

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

### a. What is the gospel to you? Briefly share your personal testimony.

The word Gospel means good news, meaning the Good News that God the Son became a man so that He could die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, provided that we acknowledge our sinful nature and accept our need for a Saviour.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16 (NIV)*

My name is Jocelyne Lussier. I cannot pinpoint a clear conversion in my faith because I was blessed to be raised by a Christian family who has introduced me to the Gospel and taught me God’s character since I was young. I personally experienced God’s power, love, and sovereignty several times throughout my life and they all affirm my faith in Him.

However, the Gospel became my own as I struggled with personal identity. Since I was very young, I questioned who I was because I have a French name that does not correspond to my Chinese features. It was not until ninth grade when I finally accepted my identity after attending Teens Conference where the pastor spoke about being accepted into God’s family and being recognized as His children.

Since that night, I have felt certain to be included into God’s family and more importantly, I have felt relieved knowing that my identity lies in my acceptance of the Gospel.

### b. Describe your relationship and current walk with Christ.

Although I have questions about Christianity (such as the meaning of life and free will vs. determinism) I have never doubted my faith or considered leaving it to explore other religions. I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and there is no place I would rather be than in my Father’s family. The main lesson God has been teaching me all my life is to wholly trust in Him and to surrender myself and my plans to His will.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” – Proverbs 3:5 – 6 (NIV)*

*“For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.” – Luke 12:30 – 31 (NIV)*

I am content with my current walk with Christ in the sense that I feel spiritually stable and uninfluenced by a spiritual high. I have been doing personal devotions much more consistently over the past year, (I have done them everyday since January 1, 2021!) which has been one of my greatest achievements in my spiritual life. While daily devotions is not definitive of a good spiritual walk, I am happy knowing that I can learn more about God’s will and character this way, and I hope to grow closer to Him everyday.

**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?**

I am currently in-between churches because COVID interrupted my process of finding a new home church. I have been attending NTCBC's online services for a while now, but I trust that God will bring me to the right church where I can find community and serve Him there. However, I understand the importance of having spiritual accountability and authority in my daily life – especially my possible leadership role at CCF – so in the meantime (but definitely not as a substitute) I am actively seeking mentorship from Pastor Mikey.

**YOUR CANDIDACY**

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

I believe that UTCCF is a community in which students, both Christians and non-Christians, can learn more about the Bible and about God's character. It fosters a welcoming Christ-centered environment that encourages members to fellowship, study the Bible, and serve God together. I believe that the UTCCF Committee is responsible for discerning God's will for the fellowship and creating a vision that aligns with His will as well as promoting a safe space for members to worship and serve God.

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

I joined CCF in the last month of my first year when I was experiencing the lowest of my spiritual and mental health. I was especially impressed and encouraged by the earnest initiative of its members to fellowship, study the Bible, and grow together in Christ.

My initial impressions of CCF stayed the same as I decided to continue in my second year. In both years, God placed me in the right IG where I built relationships with my Christ-centered IG Leaders. They challenged my faith and journeyed with me; giving me the accountability and community I longed for. This influenced my decision to serve in 2020/21 as an IG Leader since I wanted to extend the same experience to other members; especially to newcomers and first years. During my short time at CCF, I felt so blessed and spiritually poured into that I feel compelled to continue sharing this blessing with others.

I am running for Outreach Coordinator because I have a heart for missions. I have been exposed to missions since a young age; my very white dad participated in mission trips to China for several years despite his distaste for travel and hot weather. I have participated in two mission trips (Montreal and Thailand) and while my experiences do not automatically qualify me for this position, I believe God will use me for His purposes at CCF.

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

Nothing changes if I am not elected to my chosen role. Outreach is more than a Committee position and my heart for missions will not diminish if I am not elected; it is God's commandment to every Christian. I love to serve and I believe God will lead me to the opportunities where I can serve him. If not elected, I will take time to reflect and ask God if there is anything I need to change before moving forward. Other than that, I will continue to reach out to newcomers and continue investing in my current relationships.

