

## **Spiritual Life**

The gospel can mean many things for many people. For us Christians, it is how we interpret God's words; words we live by and words we strive to live up to that defines our faith. For me, it is the hard truth that I don't want to know but must face, for better or for worse. As I grow older, the gospel seems to apply itself more and more after every passing day. It shows us the best of what our faith has to offer and our salvation, but it also shows the worst of what human transgressions can bring and heeds us warnings. To me, the gospel is the truth I choose to believe in.

I grew up in a Christian household, went to a Christian school, went on short term mission trips and almost all Christian related activities possible. Along the way, I had made many mistakes throughout my journey, very costly sinful mistakes. I had hurt many of those around me and those closest to me. I grew distant from God. It wasn't until Covid hit, that I had the time to process everything I had done and I had reached one of my lowest breaking points. When I felt that I had nowhere else to turn to I turned my attention back to my faith. The gospel helped guide me through this process but I felt it was God and the holy spirit that brought me back up. I eventually got baptized and recommitted to my faith.

In these past 2 years at university, I believed I had reached a point of stagnation in my faith and I have been trying to figure out where the next path I need to walk. In my discernment, I have come to a conclusion that I want to lead. I would like to share the joy and the wealth of knowledge that I have attained and give back to others what God has given me so much of. Here in Toronto, I personally feel that the strongest Christian community I feel a part of is CCF.

## **Your Candidacy**

I believe that the purpose of UTCCF is to be a faith based community where like-minded individuals can come and grow their faith in God. It is also meant to help facilitate university students in a particular challenging time and guide them in their journey with God. The UTCCF Committee is meant to not only help run the logistics of a fellowship but also help guide the direction of the fellowship spiritually. It is our duty as committee to set a strong faith based role model for those throughout the fellowship and help guide fellow CCF members spiritually to the best of our abilities.

What I felt was that God was telling me to take my next step in my Christian journey and take a more active role and help grow his kingdom. To use the talents and abilities given to me by him in the role of secretary treasurer. Having given not only a chance for a formal education in accounting and financial related studies in one of the best business schools in Canada. I have also had numerous professional work-based opportunities that have enriched my experiences to which I want to put to use giving back to a community I deeply care about.

If I am not elected in my chosen role, I hope to still serve in the leading Investment Group to which I believe still has a great impact on the fellowship. I believe that being able to actively help guide those around me by leading in discussions in bible studies, facilitating a warm and welcoming atmosphere has a very strong impact in this particular Christian community (CCF). I could also become more of an advisor-like role, helping the leadership committee by giving financial advice and any financial logistical planning if necessary to ensure that the future leaders will be equipped with tools necessary for them to succeed. Ultimately, I have faith that God will know what is best for this community and I will leave it in his hand regardless of the results.

### **Vision**

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

-(1 Corinthians 1:10)

Where I see God leading UTCCF is being our guide in mind and thought. From what I have seen in these past 2 years at CCF, it is one of the strongest tight knit Christian communities of which I have not seen prior to university. It is rare to see a Christ centered community be stronger than some of the christian communities I have been around. As times change and university students' ways of thinking develop, my hope for UTCCF is to continue to be a beacon for those who want to start or continue their journey in Christ. To be united in our faith and Christ-like in our mind and thoughts, we can strive to succeed in the righteous path. What I hope to do for the fellowship spiritually is to keep the fellowship's morals on the right path and to ensure that we as Christians may remain united regardless of the difficulties and hardships we may face.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

-(James 1:22)

A weakness that I have seen in UTCCF, but also in other Christian communities is our inability to take actions to grow our faith. Oftentimes we may attend bible studies or attend church and listen to the word of God. However, we may oftentimes just be attendees rather than active participants; listening rather than applying the word of God. I feel that God has called me to help fix these issues. I have personally felt called (Mathew 25:14-30) that I want to best use my talents and fix issues related to the finances UTCCF has, but I also want to be able to use my spiritual talents to help guide others to apply the word of God rather than listen.

Implementations of this vision:

- Revitalize the financial state of UTCCF (diversify income 😊)
  - From my experience, I have seen nonprofits, charitable organizations and religious groups collapse due to issues of finance. In the past 3 years we have not had a secretary treasurer managing our finances which has led to a few issues. I hope to seek greater revenue sources to help secure UTCCF's future financially.
- Administration and logistical planning
  - I hope to be diligent in completing logistical work in a timely and effective way as to best serve the fellowship.
  - I hope to be detail oriented in the logistical plannings of helping the fellowship and ensuring events run smoothly to a similar level of consistency of the past.
- Spiritual Pillar
  - If I am elected I hope to ensure that fellowships goals and spirit is adherent to the goals and spirit of God and his kingdom in every activity or plan and actions committee takes.
  - I want to seek openness in discussions in meetings and be honest about what I think the spiritual direction of UTCCF should be.

### **Personal Evaluation**

Strengths (gifts):

- Knowledge and Expertise in Finance:
  - Having attended one of the best business schools in Canada and in regards to finance and accounting. (academic knowledge)
  - Network of individuals who can help secure grants and other revenues for the fellowship.

- Professional experience in working in the accounting field in both public practice and industry.
- Helped lead University of Toronto clubs in executive positions related to finance.
- Spiritual Wealth
  - Having a strong wealth of knowledge on biblical text and faith related content.
  - An understanding of different religions beyond my own faith.
  - A strong connection to my faith and my beliefs in God as our savior.
- Discernment before Action:
  - I often like to take the extra time to think and to listen to the opinions of those around me before taking action. Actions of varying nature.
  - I also like to consult God and the gospel for direction before acting upon certain decision making.

Weaknesses:

- Self Control
  - In the past I have been prone to anger and would make impulsive decisions. Decisions that I have been looking at more critically since my time in UTCCF and I am still working to fix such issues.
- Spiritual Maturity
  - I personally feel there is still so much room for me to grow in regards to my faith and commitment to my faith.
  - The journey I am on requires me to be more consistent with things such as devotions or attending in person church. Due to these past couple years overstressing my abilities to grow my career I have neglected my spiritual life at times and I hope to fix that even now.
  - I personally think that attending church with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ around me has given me more motivated strength and renewed my faith constantly.