

## **1. Spiritual Life [350 words]**

- a. What is the gospel to you? Briefly share your personal testimony.
- b. Describe your relationship and current walk with Christ.
- c. Are you supported by a church community? Have you been continually seeking to grow in your walk with God and letting Him shape you to be more like Christ?

The Gospel to me is about knowing and experiencing God in our lives; answering what and why we believe in God. Here is a short summary of my Gospel sharing earlier in the year. My testimony primarily revolves around my experience in first year. In the Fall, I had dislocated my knee early into the year and was informed that knee surgery was necessary. After learning this, I managed to forget my very first final exam in university. I wanted to try to lie about my knee pain to (hopefully) be allowed to retake the final however, something made me hesitate about this decision. This still surprises me since whenever I think back, I still expect my past self to lie without hesitation. Anyways, I decided to trust in God and to simply tell the truth which has worked out, both with school (and POST) and my knee surgery.

Throughout my life, I always knew of God since I was raised in a Christian household. Even after my baptism, at the age of 14, I would have doubts from time to time about my religion. It wasn't until the above events that I wholeheartedly believed in God's existence and haven't doubted him since. My current walk with Christ is one that I believe is constantly improving. Over time, I have allowed God to take more control over my life. There are still areas in my life which I know I have not fully allowed God to work in, a major one being school. Another area which God has been prompting me to improve since my injury has been humility. Although there have been great improvements, I aim to continue learning about what it means to having humility. On a more daily basis, I have been reading my devotionals diligently and consistently and find myself being more intentional in my prayers and with others.

When it comes to a church community, I have been trying to engage in NTCBC since first year, with little success due to events like school, my knee injury/surgery and COVID. By the end of the year, my goal is to be fully engaged in a small group at NTCBC but for now, I have Pastor Mikey, my parents, and fellow CCF members supporting me.

## **2. Your Candidacy [350 words]**

- d. What do you believe is the purpose of UTCCF and the UTCCF Committee?
- e. How has God led you to run for committee, as well as the specific position you are running for?
- f. If you are not elected to your chosen role, how will you still serve and carry out your vision at CCF next year?

I believe the purpose of UTCCF is meant as a place to grow in our faith. For most of us who already know Christ, it is a place to continue growing. For others in the surrounding community, it serves as a place where they are comfortable to come and learn about Christ. UTCCF committee are members of this UTCCF community who show this purpose by serving/supporting one another within the fellowship and by encouraging others in our surrounding community to come and learn about how wonderful God is.

Over the past few months when thinking about my role in CCF next year, I knew that I wanted to serve in the fellowship again. In first year, alongside what I had shared above, I felt quite outcast from the community, sitting at the back each week in crutches and on my own. One critical week when I was contemplating leaving or staying in CCF, a brother and a sister approached me and we conversed for about an hour which was rare, surprising, and the main reason why I have continued to stay in CCF. After everything had worked itself out, I knew I needed to and desperately wanted to serve God at CCF (and I still do!). I want to serve in a way that supports as many members of the UTCCF community as I can, however minute it may be; the small gesture of talking to me was enough to make an impact on my life in first year. Vice-Chair is a position which fits with both what I know (my abilities) and how I want to serve since the role's duties involve the supporting of other leaders, members in the

committee, and CCF as a whole. If I am not elected to Vice-Chair, I hope to serve as one who welcomes and talks with those who are newer or are less integrated into the CCF community, just as I was in first year.

### **3. Vision [600 words for Chair/Vice-Chair, 400 words for other positions]**

**(Note: Your “vision” should be centred around the Word)**

- g. Where do you see God leading UTCCF in the upcoming year?
  - i. Potential things to consider: the past, current, and future state of the fellowship
- h. How has God called you to partner with Him in this vision?
- i. What are some practical points of implementation of this vision?

“Come unto me”. A simple and direct command found in Matthew 11, yet one that is hard to follow. Whenever a decision must be made, I often think about the outcomes. What will happen to me? What will happen to those around me? What should I do? Sometimes the answer is simple and other times there are a lot more things to consider. Throughout high school and even parts of first year, God was almost never a part of major decisions. After what had happened in first year, I began to consider Christ in my life more and more. Even now, when difficulties arise, especially when the right thing to do is not the easiest thing to do or when the choices seem equivalently “right”, it is difficult to figure out what to do. In a world driven by success, we can find it even more tempting and easy to make a decision that does not align with God’s heart. My hope with UTCCF next year is to continue building a community that supports one another and grows in trust towards God.

