

Momentum Campus Ministries

Ministry Report: Dec 2021

Our Mission:

Be an incredible community where people experience Jesus and His transformation

Our Strategy:

Build Community, Build Disciples, Build Leaders

I know it might seem like I say this in every report, but this really was our best semester ever! God has been doing so many amazing things and we had an incredible time living out our mission and strategy this term. It was so exciting to see such phenomenal transformation in the lives of young adults as we invested in them, introduced them to Jesus for the first time, trained them in the ways of following Him, taught them how to hear God speak through the Bible, connected them to deep, caring and authentic community, gathered them into powerful worship experiences, guided them through emotional and mental health struggles, helped them to live out God's mission, and empowered them to be exceptional next generation leaders. Isn't that exciting?!

There are so many things I want to tell you about this semester, but I know your time is precious, so I am going to give you the option of choosing your own adventure. Some people love to read every single word I write because they could not bear it if they missed just one pun. I understand those people completely and have a special place in my heart for them. Others prefer to skim the updates and go right to the stories or testimonies. And still others just like to look at the pictures. However you choose to read this report, we are just honoured that you would take some time to listen to what God is doing and to experience some of His amazing work in our campus community. And if you would like to know more about anything I touch on, please don't hesitate to reach out! I love testifying to what God is doing!



Ministry Activity (Winter Semester: Sep-Dec 2021)

Here is a quick snapshot of our mission work with the number of people involved:
(p=people, gr=groups)

Huddle Groups (33 gr)	Ministry Houses (3 houses = 16 residents)
The Well worship night (40-80 p)	Prayer Group (13 p)
Grad and Beyond (3 lifegroups = 55 p)	Renovaré Book Club (8 p)
Facing Anxiety Course (15-20 p)	International Discovery Group (11 p)
Relationships Course (15-20 p)	International Socials
Thinking Series Course (15-20 p)	Faculty Bible Study
Life Shared (evangelism) Course (10-15 p)	Campus Fitness Fellowship
Leading Up (leadership) Course (10-15 p)	Leadership Development
The Human Project (social justice) Course (10-15 p)	Campus Ministry Multiplication
1-1 Discipleship, Mentoring, and Counselling	
LCL/Maranatha Belleville YA group	

Highlights

At our end of term staff meeting, I asked our team what the best thing about the semester was and here are some of our highlights:

FIT Team

Our First year Integration Team (FIT) did an incredible job of reaching out to frosh and helping them find friends and a safe place to belong in our campus family. The team ran outstanding orientation events, took students out for coffee, organized fun socials like bonfires and bowling (not at the same time), and enfolded them into our many programs. We have never had more first years involved this quickly, and they have FIT right in!



Meeting in Person

There were so many great things about this semester, but one of the greatest was being able to meet in person. Last year our ministry transitioned well to online activities, and we found some of our groups actually work better online, so we have kept them in this format. But in September it was clear that everyone was so excited to experience in person community events and I would even go so far as saying that students were craving them. There was a real hunger to just be in the physical presence of others and we tried to create as many in person experiences as was safe and possible.

The Well

In August we realized that we were going to need to put Soup Supper on the back burner. Soup had been an incredible staple of our ministry for well over 15 years, but we realized that fitting 80-90 students into Geneva House for dinner every week might not be a good idea because of Covid. It was a big loss because Soup was our only regular large group gathering and the time when we all got to be together. With Soup down the drain, we began to think and pray about what God wanted us to do next. And as we did, God put on our heart the idea of worship. I was super excited about having a worship night, but to be honest, I was also a little nervous. We had tried to run a worship night after Soup Supper a number of times, and it had never worked. So, I prayed more about the idea, and I kept getting the sense that we were supposed to start a worship night. But I wanted to be super sure, so I sought confirmation from our community and began to ask our leaders what they thought about the idea. Well, do you want to know what happened? Every single person I talked to got so excited. Our student leaders in particular told me that students were hungering for in-person worship gatherings, and it was exactly what they needed. With every conversation I felt more confirmation, but there was still a little part of me that was holding back. We had tried this before and it had never worked. Did I really want to go through the effort and try it again? I brought my doubts before God and as I did, God reminded me that my job is not to make things succeed, my job is to be faithful. My job is to follow instructions, and to trust God with the results. I don't have any control over results anyway. So, I went forward with a little bit of faith and a tiny vision. I was just imaging someone with a guitar who could lead us in a few songs. But God took my small faith and vision and He multiplied it into a phenomenal worship night that we call The Well.



