ways in which we choose to dismiss the Holy Spirit. This can be through active denial—refusing God’s revelations—or passive denial—ignorance of God’s presence in your life—of the Holy Spirit. When we deny the Holy Spirit, we become numb to God and may fail to see how he is revealing himself to us.

This upcoming year, we hope to see UTCCF become a place where we are willing to live and walk by the Spirit, so that our understanding and love for God are continuously renewed by the Spirit. Walking with the Spirit begins with humbling ourselves before God, remembering that we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to renew our minds, and it is not by our own ability that we can force this change.

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”

- Titus 3:5

And in being renewed, we will become a place where we will respond to the divine calling, whether it is to spread the good news across campus or to seek God in our relational and personal pursuits.

Knowing the character of God and the Holy Spirit

In order to reach a place of true response to what God is revealing to us, we need to be renewed by his good works and character by the Holy Spirit. First, is knowing what he has done through scripture, specifically understanding his character of love and the Holy Spirit. This will be accomplished through weekly Friday night Bible studies. Second, we will continue to include God Sightings and Gospel Sharings to see how God through the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of our brothers and sisters. Friday night musical worship will also incorporate the themes of reveal, renewal and response as followers of Christ.

Sharpening our Focus on the Holy Spirit

Second, and the most challenging part, is being renewed by what we have learned or understand of God. We recognize that “renewal” is a very personal interaction one will have with God, but we hope to create an environment where the works of the Holy Spirit can be seen, and thus, be known. We encourage the fellowship to become a space where we can respond to God, through prayer, and Christ-centred conversations with the desire to support each other's spiritual growth. Keeping with the strength of UTCCF's community, Investment Groups (IGs) will play a key part in facilitating these important conversations. The introduction of Accountability Partners (APs) will allow those interested to deepen their bond with God, and with another brother/sister. We hope that through these activities, the Holy Spirit can make his presence known and his work visible, regardless of how clearly you may or may not see the Holy Spirit currently.

For those who are new to the fellowship, this path appears that you need to have the context of last year's vision to be impactful. However, we encourage and challenge you to think about how the Holy Spirit is working in your life and what he is revealing to you. We hope this year in UTCCF will allow you to deepen your understanding of the Holy Spirit, and in turn, see what areas of your life he is revealing himself to you.

And for those exploring the faith, these ideas may appear as if they do not apply to you as the Holy Spirit may be entirely foreign to you. But, we want to invite you to UTCCF to witness and

observe how the Holy Spirit works amongst his people. And as you expand your understanding and relationship with God, we hope the spirit-filled people around you will encourage you to discern where the Holy Spirit is in yours.