

Hillary Ma – Outreach Coordinator

Throughout Scripture, we see that God works to make His glory known. He rescues (Psalm 106:7-8), defends (2 Kings 19:34) and restores (Ezekiel 36:22) not only to benefit the recipients, but also to show those around them who He is.

How does this relate to outreach?

I see the same pattern in outreach. When God works in our lives, we are overwhelmed by the beauty of His perfection. As a result, we long for others to recognize it and desire to share it with them. When we share His goodness, He is glorified. This spreading of His glory through our lives is essentially what I believe outreach entails.

What does this mean for CCF?

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” – 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

My vision is that we would taste and see that the Lord is good, and as a natural outflow be actively engaged in sharing God’s glory with everyone around us, both within and outside of CCF.

Our experience with Him

As believers, we have already tasted and seen His goodness through our adoption as sons and daughters and our reconciliation to Him. However, we often forget these truths. Since outreach begins with our own recognition of God’s glory, I believe it is essential that we constantly meditate upon who He is. At the same time, it is easy to burn out when we feel like we are journeying in our faith alone. Graciously, He has provided us with fellowship so we can “[stand] firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27). Because we have this community, I would like to invite us to collectively reflect upon and remind one another of His work.

Our response

After we have experienced God, the extension of His glory can appear to be a daunting task. As flawed human beings, it seems impossible that we might be able to reflect the qualities of a holy Being. However, we have been gifted with the Holy Spirit whose divine power can overcome our sinful nature and bear fruit in our lives. (2 Corinthians 3:18) Since He dwells in us, we are equipped to spread God’s glory through our way of living (Matthew 5:16) and verbal proclamation (Psalm 34:1-3). I therefore encourage us to allow the Spirit to transform our behaviour and to share our spiritual journeys with believers and non-believers.

What does this look like practically?

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Due to its versatility, I believe outreach is not limited to an occasional event or action but that it is instead a lifestyle. I would like to promote a culture of being so captivated by God's character that we desire to share who He is in every interaction. I hope to integrate outreach into IGs, ministries and large group events, and provide a space to journey together in our struggles with embracing and extending Christ. For example, **(these are only ideas)** I might propose that IG leaders record the ways their group has seen God working throughout the year for future reference and brainstorm more application questions. I might also implement large group events such as outreach nights and workshops.

As we deepen in faith and increase in admiration of God, I hope that outreach will not be seen as a burden but that it would be a source of excitement that is incorporated into our daily lives.