God provided us an amazing venue and tech through Bethel Church, and He raised up 3 incredible student-led worship teams as well as a tech team, a registration team, a producer (student intern Mackenzie) and a worship team coordinator/developer named Will Walker. Will is a phenomenal worship leader and former worship pastor who tours with Compassion Canada, and God sent this amazing leader to us for the purpose of raising up young worship leaders. He and the whole team are an incredible gift from God and God used them to create times of transformational worship every week for 40 to 80 students. They connected with God in a deep way at the Well and they were refreshed. Here is what one student said about our worship gathering:

The Well was such a perfect mid-week reset for me. Worship had always been a big part of my relationship with God, and so dedicating a specific time to worship in a larger group each week really strengthened my faith and gave me something to look forward to. I am a really goal oriented person, and thus I always need something to work towards to keep me on track academically. With the Well being in the middle of the week, I had something to motivate me to time manage my deadlines. It taught me to make time for Jesus!

Isn't that amazing?! God did so much with the little I gave Him. And He provided everything and everyone we needed to do something incredible.



Team Discipleship

In 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul says, "I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow." That is a great description of how we do discipleship at Momentum. We do it as a team, each investing in a special way, each playing a specific role. And this approach to making disciples led to some exciting fruit this semester. Here's one example - a law student from China met a Christian in her program and this new friend invited her out to our worship night The Well and our small group The Thinking Series. This student started meeting lots of amazing people in our community and she started coming out to more and more of our groups. She joined our international student discovery group, and a huddle and she started going to Bethel church every week. She was invested in by so many people in our community and about a month ago she decided to become a follower of Jesus! You can read more about her story in the Transformation Stories section later in this report. It was so exciting to see her come alive in Christ and what worked so well was our whole community caring for her and investing in her. So many people were planting seeds and watering them and we all teamed up to help her become a disciple. I think that is the best way to do discipleship!

The Well Small Groups/Courses

In addition to the worship component of the Well, we offered some incredible small group experiences. These groups included one of our 3 Grad and Beyond lifegroups which ran all semester and a number of courses that ran for shorter times including:

- Facing Anxiety (4 weeks)
- Relationships (4 weeks)
- Thinking Series (wrestling with the big questions of faith) (4 weeks)
- Life Shared (evangelism) (3 weeks)
- Leading Up (leadership) (3 weeks)
- The Human Project (social justice) (3 weeks)
- Disciple a City Evangelism Training (1 week)



Mental and Emotional Health Support

It feels a little strange to say this was a highlight, so maybe it is better to say it was an honour to walk with students through their struggles this semester. In the 15 years that I have been here, I have never experienced so many students struggling with such challenging mental and emotional health issues. There are many factors that could be contributing to this, but it seems evident that Covid has greatly intensified the challenges young adults are facing. And I am so proud of our team for their incredible investment in the lives of students which is making such an immediate impact. Walking with others in this way is very demanding on the caregiver and many of our staff are finishing the semester in desperate need of refreshment. Would you please pray that our team is filled up this Christmas season and is ready to pour into students again in January, as well as praying for our students who are burdened with all sorts of struggles.

Ministry Houses

In September we started a third ministry house and this term 16 students lived together in incredible and intentional Christian community. Here are some pictures of our amazing residents:



(Albert St House)



(Beverley St House)



(Geneva House – missing Andrew)

And 2 weeks ago one of our houses even made it in the news! The 3rd picture is our Albert St missional house.

Rain, wind storms batter Kingston and area

📅 December 11, 2021 🧑 Cris Vilela

Severe rain and wind storms battered Kingston and its surrounding areas on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, causing severe damage to electrical infrastructure, trees, and buildings, and spreading thin first responders throughout the entire region as they responded to dozens of calls for emergency service.



