

Geneva House

Campus Ministries

Ministry Report

December 2020

Our Mission:

Be an incredible community where people experience Jesus
and His transformation

When we started the semester, we had a lot of questions. We wondered:

How do we connect with first years when there is no frosh week?

How do we build community without our weekly Soup Supper?

How do we do campus ministry online?

How long is this pandemic going to last?

It seemed like there were so many unknowns as we entered the term. But as we began, we were absolutely clear about 3 things:

God is in charge

He has given us a clear mission

We will need to pray harder and listen closer than ever before to face the challenges ahead

And so that is what we did. This season we prayed and listened more than we ever have before. And as we did, God led us through an amazing semester where we witnessed so much transformation. Students and staff experienced deep community, they grew as followers of Jesus, and they learned to live out God's mission in their everyday lives. We saw people meeting Jesus for the first time, making decisions to follow Him, being baptized, hearing from God as they reflected on Scripture, overcoming anxiety, and developing as gifted leaders in God's Kingdom. It has been an incredibly challenging and an incredibly fruitful season. And as we followed the Spirit, God not only gave us the answers we needed, He also gave us the ideas, tools, and gifted leaders that were essential to ministering in such a time as this. We are finishing this semester with so much excitement about our mission, our team, and the exciting innovations God has given us - innovations which have the potential to multiply our ministry like never before. We do not have an answer to the question about how long this pandemic will last, but looking ahead to next semester, we are trusting that God is going to lead us, just as He did through first term. We know with certainty that He will provide for us everything we need to accomplish His purposes.

Ministry Details

Here is a closer look at some of the details of our ministry over the last 4 months:

Leaders

We had an amazing team leading our ministry this semester including Staff (9), Interns (1), Team Leaders (37), and Team Members (12). It was incredible to see how God sent us just the right leaders with the right giftings that we needed to minister in this challenging season. We continued to be blessed with a powerhouse veteran staff team of Julia Kooy (Queen's Women's Ministry Director), Kathy Doering (St Lawrence Ministry Director) and Nancy Smith (Queen's International Ministry Director). These leaders are fantastic disciplers and spiritual mentors, and their investments in the lives of so many students led to great transformation this semester. Joining the team this year was a whole new slate of phenomenal staff members, who have helped us to move into new areas of ministry. **Ryan Farrell** came on board in September as our first ever associate campus pastor. He is not as funny as me, but he has way better hair and he is one of the best Millennials you will ever meet. Ryan is a gifted pastor who is working toward ordination in the CRC. His position is made possible through a grant from Classis Quinte and a partnership with Bay Park Baptist Church, and we are so grateful for the support of these organizations. Ryan is leading grad ministry, men's ministry, preaching, helping us develop our online presence (including Geneva Live, which has been getting an average of almost 300 views each week) and many more exciting ministry assignments. **Rebecca McLeod** is our student intern this year, and she has done an amazing job leading our ministry to first years, organizing huddles, and developing our leadership course. **Mickeelie Webb** came on as our first ever Director of Marketing, and she has done an outstanding job of promoting our ministry and helping us gain greater brand recognition. On top of that she also co-leads our grad and beyond ministry. **Wanda Thompson** became our Loyalist Ministry Director, and she has done an amazing job of shepherding the ministry through passion, prayer, and partnership building. **Rheanna Rosenthal**, a recent graduate of Redeemer University and former student of Loyalist, became our first ever Director of Online Missions for Loyalist College. She has been given the task of pioneering our online ministry on this campus and she truly puts the "ace" in Facebook. And pastor **Mike Mathewson** (Trenton Wesleyan Church) also joined our Loyalist ministry squad and is serving as a team leader. Mike was one of the founding members of Loyalist Christian Life and he has brought great experience, wisdom, and depth to our team.

All of our staff and student leaders have been a tremendous gift to me, and to our community, and it was a joy to build God's Kingdom every day with them. And because we have such an amazing team, we were able to minister in some incredible ways.

