

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Growing up in a Christian household, I always went to church and prayed before all my meals but I never really understood the meaning of the gospel until high school. I thought that Jesus was someone that would serve me when I was upset, or needed help in my life. Only in high school did I really start to understand the simplicity and beauty of the gospel. I slowly realized the sacrifice that Jesus paid on the cross in order to atone and redeem my brokenness and sin. Once I saw the magnitude of sin in my life, I was able to see the sacrificial and gracious love that Christ poured out for me on the cross. The gospel is the good news of redemption and salvation that comes from Christ's sacrifice for us.

Now knowing what Christ has done for me on the cross, I never doubt God's love for me, and I strive to spend time with Christ through daily devotions and prayer. While I still have many questions and have moments where I feel a lack of God's presence in my life, I am confident in Christ. I know that God is close to me and working in my life, even when I don't feel His presence. I currently attend my Grace Toronto small group, which includes older brothers and sisters in Christ that have been able to provide me with guidance and have continuously helped to point me back to Christ.

MY CANDIDACY

The purpose of CCF is to:

1. To deepen the spiritual lives of the members of the UTCCF and to have fellowship with one another.
2. To bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. To prepare the Christian student for life after university as socially responsible individuals who remain in their faith with integrity.
4. To stimulate active interest in evangelistic work on campus

Like the constitution states, I believe the purpose of UTCCF is to deepen the spiritual lives of the members of CCF and to have fellowship with one another. The purpose of CCF is to encourage and build one another up as well as encourage its members to grow in their faith and love for Christ. I believe the purpose of committee is to help facilitate CCF events as well as hold the responsibility in ensuring that CCF glorifies God and aligns with its original intended purpose.

Throughout my time in university, CCF has blessed me with community as well as helped me grow in my faith. I want to be able to pour back into CCF this year by running for committee. While CCF has helped me meet brothers and sisters to grow alongside in faith, I believe that CCF has more potential as a campus fellowship. Through committee, I can be a vessel for Christ to help make CCF a fellowship that further glorifies God. Over the past few

years, God has given me the desire and urgency to share the gospel with those who don't know Him. This is why I feel led to run for outreach coordinator with the hope of encouraging those at CCF to know the gospel and share the gospel with those around them.

Even if I am not elected to be on committee, I know that I can still serve and carry out my vision in CCF by encouraging those around me to have urgency to share the gospel. Doing this does not require me to be on committee, but I see committee as a way to serve God and give back to the fellowship.

VISION

Through my experiences in CCF and what I have seen during these past few years, CCF has been a very inward-focused fellowship that prioritizes its members. While this is a good thing, I believe that with us being university students, God has put us in a position to be salt and light on campus. I believe that God is leading CCF to be a place that follows His commands. This includes the Great Commission: *"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).

We should be bold in our faith and have the urgency to share the gospel with those who don't know Christ. There are so many people who are struggling and living in darkness, and by receiving the good news ourselves, we should share this good news with others. When it comes to sharing our faith, we stick to comfort in fear of rejection and judgment from others. However, God calls us not to be lukewarm in our faith, saying, *"So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth"* (Revelations 3:16). If we truly know the Gospel and what Christ has done for us, we should obey His commands and live out a life that is pleasing to God. Being in CCF, it is easy to get wrapped up in a Christian bubble where we solely focus on growing in our relationships within the fellowship, but Christ tells us that *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:14-16). Therefore, we should focus on the opportunities that God has given us to be salt and light outside of CCF and more specifically on campus.

In summary, the Great Commission was given to every follower of Jesus, not just missionaries and pastors. CCF has the potential to be a fellowship that glorifies God through following God's commands and recognizing that sharing the gospel has eternal significance and will be more important than any achievement that we could ever imagine during our time on earth.

Some practical ways of implementing this vision is through the continuation of weekly gospel sharing in CCF as well as having events such as UofTOgether in order to help promote outreach and remain kingdom oriented. I would also like to start a new ministry that goes back to the basics of the gospel by watching the Alpha series in order to create a comfortable environment for both believers and non-believers to discover who God is together.

PERSONAL EVALUATION

God has given me the ability to be able to build strong connections with people and care for those around me. He has given me the ability to make people around me feel welcomed, and a heart to reach out to those that may feel left behind. Through being Freezer leader last year, I loved creating genuine and intentional relationships with people and being able to pour out Christ's love back into others. Since I care about people so deeply, God has placed the desire in my heart to share what Christ has done for me with others, knowing that being a vessel of Christ has eternal significance.

One of the many areas of weakness in my life include having high expectations and extreme disappointment when my expectations are not met. I am often blinded by expectations that I have set, that I become impatient and disappointed due to my self-dependence and failure to rely on God's perfect timing and plan. While this is something that I still continue to struggle with, over this past year, God has challenged me to be satisfied in knowing that Christ is at work despite whatever expectations I might have. I am actively trying to overcome this weakness to become more like Christ through prayer and asking that my desires are aligned with God's desires. Another area of weakness in my life is my struggle in taking criticism. Oftentimes when I am criticized, I am easily crushed by what others have said after thoroughly reflecting on how my actions have negatively impacted others. After reflecting on my actions, I am often paralyzed by guilt and shame and I dwell on my sinful nature and failure in striving to be more like Jesus. While this will probably be a weakness I will struggle with my entire life, Christ gives me hope through His sacrifice for me on the cross. Knowing that the work has been done and that Christ has already delivered me from my sin and shame, I am able to not be crushed by my sin, not because of anything I have done, but because of what Christ has done for me. For the Lord promises, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh"* (Ezekiel 36:26).

3 POINT SUMMARY

- For the members of CCF to know what they believe in and to be bold in faith
- Through knowing who Christ is, members of CCF should have the desire to follow Christ's commands for us
- Have the urgency to share the gospel with others and be salt and light on campus