

# Geneva House

## Campus Ministries

Ministry Report

May 2021

### Our Mission:

Be an incredible community where people experience Jesus  
and His transformation

I feel a little awkward saying this, but it has been an incredible year. Don't get me wrong, it hasn't been easy. In fact, it has been the most challenging year of ministry that I have ever had. Personally, I have never wrestled with more anxiety, I have slept less than ever before, and I have even developed some silver hair (not gray) along with a very tiny spot on the back of my head where my hair is slightly thinner. My daughters affectionately and all too frequently refer to it as my bald spot. In situations like this, I am grateful for passages in the bible like 2 Kings 2:23-24 (Elisha, mocking youngsters, and a bear), and I can easily justify the loss of scalp coverage to the fact that I have been cutting my own hair during the pandemic. But let me de-part from the hair talk and get back to the mane point. What I am trying to say is that there have been many challenges, some major, others more manageable. It has not been easy. But in the midst of extensive and overwhelming challenges, God has done phenomenal things! As we lived out our mission, it was exciting to see students becoming passionate followers of Jesus and amazing leaders for Him. We invested deeply in so many young adults, introducing them to Christ, training them to live by the Word and the Spirit, equipping them to live out God's mission, enfolded them into caring community, walking with them through their struggles, helping them overcome anxiety and addictions, teaching them how to build healthy relationships and navigate conflict, and empowering them to lead as authentic disciples of Christ. Do you see why I said it was an incredible year? God is amazing, He makes amazing people, and He does amazing work! It has been an absolute gift to be part of God's mission on our campuses this year, even if I have lost some hair along the way. There are so many things I want to communicate to you about our ministry, but because people's bandwidth seems to be low these days, I will try to be brief and give you some facts, highlights, and some amazing testimonies of how God has been transforming lives. I'm a little short on pictures this year since most of our groups were on Zoom, but I'll throw in a few of the faces of Geneva along the way. And if you would like more specifics, please don't hesitate to reach out!



## Ministry Activity (Winter Semester: Jan-April 2021)

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Huddle Groups (22)	Ministry Houses (2)
Geneva Live (weekly Facebook Live event)	Weds Undergrad Zoom Nights
Grad and Beyond (2 lifegroups)	Facing Anxiety Courses (4)
Faculty Bible Study	Unstuck Emotional Healing Course
Prayer Groups (3)	1-1 Discipleship, Mentoring, and Counseling
Renovaré Book Club	Leadership Development
Gen Z Training	Queen's Fitness Fellowship
Campus Ministry Multiplication	
Restored (overcoming sexual strongholds like pornography, etc)	
International Ministry (English Conversation Class, Friday Alpha/Discovery Group)	

## Exciting Moves Forward

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God is doing so much, and He has been leading us into all sorts of new and exciting movements of the Spirit.

### Facing Anxiety

One of the biggest struggles students have experienced this year is anxiety. As we prepared for the season back in August, God placed an idea on our women's ministry leader (Julia). She thought – *I wonder if we should run a group that to help students work through anxiety from a Christian perspective?* She did a lot of research, found some great resources, and then offered a 4-week course first semester. She didn't know if anyone would sign up, but she thought it was worth trying. Well, she was right! Julia had so many people sign up for the first course, she had to make 3 groups. Second semester one group didn't want to stop meeting and we started another group at Queen's, one at SLC, and another at Loyalist (in partnership with Belleville Maranatha's Young Adult Group).

### Battling Sexual Strongholds

In a very similar way to our Facing Anxiety ministry, God stirred our men's ministry leader (Ryan) to begin a new ministry for our male students struggling with pornography. We thought it would benefit a few of our men on campus, but we greatly underestimated the impact this program would have on our community. We eventually had 15 men and 15 women join this ministry and so many students are finding healing and freedom from sexual strongholds in their life. Some have been struggling with pornography from as early as 10 years old. This is heartbreaking for us, and we are now beginning to strategize how we can work with churches to reach students at a younger age and to prevent addiction to pornography. If you are interested in joining us in this effort, please let me know!

### Forming Student Homes

Students have been craving in-person community. Zoom has been an amazing way to stay connected, and our huddles have transitioned really easily to this format, but nothing beats real life human interaction. One of the best ways we have been able to provide for this deep need is by having ministry houses. Students found great comfort and community with their student houses this year and we are excited to tell you that we are hoping to start a third house at Queen's campus in the fall!