A massive tree came crashing down on it during a powerful windstorm. Of course, this wasn't really how we wanted to get in the news, but thankfully no one was hurt, and we met a lot of great people through this experience. From trades people to passersby, we got more deeply rooted in our community, and we are trusting God will use this experience to grow something good.

Huddle Development

Huddles are small 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. We started huddles around 7 years ago with 4 groups and this semester it is so exciting to see that God has multiplied them to 33 on our campuses, and even more in local churches! Isn't that incredible?

As huddles have expanded we have created modified versions to best suit the context. Currently we have 3 main models that we are using with our students at Queen's and our young professionals:

Discipleship Huddle

- Target Audience: Disciples of all levels
- Method: LAMP
 - During the week, participants personally meditate on Scripture and practice missional living.
 - During the weekly meeting everyone shares.

Directive Huddle

- Target Audience: Disciples who consistently struggle to read Scripture on their own.
- Method: Modified Lamp
 - During the weekly meeting everyone reads a passage together (usually from John) then follows the LAMP method.

Discovery Huddle

- Target Audience: Seekers and Pre-Christians
- Method: RAP (Reflect, Accountability, Prayer)
 - During the weekly meeting everyone reads through the book of John or Mark together. Initial reactions and questions are raised and engaged.
 - Participants are asked if they have prayer requests and the leader(s) and anyone who is comfortable prays.

Huddles have been transformative for our community and you can read some testimonies in the section brilliantly entitled Testimonies. But adding to this excitement is that the fact that God has been developing huddles in a whole new way at SLC. Our team leader Kathy has been experimenting with different modifications of these discipleship groups to meet her specific context and in addition to our current Momentum huddle, she created a whole new category of huddles that is having a major impact. She is calling the new category “Thrive” huddles and the SLC administration loves the format and the impact. Thrive huddles are community building groups designed to reach out to non-Christians. They provide all the support and accountability that discipleship huddles do, with the hope of moving them toward discipleship. In that sense they are pre-discipleship groups that are providing SLC with much needed caring community. Here are what a few of our SLC huddlers said about their experience:

“Huddle gave me a family in SLC. It is a safe space where I can be vulnerable and share different things about my life - both the good and the bad - without fear of judgment because I know that the people I am with understand how tough life can be.” - International student, THRIVE huddle

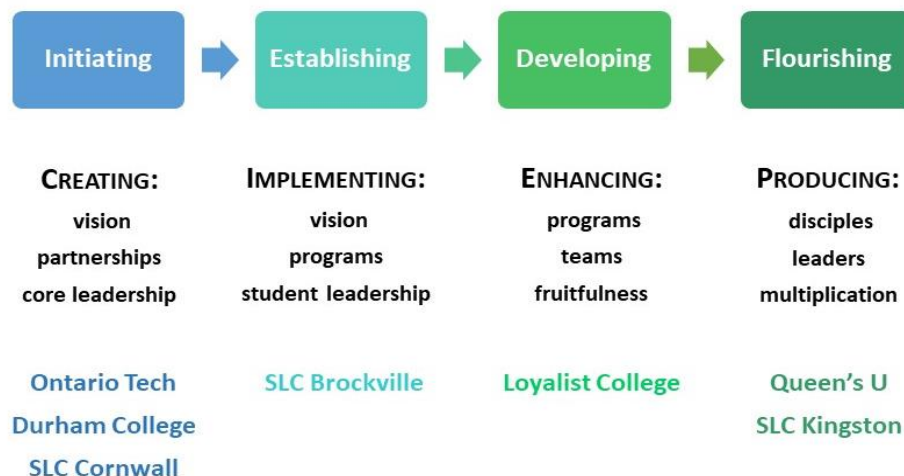
“Being in a faith-based huddle group has been my refuge and safe zone in a busy, and hectic environment that I live in. It has helped me vent and find comfort from other individuals that are on the same predicament as me. In short, it made me realize that I am not alone in my journey towards following Christ's example and that we are just individuals trying to live our life as a Christian in the modern world” - International student, MOMENTUM (Christian) huddle

“My faith-based huddle experience has been a time to reflect, connect and grow with likeminded people. A safe place to re-center myself and work towards a God-centered mindset each week!” - Domestic student, MOMENTUM (Christian) huddle

You can find more testimonies of how huddles have transformed lives in the Testimonies section.

