

SPIRITUAL LIFE

I grew up in a Christian household, attending church services for as long as I can remember, and uttering “我爱你，主耶稣也爱你 (Translation: I love you, and Jesus loves you too)” to my mom before bed every night. In high school, I started realizing that these Bible stories were more than cute illustrations in picture books and fun plays that I got to dress up and act in. Every Sunday, I learned a little bit more about the character of God and the ultimate sacrifice He made for us through Jesus Christ. Every Sunday, a sense of guilt grew inside of me; God sacrificed His son for me, His one and only beloved son, and yet my life did not look any different from the lives of others. I remember one night, our youth group leader preached on the following verse:

“So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

Revelations 3:16

After meditating on this verse, I knew that I was lukewarm, and that God was prepared to spit me out of His mouth. I was convicted, and frankly, I was scared. I knew in my heart that I was just like Peter, and I was prepared to deny God three times—possibly even more, so how could I not weep? Yet in my sorrow, weakness, and brokenness, I was reminded of God’s overwhelming love. He knows that we will fail, time and time again, but continues to love us. Because of this love, I can live my life for the glory of God, and I can say with confidence the words:

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Philippians 3:8a

Currently, I seek to live out the gospel in three steps: hear, trust, and obey. I hear God through Sunday services, my own daily devotionals, and reading His word. I actively trust Him through prayer, and by meditating on biblical truths and promises when times get tough. I obey Him by engaging in a community of believers in my church small group, discipleship group, and CCF, and allowing my fellow brothers and sisters to hold me accountable as we shape one another to become more Christ-like. I also try to live missionally in my day-to-day activities by sharing the joy of knowing Christ in everything that I do.

MY CANDIDACY

What do you believe is the purpose of UTCCF and the UTCCF Committee?

I remember my youth group pastor reminding us to find a fellowship as soon as possible after entering University because this is a time where many students fall away from the faith. Thus, I found UTCCF, a community of believers who were dedicated to studying His word and empowering its members to live out the gospel message. To me, the purpose of UTCCF is not only to connect believers to a supportive, nurturing faith community, but more importantly, UTCCF should be a light on campus. The UTCCF Committee is an organizing body for this mission, and it is their responsibility to organize an environment where Christians can grow in their faith and be equipped to share their faith with nonbelievers.

How has God led you to run for committee, as well as the specific position you are running for?

During my discernment process, through prayer and the words of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I have heard God's voice and felt called to run for committee and the position of Social Coordinator. I have previously served in my youth group by organizing social events (picnics and games in the park, graduation nights, etc.), participating in a youth worship team guided by an experienced adult mentor, and taking the initiative to welcome newcomers. I believe my experience will help me fulfill the role of a Social Coordinator in UTCCF, and my love for the fellowship will help me persevere through burnout and other obstacles.

If you are not elected to your chosen role, how will you still serve and carry out your vision at CCF next year?

If I am not elected, I will continue to be a dedicated member of the fellowship and carry out my vision on a smaller scale. In my IG, I will actively participate and realize an environment where members stir one another up and find joy in studying God's word. I will invest in the newcomers of my small group, making sure they feel welcomed and connected with the rest of the CCF community. Finally, the extra time will allow me to spend more time reading God's word and learning theology, since this is an area that I am weaker in.

VISION: But the greatest of these is love.

*“¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience**, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other**; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”*

Colossians 3:12-13

I want others to notice that there is something so fundamentally different about the way Christians act, and I want CCF to be a place where we can cultivate those qualities of a Christ-centered community. My vision for CCF this year is that everyone would be able to mature in their faith, whether it is learning to be quick to hear and slow to speak, growing a spirit of humility by seeking out older mentors, or forgiving a long, deep-rooted grudge. I hope that after this year, every member of CCF can confidently say: I grew in *that* way this year, and this is how I know. I hope that by allowing our faith to express itself through works and character, we will be able to encourage one another to live out the command to be holy since God is holy.

