

Redeemer's Most Expensive Promo-Video To Date Did We Get it Right?



Photograph by Media the Matters

KRISTEN BORGDORFF
REPORTER

"I understand where they were trying to go, but I think they missed the point. It doesn't really advertise Redeemer as a whole. It's missing the community."

— a fourth year student

"We can't make every single ad about our community because we're more than just that — and this ad does an awesome job of portraying that. We need to encompass every aspect of Redeemer's education, and sometimes we need to focus on the beauty of our education rather than just our community."

— a second year student

"I think it's disappointing that Redeemer is advertising something that misrepresents their programs."

— a third year student

These are just a few opinions on the promotional video for Redeemer's Health Sciences department that was recently released by Redeemer's marketing team. The video, titled "Redeemer Health Sciences," can be found on Redeemer's YouTube page.

After watching the video, I was left with some questions, one of the biggest being what other students would think of the video. With this question in mind, I set out to listen to what students had to say.

Some students had minimal opinions, while others had strong opinions. Some people even had opinions on other people's opinions. Some questioned why Redeemer would hire professional actresses, while others wondered how we could afford to hire professionals. I took all of these concerns to Josh Sieders, Redeemer's Marketing Director, to see what he had to say.

While it's easy to form quick judgements, two big questions that students should address before drawing conclusions are these: What is the intent of this video? and Who is it made for?

These were the two overarching questions I brought to Sieders. I found that once I had a better understanding of these questions, I was able to have a positive view of the video and how it is achieving its intended purpose.

Sieders answered my first question by saying, "The overarching goal is to raise Redeemer's profile, to make us look exciting, credible, and to show that we are a valuable place to have an education." He continued on to explain a key aspect of Redeemer's vision in its self-promotion: "We are always trying to showcase the best about Redeemer at a high-quality professional level so that people associate that high-quality with Redeemer."

Sieders also mentioned that the primary target audience is 15 to 17 year olds, with the assumption being that they are a group of people that have minimal familiarity with and knowledge of Redeemer.

An initial reaction among a number of our students when they watched the promotional video was to question who the main actress is. With Redeemer being a small community, we are quick to notice when someone outside of our community is used in our marketing.

First, why did we hire a professional actress when we could have used someone from our own drama department? Sieders addressed this concern, expressing how the marketing department is always sensitive to Redeemer's small community. Sieders explained how a casting call was sent out to the public, as well as to Redeemer students. The company that created the video, Media that Matters, held the responsibility and right to make the decisions on who was hired, whether the actresses came from within Redeemer's student body or outside of it.

The promotional video depicts the life story of a Redeemer Health Sciences student, meaning that several different actresses were required to play the same person at various ages. Sieders explains, "This actress auditioned, and she matched well with a really strong 15 year old and a really strong 11 year old, and we didn't have that alignment in any other area."

Another reaction that some students had was the question of money: how can we afford this? Sieders explained how Redeemer has a certain amount of money set aside to be used for the intention of marketing the institution and how his job is to decide how and where that money is spent.

He posed the following question: if we didn't market this, how else would people hear about Redeemer? Sieders notes, "In many cases, certain church communities know about Redeemer, and they have sent their kids to Redeemer. They just know about the school with minimal marketing." However, this is not always the case. Sieders went on to explain that "over recent years, the market has shifted and the competition has grown, so we need to tell our story well so that students are aware of Redeemer being a good and viable option."

Many people were curious as to why Redeemer chose to focus on the Health Sciences department rather than focus on all of our programs or another aspect of Redeemer. Sieders informed me that this was a decision made by the institution. "We wondered and we did research on whether promoting a handful of programs or one a little more heavily than others would have a double effect. It would help that program, obviously, but it would also float all other programs as a result."

"Theoretically, the way that would work is that if you choose a program that a lot of students in Ontario are interested in...suddenly Redeemer will be on their radar, more so than if we had chosen a program that was a lot less popular." Health Sciences fit the bill of a popular program among prospective university students across the province. "We also know that students frequently change their minds in what they are interested in, whether before they get to university, during the application, or after they've arrived. The thinking is that a lot of students don't really know what they want...so you show them that Redeemer is a good option for that."