Campus Ministry Multiplication

Another highlight of our semester is seeing how God has continued to expand our ministry. We are now focusing on developing ministry at 7 schools: Queen’s University (Kingston), St Lawrence College (Kingston, Brockville, and Cornwall), Loyalist College (Belleville), Ontario Tech (Oshawa) and Durham College (Oshawa). Each is at a different stage of development, and some are at a very early stage, so here is a diagram which will show you where things are at:



We are so excited to see how God is multiplying our ministry and if you would like to help our efforts at any of the campuses listed or at other campuses, please let me know!

Leadership

Our leadership team continued to grow this semester in both number and in quality. We have an incredibly gifted crew of staff (9), student interns (3), ministry leaders (60+) and board members (8), and I am so thankful for them and their phenomenal leadership. Some amazing new additions to our team include Mackenzie Maskery (student intern), Rachel Fletcher (student intern), Megan Kooy (student intern), Michelle Poelman (SLC Brockville team leader), Pastor Brian Bylsma (board member), and Miranda Boven (treasurer).



But this semester we also said goodbye to amazing board member Daniel Shaver (pic far right) who finished 2 terms of service as our chair. Daniel was a phenomenal chair who was always razor sharp. He has been an incredible support, accountability partner, and wise counsellor, and we are so thankful for his dedication and Kingdom service.



(Staff pic)

Transformation Stories

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

My mentorship relationships and small groups at The Well are where I am seeing the most transformation. Through great conversations about faith and life, God is giving me tools, knowledge, and wisdom to share with young adults to help them navigate university life and being a Christian in today's world. Some students are learning how to do regular daily devotionals and are realizing how much it positively impacts their lives. One of my Huddles meets together to pray and study the Bible in the cafeterias on Queen's campus and they support each other in life and faith. My mentees are experiencing new challenges but great growth as they lean into the challenges before them and ask great questions but also explore for themselves. I led the Facing Anxiety small group at The Well on Wednesdays this fall. The group quickly bonded and became a place of vulnerability, encouragement, and support as we all shared our struggles with anxiety and how we can overcome those battles every day. The group was so kind to each other, and it was a joy to meet together every week.

A student came to The Well worship and small group in September. She's an international student from China studying law. She grew up atheist. Her Christian friend invited her to come with her to The Well where she attended "The Thinking Series: the top 5 questions our culture is asking today". The Gospel message was explained and talked about each week. After her small group one evening she asked for a Bible. A week later she said she was reading it all the time. One evening after The Well we were chatting with a few of us, and a student asked her if she had ever heard of huddle groups. The student shared about them, and the student said, "I would love to join a huddle!" 2 weeks later she joined one of my upper year discipleship groups and she fit right in! The girls loved and welcomed her. She would share each week about what she was reading in the Bible (which was way more than most of us were reading). She was absorbing everything she read. She would ask us questions about what she was reading, and we would share with her what the passage or verse meant. The student said, "when I read my Bible, I feel peace". At our last huddle she said "I asked my mom if she would like to read a book with me. I'm reading through Mere Christianity with her, she's an atheist but she's really open to Christianity". Her law student friend also invited her to attend Bethel church each Sunday as well as the Discovery group run through the Momentum International group. Driving her home from The Well one evening she said "I attend Christian groups 4 times a week- The Well, huddle group, Discovery group, and Bethel church service. I love them. Everyone is so nice and make me feel so welcome". A few weeks ago, the student told our huddle that she prayed to give her life to Christ with the pastor at Bethel Church and she plans to be baptized. Praise God! In just a few short months her life has been transformed! – Julia (Women's Ministry Team Lead)