*“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**”*

1 Corinthians 13:13

Of course, none of us would be here without the love of God and the love of others. By journeying with one another, I hope that we can help each other develop spiritual disciplines and a mature faith as outlined above. I also hope we can learn to love our neighbors with the love of God, which is patient, kind, and you all know the rest (*1 Corinthians 13:4-8*). And who are our neighbors, you might ask? See *Luke 10:25-37*. If you already knew what passage that referred to without flipping to it, then this next part of my vision will flow very naturally. I hope that by working with the Vice President and IG leaders, CCF can equip its members with the ultimate weapon: the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. As it says below:

*“¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may **be complete, equipped for every good work.**”*

1 Timothy 3:16-17

You cannot live out what you do not know. That is why I believe CCF should continue to center itself around studying the Word with IG Bible studies, as well as preparation for these studies with older Christians who have correct theological knowledge. By having a solid biblical foundation, I believe the CCF community will be able to grow in love for its own members, as well as for the broader University of Toronto campus. Through love, we can encourage one another to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice and find true satisfaction in serving and loving God.

How has God called you to partner with Him in this vision?

*“Do not be slothful in zeal, **be fervent in spirit**, serve the Lord.”*

Romans 12:11

I love talking to new people and it is very easy for me to get comfortable in group settings, and I want to use these strengths to partner with God through my vision. In the past, I have been reluctant to step up to leadership roles because I saw myself as weak and incapable of leading others. Although I still have weaknesses, God has put a vision on my heart for CCF, and a desire to serve Him by being a Social Coordinator. I want to emphasize this passion to serve within CCF members and make note that serving can look different for everyone.

What are some practical points of implementation of this vision?

- Newcomers' Night: A large group program in collaboration with Freezer that is centered around getting to know the newcomers. This can look like:
 - o A fun group activity (newcomer trivia????)
 - o A quick invitation for newcomers to stand up and introduce themselves (can be a bit nerve-racking but hopefully the environment will be friendly enough that they will be open to it!!)
- Hospitality Table: Continuation of the hospitality table from 2019, I hope that the hospitality table can help people get situated and serve as an encouragement right before large group. Some possible things are:
 - o Exam week care packages (snacks, a verse of encouragement, face mask, etc.)
 - o Small snack
 - o Prayer box (write down a prayer and then have an IG/hospitality pray for them later)
 - o Gratitude box (write down a note about something/someone you are grateful for in CCF or in general and then share it with large group)
- Sitting with newcomers at large group dinners (and encouraging the rest of the fellowship to do the same)
- Letter to myself: To see how we grew after one year! I think it is helpful to write it down (I know I struggle with forgetfulness sometimes)
- Church involvement: Make sure every member is connected and rooted in a church! This can look like:
 - o Introducing names of churches that members attend in large group
 - Maybe include meet-up points if people want to walk/bus to church together?
 - o Having IG leaders keep their members accountable

Personal Evaluation

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17

What God-given gifts do you see in your life/ How do you see God using these gifts to further His kingdom at UTCCF?

I think I have the gift of hospitality because I have a heart for meeting new people and an eagerness to dedicate my time and energy to help and listen to others, sometimes at the expense of my own health. I truly love serving others, and I believe God can use this quality of mine to inspire others in the fellowship to do the same.

Whether it is staying behind to help clean up, even if it is not required, or taking the initiative to sit next to someone who is alone, I believe God can use my gift of hospitality to create an inclusive, vibrant, and loving community life in CCF. On the committee, I can use my seemingly never-ending energy to help with tasks when others are busy. Since it looks like there will be a smaller committee this year, I think it is even more important that each member is willing and able to “bear one another’s burdens” (*Galatians 6:2*).

What are some areas of weakness in your life? How are you taking grace-driven steps to overcome them and become more like Christ?

One area of weakness is my knowledge of theology. Even though I have grown up in a Christian church, I find that I am lacking in knowledge of Old Testament stories and general biblical history. I am taking steps to remedy this by studying the Bible on my own time (Currently reading through Job) and educating myself on the context of biblical passages with the power of Google. Another area of weakness is my tendency to depend on myself. While I spend a lot of time with others, I am always hesitant to share my struggles because I think that they are insignificant compared to what others have faced. This can overwhelm me sometimes and as a committee member, it might be a detriment to the work we do together. I am taking steps to overcome this, though, by learning to ask for help when I get stressed and engaging in supportive, vulnerable communities (Like my DG! <3).