At the beginning of this article, I cited a student saying that they felt as though the promotional video is a misrepresentation of our programs. Sieders clarified that the marketing department put in their best efforts to avoid this misrepresentation. They tried to prevent this by showing a graduation scene, and then showing the main actress at a training session in the hospital. While some of the scenes depicted in the video may not be direct "Redeemer experiences," they are possible illustrations of what could be done after completing a Health Sciences degree. Every doctor has to get their undergrad somewhere, and this video allows students to see that starting their post-secondary education at Redeemer is a viable option when planning to go on to become a doctor.

Finally, Sieders explained the reason as to why this video focuses mainly on academics rather than the community that Redeemer has to offer: "In years past, a lot of emphasis for our marketing has been on community. That is certainly a huge selling feature, but in the process of marketing that, we've sort of dropped in many people's minds in our credibility as an academic institution in terms of quality of degree."

While at first I may have shared some of the skeptical thoughts that many students seem to hold, after speaking with Sieders, I found that my view on the promotional video was much more positive, and I am pleased to say that I am proud to be a student at Redeemer University. It is my hope that this article may offer insight into the reasoning behind the decisions made regarding this video and that you too can feel this sense of pride.

The promotional video will be viewed at eight select theatres in the following areas: Ancaster, Hamilton, Burlington, Cambridge, Guelph, Toronto, Kitchener, London, and Welland. The airing time runs from January 26 to February 6 and October 19 to November 1. During this time, it is expected that there will be 4000-5000 views per theatre. Finally, Sieders was eager to encourage students to reach out to him or the Marketing Department if they have any other questions regarding this promotional video, or any other marketing related question, as they are always happy to answer.



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Elise's Piece

A Letter from the Editor

"It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life — and I'm feeling good."

Maybe if I always woke up to Michael Bublé singing those lyrics (set as my 7:45 am, 7:47 am, 7:50 am, and 8:03 am alarms), I'd start taking the gift of a new day seriously.

We're pretty good at taking the New Year seriously: we have our hyped-up countdowns, bedazzled eyewear, and sleek planners. We're especially mindful of how we spend the first few days of January — our slates seeming just as sleek.

What if we met every tomorrow with the same enchantment and anticipation? What if we believed every morning brings newness?

I think God would love that, and I think it'd change things.

For the Crown team, we're convinced this year will be full of storytelling, discovery, and reflection. While our concern every month can easily become filling space on pages one-through-twelve, our prayer is that we continue to take seriously the opportunity we have to piece this thing together. That, and that it means something to you.

Thank you for opening these pages, and thank you for opening yourself up to them. (Too corny? Too bad.) We believe giving these voices your attention can stir up more newness for today, and maybe even questions and themes that linger. And as always, we love hearing any feedback you have as you read.

Enjoy our first issue of the year, friends!

(And Bublé's song, stuck in your head.)



The Crown is Redeemer University's campus newspaper, published monthly. As a platform for the student voice, it provides space for questions, insight, challenges and discoveries concerning our school, city, and world — all in relation to our real and growing faith in Jesus.

The opinions expressed in the *Crown* are not necessarily those of Redeemer University College's student body, faculty, or administration.

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What is SASC?

An Honest Portrayal of Who We Are and What We Do



SHAMS SIDDIQI
SASC CHAIR

People often ask, "What does SASC stand for?" Most people stumble on the acronym and assume that it has something to do with spiritual stuff on campus. I mean we are the people that run Hotspot and Burn. But my point is, very few students truly know who we are or what we do.

This hit me during our recent SASC vision meeting, which was probably the first of its kind for the committee. This realization forced us to reevaluate ourselves and what we are called to do. This article will try and show who we are and what we do for the people of Redeemer and for God.

SASC stands for the Spiritual Activities and Services Committee. We are a committee of Student Senate. However, most of all, we are a group of students that love Christ and His people. Our vision is to be a group of students loving Christ and encouraging spiritual growth on campus.

To accomplish this vision, we facilitate activities that encourage spiritual growth. These activities include Hotspot, 24/7 Prayer week, Burn, faculty testimony nights, and retreats.