## Expanding SLC

God did an incredible thing this semester at SLC. Our ministry leader (Kathy) had been raising her own support to fund her chaplaincy work there, and she had been doing such an amazing job that even the administration took notice. God really poured out His favour and the school created an official, fully paid chaplain position in charge of Kingston, Brockville, and Cornwall campuses, and then they offered it to her. This is an amazing work that could only have been done by God!

## Developing New Sites

In addition to the new SLC locations of Brockville and Cornwall, we have also been working with an amazing team to develop campus ministry in Oshawa, and we are beginning to build relationships in Peterborough as well. God is really on the move and we are excited to reach new campuses with His mission!

## Developing Deeper Partnerships

One of the main ways our ministry has expanded is by making key partnerships with local churches and ministries that share our passion and vision for ministering to students. From Kingston to Oshawa and every campus in between, we are teaming up with organizations and leaders to multiply God's mission. One example is how our LCL team leader (Wanda) and intern (Rheanna) have teamed up with Maranatha Belleville young adults to run programs and to enfold students into church community. We believe that by working together we can reach more students and provide a more comprehensive ministry, and we are so grateful for all our partners in the Gospel!

## Understanding Gen Z

We have been learning so much about Gen Z (11-25 yr olds) and we are excited to share all that we are learning with the church. That's why we have designed a video curriculum that is currently being beta tested in preparation for release to churches. We have also created a 1 hour Understanding Gen Z seminar that we would love to share with you. If you are interested in learning more about these programs you can fill in this form:

<https://forms.gle/u8D84oRjO8yvPD1U8> and you can view the trailer here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bESVpdlq7BM>.

## Creating a New Brand

Have you noticed our ministry is expanding? We have moved beyond Queen's University and are now reaching more campuses in many cities. Because we are larger than just one location, we are working on creating a new brand that encompasses all the sites. Geneva House will still be the name of our Queen's ministry, but we need a new name for what we have become. After a lot of discussion and discernment it seems that the best name to describe our organization is Momentum Campus Ministries. It sums up well how we are following the movements of the Spirit as He moves students closer to God, deeper into community, and further into the mission God has for us. Plus, it has a nicer ring than Kooy Campus Ministries. You can check out the new Momentum logo our Director of Marketing (Mickeelie) is working on below.



## Student Testimonies

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We asked our students how God shaped them this year, and here is what some of them said:

God shaped me with a cookie cutter! Jk! I built patience and learned the importance of worship! Worshiping at random times and worshipping alone.

God taught me patience. Patience in believing situations will improve and that current circumstances won't last forever.

I'm learning to do a better job at taking care of myself, and figure out what my limits and values are, and I've also been depending on God through a lot of loss.

It was a great pleasure to be in a multi cultural group. Really amazing to see and interact with people who really cares about the faith. I now understand more about God's unconditional love for humanity.

I've learned to accept and love myself as I am, including the parts of me that are prone to extreme bouts of anxiety. I know that my life will never be free from anxiety entirely, but as long as I have the Lord I will be more than okay.

God really taught me a lot about trusting in the Holy Spirit for guidance in what to share/how to answer questions asked in our group. God is our strength in weakness!

He's taught me to rely on Him more than ever during busy times.

The Renovare group has prompted some really deep discussions about faith in today's world. I have some new ways of thinking about social justice and prayer in particular. My prayer life has grown and my desire to know more about and through prayer has vastly increased this year.

God taught me this year that abiding really feeds our souls in a way that striving can't. The pandemic has stripped many things from us this year, but I'm beginning to understand that joy can be independent of our circumstances when we're anchored in an unchanging God.

I started coming to this club because I wanted to learn more about Christianity. I'm not sure where I stand but through this community I've learned how to be more comfortable with myself, pursue my passions, and have more faith in the world. No matter what I believe at any given time I plan to check back in here regularly, keep learning, and keep pushing myself. I've learned that I need to meet myself where I'm at and work on building character rather than trying to be popular or being a workaholic. Geneva house has given me a lot of friends which I think has helped me become a better friend and a better person. Julia and I have talked extensively over tea about my dating queries and I have learned a lot from talking with her and I think I have developed a lot of respect for myself. I know that I have to focus on myself rather than trying to impress other people or worrying about what they think of me.