**VISION**

**a. Where do you see God leading UTCCF in the upcoming year? (consider past, current, and future states of the fellowship)**

First and foremost, God has tasked us with 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 (NIV)*

Speaking to previous Outreach Coordinators made me realize the lack of action in this department, since it has been said that CCF is a "self-centered" fellowship as it is very good at caring for its own members. And so, efforts have been made to expand its view beyond the fellowship, collaborating with other fellowships on campus and partnering with pastors from different churches.

In conversations with several fellow CCF members, many have expressed to me their desire to serve God in some way, but never doing so due to lack of experience or opportunity. I made me realize that CCF members do in fact have a heart to serve missionally but maybe they never had the resources to equip them with the knowledge and skill, or the connections to do so. Being bold and sharing the Gospel with strangers is never an easy thing and our bubbled, protected lives prevent us from taking that leap of faith. Although our lack of experience or opportunity is a possible explanation for our inaction, it is definitely not an excuse. It is evident that we need spiritual guidance and accountability to teach and encourage us to live missionally.

My vision for CCF and for Outreach specifically is that we become equipped with the knowledge and skill to fulfill the Great Commission. We are told to go, not to stay and be comfortable or to dwell in our excuses. My hope is that we become bolder and filled with the Holy Spirit to do God's calling. I want to encourage and empower those who feel a desire to serve Him missionally by connecting them with organizations who will allow them to go out and serve.

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

God has blessed me with two opportunities to serve Him in missions. These opportunities has exposed me to the realities of serving, including the physical, mental, spiritual challenges it gives. God has also brought me to CCF where I was able to build relationships with some CCF members and journey with them in their walk with Christ. On a practical level, I believe that God can use my relationships and experiences to encourage people to serve Him, both in CCF and missionally.

**c. What are some practical points of implementation of this vision?**

- Continuing Weekly Gospel Sharing, Salt and Light Night, and UofTTogether. These are wonderful initiatives that promote outreach both within our own CCF community and beyond into the university.
- Continued/increased involvement of spiritual authority. Over the past two years, CCF has been blessed to involve pastors from local churches to speak at retreats or help with Bible study preparation. I believe that spiritual authority and accountability is crucial to the health of CCF as a whole since even the Committee members need guidance. We are students who are still learning and growing in our faith. If the leaders' spiritual health is weak then it affects the rest of the fellowship.
- Practical workshops. While Relevant Week might cover topics such as evangelism and missions, it usually occurs at a inconvenient time for students (during class). Planning and scheduling workshops to teach CCF members practical and skills for evangelism and share testimonies about missions *during* CCF hours may be more beneficial as time is already set aside in people's schedules. I aim to find pastors or organizations that will be able to not only enable members with the skills but to go further and connect them to hands-on opportunities. I would love to start sending some of our members on missions.

**PERSONAL EVALUATION**

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

God has given me an extraverted personality which allows me to connect easily with others. I love building and investing into my relationships and making people feel understood. This was an asset during IG, both as a participant and as a leader; I saw how God used my social nature to create a welcoming environment. I have also been blessed with passion and drive to try new things, which has been really helpful when planning for IG. I always look forward to new opportunities to put my creativity to work and I am looking forward to what God has in store for me in the next year.

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

I acknowledge that my extraverted nature clouds my humility at times. My loud personality sometimes makes me forget about quieter individuals who also have great ideas and assets. I would like to think that I have improved in this area, however, I am aware that this might make a comeback in my time serving. I pray daily that God will give me opportunities to practice humility so that I can serve with unity and harmony.

In addition to my extraverted personality, I am also a Type A person. I like to plan and be prepared for everything; I even plan for the unexpected. I acknowledge that this is a stumbling block as I sometimes forget to wait upon the Lord and to trust in His timing. This is an ongoing lesson that God has been teaching me and I always refer back to Proverbs 3:5 – 6 and Luke 12:30 – 31.