

Momentum Campus Ministries

Ministry Report: Spring 2022

Our Mission:

**Be an incredible community where people experience Jesus
and His transformation**

Our Strategy:

Build Community, Build Disciples, Build Leaders

If you asked me to choose 3 words to describe this semester, I would choose 4 and go with **challenging, unprecedented, exciting, and transformational**. Most of our challenges had to do with navigating the uncertainties and instability related to covid. It seemed like we were constantly trying to figure out what the official rules were and how to best keep our community safe. And we had to do this while many of our team got covid or felt like they had covid, and we tried to stay positive while hoping we tested negative. Personally, I never did test positive, but I have also never felt sicker in my life. I think I might have just developed a new strain I call Koovyd. So, it was challenging, but also unprecedented. We have never had a semester like this before. Covid was definitely a big part of it with all of its dynamics, but so were other things like the war in Ukraine. Our team at St Lawrence College invested deeply in both Ukrainian and Russian students who were struggling with a whole range of issues related to finances, family, friends, and faith. We definitely did not prepare for this scenario at the beginning of the year. But what I find so exciting is that God led the way through all of the challenging and unprecedented times and He equipped us to do some incredible things. He proved that His "power works best in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9b), and we saw His power at work as He brought so much transformation in the lives of students and young professionals. These young adults experienced new life in Christ as they got into God's Word, God's community, and God's mission. They grew so much as they huddled, worshipped, led ministry, were mentored, and small grouped (it is a new word I am trying out). We were able to introduce some to Jesus for the first time and help others grow as passionate disciples of Christ. And all the while, God continued to expand our ministry by opening new doors, developing new partnerships, and raising up the next generation of Kingdom leaders. It was an amazing semester, and we are so thankful for your partnership in making this happen! What follows is a closer look at how God was moving this term. There are details and stories and testimonies that we are excited to share with you. I didn't have space to tell you everything, so if you would like to know more about anything please don't hesitate to reach out! I love testifying about what God is doing!



Ministry Activity (Winter Semester: Jan-April 2022)

Here is a quick snapshot of our mission work with the number of people involved:

Huddle Groups (24 gr = 100+ people)
The Well worship night (40 people)
Grad and Beyond (3 lifegroups = 35+ people)
Alpha (15-20 people)
UnHurried Course (10-15 people)
Sunday Socials (15-20 people)
Leadership Development
Campus Ministry Multiplication
1-1 Discipleship, Mentoring, and Counselling

Ministry Houses (3 houses = 16 residents)
Prayer Group (13 people)
Renovaré Online Book Club (8 people)
International Discovery Group (11 people)
International Socials
Faculty Bible Study
Loyalist/Maranatha YA group (20+ people)
Russian and Ukrainian support meetings (13)
Restored - Healing and Discipleship (4 people)



Highlights

Huddles

Huddles are a big part of how we work to fulfill our mission on campus. Huddles are discipleship groups of 4-5 people who are learning to follow Jesus, to listen to the Spirit, and to live out God's mission in their everyday lives. They are spaces of support, authenticity, and challenge. Huddlers reflect on Bible passages on their own during the week and then get together once a week to share how God has been speaking to them and how they are trying to live this out. Moving back online at the start of our January semester led to 4 less groups than first semester. Online definitely can have benefits but it also leads to zoom fatigue, and we find when huddles are in person, we have more groups. But with that said we are so thankful for the 24 discipleship groups we had and over 100 huddlers who were involved this semester. You can find some great feedback on how huddles have transformed lives in the Testimonies section.

The Well and Alpha

Our in-person worship nights were definitely a highlight of second semester. When restrictions eased in January, people were so excited to start worshipping in person and God continued to raise up new worship leaders who were so gifted throughout the term. We had powerful times of engaging worship, and so many young adults were filled every week at the Well. After worship we ran the Alpha course, and it was so exciting to see 3 types of students there: some were hearing about Jesus for the first time, others had some experience with the church growing up but did not have any significant faith life, and still others were followers of Jesus and wanted to grow in Him. Alpha offered each of these groups a lot to think and talk about and God brought a lot of transformation through this course.