My 1st year huddle really bonded quickly and now they do everything together. It's been neat to see them messaging each other throughout the week keeping each other accountable to spend time with God doing devotions and praying. After meeting at huddle, they started going to church together every Sunday and through our huddle they have been encouraged to share their faith with their floormates in residence. Most of the girls invite 1 or 2 floormates with them to church every week. One of the students in this huddle plays varsity basketball and is really busy with school and practices and games, but she said she makes huddle, church and The Well a priority. – Julia (Women's Ministry Team Lead)

The Canadian Bureau for International Education hold a conference each year. I was asked to partner with the International and Business Departments to create a proposal for a workshop at this year's conference highlighting Spiritual Care as a strategy for treating international students holistically. The proposal was accepted, and the conference took place in November. There was so much interest in the topic—there were over 90 people across Canada who attended our virtual seminar which was double the number of most other workshops. I was contacted by 2 colleges in BC and Alberta since then about implementing our THRIVE community and huddles at their schools. So exciting! - Kathy (SLC team leader)

A young Iranian guy I knew from our English conversation group several years ago, contacted me this past summer about becoming a Christian. I invited him to our Discovery group, and I also contacted Ryan to talk with him. He ended up joining Ryan's small group and is continuing his journey to know Christ. – Nancy (International Ministry Team Lead)

This is my first year working with the international student ministry with Momentum. I'm specifically working in outreach. My goal in joining was to reach out to international students who are male to be their friends. I wanted to try to create a network and become their friend to lead them to Jesus. I had it all planned out what it would look like, and I thought it would follow my script but what happened was even better. When going to The Well, I just met an international student and wasn't looking for him - he found me. I could tell he was kind of lonely and afraid. I met this student and started talking to him. We were about half an hour early for the event,

so I asked him if he wanted to come with my friend and me to the grocery store to grab a bottle of water. He said yes, and then during the worship, he decided to become a Christian. He said to me, what do I need to do to become saved? I instructed him on what to say, and he prayed a prayer. I then have been following up with the student as he struggles with converting from Hinduism. It has been a journey, but it's been amazing getting to know this young man. I was also able to work with another young man when he came to Canada from Pakistan and help him look for an apartment. He knocked on my door and had nowhere to sleep, so I gave him a sleeping bag and a mat and a pillow. He said "I could use this" - you see, sometimes we think that God needs us to be something that we're not, for us to be used. I know I have certainly felt that way. I've been learning from working with the international students that God will use you precisely as you are and exactly where you're at; I just so happened to be at an event where I met the first student, and all the other student needed was a sleeping bag and a mat to sleep on. When we think about what we need to do to achieve God's will, often God will use this just as we are. – David (International Ministry Team)

One way this internship has really influenced me is seeing people seek God and wanting to learn more about him. Before being involved in ministry, I did not personally know many people who had become Christians. So, being able to hear about and see people's journeys of faith had a big impact on me. There are a couple examples of this that really stand out to me. One example is of one of my fellow leaders. She became a Christian when she was attending Queen's University. At that time, she had been involved with Geneva House international ministries. After leaving Queen's, she stayed involved with the international ministries as a leader. Being able to hear her story and see her faith is pretty incredible. During our meetings it is great being able to hear her perspective and also incredible to see her desire for others to learn more about Christianity as well. – Jolene (International Ministry Team Intern)

God used our *Thinking Series* and *Human Project* courses in incredible ways. I am really confident that many gospel seeds were planted during these programs. They are "pre-Alpha" style courses, meant for seekers and non-Christians. We had atheist, agnostics, former Muslims, and struggling Christians join them and ask many great questions and engage in critical conversation. One individual that participated in *Thinking Series* later came to faith in Jesus through a joint effort of our ministry and Bethel Church! I heard from many other students that the content of the course helped them see the Bible and Christian faith in a new light. Another student I have been mentoring is very close to following Jesus. Thank you, Lord! The Lord has been teaching me to follow the Holy Spirit's prompting and guidance. This goes back to the winter semester of last year when he put on my heart a ministry for those battling porn and sexual addictions and strongholds. Simply by exploring this idea with some of the other staff the Restored ministry was birthed and successful. This year the staff were praying about a worship and discipleship evening, but we had no idea what to do, where to have it, or who to involve. The Lord put various names, ideas, and steps on our minds, and we simply followed by reaching out and facilitating conversations. The next thing we knew, The Well was born! As a planner who likes to know the steps and strategies it has been a stretching opportunity for me to learn to trust the Spirit and rely on God's visions. Baby steps of faith! – Ryan (Associate Pastor)

Testimonies

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

My huddle was such a safe, encouraging space where I not only made lifetime friends, but everlasting sisters in Christ. From the very beginning, we had a bond and a friendship that was exactly what I needed in that season, and through spending time and praying together, it only got stronger with time.