Huddle Groups (24)

We expanded the world of huddles this year and made a number of variations of these discipleship groups to meet students where they are at spiritually. Huddle models now include: Friendship Huddles, Big Question Huddles, Discovery Huddles, and Discipleship Huddles. These groups had a tremendous impact on the lives of the participants and in the testimony section later in this report, you can hear from some students firsthand how God used huddles to transform them.

Ministry Houses (2)

Our plans to start a 3rd ministry house this year fell through because of Covid, but we still had 2 amazing houses where students experienced incredible, in-person, Christian community.

Grad and Beyond (3 lifegroups)

Grad and Beyond is a ministry to grad students and young professionals and is a partnership of Geneva, Bay Park and Bethel Church. By working together, we were able to provide a greater community and we had 3 spectacular lifegroups. They met in person at Bay Park and Café Church and we are grateful to these churches who gave us space to meet (following proper social distancing protocols of course).



1-1 Discipleship and Mentoring

We continued to make it a priority to spend a lot of time deeply investing in students in a 1-1 setting this semester. This 1-1 ministry is so important because young adults are at a crucial stage of their spiritual and emotional development and they need someone to walk alongside them and to help them process their experiences. It is vital for their well-being and we consider it a gift to be part of their lives at this level.

Courses (Facing Anxiety, Relationships)

This semester we sensed God calling us to provide more training to help equip students, and we developed 2 powerful 4-week courses. The first was a study Julia and I led at the Zoom Nights on how to develop healthy relationships (family, friendships, and dating), and the second was a course Julia led on how to manage anxiety. There was so much interest in both of these courses that it is resulting in spin off studies for both topics.

Geneva Zoom Nights

It just did not seem fitting to cram 80 people into Geneva House for our weekly Soup Supper in the midst of a pandemic, so we cooked up a weekly Wednesday Zoom Night designed to help students find community and grow as disciples. Every night there were fun online games and great discussions, and our leaders proved that Zoom can be engaging and lifegiving.



First-year Integration Ministry (FIT)

We had an amazing team reaching out to first years this semester and they were able to find new ways to reach out to frosh, enfolding many into our community. As a result of their work, first-years joined huddles, Zoom nights, and some are even hoping to live in ministry houses next year.

International Ministry

The number of international students on campus dramatically dropped this semester due to the pandemic, but at the same time, our international ministry leadership team expanded substantially. The team is stronger than ever, and they were able to do more, and have a wider geographical reach since their groups (English Conversation Class and Discovery Group) were online.

Faculty Bible Study

Professors and staff had another great semester of gathering for fellowship and reflection on Scripture. This term they studied the book of Acts, and much like the early church, they met online.

Prayer Groups (4)

We intentionally multiplied our prayer groups this year because we deeply desire that everything we do be rooted in and led by prayer. It was such a gift praying together this semester, and if you would like to join a Geneva prayer group or receive weekly prayer requests, you can sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/h5YyNGAaThbj8vHm8>

Online Mission (Facebook Live, groups, posts)

This semester we developed an exciting new online mission that is building community and disciples through new platforms and having a tremendous impact. About 75% of our ministry was done through the magic of the internet this term, and although we are looking forward to the day when groups can meet in person again, we have also realized the tremendous opportunity to reach more people and do more ministry online. This fall, students from all over the world were able to experience deep community and transformational discipleship because our groups were online, and we are excited about continuing to develop our new systems to reach even more in the future.



Leadership Development

Developing leaders is one of the key strategies to fulfilling our mission and this semester we have been working hard to develop a brand-new leadership course for our students. Funded in part with grants by Resonate and the Christian Reformed Campus Ministers Association (CRCMA), this training module will help students answer the questions: Who am I as a leader? How do I lead my self? What is my mission? And How can I get better at leading others? We are hoping to roll out this course in January, and we are excited to see how it will help shape the next generation of Kingdom leaders.