Loyalist Openings

Just before Covid hit, we had developed an exciting new relationship with Loyalist College through the Health and Wellness department. We were poised to start some new spiritual initiatives when Covid shut down our on-campus presence and we were pretty discouraged. But this closed door led to a great new opening with Maranatha CRC in Belleville. We partnered together with their young adults programs and were able to create safe in-person and online spaces where our students could find incredible Christian community. We are so grateful to Maranatha for taking us in and enfolding us when we had no place to meet, and we love our enhanced partnership. And we are using this model as we develop new initiatives on other campuses. So, this was a great opening for us, but we still had a heart to be on-campus. We were waiting and praying for the ability to return when we got an email in January from the head of the Health and Wellness department. He was developing weekly online wellness program offerings which included yoga, meditation, and various other activities, and he wanted to know if we would consider hosting a weekly one-hour online meeting entitled Spiritual Conversations. We were so excited to get this invitation and we asked team member Mike Mathewson (Young Adults Pastor at Trenton Wesleyan) to lead it. Although online response by students was minimal, after 6 weeks God opened another door. It was a literal door, a door to Room 3Ng on campus. We were asked to continue the sessions in person in the Wellness center! In-person sessions led to greater connections for the second half of the semester, and we are hoping this will lead to so even greater openings in the fall.

Campus Ministry Multiplication

Our Oshawa campus ministry team continued to make plans this semester and as we did, God surprised us with a \$15 000 start-up donation through Resonate. We were so excited about this! There is a tremendous need for ministry on the campuses of Ontario Tech and Durham College and we are hoping to have someone on site for the fall. We have also had some initial conversations with an existing campus ministry in Peterborough to see how God is moving at Trent University and how we might be able to join Him. These are very early discussions, and it will be interesting to see what God will do, but we love campus ministry, and we love seeing it multiply!



Ukrainian and Russian Student Ministry

As I mentioned earlier, this semester we invested deeply in Ukrainian and Russian students at SLC. Our team leader Kathy Doering hosted in-person and online gatherings as well as met with students individually. It was heart wrenching to hear the stories, but also so encouraging to see these young adults finding hope, healing, forgiveness, and caring community. Here is what one student wrote:

As an international student from Russia, I can surely say it's been one of the most challenging 2 months in my entire life. Besides being far from my family and juggling work and studies, I had to deal with all the horrors of representing the evil itself. Not because I wanted to, not because I chose to. Just because I speak the language and have the citizenship of the country that started killing innocent people. When the war started, I was devastated, I couldn't leave my bed for 3 days, I was crying, constantly reading the news, hating myself and the Russian government. I myself left the country for Colombia in 2018 because the protests that I attended regularly didn't make any difference... In February I felt like if I stayed in Moscow and continued my fight, something might have been different.... This feeling of complete helplessness and anger...

But then I got Kathy's invite to the Russia and Russian-Ukrainian meetings online and on campus. For me, the most important one was the meeting with Ukrainian students. Even now when I think of the way they gave me their forgiveness, I can't help but cry. Then in the Russian meetings, we could openly talk about our grief, Kathy explained why our feelings matter as much as the feelings of the people of Ukraine. It was and still is the ONLY space where I can openly share my fears, losses, and hopes for the future.

Kathy also met me in person, which helped tremendously. I can't stress enough how much Kathy's proactive approach to the situation and support helped me and other students go through this situation without breaking into pieces. The pain and sorrow will stay forever, but at least now instead of just hating ourselves, we are directing our energy into something productive like supporting Ukrainians coming to Canada or spreading information about the war in Russia so that more people understand that propaganda is not the resource they can trust. Kathy gave us a hand of support, and without her, I would have had a completely different experience this semester. THANK YOU!

Last week, SLC honoured Kathy's work with Ukrainian and Russian students by giving her the highest award the school has – the Award of Merit. We praise God for Kathy and His amazing work through her!