Geneva House has really helped in giving me a home away from home. Before Geneva House, I used to dread leaving my family after reading week, or a visit home, because I knew that I was going to a place where it felt like all I had was myself. Now being apart of this community, I have found a home away from home, and a safe place that I know I can confide in and seek prayer when needed. I have found family, and even better, a love for God that I know now will never leave me.

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.

The [Life Shared] series was really interesting! I only got a chance to sign up towards the end, but even that small segment was really powerful in breaking down some of the fears that come from evangelizing and sharing our faith. I feel it even opened my eyes beyond that, learning to love people where they are at, as opposed to forcing them to be where I want them to be. I am a really big community/family person, and getting to meet with new people, share our journeys, and pray for each other as well was really awesome. It always positioned my mind to be open right before worship!

This semester, God really showed me that I am never alone, and that he hears my cries. Through constantly being involved in Christian community, and faith developing activities, my faith has grown tremendously, and I find that I am keeping him more at the centre of my life than ever before. He's given me an open heart, less stubborn and more receptive to his word, and for that I am so grateful! I feel that he's also shown me the importance of using my gifts for his glory and has instilled me with a passion for his people.

Participating in a huddle really helped to keep me accountable and I met some really great friends through it too. The Well worship was really motivating and uplifting. God taught me how important fellowship is. I met so many amazing, Christ following people and I felt so encouraged through the events Geneva House ran. God also taught me that his commands are not burdensome and through being in a Christian community I was able to truly follow him. Geneva House helped me to feel less alone and it gave me something to look forward to. I especially felt a lot of joy when looking forward to my Huddle.

I liked that huddle was small and personal and gave me an opportunity to practice my faith and meet other Christians. I spent more time in the word and He's been convicting me of my sin and teaching me to surrender my will to His. The huddles helped encourage me and helped with accountability.

Something I really appreciate about Momentum Campus Ministries is their emphasis on prayer being the first step. I think this is a great example and as I begin my journey in ministry, I want to continue to follow this example.

Thank you Wanda... for everything. You have been so helpful and so sweet and supportive as I transitioned moving here to Belleville. I've had so much fun. Thanks for all the work and love you put in for all of us. I appreciate it so much. This young adults group and church has really been great for my mental health. I've been feeling a lot better and a lot of that has to do with you and Adam's leadership.

My community has really grown this year as a result of this internship, and it has helped me get connected with lots of other fellow Christians. It has made me bolder in sharing my faith and I have been more comfortable inviting non-Christian friends out to events, especially the ones that I am involved in.

I am a third-year engineering student at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and I'm grateful to get to share the ways Momentum Ministries has been encouraging me in discipleship and growth with God this semester! Throughout the summer, knowing my impending return to Kingston for the semester, I began praying for new relationships to be formed in the fall semester. And boy oh boy, has God ever answered those prayers over these past couple months. My involvement with Momentum ministries began through their weekly Wednesday night worship and small group event, known around campus as The Well. Steve Kooy, the Ministry Director, had reached out to me about a partnership between Momentum and Praise & Power, a local worship-based ministry which I am co-leading this year. We both jumped at the opportunity to work together, combining Praise & Power's worship with Momentum's study groups. Throughout the semester, these two ministries partnered 4-5 times to provide a night of small group teaching and worship! In my participation in weekly The Well events, I got to know one of Momentum's Associate Pastors, Ryan Farrell. Both avid long-distance runners, we strapped on the runners bright and early one October morning and went for a jog. Since then, we've developed a regular Wednesday morning running routine, but more importantly, God provided me with a mentor with whom I can engage in international spiritual conversations. The guidance and wisdom that God has displayed to me through Ryan has allowed me to enter into a deeper relationship with Him, and has provided me with an avenue to ask questions and be honest with someone I trust. God has been moving in my life, and He has been actively answering my prayers. God has been using Momentum Ministries and their leaders to engage and build momentum in mutual discipleship with students. I am grateful for these two leaders who are actively investing not only in my life, but in the lives of students across Kingston, to bring glory to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!



