

McMaster Christian Reformed Campus Ministry
Home Missions Report January 2008

Dear Friends

In 'Animal Farm,' George Orwell summed up an essential truth about Soviet totalitarianism when he stated that "all animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others." An 'Orwellian' describing campus ministry might be that "every year is a rebuilding year, but some years are more rebuilding than others." This has been such a year. Due to the graduation of many of our senior students the last few years, we began September with just a few key student leaders. It is with gratitude that to God that I can report that a small, enthusiastic group has formed and we seem to be gaining momentum as the year has progressed.

In the context of our Reformed vision and mandate we ask - why do young people join such groups, what are they seeking? How do you create a mentoring community? How do you nourish a sense of student ownership of the ministry? And finally, how do we initiate these young people into the world of big questions and worthy dreams – in short, how do we shape hearts? These are just a few of the questions that your Mac University Team wrestles with every year.

At the midway point of the semester, we sent out a survey seeking student input and direction. In that survey we also asked questions that shed some light on a few of the issues discussed above. Most of the feedback we received was short and along the lines that things were "just fine" but a few responses are worth mentioning. The students stated that they liked meeting other students and enjoyed social activities such as the welcome BBQ. They also reported that they felt they were being fed spiritually and intellectually and that "All Things" the Thursday Night Dinner Fellowship was an important part of their week. While a few of them mentioned that they sometimes struggled to understand some of the subjects being presented, they liked the diverse topics and felt that the quality of the speakers was very high. They also mentioned that they liked the opportunity to be able to talk to the presenters and get to know them a little. Several mentioned that they liked it that some of the professors also came out to the socials events as well. Two other things mentioned were the emphasis on 'the students' being the ministry, not 'the programs,' and a sense of the students having a significant voice in what takes place in the ministry.

In addition, we have tried to respond to some of the concrete ideas we received back in the survey. For example, one of the women said that she would like to have a forum where she could get to know some of the other girls better and where they could pray together. In response, one of our women student leaders approached the student who made that request with the idea of the two of them forming such a group together. They only had a chance to meet four times before exams started, but each time a new girl joined them. We hope that this small "Women's Connect Group" will continue to grow and meet this need in the New Year.

Please check the accompanying calendar for a more detailed listing of some of the events and activities that went on over the Fall semester. One other important new piece of the ministry this year has been our new Mac CR-Campus ministry website www.re-creation.ca. Our sincere thanks to Angela Van Aragon for her gift of time and energy in serving as our webmaster.

Michael D. Fallon

**McMaster Christian Reformed Campus Ministry
Fall Semester 2007**

Christian Worldview & Leadership Development.

Nicholas Ellens - CRC – Emerging Leader Internship Program

HannaH Lodewyks. – CRC – Emerging Leader Internship Program.

Vince Leung – President, Chinese Christian Fellowship..

Course Supervisor

Christine Osborne, Health Science 3HO3 Research Project.

“Aboriginal Children and Youth Services to Promote Cultural Healing and Community Health.”

“All Things“ Mac CR-Campus Ministry Thursday Night Fellowship Dinner

“Welcome Night.” September 6th

“Making Transitions.” September 13th

“Volunteer Night.” September 20th

“The University Harvest: Worldview, Mentors and Community.” Dr. Michael D. Fallon. September 27, 2007.

“Nourishing Stewardship.” Dr. Calvin B. DeWitt. October 11, 2007.

“Faith and Computer Technology.” Dr. Derek Schuurman. McMaster and Redeemer U.C. Professor Nov. 1, 2007.

“Nanotechnology: Challenges of the Unseen.” Dr. James Rusthoven, McMaster Professor of Oncology and Ph.D. Candidate in Medical Ethics. November 8, 2007.

“Is Jesus Sexist.” Dr. Syd Hielema, Redeemer University College, Chaplain & Professor. November 29, 2007.

Events

“McMaster Club’s Fest.” September 5, 2007.

“Fall Retreat.” McMaster CR-Campus Ministry Fall Retreat. September 8, 2007.

Mac CR-CM Kick-off “Welcome BBQ” @ The Fallon’s Ancaster. Sunday, Sept, 9, 2007.

“Road Trip - CRC Leadership Institute’s 150th Anniversary Conference” at Calvin College Grand, Rapids Michigan. Thursday September 13th - 15th

Reception for Dr. Calvin B. DeWitt. @ The Fallon's Ancaster. October 10th

"Sifting and Winnowing for the Truth: Climate Change in an Age of Deception."
Dr. Calvin DeWitt. Redeemer University College: Wednesday, October 10, 2007.

"Evangelicals and Scientists: Global Consequences of a New Collaboration on
Climate Change." Dr. Calvin B. DeWitt. McMaster University: October 11, 2007.

"HDCH @ Mac Day" Hamilton District Christian High Worldview Day at McMaster
University. October 24, 2007.

"Christmas Social." Mac's CR- Campus Ministry Christmas Social @ The Fallon's
Ancaster. December 2, 2007

Studies/ Programs

"CR-CMA Eastern Ontario Retreat." Guelph. October 12-13, 2007.

Worldview Study: What is a Reformed Worldview?

Reformed Leadership Initiative: Christian Leadership Study: Explore some of the

"Peter: The Making of a Disciple." Thursday Morning Men's Life Breakfast Study.

"Girls Connect" Women's Prayer and Study Group. Thursday Night.

Re-Creation Wilderness Ministry

"Outdoor Rock Climbing," with Redeemer University College. August 31, 2007.

"Outdoor Rock Climbing – Climbs Fest." September 21, 2007.

"Wilderness Back-Packing Trip." September 28- 30, 2007.

Preaching/ Chapels

Burlington New Street CRC. University Team. November 25, 2007.

McMaster's Advent Chapel. December 4, 2007.

McMaster's Blue Christmas Service. December 4, 2007.

Redeemer University College's Blue Christmas Service. December 18, 2007

Hospitality Programs.

"International Thanksgiving Dinner." Thursday Oct. 4, 2007. (Supporting)

"Exam Drop-In" Coffee House. December 3- 15, 2007.