Year-end Banquet



For the first time in 3 years, we had an end of year banquet and it was so exciting to be able to finish the year in person like this again! We got dressed up, celebrated God's amazing work, honoured our incredible leaders, and said goodbye to our graduates. There was feasting and fun and a few tears, as well as an overarching sense of thankfulness for all the times we had together. We asked our graduates what they will miss most about our Momentum/Geneva House community and here is what they said:

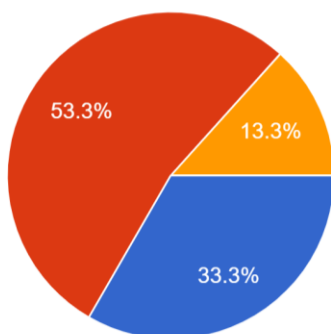
- The community (3), The community of friends I have made! All the amazing people I've met here
- I really love the heart of the ministry. I loved being able to join a group that was so open and accepting especially when university is such a new place.
- The people and the friends I've made!
- The people and a consistent "how's it going buddy" from Steve
- The Well (2) - my favourite part of the week.
- Huddle



We also asked all of our banquet attendees how much they were transformed by God this year and 45 out of 45 who responded said they were transformed in some way. Isn't that amazing? Here are their responses:

How much did God transform you this year?

45 responses



- More than I thought possible
- So much
- A little
- Not at all

We also asked them how God shaped, grew, or transformed them and here is what some of them said:

- He gave me a community and opportunities to meet new people that I could use to be more outgoing in Christ! Also, I think that I'm just more aligned in with Christ and His will for my life through reading the Word more.
- He revealed Himself to me through Scripture in ways that I never thought I could understand. I feel like this year I have been more vulnerable with others and God Himself in prayer and devotion.
- God has taught me the power in being vulnerable both for myself, and for other non-believers that I may encounter. I have learned how putting a name to our struggles can remove the power the enemy has over strongholds in our life. He has also transformed my heart to love and care so much more deeply for the souls around me. God has given me the confidence to share my faith, and many opportunities to demonstrate the love Jesus has shown me without bound.
- This year God really has been teaching me to "let go and let God". Such a simple and kind of cheesy phrase but much harder said than done! It's hard to let go of wanting perfection and wanting to control every situation but if we live by the Spirit and let the Lord guide us, He can take us places we never thought of going and we can experience His joy and peace no matter what is going on or what comes our way. We just have to actually let Him in.
- He's been teaching me that I don't have to be a perfect Christian or a perfect example to others to still have an impact. It's in the moments where you are real and honest with others that you form the deepest connections with them and are able to grow together
- He gave me a newfound desire and passion for reading the Word and understanding more complicated theological concepts
- God showed me that I'm not in control, but He is. His timing is best, and I need to learn to allow Him to do things in His own timing rather than trying to force things to go my way.
- Learning to accept myself the way I am, and not fear the rejection of others for pieces of myself beyond my control
- God developed my leadership abilities, taught me more about the importance of seeing life through so many different perspectives, and the valuable skills of listening well!
- Challenged me to rethink the ways I was living
- Grew me as a musician, a friend, opened my mind to different perspectives and helped me understand how to more deeply love those around me and what it looks like to be love
- He had been teaching me about rest in him
- He made me understand trust
- I found out how to slow things down and recognize what's really important
- Made me more empowered and grateful
- Grew my confidence and clarified my next steps!
- Self-growth. Learn to accept myself
- Took away a lot of pain
- Having a community of Christians my age that I can trust and grow with
- I grew in my leadership and my reliance on Him
- Helped me to trust in his plan and to turn to him when I am anxious/weary about something
- God reminded me not to be complacent in my faith, and to trust him even when he seems far away
- Confidence to go outside of my comfort zone to pursue Him more
- Grew deeper in relationship with Christ and I've been spending more consistent time reading the Bible/praying
- To really anchor myself in him regardless of the "storms" that come
- My faith grew in trusting Him