Queen's Fitness Fellowship

One of the ways we intentionally helped students deal with the stress, anxiety, and loneliness of Covid was by partnering with Power to Change to start Queen's Fitness Fellowship. This is a group that gets students physically active together and they have been doing all sorts of great outdoor athletic feats (I know I spelled that wrong) like running, soccer, spikeball, ultimate, hiking, and much more.



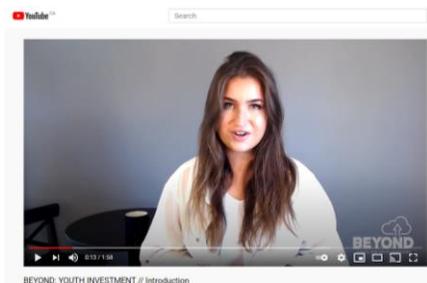
Multiplying Campus Ministry (Oshawa)

We love campus ministry so much, and we think it is so important that we are working to see it multiply. This semester I met every week with a phenomenal team of pastors from the Oshawa area to discern what God is calling us to do in the realm of campus ministry in that area. This crackerjack team consisted of pastors Brian Bylsma (Hope Fellowship CRC), Brad Close (Zion CRC), Darren Hoogendorn (Hebron CRC), and me, and it was a gift to pray and listen with these men of God. Our discernment process will shift from prayer and listening, to prayer and planning in the new year, and we are excited to see what God will call us to!

Equipping Churches

God has been teaching us so much about discipling young adults, and we have a passion to share all that we are learning with local churches. It is one way we can give back for the generosity of the churches and fulfill the circle of campus ministry life – churches invest in us, we invest in the next generation on campus, and then we invest back into the church by sharing what we are learning. We believe that God's Kingdom is built better when we build it together, and so we are always looking for ways to bless churches. And here is some exciting news - we have designed a 6-week video training program for youth leaders called Beyond Youth Investment. This course will help anyone to understand how to better invest in Gen Z. The program is in the final stages of peer review and we hope it will be available early in the new year. And the even better news for anyone who is Dutch like me, is that because it has been funded by Classis Quinte and Resonate, it will be free for every CRC who wants to use it! You can check out the awesome trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ8XxH1mcVo>



There are so many other things I could share with you but instead I would love for you to hear some stories and some testimonies of how God has been working.

Student Testimonies

About Community:

Thank you so much for the guidance you provide. I appreciate the ... investment into the futures of students like me. When I first found Geneva I was instantly welcomed ... and felt so loved and accepted into the Geneva family. Geneva has changed my life and I have never felt closer to God!

About Huddles:

Huddles have been an amazing support for my mental health. Throughout the semester I have been learning about the importance of keeping the Sabbath and resting and my huddle group was able to keep me accountable in this area of my life. Towards the end of the semester I found myself not overworking like before so I really value the support I had received from my huddle group to achieve this.

We've all got different things that we're going through right now, and I feel like we've all been able to encourage each other and support one another well. We've also been doing a reading plan on the Bible app as a way to hold each other accountable to doing our devos every day. It's also been great not just having other women to share with but to hear their hearts as well and to have the opportunity to pray for that person in the moment.

God has been using huddle to communicate to me the importance of having Christian fellowship and community within my walk with Him. It is not a race that is meant to be run alone, and having Christians that can encourage me, pray for me and keep me on track allows me to grow more.

Being vulnerable and held accountable to spend time with God has really helped, and I have also really benefited from reflecting on my week by sitting and talking about it with others.

I have been able to share about my mental health during this time and get support from the others in my huddle for it.

God has been revealing a lot of things I need to change but it is bringing me closer to him.

About our Facing Anxiety groups:

I think the most helpful thing for me was realizing how other Christian/religious people also battle anxiety. In some communities there's a stigma with anxiety because some feel it means you're not close to God. Or they tell you, "pray more, or you're not praying enough". So listening testimonies and being with the other women was reassuring to me :) I think God worked in showing me it's ok to feel the way that I feel!