A second aspect of our vision is to facilitate services that support students in their spiritual lives. Unfortunately, if we are being honest, this is something we have neglected in the past. Aside from our Area Church Info Sheet, which is meant to help students attend local churches, we have not done well in providing services in

recent years. However, we are currently working on developing services for students, so keep your eyes peeled and ears open to hear about these things.

We also seek to encourage fellowship in our community. After all, we are all people on a journey with Jesus, and we are not alone. Our current activities facilitate this aspect of faith, but we are also mulling over new ways to encourage further fellowship.

Another key aspect of meeting our vision is directly correlated to each committee member. We seek to encourage each other and grow together as a group of students who love Jesus. For example, we are intentional about praying for and with each other. This can take some time with eight people, but it is always encouraging. The committee is currently made up of James Sikkema, Abishek Varghese, Rebecca Bowerman, Josh DeCoste, Melissa Pol, Sofia Mesa, Blessing Oluloto, and myself. However, other former SASC members, including Erica Ten Hove and Jeremy Thudian, are also awesome! We also see the importance of our own walks with Christ, so in addition to learning together as a group, we seek to grow individually as well.

The bottom line is that we are students who wish to serve God and others on campus. So if you see any of the above members in the hall, feel free to come to us if you need prayer, if you want to talk about SASC, or if you're seeking an open ear to hear you out. Let's journey with Jesus together.

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- We're Hiring! -

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Tim Hortons: One Year Later

A Closer Look at the Switch from Williams Café



KRISTEN BORGdorFF
REPORTER

One year ago, Redeemer opened up a Tim Hortons where William's Fresh Café used to be. The *Crown* decided to seek out some inside information to see how this switch has had an effect on our school, and if everyone has been happy with it.

I spoke with Doreen Gringhuis, Director of Campus Services, and asked her if Redeemer was happy with the switch. We discussed how most students have had a very positive response towards Tim Hortons, and for this reason, Tim Hortons has become more popular than William's ever was.

When Redeemer looks at success, they base it largely on student satisfaction. At a recent Dining Committee meeting, Tim Hortons was brought up, and students offered positive feedback. The majority of the complaints that have

been stated have been regarding franchise rules that Redeemer does not have a say towards.

One large benefit that Tim Hortons has brought to the student body is that it has allowed Redeemer to hire more students than before. This is largely because it is more popular than William's had been.

One main concern that students have had towards the switch is that Tim Hortons does not offer fair-trade options. There had been previous discussion around whether or not ReFresh would provide an option for fair-trade coffee, but up until this point, this has not happened. A large reason that Redeemer will likely not be providing fair-trade coffee in ReFresh is because there is not a large enough demand for it. Redeemer does not want to offer this as an option if it will only go to waste when students are not drinking it. However, when looking at the fair-trade concern, it is important to consider the other things that Tim Hortons does do that assist to the greater good of humanity. When our Tim Hortons sold smile cookies, for example, we

were given the opportunity to support an organization of our choice. Redeemer was able to support EduDeo Ministries, a Christian non-profit that is close to our hearts, largely due to the involvement of one of our alumni, Hank de Jong.

We were also able to participate in Tim Hortons' Camp Day Event, an event that allowed us to raise money to assist in sending children to camp.

A final concern that some students have had regards the fact that there is no recycling centre outside of the Tim Hortons. However, Gringhuis informed me that Redeemer is in the process of purchasing a unit for us to use for recycling.

All in all, despite some initial pushback, it appears that the students of Redeemer seem to be satisfied with the switch from William's to Tim Hortons.

Nick's Tips 'n Tricks for Getting Out of Shape

(Warning: Laughing Burns 10-40 Calories a Day)

NICK OVERGAAUW

"Nick!" you shriek. "You're so scrawny and physically unimpressive! How do I become more like you in this season of sweaters and baggy clothing?"

Well, my poor bereft reader, if there's one thing I know, it's how to be out of shape. I have a lifetime of experience with it, and now — luckily for you — I'm going to share my knowledge in the form of ten tips and/or tricks.