- God has shown me the power of surrendering to him. Trusting in Him alone... not the world or people.
- Making time to love GOD first then others.
- A greater understanding of faith.
- Deeper prayer and a greater consistent presence in my daily life
- Especially during challenging times, surrounding yourself with the right people makes all the difference. As well as find people that will love you, support you and walk alongside you throughout all the ups and downs of life.
- More dependent on him
- Struggles and challenges produce endurance and solidifies your faith
- I grew in a way that I am more open when it comes to talking to people.
- Trust Him in His timing, be patient, knowing that He is God!
- Many things but the one I notice the most is in learning patience with myself and others
- God has been teaching me to rely on Him, to heed rebuke, to care for people, to listen to Him, and to enjoy absorbing God's word.
- I'm learning to "let go" of people, things and control of my life during these uncertain times. Jesus is my only security!
- He showed me His peace that passes all understanding, provided for me when I lost all hope, and protected me under the shadow of His wing.
- I learned more about doing service to other people
- I learned how to trust and surrender to him
- I got to explore Scripture and gain so much understanding from it!
- Adjust to change. Be resilient. Surrender control
- Working with Bethel and the Well allowed to me get more deeply rooted in my faith

And just for fun, we also asked what quote, song, movie title, or other magical phrase best described their year:

- Can't Complain by Reliant K
- Firm Foundation by Maverick City Music
- God of the Hills and Valleys by Tauren Wells
- Gods not done with you by Tauren Wells
- Still Rolling Stones - Lauren Daigle
- Prodigal Soul by Switchfoot
- "You're braver than you believe and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." - Winnie the Pooh
- Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.
- Yesterday is history, today is a gift, tomorrow is a mystery
- God has a plan for you!!!
- "This is so good for the plot"
- Big things in small ways
- It's a whole new world is the first that comes to mind lol just moving & expanding what I know & independence!
- The best is yet to come
- Yet not I but through Christ in me!
- I'm done!!!!
- Started from the bottom now we here 🍷
- Do what's meaningful, not what's expedient.
- Friends are our chosen family
- Outbreak

Transformation Stories

And now, here are some exciting stories from our team of how they saw God working this semester:

God has been moving through my undergraduate huddle. It is just three of us, but we have grown really close together after huddling for almost a year. The group confides in each other over almost anything. One group member has been struggling with a marijuana addiction and we have prayed over them, supporting them and keeping them accountable as they worked to get clean this semester. There are cool stories about the group sharing Jesus and planting Gospel seeds with their housemates and their parents. One individual's parents are conservative Muslims, and this person has been studying apologetics to help frame the intense conversations they have with their dad. I have seen them grow in maturity and leadership capacity and am praying they'll invest themselves in others through huddles next year!

An encouragement was seeing students internalize and apply the messages of *How To Unhurry*. Students were practicing intentional Sabbaths for the first time ever in their lives and finding the space significant for their emotional and spiritual wellbeing. This course could definitely be utilized in the future, and maybe towards the beginning of the year, as it trains participants how to make wise decisions and purposeful steps with stewarding their resources, time and energy.

Pastoral care has been an area where I've seen God on the move. This year I deepened my skills and passion for pastoral care. I try to be an active, empathetic listener. I try to be in tune with the Spirit's leading as I have coffee or lunch with students and young adults. A number of times I have seen student's struggles connect with the very things God was impressing on my heart or brought to my attention earlier in the week. I feel that I've helped a number of people look at their lives with greater biblical perspective or take further steps in their spiritual journey. I have grappled with tough questions and doubts about faith in conversations with students and also shared the Gospel a number of times, even to Christians, to help them more profoundly embrace all the Gospel says about our lives. Many days as I've reflected back my heart's been full of gratitude and humility that the Spirit would use me as a vessel to speak truth, grace, and wisdom into people's lives. But, more importantly, just listening to people really well has opened my eyes to all the ways God moves in people's lives without me having done a thing!



It has been exciting to see how God has used the Grad & Beyond ministry to encourage, equip, and inspire young adults. We have three groups currently going, and they're meeting until the end of June. One meets online. Two of the groups are self-sustaining. One group has completely collaborative leadership. The leaders, Sam and Paul, facilitate but everyone takes turns hosting and leading. The group that Mickeelie and I are leading at Bethel has "blown up" the past few weeks with folks more comfortable to come out. We went from about 4-6 people in February to about 16 people. We break up into smaller groups during our study on Colossians since there's so many. You can really sense the Spirit moving and speaking to everyone through the Word and using each other to encourage one another in our discipleship journeys. There's great diversity of background, education, faith tradition and race. It's really exciting to be a part of and there are a number of potential leaders in the group!

