

TLDR;

We want to prepare members of UTCCF with knowledge and spiritual discipline to bear witness to Jesus towards one another, on campus, and beyond

BEAR WITNESS 101

One of the most important aspects of our Christian journey is to bear witness, as clearly stated in the Great Commission:

“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

Due to COVID, the current state of CCF is low spiritual health and the lack of bearing witness to our personal circles of influence. Therefore in the upcoming year we want to develop the right habits and equip ourselves with the proper tools in order to bear witness to Jesus towards one another, towards others on campus, and beyond.

What is bearing witness?

Simply put, to bear witness is to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and proclaim His goodness. It is to share the good news of the gospel to those who are in our circles of influence. The ultimate goal of this year is for every one of us to become more like Jesus, which can seem daunting, as bearing witness and becoming more Christ-like is a continual process of sanctification. However, with smaller, more obtainable goals, we'll be making progress towards this goal.

How do we do this?

One thing we must do is develop spiritual maturity. The act of being spiritually mature is becoming more like Jesus in all situations; spiritually mature Christians endure hardships with grace and have lives that look like Jesus. Being spiritually mature is hard, and requires spiritual discipline in order to persevere.

Putting this into practice looks like being thoughtful in prayer, being loving to our brothers and sisters and to those that oppose us, being devoted to reading the Bible and putting it into practice, and lastly to share the good news with others.

Equipping ourselves

To reach spiritual maturity, we want to go back to the basics this upcoming year. We want to remind the fellowship about the importance of praying and reading God's word. This is how we talk to God and hear from God.

"The Lord is near to all who call on Him"

- (Psalm 145:18)

Prayer is the way we draw closer to God and growing a desire to pray will allow us to grow in spiritual maturity and become more like Him.

"All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work"

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

This verse encapsulates the attitude we must have towards reading the Bible. It's necessary to equip us as competent men and women of God. So often we neglect reading the Bible and hearing what God has to say through His word; so this year we want to place a focus on growing a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Bible.

Supporting one another and reviving culture of fellowshiping

As stated, being spiritually mature is a difficult thing to do. Apart from equipping ourselves with spiritual disciplines, having brothers and sisters around us that are going on the same journey is another aspect in achieving spiritual maturity. As a fellowship, our strength has long been community. However, COVID has definitely taken a lot of that away. We want to stir up a revival of community and fellowshiping amongst our brothers and sisters within the fellowship towards a common goal.

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

- Hebrews 10:24-25

Another important aspect of this verse is one of accountability. Being a Christ follower will have its hardships; we are called to be counter-cultural and to take the narrow road.

"As iron sharpens iron. So one person sharpens another."

- Proverbs 27:17

We are called to lovingly critique one another so that we may become more Christlike. Having brothers and sisters by our side to pick us up when we stray is vital in the Christian walk and something we will look to encourage and implement in the upcoming year.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10