Thank you for ministering to me over the past three years while I was in Kingston. The first few weeks of law school were not only intellectually challenging but emotionally draining. I was in a new city far away from home, it being the first time I had lived on my own. It was very discouraging. Then I met (a student) at a church service and she invited me to Geneva House on a Friday night. No matter how poorly school was going or how exhausting the studying any given week, I knew I had a place where I belonged not just as a student, but as a believer. Geneva House was that place. Thank you again. Be blessed! Proverbs 17:17.

I cannot say enough about the impact working through (Unstuck) with Julia had on me. I am nearly unrecognizable, or so I've been described by people in my life who have watched me walk through the last six months. I had buried and lived in denial over a series of traumas that took place years ago and working through (Unstuck) helped me open these old wounds and fill them with the Holy Spirit. It has transformed my prayer and reading life and I am recommending to everyone that they take it.

## One More Story

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A student who Julia had been meeting with for tea (when we weren't in lockdowns) had so many questions about faith and life and dating. She joined her Discovery Huddle in the fall but struggled with skepticism about Christianity, particularly how faith and science fit together. Even after going through Christianity Explored and Alpha, she still couldn't quite make the decision to follow Jesus. Please pray for her. About a month ago she gave Julia a beautiful journal with Jeremiah 29:11 on the front. Inside the journal, she wrote "Dear Julia, I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you how grateful I am to have been part of the Geneva community over the past year. You and (others) have created such a wonderful community of people that is unconditionally accepting and caring. I think that university is an important time for people to grow and learn who they are and you have created such a supportive place to do that and provide the wisdom to guide us. Although I don't necessarily believe everything about Christianity, Geneva has accepted me despite that and given me a place where I am accepted for being myself. Meeting with you for tea and chatting over the past year has been so important to me. I always look forward to our talks. You're such a great role model and I hope that I will have a life like you someday. I'm at a place in my life right now where I'm still figuring out who I want to be and what I want to do but I am inspired by the deep sense of meaning you have in your life and all the lovely people you are able to share it with. I hope that we will stay in touch for many years in the future."

## Prayer requests

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Please continue to pray for us! As I mentioned before, if you would like to receive regular 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.
- Pray that we live out our mission effectively every day to be an incredible community where people experience Jesus and His transformation.
- Pray that students would become passionate followers of Jesus and effective Kingdom leaders.
- Pray that the students exploring Christianity will make the decision to follow Jesus.
- Pray that God would raise up the next generation of student leaders as we recruit this summer.
- Pray for students struggling with emotional and mental health challenges.
- Pray the administration at Loyalist will fully endorse and establish our ministry.
- Pray for our new campus starts in Brockville, Cornwall, Oshawa, and maybe Peterborough.
- Pray that God would multiply huddles, houses, leaders, staff, funding.
- Pray that God would make us a community of prayer and passion for Jesus.
- Pray that we can meet in person safely in September.



# Thank you!

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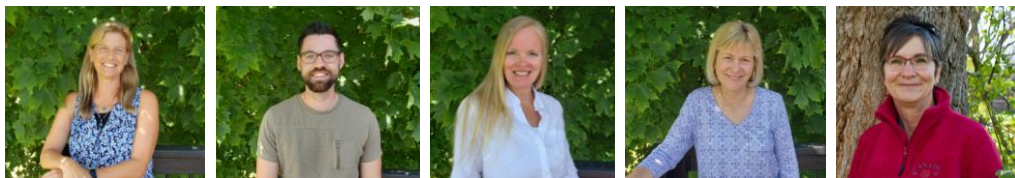
Thank you so much for all you do to support us in our mission. Your investment in us is having an eternal impact, and it is such an encouragement to us. If you would like to know more about what we do you can go to [www.genevahouse.ca](http://www.genevahouse.ca) and please help us by spreading the word about our ministry. May God bless you for all you do for the Kingdom!



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## Executive Leadership Team

Julia Kooy	Queen's Women's Ministry Director
Nancy Smith	Queen's International Ministry Director
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
Ryan Farrell	Geneva House Associate Pastor
Steve Kooy	Geneva House Senior Pastor, Executive Director



## Geneva House Board of Directors

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