

Joy in Sharing the Gospel

Spiritual Life

I began attending church at a young age, however, I was not raised in a Christian household. So it was through Sunday school, summer camp, and youth group that I learned about the gospel. For a long time, I struggled to understand the meaning of the gospel. Only when I reached my first year of University did I become a believer. For the longest time I wrestled with this question; how could the life of Jesus apply to mine?

Through constant seeking and the guidance of other believers, God revealed to me how I resisted belief in Jesus because I couldn't acknowledge the need for his grace in my life. I constantly wanted control over my life, and when things didn't turn out as expected, I became incredibly disappointed. Only when I surrendered, and lifted all of the things that I couldn't control to God through prayer and faith, he displayed to me His greatness. This greatness was a renewed sense of freedom, peace, and hope. Now Jesus puts all the pieces together. Through his death and resurrection, he triumphed over the sin of this world. Before Him, I was hopeless and was struggling to find meaning in my suffering. But through prayer and reading his word, I am filled with hope, an everlasting hope, that is Jesus.

***“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s
power may rest on me.”
(2 Corinthians 12:9)***

Jesus has the power to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish. Therefore, following Christ has led me to desire a stronger relationship with God through daily prayers and devotions. He has given me the desire to seek out communities with fellow believers at church and at various campus ministries. Among these, He has given me the courage to take on leadership roles that are out of my comfort zone. This includes leading bible study in my church fellowship, and facilitating group prayer sessions. Moreover, God has challenged me to reach out to my non-Christian friends by praying and testifying to them. Through the encouragement and love of CCF, my sister, and the church community, I am continually reminded of Christ's blessings and mercies.

“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:10)

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My Candidacy

I believe that the purpose of UTCCF is to build a community that allows students to deepen their spiritual life through gospel living. CCF is a space where believers and nonbelievers can learn and experience the love of Christ. In this current life stage, students can foster a community driven by similar beliefs and values to encourage one another in pursuing a life of worship and service to God. Amongst this, the role of the Committee is to serve the people of CCF. This is accomplished through organizing and leading events that provide opportunities for students to foster a community that glorifies God.

God has led me to run for Committee as Outreach Coordinator by providing me with opportunities in and outside CCF to experience the joy of sharing the gospel. Over this past year, God has transformed my outlook on evangelism. I've been inspired by the stories of others and how they came to know God. I've been inspired by CCF and the love that we pour into one another. Hence, God has revealed to me the urgency and power of sharing your faith with others, and how He is the one to work miracles in those who chose to follow Him.

If I am not elected to my chosen role, nothing changes. I will continue to pursue whatever God has in store for me and CCF. Through prayer, reflection, and discussion, I will discern how God wants me to carry out my vision for CCF. By relying on the strengths that He has given me, I will continue to encourage a culture of sharing the good news. Whether it is through ministry or personal discipleship, I believe that God has the power to use people for His good. Thus, may this outcome not be one of discouragement, but one where God's will is glorified and honored.

Vision

God has tasked us with the Great Commission declaring:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19 – 20)

This vision is inspired by the outpouring of God's love that I have witnessed in and out of this community. This past year, I've been able to reflect on my personal journey in sharing the gospel with others. From feeling unequipped, and at a loss for the right words to say, God has reassured me through this community. As the

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current UTCCF vision states, abiding in Christ, and seeking out kingdom-oriented relationships have allowed me to replace feelings of uneasiness in sharing the gospel, with joy and curiosity. Hence, I believe that God is leading the fellowship towards a culture of finding *Joy in Sharing the Gospel*.

***“I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.”
(Psalm 119:14)***

My hope for CCF is a community that radiates Christ's love for all to know. A love so great and profound, it leads us in urgency to share it with those who don't know of His love. My desire is for CCF to pursue and build upon its strengths in the community to welcome non-believers into a 'new life in Jesus' (Ephesians 2:4-5). By shifting the focus away from large group events, my hope is for the members of CCF to integrate the heart of outreach into their daily lives. This entails seeing the events and people of CCF as an opportunity to show non-believers the love of God. Whether that is through IG, worship night, sports, or casual hangouts, CCF has the potential to touch the hearts of many. And ultimately, God has the power to transform. Through small, yet mighty actions, we can point non-believers towards Christ. When we intentionally set our hearts on sharing the gospel, I believe that CCF can bring light to those who are struggling. God has blessed us so that in Him, we can bless others (Genesis 12:2). So may CCF fulfill God's Great Commission, generously and in joy.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (Matthew 13:44).

What are some practical points of implementation of this vision?

By providing UTCCF with smaller event opportunities, we can rely on God and the strengths He has blessed this community with:

- Collaborating externally with other campus ministries/groups such as P2C, Bridges & Missions Hub to provide more opportunities for the members of CCF to share the gospel on campus
- Collaborating internally, with various CCF ministries (e.g. Women's, Men's, Hospitality, Worship) to implement a culture of outreach
- Supporting events such as: Coffeehouse, FROSH Picnic, Prayer and Worship Night, Relevant, UofTogether, and Sports to share the good news

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- Addressing newcomers, and non-believers directly during large group events, to ensure a welcoming environment for all
- Continuing weekly Gospel Sharing, to proclaim how God has been working through the fellowship and in the personal lives of our brothers and sisters
- Promoting a culture of prayer through opportunities such as Friday Morning Prayer at Missions Hub

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4)

Personal Evaluation

My strengths are revealed in my patience and listening ear to others. God has placed in me a gentle, and welcoming spirit that has allowed me to connect with others. God has provided me with the interpersonal skills to relate and communicate with other people. This blessing has given me the joy in meeting new people, and the desire to form and maintain relationships. God's grace has given me the heart to want to share His love with others.

‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ (Philippians 4:13)

I've noticed that I take pride in being independent, and capable of making good decisions for myself. However, when things don't go according to plan, I find myself struggling with anxiety that ultimately stems from my desire for control and self-dependence. In reflection, this is the result of my failure to fully rely and surrender to God. This sin has caused me to withhold my trust, stray further away from those that I love, and from God. Ever since I became a Christian, God has revealed to me my brokenness and need for grace. Whenever I rely on my own strength and knowledge, I am met with disappointment and frustration. Time and time again, through His grace, God proves to me His providence, and faithfulness to me. To overcome this sin, I look to prayer and reading the Bible, as a reminder for my need to be sustained by Jesus alone. In addition, God has placed loving friends and family in my life that encourage me to be vulnerable in sharing my struggles. In these ways, Christ has placed the desire in my heart to become more like Him.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

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