I became a Christian in Kingston after I studied here for two years. In these two years I found the words of God gave me so much peace and comfort inside, and I wished I had known him earlier in my life. So, I like to be involved in international ministry, and people who has a heart for God like me will have the chance to know Him early in his/her life.

I like to be involved with international students because I know how it feels to be an international student. I became a Christian when I was an international student. Being away from home, Christians became my true friends/family. It is an opportune time for international students to know Christians - their beliefs and hear how God can change lives. Being involved in this group, I have the opportunity to share the gospel and my testimony. I can learn from them as well - their doubts, challenges and questions. I can also serve by praying for them.

I always thought of other religions, and since in Iran we had to observe only the Islamic rules, I could never research other religions. I liked to choose my desired path after the research. When I reached Kingston, I had about 20 days of free time. Before the school's reopening, I tried to walk around Kingston. Something that attracted my attention was that most of Kingston's population went to church on Sundays. It was always amazing for me to know what they did in the church, why they went to church every Sunday, and why their clothes were so formal and tidy. I hadn't seen such rituals and customs in Iran. I decided to study different branches of Christianity for which I took help from some of my school friends and teachers. Many things did not make sense to me in Islam, and I tried to find the answers to my questions through Christianity. Since Covid 19 pandemic had been started, my first year of university classes was completely online and I had much time to study religious books. Finally, in 2021 I decided to go to church and make that big change happen in my life. Also, since I was over 18, I was legally able to choose my religion. In September 2021, I met Mr. Ryan Farrell, the Associate Pastor from Bay Park Baptist Church. I learned a lot about Jesus Christ and his lifestyle and the origin of Christianity and its various branches. In 2020 when I had just turned 18 years old, I thought I should choose my religion, same as my field of study, by myself; a religion that complies with my thoughts and interests. I met Ms. Nancy who is a member of the church, at school through my teachers. Every Wednesday we had a meeting in a house with my other Christian friends. After a few months, I told Ms. Nancy that I liked to be Christian. She introduced me to Mr. Ryan who is a pastor. Fortunately, this church is close to my house, and I decided to take part in different courses of the church. Also, after each course, we have a group worship ceremony, which we perform together. After finishing the one-month course, I took another one, which helped me have a deeper understanding of Christianity. Most of those who participate in these courses are students and I tried to make friends with them. It feels very good. We are all kind to each other.

Prayer requests

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.
- Please pray for students, and us as staff as it looks like we will be transitioning back to online for January and February. Pray that we can meet for ministry purposes in person safely in January. Pray for good mental health and hope as we enter another semester with many COVID restrictions.
- Pray for Alpha that we are hoping to run next semester. Please pray we can meet in person, for students to have the courage to invite other students and for many to come to know Jesus and make a decision to follow Him.
- Pray for Restored Ministry as we run it again next semester. Restored is a ministry for students struggling with pornography addictions and other sexual strongholds.

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.

Have a blessed Christmas season!



Steve Kooy
Momentum Campus Ministries Executive Director
182 Frontenac St Kingston ON K7L 3S6
www.genevahouse.ca
stevekooy@momentumcampus.ca



Executive Leadership Team

Julia Kooy	Women's Ministry Director
Mackenzie Maskery	Student Intern
Rachel Fletcher	Student Intern
Megan Kooy	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

Momentum Board of Directors

Paul Gazdik	Chair
Kathryn Vilela	Queen's Staff and Westside CRC Representative
Nancy Timan	First CRC Kingston Representative
Adam Veenstra	Classis Quinte Representative
Bill Groot-Nibbelink	Classis Quinte CMC Representative
Brian Bylsma	Western Classis Quinte Representative
Miranda Boven	Treasurer
Steve Kooy	Executive Director