Tip 1: Block the very idea of exercise from your mind. Suppressing thoughts and memories is a good way to get rid of things you don't want to think about, and exercising is no exception. I don't even know what that big room we take exams in is used for the rest of the year. This tip/trick is in no way damaging to the brain. Trust me, I'm an English major.

Tip 2: Get comfortable clothes. Wear the softest hoodies and sweatpants you can find, and you'll be so comfortable you'll never want to get up to "run" or whatever. I personally enjoy Roots™ products due to their comfort and durability. You can find a Roots™ outlet at Limeridge Mall on Upper Wentworth.

Tip 3: Eat lots of junk food. I, personally, have had little success with this one, but maybe it'll work for you. A wise man once told me, "It's bulking season." He would say this year-round, and it has since resonated with me. Just put on as many pounds as you can. Pick any junk food: three double-cheeseburgers from McDonalds, a 1 kg bag of M&M's, a burger with donuts instead of a bun, deep-fried Timbits, Friday Wednesday waffles at Refresh, etc. When Walmart had a sale on 24-packs of Coke, I just about died of sheer bliss and clogged arteries.

Tip 4: Get an office job. You'll be sitting down all day! Perfect for getting out of shape! Sadly, this is another one that I couldn't perform, but maybe you'll have more luck.

I worked in a factory over the summer, lifting windshields 8.5 hours of every day. Needless to say, this made me unbelievably jacked and I had trouble keeping the ladies away (see my previous article for advice on that problem, found in last April's publication of the *Crown*). Luckily, those muscles have atrophied and, with them, the interests of the opposite sex.

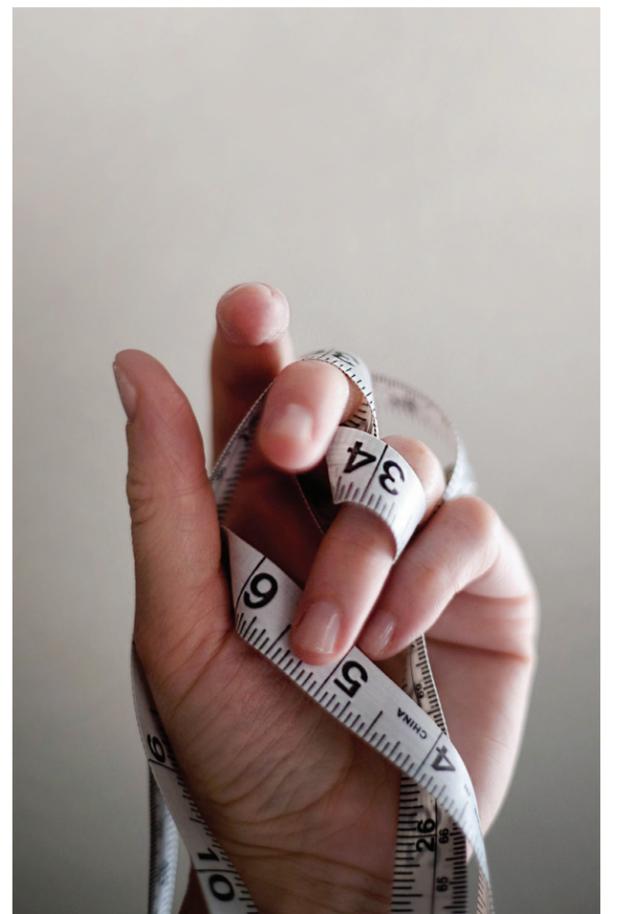
Tip 5: Take up reading. I went through ten books this summer, trying (in vain) to counter my miraculous muscle-gain. Just pick up a book, sit down, and read. Not that hard, I'm assuming you can read. By now, you should be noticing a trend: sitting down. So far, this is the most reliable way I've found to get out of shape. I suppose you could read standing up, but that's getting perilously close to exercise. Be careful, that tawdry mistress physical activity can really sneak up on you if you're not vigilant.

Tip 6: Sleep in. People are always telling me I should wake up early to "run" or "swim," but I say that nothing beats sleeping in. It's relaxing and keeps me lethargic enough to avoid any exertion for the rest of the day.

