

Pouring In, Pouring Out: An Overflowing Love

Women's DL Vision

If you have questions, concerns, or advice, please feel free to DM me @dora.shii on Instagram or Dora Shi on Messenger :) I'd be happy to chat more!

1. Spiritual Life

Like many others, I grew up in a Christian home and went to church each Sunday. As a child who wanted to please my parents, I thought church programming was another way to demonstrate my academic excellence. I spent all my time memorizing Bible verses, but only so I could exchange them for candy and prizes, or affirmation from my leaders. Going into middle school, I made many close friends at church, and it became an opportunity to hang out with my friends and socialize with others. Although I believed in God, I didn't really know who He was, and that was fine with me. It was only after my heart was touched by the Holy Spirit at a youth retreat that I understood the existence of a powerful, spiritual being who loved me. After that retreat, I began to question what I had experienced and who this being was. I read the Bible, participated genuinely in youth group, and came to the conclusion that this was the Christian God. At this point, some of my friends had begun to walk away from the church. I felt like I had to make a choice: to follow my friends and explore the world (which was especially appealing as a teenager), or to follow God. I ended up choosing God, and got baptised in the winter of 2019. And then COVID happened. I learned the hard way then that I am prone to drifting away from God in hard times. Of course, university has been hard too, and I am often filled with discouragement, exhaustion, and stress. Still, in those struggles I see God helping me build up perseverance, providing me with brothers and sisters in Christ who love me, and teaching me that I am only human and need to rely on Him. I have so much more to learn, and am excited to continue walking with Jesus.

Currently, I attend Grace Toronto and serve occasionally with the children's ministry. I am not part of a small group yet, but I would like to build more relationships and seek out discipleship within my church in the next year. I am close with my youth counselor from home who led a women's group in my home church, and whom I rely on for spiritual support and advice.

2. Candidacy

I believe UTCCF provides a student community for believers to walk alongside each other in Christ. This involves loving one another¹, studying the Word together, keeping one another accountable, worshipping together², and sharing the good news of the Gospel together³. The

1. *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34 ESV*

2. *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16 ESV*

3. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20a ESV*

role of UTCCF committee, then, is to facilitate this kind of community, relying on God for direction and guidance. In a practical way, this means creating a shared vision, planning weekly meetings and events, managing logistics, supporting ministry leaders, and mediating conflict. The committee is also called, as all Biblical leaders are, to lead with humility⁴. Its role is to serve wholeheartedly, without selfish gain, for the sake of God's people and His kingdom.

Through the past three years, I feel that God has blessed me with the CCF community. You have all become my home-away-from-home, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and my friends. I have come to love this fellowship, and have the desire to serve and give back. I think this is my main motivation for running for committee. In my time here, I have also been supported by big sisters (in Christ) whom I look up to for their Godly hearts and lives. I now feel called to be a big sister in CCF who leads by example and who members can come to for support. Finally, my time commitments and energy levels for the next year have lined up well with the requirements of this position. I feel that God has sorted everything out for me, and I am ready to take on the position of DL!

3. Vision

In the past year, we learned about God (He was **revealed** to us), **renewed** our faith in Him, and **responded** to His gift of salvation and His everlasting love. Our fellowship grew in number, and the revival of hospitality ministry helped us welcome these new friends to our community. As our fellowship grew, it became harder to form relationships with those in CCF outside of our IGs and the ministries we attended. Many of those I talked to in the process of visioning expressed a desire of feeling left out in large group or wanting to get to know those outside their set groups. Although outreach ministry did a great job connecting with CCFers interested in learning more about the faith, we did little this year to minister to our non-Christian U of T peers or serve the Toronto community. Finally, although we learned how to live Godly lives from Biblical mentors such as Peter and Paul, it was more difficult to find mentors in CCF to personally guide us and lead by example.

So?

*And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works**, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. -Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV*

The first part of my vision is to **pour into** one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. At the core, CCF is a community where we can support one another and encourage others to continually seek out God. Paul calls believers "one body" under God⁵, and we are called to

4. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. Luke 22:26 ESV

5. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. -Romans 12:4-5 ESV

support and be unified with all parts, not just the limbs of close proximity to us. I think we are already good friends with one another, but we are also called to be mentors, brothers and sisters, and disciples of Christ. For me, helping to form these deeper connections looks like introducing women's mentor-mentee pairs, working with comm to plan more large group events, and setting up unofficial CCF events for bonding and relaxation.

The second part of my vision is to **pour out** love into our surrounding campus and community. As Christians, the Bible commands us to go make disciples of all the nations ³ and serve the underprivileged people in our communities ⁶. Jesus also says that we are "co-workers in God's service" ⁷, so let's serve God together! I think CCF is generally hesitant to engage in outreach outside our fellowship, so a practical implementation would be to first include more outreach-related bible studies and women's programming. A next step would be to invite women's ministry to volunteer at shelters or participate in campus outreach activities together. In this way, the women can build one another up and learn to serve our neighbours in a way that honours God.

If I am not elected to Women's DL, I will seek to fulfill my vision as a women's leader or an active participant in our hospitality and outreach ministries.

4. Personal Evaluation

I think God has given me a spirit of gentleness and empathy, as I noticed these changes after becoming a Christian. Over the years, God has also taught me how to build strong relationships and care for others. I believe these traits will help me build Godly friendships with the women of CCF and support them emotionally and spiritually. Although I am not a wise person, I also feel that the Spirit gives me words to say when others come to me with problems or when I evangelize. Going forward, I will continue to trust in God to give me direction and guidance when I am helping others.

I think I am in some ways a perfectionist, and I take pride in my work. When something goes wrong, I panic, and I am prone to nitpicking the details instead of remembering that my true focus should be on God. I think these things could affect my mindset towards committee and my ability to serve the community wholeheartedly. I am very grateful to have a supportive partner, friends, and mentors who care for me and remind me to look towards God in all moments. Although I love God, I am also easily distracted by school, the world, and social media. I intend to continue trying to centre my life around Jesus by memorizing Scripture, praying, and asking Him for help.

6. It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy. -Proverbs 14:21 NIV

7. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. - 1 Corinthians 3:9 NIV

Lastly, something I think you should know is that I struggle with anxiety and depression – clinically so. I share this with you **not because I see it as a weakness**, as I know that God works

through broken people. Rather, I share this to **ask for extra prayer and grace** from you, the fellowship. I might be extra energy-deprived, stressed, or disorganized as a leader some days, so please pray for me! I have strong support from my doctor, friends, and family – and most importantly, I know that God is there to support me.

Thanks for reading :) love you guys!

- Dora