

Annie Wang
Outreach Coordinator

Spiritual Life

The gospel to me is the beautiful truth of how the God of the universe restored humanity from sin and evil and brought us back to Him through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, God's son. Despite knowing the gospel from a young age, I began to develop a personal relationship with God in my teenage years. It began with lots of doubting and skepticism as I tried to understand what made Christianity make sense, however, when I realized how God has faithfully walked with me through all of life's changes and challenges, I decided that I want to follow Him for the rest of my life. I was baptized in March 2021. Since then, my walk with Christ has been steady, but not without ups and downs. I believe God led me to study in Toronto to help me grow stronger in my relationship with Him and learn how to depend on Him.

My church in BC (Village Church) has supported me in my walk with Christ through the sermons where scripture is taught verse by verse weekly. My church also taught me the importance of thoughtfully and graciously defending biblical truths for those that are skeptical. Even when I am not in BC, I often listen to their sermons and continue learning from them. Currently, I am supported by the Chinese Gospel Church (CGC) in Toronto. I attend worship service weekly, as well as Christian Education classes after the service where we dive deeper into different topics in Christianity and learn how to live it out daily. I am also part of a small group at CGC where I am supported by brothers and sisters in my walk with Christ through prayer, encouragement, and accountability.

Candidacy

I believe the purpose of UTCCF is to provide a place of community of Christ-followers where we can encourage one another with our walks with Christ, sharpen one another, and be on mission together. As for the UTCCF Committee, I believe they are responsible to lead by example in these areas and ensure that UTCCF is a God-glorifying community. I also believe that the Committee should actively point others to God and not themselves.

God has led me to run for Outreach Coordinator by revealing to me His heart for those that don't know Him yet at UofT. Through engaging with other Christian students on campus during Friday Morning Prayer and Relevant week, I witnessed the passion and urgency others had in sharing the gospel with people on our campus. I believe God has given me compassion for those that don't yet know the Gospel and seeing how others live out this mission encouraged me to urge my community, UTCCF, to do

the same. UTCCF is a great community that encouraged me to grow in my faith. I want to continue to help others at UTCCF grow in their walk with God by encouraging them to live missionally.

If I am not elected as outreach coordinator, I will continue to encourage people at UTCCF to equip themselves for evangelism by strengthening their relationship with God, learning how to communicate the Gospel to non-believers effectively, and to participate in campus outreach efforts.

Vision

The Bible makes it clear that God commands us to share the Gospel. In Mark 16:15, Jesus says to his disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” Similarly, in Matthew 28: 19-20 Jesus says “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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Moreover, Jesus sets the example as the shepherd that leaves the ninety-nine sheep to go after the one lost sheep. Jesus’ heart is for the lost and he rejoices over one sinner that repents (Luke 13:3-7).

However, outreach is not easy. The labourers are few, and we are being sent out “as lambs in the midst of wolves” (Luke 10:2-3). Often, we feel unprepared and underqualified to explain the gospel to people we know, let alone strangers. I see God leading UTCCF to faithfully live out the gospel where we are in our faith, and where we are in our life stage. This means stepping out of our comfort zones to proclaim the gospel boldly and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ right where we are – on campus.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16.

God has called me to partner with Him in this vision by encouraging and creating opportunities for UTCCF to share the gospel with those on our campus. This will involve doing the things that we are already good at as a fellowship – encouraging one another, pouring into each other, as well as developing new skills -- such as how to communicate and defend the Gospel clearly, actively reaching out, and doing so with love and respect, as in 1 Peter 3:15:

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for their hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

Some more practical ways of implementing this vision include:

- Praying together, for our community, each other, and missionally for more students to come to know Christ.
- Learning about missions together through reading scripture, discussion, and research. Encourage those that have mission on their heart to pursue God's calling.
- Join other Christian fellowships and ministries on campus in outreach events and learning about missions (eg. Relevant week, UofTogether, Missions Hub, etc.)

Overall, my hope is that UTCCF will be a community that is engaged in proclaiming the gospel on campus by the way we live and love, and importantly, reach out to those around us.

Personal Evaluation

I believe God has gifted me with a gentle heart and listening ears. Being quick to listen and slow to speak comes naturally to me, and I have seen how God has used this gift to show His love for those I interact with. God has also given me a heart to care for others deeply, for their physical and spiritual needs. As a result, I am motivated to reach out to those that haven't accepted God's love because I truly care for those around me.

There are many areas of weakness in my life. I tend to over plan for the future and fail to include God in my plans. I am a cautious person and I feel uncomfortable to act on things when I have not accounted for every possible outcome. When that happens, I become anxious and struggle to lift my worries to God in prayer because it is hard for me to let go of control. It also makes it difficult for me to make big decisions and have peace in whatever outcome my decision will be. I have come to realize that a major cause of this problem is that I hold what others think of me highly. I don't want to make a wrong decision and I don't want to be responsible for a bad plan. This sin prevents me from glorifying God and giving Him credit for the work He has done in transforming me. I am constantly learning Proverbs 3:5 – "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding" In times of struggle, I turn to Christian mentors for prayer and accountability. I am also taking steps to be more intentional in sharing my weaknesses with others. For God's power is made perfect in weakness and His grace is sufficient for me (1 Corinthians 12:9).