Tip 7: Binge Netflix. TV is the great time-killer. By the time you're done the season, the day will have passed, and you'll have no time to better yourself. Your hours will be spent shocked as Ross and Rachel take a break (Ross was in the right, fight me), mournful as *Supernatural* goes on for eight unnecessary additional seasons, and angry that *Firefly* got cancelled fifteen years ago.

Tips 8 and 9: The word count's getting a little long, and I don't want to get on Elise's bad side, so let's skip these ones. They weren't that good anyway. Pretend I said something brilliant, people will buy it.

Tip 10: Stay out of shape. Congrats, you're now unfit! The only challenge now is staying that way. Keep following these steps consistently and you'll never go back to that protein-covered hell's-cape ever again.



Any who, that's it for my list of tips 'n tricks! I hope they serve you well and keep you in the terrible physical condition you deserve.

“Send Nudes” ... Or Just Take a Walk through the Art Rooms

Why it is Important to Address the Topic of Nudity in Art

MAGGIE DEBRUYN

Controversy surrounding some art work that was hung recently in the art gallery at Redeemer, as well as some references to previous artworks that have addressed similar questions, have been a topic of conversation around the school lately.

The fact of the matter is that we have bodies. All of us. Every single person. And they are not something to be ashamed of. More than half of this school’s population has a vagina — and while I figured a recent painting by a fellow art student would lead to some conversation, I didn’t think that so many men and women would be so uncomfortable with it that the art department would be told to take it down as a result.

I have heard multiple arguments about why paintings depicting nudity are unsuitable for Redeemer’s halls. The question of children in the school building has come up as one example of why nudity in art may be inappropriate. In my opinion, a painting like that is a fairly good introduction to sex education — better than most of us probably received. If children are old enough to understand what the painting depicts, chances are it is likely not their first encounter with such imagery. In addition, it isn’t a question of parents deciding not to send their kids here as a result of “unsightly” artwork they might come across during a campus tour. This is a university, and ideally the adults who come here are choosing Redeemer because they are adults that get to make decisions like that for themselves.

For many art students, we are comfortable painting the human body. We study paintings in art history that depict full nudes, and as we learn how to tell our own stories through our artwork, learning how to paint the human body is an important part of that. To take that away or to deprive students of sharing their work is detrimental to their education and, I would argue, to the education of other students as well. It is important that we learn from one another and ask questions of those who can provide the right answers; in turn we will each grow individually. I’m not suggesting that you have to agree with every piece of artwork that comes out of the art department, but an open mind and a willingness to learn from our classmates is an important part of being in university.

Going beyond the art department, there are multiple fields where a level of comfort with nudity is necessary. For example, science students intending to pursue a career in



a medical field down the road will likely encounter a fair amount of nudity in the flesh, and will have to learn to have some level of comfort in those situations.

We are bombarded with media that hyper-sexualizes women, but art like this isn’t about sexualizing the female body. This is exactly why allowing artwork by women depicting women is important to display and discuss. When women paint themselves, they are owning their own body. They are owning their own sexuality — which isn’t something we should be scared of. A nude figure is not about a pornographic image — it can simply be about celebrating the body we were given and learning to be comfortable in that. This leads to part of a bigger issue that has to be addressed, simply for the fact that we are a Christian university. We can’t hide from topics that make us uncomfortable. This is the safest place to ask these questions and learn from

others, because in four years time we will leave Redeemer, and we won’t have all of these resources at our disposal. We can’t focus on all of the things that we consider “off limits,” and then not talk about what healthy sexuality looks like for Christians. There is a balance that’s missing — shame should not be the primary focus in these conversations. We want to raise men who respect women and their bodies — so these conversations are important.

We want to raise women who are comfortable in their bodies and see them as the gift that they are from God — so these conversations are important.

We want to raise each other up with the knowledge that our bodies should not be a source of shame — for men or women — because we were created in God’s image. And for that, these conversations are important.