One student called me regularly when the stresses of college and family issues were too much for them to carry alone. To hear them say, "I didn't know who else to call" was heartbreaking but encouraging to know they felt I would listen regardless of the late hour.

This year I had the opportunity to tap into my God-given abilities as a leader. I invested a lot of time and effort into mentoring young women and pouring into ministry leaders. One of my mentees was a key leader with Power to Change. It was wonderful connecting with her to pray, talk about ministry, and advise her on some problems and conflicts she was encountering in her work. In leading/co-leading small groups I have also had the chance to use my testimony and gifts leading groups to bring about change. I have genuinely enjoyed leading these groups and I feel I have been encouraged by the participants growth and development.

I am excited that another Chinese woman in our group is very excited to be studying the Bible and asks really good questions in our Discovery group. She believes in Jesus, and I hope that as she learns more that she will be ready to follow Christ in spite of her Buddhist husband's objections.

A student who has moved to area has a close family member dealing with terminal cancer. This extra stress on top of school, recovering from a serious illness over Christmas break has made this year exceptionally difficult for them. Sharing a meal, providing a safe place to shed tears and process their feelings and thoughts has been a tremendous honour. To hear comments like, "Thank you so much for yesterday... I can't even tell you how much you helped," melts my heart. To know we have provided a safe place for a student to share their burdens and leave empowered to face life's challenges strengthened in their relationship with God and community is thrilling and deeply humbling.

Testimonies

And here are some testimonies from students and young professionals about how God transformed their lives:

My time spent with Geneva House this past school year was absolutely wonderful! Coming into university, I craved finding a community of Christian friends and peers and finding people who would willingly walk beside me on my faith journey. I began by coming out to the Wednesday night events called The Well. This quickly became a consistent part of my weekly routine because it was exactly what I had been looking for - a safe space to grow closer to the Lord with support from those around me. It was a place I could be myself and not feel any nerves or fear of being judged, as I was loved for who I was right then and there. The first part of the evening was refreshing, as it was time to experience live music while worshiping the Lord and spending much needed time with Him. Following that was the Alpha course, something I had completed before but was ecstatic to complete again, this time with new faces and thoughts, and new things to learn. As the weeks went on, my relationships began to blossom, and I started to feel more a part of the Geneva community. Wednesday nights became a time of gathering with friends and talking about Jesus, rather than a structured course. We just got to talk about our shared faith and challenge one another to grow closer to the Lord. From then on, I have taken part in more Geneva House programs and I have truly found the community I was longing to find only nine short months ago. I am so grateful to Steve and Julia and the rest of the Geneva House staff and volunteers for making my first year so memorable. I look forward to all the amazing experiences and growth that is to come with this wonderful community!



Moving to a new city in the midst of COVID-19, there was a lot of ambiguity and uncertainty for me. Fortunately, all it took was one text message inquiring about the ministry and I was connected with a community like no other. At every event, whether that was online or in person, the Momentum team always made intentional and genuine efforts to make me feel welcomed and included. From Wednesday nights at the Well to small group Huddles, I can't express how much this ministry has helped me grow in my faith and as an individual. I am extremely thankful to be a part of the Momentum Ministries community.

My huddle was the best part of my first year! I met some really amazing people and made some friends, while learning more about God from one of the wisest and kindest people I know, Kathy. My first year of college was a challenging experience, but I'm so thankful I had the chance to join a huddle so I could be supported throughout my journey. I will definitely be looking to join a huddle again in the future!

As one of the huddle leaders, participating in a huddle has been a journey for me both in spirit and character. In fact, I was often reminded that I am a Christian during our weekly huddles. My involvement in the huddles, helped me stay rooted in my faith and also encouraged me through the realization that I am not alone in my journey through Christ. I certainly met interesting individuals and also people who are as broken or perhaps even more broken than me. Their company has helped me through difficult times during my stay at St. Lawrence College. My time with them has helped me realize a lot of things in life and also place my perspective in life in order. While there are times when certain individuals have definitely tested my patience, with the help of God, Kathy, and my landlord, I was able to focus on my own flaws and work on them instead. Kathy Doering has always lent me her ears and given me counsel when I needed it. I consider myself blessed to witness the gathering of Christian from different walks of life and was fortunate enough to be part of it. All in all, I want to thank you for letting me take part, for helping me grow, and for the friendship and fond memories. As I exit, I can confidently say that I will look back at my huddle experiences in my time in SLC with fondness and joy!

