

Guelph Campus Ministry

A ministry of the Christian Reformed Church at the University of Guelph



Our Mission:

To be a community where all who are curious about life and God wrestle with scripture and are challenged to root their identity in Christ.

Back on Campus: Intern Reflections

By Emilie McNamara, GCM Student Intern, 2022-2023

Being back on campus this fall, post-covid, has been fantastic. I was able to experience the GCM community in the years before the pandemic, and it was a large part of my support system in the first year of my undergrad. Now in my fifth year, it brings me great joy to return to the gatherings, small groups, and events we had before the pandemic. I am so happy that students who connected to GCM in 2020 and 2021 can now experience this community in person, and that this fall new students were able to start their University of Guelph experience with the joy and warmth that gathering in person brings.



Emilie (facing the camera) eating with friends at the Fall Retreat



Returning to campus has been a pleasure, as it allows for more connections to be made with peers and professors; and at the same time, it was quite an adjustment at first, as it required getting used to in person classes and exams and the busyness of campus. Being a GCM intern has had a very positive impact on my semester. As a fifth-year student, I feel that I am giving back to the Christian community that has supported and shaped me during the last 5 years. Now I am part of providing the experiences for newer students which were so graciously given to me in the past. I met most of my friends through GCM in first year, many of whom have graduated and are no longer on campus, and my GCM internship has provided me with regular meetings and connections to sustain me through my final year of my undergrad. I am very grateful to be part of this very special community, and to be an active contributor to its flourishing this year.

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Acts Bible Study

By Simon Enns, 2nd-year Undergraduate Student

Over the course of the last semester, I was able to participate in the weekly Acts Bible study hosted by GCM and ECM. I found it to be an excellent opportunity to get to know students more and dedicate some time to reading God's word. I really appreciated being able to gather around each week and share in meaningful conversations that helped me to reflect and grow in my relationships with those at the Bible study but also deepen my understanding of the book of Acts and in turn, deepen my understanding of the overall narrative of the Bible. It was important for me to have an opportunity to dedicate a couple of hours each week to reading the Bible as a group because as a university student, it can be difficult to find the motivation or the time to read it on your own schedule. Having it already worked into my weekly schedule made it both easy to find time for, and something to look forward to throughout the week.



Simon (left) during Acts Bible Study



Reading the Bible aloud in a group setting also leads to discussions, perspectives, and ideas that I would not have come to on my own. I found the book of Acts to be a particularly meaningful book for university students such as myself. In this book, we see the apostles venture into the world outside their religious bubble for the first time, and experience both the trials and achievements that come out of that new situation. I see a great deal of parallels between myself and my friends who are leaving the familiar setting of home for the first time and are having to adjust to those new circumstances in university, figuring out what it means to follow Jesus here. The Acts Bible study was one of the highlights of each week throughout my fall semester.

Support Guelph Campus Ministry

Financial contributions are what makes this ministry happen. GCM is grateful for those whose gifts make hospitality easy and our faithful presence at the University of Guelph possible. Donations can be made online at www.canadahelps.org. You may also send a cheque to: Guelph Campus Ministry, University of Guelph, 203 Raithby House, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1.

Sabbath and Sabbatical: Rest and Trust

By Sara DeMoor, Campus Minister

For the last few years, I have been inviting our GCM student interns to intentionally explore a different spiritual practice each month. We all commit to these disciplines, and share honestly about how we experience God's presence (or not), or what we have learned about ourselves and God, as we experiment with various spiritual practices.

Time after time, it's the practice of Sabbath rest that has been most formative for students—and for me. As we reflect on the experience, the impact of dedicating a set amount of time apart from the busyness of our everyday lives has become clear: Learning to trust that God provides for all our needs regardless of our effort (grace!); a growing attentiveness to where the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives and the world; and a basic sense of the “right-ness” of God's commandment to rest one day a week, due in part to the relief and joy experienced during such a dedicated rest.

Given the gifts of Sabbath I've experienced alongside our interns, I am filled with gratitude that the GCM Board has granted me a four-month Sabbatical, from February through May 2023! I am looking forward to this extended time of rest, attentive presence with my family, reading, spiritual direction, and exploring God's creation. I am sinking into a deep trust (and reminder) that God is the one leading GCM regardless of my presence, and an eager expectation that my time of Sabbatical rest will bear unique fruit for me personally, and for GCM.

I am pleased to share that the Board of GCM has hired Melissa Burmaster as an interim campus minister to work alongside the GCM interns and our administrative coordinator Brianne to lead GCM while I am on Sabbatical! Melissa got started with missions as a student as she served as the local campus President of InterVarstiy Christian Fellowship during her undergrad years at the University of Waterloo. While attending River City Church in Cambridge, Melissa has served on the staff team as the Small Groups Director and

currently as the Connections Director. It was in this church plant that she felt called by God to go to Tyndale seminary (graduating in spring 2023), and her studies are continuing at Calvin Seminary where she is pursuing ordination for spring of 2024. Melissa has been married for 26 years to her husband James and has three young adult children. In ministry, it is her hope and desire that many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord (Ps 40:3) for God is good and nothing compares to the love He has for us in Christ Jesus.



Sara with Bette-Ann, who coordinates meal contributions from New Life CRC for Community Dinners.



Contact Us

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