



# CAMPUS NOTES

“FRIENDS OF THE MINISTRY” NEWSLETTER

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## FRIENDSHIP AND PRAYER

There is something mysterious about sitting with someone. There is also something wonderful about spending enough time together that eventually, when all the obvious contextual details become redundant, conversation turns into an exploration of a shared passion, struggle, or issue that has meaning in terms of deeper internal desires. This is a transcendent moment. C.S. Lewis declares the moment when a true friendship is born as the moment both parties exclaim: “What! You too! I thought I was the only one!”

That moment can be applied to our conversations with God. As a community, we embarked upon 24 hours of prayer this past Remembrance Day. These 24 hours became a powerful testament to the individual

intimacy we can experience with Christ; and yet, it also spoke of the significance of entering into this space together. It was together that we were able to lift each other up and intercede on each other’s behalf in those wee hours of the morning. A more powerful form of worship cannot be found than “where two or three have gathered,” sacrificing sleep and study hours to fall to their knees before the Lord.

Prayer partners have begun to meet weekly within our community. There are now twelve of us connecting with our partner for a minimum of thirty minutes every week. The time is dedicated to the



Friendship—Michelle and Elysha

intentional building of friendship, encouragement, honest dialogue, and a time of prayer. Cultivating this attitude of intimacy between brothers and sisters in community is a way that we connect with our Father, and see Christ in each other.

This is radical. This is simple. This is prayer.

—Tim Martin  
3<sup>rd</sup> year student

## THE GATHERING: CELEBRATING OUR UNITY

It has, for several years now, been the dream of many in Guelph Campus Ministry to see students from across the Christian groups on campus join together for a time of worship. On a Sunday evening in November, it came to be in a way that it has never before. Six different student groups congregated in the basement of the University Centre as “The Gathering” took place for the first time. The music was a slightly awkward combination of different worship styles,

and students who had been strangers from different communities were shy to converse and spend time in prayer together. But it was undoubtedly a moment of joy for the Lord.

“The Gathering” was just the beginning of strengthened relationships among the various Christian



Brothers and Sisters Worshipping Together

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**GUELPH CAMPUS MINISTRY**



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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

The concept of community and its purpose within the church has been a reoccurring conversation piece within our campus community. Through these conversations, an understanding of community has become an increasingly complex and important basis of understanding what it means to serve and love. In order to go deeper into these conversations, GCM welcomed Jay Van Groningen, the executive director for the Communities First Association, a community development organization in the United States.

Jay began his time with a public lecture in which he discussed the intentions of community development. Over the next two days, Jay led various workshops that

facilitated thoughts and discussion on what it would look like to work towards healthier, stronger communities. Focusing on poverty and the poor, we discussed what it would look like to work *with* those in poverty, rather than *for* them. Our conversations centered on the importance of shifting a model of “provision” towards a facilitating mentality.

Within GCM, there is a strong desire to discover what it means to fully participate in the neighbourhoods we live in. As students, we recognize that our time in Guelph may be only a four year stay. We

continually strive for an understanding of what it means to invest in the communities we live in. Our sessions with Jay evoked purposeful discussions and initiated conversations that will surely continue amongst individuals and collective groups within GCM.

—Michelle Scheerer  
*3<sup>rd</sup> year student*



Community Development in Kenya—August 2010

## MINISTRY AT A GLANCE

Even as new things come up, there’s ongoing ministry that continues. Here’s a quick glance at our participation in Christ’s redemptive work:

- Morning & evening worship, celebrated weekly at 7:30am and 7:30pm
- Discipleship groups, including book and Bible studies
- Graduate student and faculty/staff gatherings
- Prayer partners
- Christianity & Culture Lecture
- Tumaini 2011—a month-long solidarity experience in Kenya with Children of Bukati
- Peace Week & Faith Week
- Volunteer opportunities, including Run & Read, Agape Café, and Friendship Club

## MORNING WORSHIP AS SACRIFICE

Getting up early, often before the sunrise, to stand huddled in a circle in the cold isn’t always easy. But we are among friends, and it is in the spirit of sacrifice and sharing

that our morning worship services take shape. Each gathering begins with a reminder: “We meet early in the morning because it is inconvenient. There is

meaning in sacrifice.” As we worship together and share in communion, we are reminded of Christ’s sacrifice and the small sacrifices that we can make daily, so that our lives are a reflection of his sacrifice.

Throughout this simple morning gathering—from the time we meet up and share in the first light of the day together, to when we all have to part after sharing in a breakfast filled with conversations and laughter—I see beauty in the community formed through the worship. The mere presence of others worshipping offers encouragement and a sense of support. I look forward to the morning worship services as a time to refocus and rejuvenate with others in our community.

—Katie McDonald  
*Graduate Student*



Standing Together Around God’s Table at 7:30am

## GATHERING

*cont’d*

communities. As we move into the next semester, we are looking forward to collaborating in the planning of a few campus-wide initiatives to facilitate conversations on forgiveness and reconciliation. I cannot help but feel that, as the Spirit moves to bring reconciliation to many broken relationships on Guelph’s campus, the Lord’s grace was first focused on healing the Christian community itself.

—Jenn McIntyre  
*Campus Ministry Intern*

## YOUR DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING CAMPUS MINISTRY PROJECTS:

INTERNSHIP (JENN MCINTYRE)—\$12,000 PROJECT BUDGET

WORSHIP SERVICES—\$2000

DISCIPLESHIP, INCLUDING WINTER RETREAT—\$1500

HOSPITALITY, INCLUDING COMMUNITY DINNERS—\$1000

ON-CAMPUS SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES—\$500

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT—\$8000

Donations can be made online at [www.guelphcm.ca](http://www.guelphcm.ca), or cheques can be made payable to “Classis Huron” and sent to: Guelph Campus Ministry, University of Guelph, McNally House, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1