Mickeelie was open, responsive and kind while she helped to lead a group I was in. She did an amazing job of highlighting and cultivating the community and respect that was expected in our group. She always thanked us for sharing our thoughts gave thoughtful input to anything we said. She sent helpful resources and was always offering her time to meet up outside of the group in case anyone needed support. She's the best!

I had the opportunity to be a part of 2 of Mickeelie's groups this year (Restored and How to Unhurry), and I can truly say that I have been blessed beyond measure by her leadership. She has established a safe space in which I felt I could confide in without shame, and always provided wise counsel to help me grow in both my faith journey, and as a student developing into an adult. I am so extremely thankful to have experienced her leadership this year and will continue to carry forward with me the many lessons she has taught!



I am a beginner in the Bible and this group study has helped me to understand several books in the Bible and I especially enjoy studying the Bible by watching movies which makes it easier for me to understand the Bible. (Nancy) prayed for me, and she taught me how to understand every word in the Bible. God made me believe, made me trust in faith, and made me learn to let go of many of my obsessions.

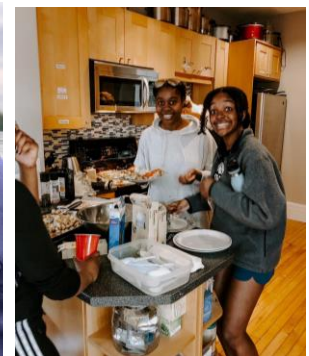
God wanted me to leave my country, my work context and my family. He wants to shape me for a special purpose. Yet, I don't know what the purpose is, but I think it takes time to know. I like to talk about God (in our groups) and hear the people's story that how they traverse their holy journey. They (the groups) help me to talk with others about God and think about my purpose. Thanks for every holy minutes that you gave us in the group.

The group with Nancy and Jolene was so helpful and fun. They implement different activities to get involved and have a moment of friendship and learning. The best I like is when Nancy send me the words I need to practice more and the correct pronunciation. I think God showed me what it is the meaning of compassion and kindness towards others. I was able to see how Nancy and Jolene take time apart to share it with international students and help us practice English while learning of God's word. I think I felt confident speaking English because they know it's not my first language and they are patient and nonjudgmental. They let me know the words I have to practice to improve. God bless you for your patient and the great work you are doing with a vulnerable population like international students. Thank you for your time and passion to do this.

Prayer requests

Please continue to pray for us! 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:

- Pray for our preparations for the fall and that we would be able to draw in many first years.
- Pray that God would raise up the next generation of student leaders as we recruit this summer.
- Pray that we live out our mission effectively every day to be an incredible community where people experience Jesus and His transformation.
- Pray for many to come to know Jesus and make a decision to follow Him.
- 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 ministry with Ukrainian and Russian students.
- Pray for transformation, innovation, and multiplication.
- Pray that God would multiply huddles, houses, leaders, staff, funding.



Thank you!

Thank you so much for all you do to support us in our mission. So many lives are being changed, and as we close the semester, we thank God for His incredible work, and we thank you for being part of it! Thank you for your partnership in our mission to disciple the next generation! 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 and please help us by spreading the word about our ministry.



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Executive Leadership Team

Julia Kooy	Women's Ministry Director
Mackenzie Maskery	Student Intern
Rachel Fletcher	Student Intern
Nancy Smith	International Ministry Director
Jolene Lammers	International Ministry Intern
Mickeelie Webb	Staff Intern
Kathy Doering	SLC Ministry Director
Wanda Thompson	Loyalist Ministry Director
Michelle Poelman	SLC Brockville Ministry Director
Ryan Farrell	Associate Pastor
Steve Kooy	Senior Pastor, Executive Director



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