Building one another up

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward 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

An important lesson I have learned, accumulating from all my struggles is that accountability is necessary, no matter how capable you feel about yourself. This passage from Hebrews reminds me time and again of the importance to “spur one another on” and to encourage one another. When it comes to confronting what I struggle with, accountability has always been a part of the solution. Issues with self-control, reading my devotionals daily, and, back in first year, attending CCF are only some of the facets in which accountability has helped me.

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. Matthew 18:15

There have been many times in the past where I have sinned but was unaware that what I was doing was wrong. At those times, I have been very fortunate to have a brother or a sister come and call me out on whatever I had been doing. The building up of each other, through this verse, involves looking after one another and confronting when there is sin; not confronting out of hatred but out of love as seen in the verse from Hebrews. My hope is that as a fellowship, we will build one another up in our faith through accountability.

Trust in God

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

My spiritual life has been filled with ups and downs and at every down, this verse has always been the verse which seems to calm me down (and is probably my favorite). As I continue to grow in my faith, I want to trust and rely on God more, especially during through the ups in life, where decisions can be made more easily to suit my own needs. I have come to know that learning to trust in God is sometimes a difficult decision.

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Matthew 6:24

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 12:34

We know that we can only serve one master, be it God or the world. This is similar as what we treasure in our hearts. By learning to trust and rely in God, I hope that both my master and what I consider my treasures become evidently God-focused. As we come to God and place our priorities and treasures in the right place, I hope that each member of the fellowship will learn what it means and how they can trust in God even more in their lives.

#### Practical Points

- Continuing Gospel Sharing
  - o By sharing the gospel in CCF each week and preparing these testimonies, we will be ready when those in our surrounding community ask us about our religion. Also, we will encourage one another through the Gospel sharings.
- The help of Pastors (I.e. Pastor Mikey and Pastor Roger)
  - o These pastors have been very helpful with our Bible studies and mentoring some of our leaders and has been (and hopefully will be) helping us in our walks with Christ.
- More Activities
  - o (Year Activities) I had felt a lack of motivation to continue in CCF in first year so, I hope that by having more year nights or year activities, we can build each other up within our own years and help encourage each other.
  - o (Activities in general) By having more activities, I hope that non-Christians feel less intimidated to participate and will come and try out CCF.

#### 4. Personal Evaluation [350 words]

- j. What God-given gifts do you see in your life? How do you see God using these gifts to further His kingdom at UTCCF?
- k. What are some areas of weakness in your life? How are you taking grace-driven steps to overcome them and become more like Christ?

#### Gifts

Honesty and Openness: Firstly, you will see when you get to my weaknesses section. As a child, I had lied through almost everything to my parents and after realizing how much effort that was to keep up, I have stopped lying and hiding things altogether. When I think there is something you are doing wrong or that you can change, I will likely come up to you and tell you. When I feel like a more personal/hidden part of my life would contribute to a conversation, I will probably share after some hesitation.

Caring: I enjoy messaging and talking with people, especially those I am closer with and care about. Usually, when anyone tells me of something going on in their life, I will almost always follow up at least once to make sure things are going swell. Having a prayer list/journal has been something I keep somewhat up to date which reminds me to message people. I hope that I can continue to show this care to those around me in the upcoming year both in and out of CCF.

#### Weaknesses

Self-Control: As I have shared with many (and am willing to share so just message me if you want 😊), I have had an issue with pornography for many years (to be exact, I believe 7 or 8 years). Through this experience of trying to fix myself, I have learned... that I can't. It has only been through the help of (many) others and accountability that I

have been able to make drastic improvements to this issue. Unfortunately, I cannot say I am completely rid of this sin so, through my communication with others, I hope to overcome this soon.

Humility: Coming out of high school, I have always been very fond of good grades and success in general. One thing which stood out to me from my knee dislocation in first year was my lack of everything. Pride in my academics, but I missed an exam - in my health and my athletic ability, yet I dislocated my knee - in my "righteousness" over others yet struggle with pornography for many years. After much thinking, I reached the conclusion that I needed to humble myself and have been working on it since. Matthew 7:2 has helped ground me in some ways and I need to continue working on this aspect of my life.

3 point summary of vision:

1. My vision is about learning to build one another up and learning how to trust in God as they have both had a massive impact on my life and I hope to focus on these things as both improvement for myself and as a vision for this upcoming year.
2. Accountability has played an essential role in my life and will continue to play an important role, from asking people to pray during times of hardship to being confronted about something I am doing wrong.
3. Trusting in God has been a process which I have found quite difficult. Whenever I think I trust in God sufficiently, I realize that there are still areas in my life where I don't.