About Mentoring

Thank you so much for holding a safe space for me to unpack my past, live authentically in the present, and regain hope for the future. May you never forget the warmth you give.

Stories from our Leaders

In November I was able to pray with two of the women during Huddle and they accepted Christ. Just yesterday the third member of our huddle shared that she has now surrendered her life to Christ and asked Him to be her Lord and her Saviour. Praise the Lord! That is three out of three! It is so fun to meet with brand new Christians and discuss the love of God and the grace and goodness of Christ. One woman is from a Hindu background which is quite legalistic, so she's just blown away by the freedom of God. Geneva gave two of these women their first Bibles and they both cherish them so much. Seeing God draw their hearts to his and to his Word is literally worth it all. It's why we all do what we do!!!

We have someone in the Discovery Huddle who joined Geneva last year in second semester. I met her at Pups n' Cups during Christmas exams. She joined a huddle with one of our leaders who she had met through a statistics course. She started growing in her faith through the huddle and began reading the Bible. She stayed with her huddle through the summer months. They read the book of John together. This semester she joined the Discovery huddle with me. Her friend encouraged her to attend because she had so many questions. She has grown so much in her faith, she is challenged by what she learns each week, she asks great, hard questions. She is applying what she's learning to her life. She's soaking up everything she can get her hands on and it's so exciting to see how God is working in her life.

A former student from Brazil who had been in my seeker huddle when she was in Kingston a few years ago contacted me again this past summer for more information about how to lead a huddle. I was able to share our general format with her so that she can start her own huddle with friends in Brazil. It's wonderful to see how this model can spread to other countries as our international students return to their home countries.

Prayer requests

Please continue to pray for us! As I mentioned before, if you would like to receive biweekly emails with specifics that you can pray about just sign up here: <https://forms.gle/h5YyNGAaThbj8vHm8> . And here are some ways you can pray for us right now:

- Praise God for the exciting transformation, innovation, and multiplication we are experiencing.
- Praise God for our leaders and pray for God's filling and anointing on them.
- Pray that we live out our mission effectively every day to be an incredible community where people experience Jesus and His transformation.
- Pray for wisdom as we adapt to COVID-19 dynamics and that God expands our ministry in exciting new ways.
- Pray that students would become passionate followers of Jesus and effective Kingdom leaders.
- Pray for students struggling with emotional and mental health challenges.
- Pray for our campuses: Queen's, St Lawrence College (SLC), Loyalist College, and Royal Military College (RMC).
 - Pray that the administration at Loyalist will fully endorse and establish our ministry
 - The ministry at RMC has been difficult to get off the ground this year because of Covid. Pray for openings and that we would be in alignment to God's plans.
- Pray that God would multiply huddles, houses, leaders, staff, funding
- Pray that God would make us a community of prayer and passion for Jesus

Thank you!

Thank you so much for all you do to support us in our mission. Your investment in us is having an eternal impact, and it is such an encouragement to us. If you would like to know more about what we do you can go to www.genevahouse.ca or join one of our Facebook Groups (Queen's Geneva House, Geneva SLC, Loyalist Christian Life). And please help us by spreading the word about our ministry. May God bless you for all you do for the Kingdom!



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Executive Leadership Team

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Rebecca McLeod	Queen's Student Intern
Victoria Sharpe	Next Generation Trainer
Mickeelie Webb	Director of Marketing, Grad Ministry Lead
Kathy Doering	SLC Ministry Director
Wanda Thompson	Loyalist Ministry Director
Rheanna Rosenthal	Loyalist Online Missions Director
Ayla Chase	RMC Team Leader
Greg Hoornweg	RMC Team Leader
Ryan Farrell	Geneva House Associate Pastor
Steve Kooy	Geneva House Campus Ministry Team Leader