A Christian Response to Sexual Violence

It’s Time to Talk About It

EMMA KELL

Often we think that purity is defined by sexual history, but that’s simply not true. Purity is a gift that God gave to us when Jesus died to cleanse us of our sins. It’s in the everyday interactions that we have with people, in the smiles and the laughter and the moments of connection. It’s awkward to talk about abuse, especially sexual abuse, because in many church communities, it’s seen as dirty or taboo. However, once you know that having made mistakes doesn’t give someone a less pure heart, it’s easier to approach the topic of sexual violence in the church.

The danger comes when we think that people in the church aren’t capable of sexual violence. Sexual violence happens to Christian children, women, and even men, sometimes even by other members of church communities. When churches don’t make a habit of talking about these things, victims can feel even more ashamed, hurt, and silenced.

As a Christian community here at Redeemer, how do we combat this feeling of isolation among victims and survivors? The key is to talk about it with an open mind and an open heart, with emphasis on healing and restoration. Desmond Tutu, a South African social rights activist and a retired Anglican Bishop, once said, “If you remain neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.”

Our God is love personified, and He would never want somebody to disrespect or harm another person, because when they do that, they do that to His creation, which He has made good. Emmanuel, our God with us, calls us to do everything we do out of a sense of love for that which He has made, and has made good. So much healing is needed in situations of sexual assault, abuse, and rape, and each of us has the power to encourage that healing by making sure that Redeemer is a safe place for people to open up about what they’ve experienced and witnessed.

If you have noticed some white and blue posters around the school, they are part of a campaign by the Joyful Heart Foundation, which aims to bring awareness to situations of sexual violence. The goal of these posters is to spark thought and conversation among students. If you see one, take a moment to think about the phrase written on it. Realize that this is something that needs to be talked about, even if it’s awkward, and start a conversation with your friends, dorm, and classmates.

In 2018, let’s aim to make Redeemer a place where everyone knows that sexual violence will not be tolerated. Let’s try to make Redeemer just a little more on earth as it is in heaven.

NO MORE

“BUT HE GOES TO MY CHURCH”



There is never an excuse for domestic violence or sexual assault. It's time we all speak out to stop the violence.
No more excuses.
No more silence.
No more violence.

JOYFUL HEART FOUNDATION

NO MORE
FOUNDED BY CAROL MANNING, THEOLOGICAL SCHOLAR
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Humans of Redeemer

EMMA ROORDA
REPORTER

In 2010, a man by the name of Brandon Stanton began a photographic project in New York City that would grow to become a #1 New York Times bestseller and photo blog boasting over 15 million followers worldwide. Initially, Stanton set out to create what he calls “an exhaustive catalogue of New York City’s inhabitants,” comprised of 10,000 photos plotted across a city map.

The concept took on a different form, however, as he began collecting pieces of conversation had with those he photographed. Photo captions would soon become as vital as the shots themselves, and, together, make for a captivating stream of stories, he entitled, ‘Humans of New York.’

Highlighting 6-8 Redeemer Students and Faculty each month, the Crown seeks to mimic Stanton’s idea on campus by asking a thoughtful or fun question, followed by taking a candid photo of the student, staff or faculty member included in each issue. We know that stories are powerful, so the goal here is to further uncover our own.

Scripture tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn, share the word of our testimony, and give glory to God in every season. This column is simply another means to do so and remind ourselves that our King, Jesus, is the ultimate author and finisher of our faith.

How do you deal with the busyness of the semester?



Well, I tend not to stress too much. I do this by listening to music. I also watch funny videos and pray a lot to cope with the stress. Study breaks to listen to music and watch Youtube are key, and prayer is necessary throughout all of exam season!



My art projects usually take priority over all my other projects, so I work on art, and then I work on papers... but that’s okay! Art is really a de-stressor, and I’m an art major, so spending more time on that makes sense.



I like to prioritize exactly what I have to study first for each class. Then I break down my notes into sections that are easy for me to memorize. I use different ideas from lyrics or songs to memorize my notes! That really helps information to stick in my head for the final.



One week I was really stressing out and I didn’t know what to do, so I met with a friend who told me to pray about it. I have learned throughout my university experience that when I submit my time to the Lord, He honours me. He creates time for me to do things, and I work faster and better!



I think that because this is my last year at Redeemer, I’m just trying to enjoy every stage. So even though it’s busy and stressful and exams are coming, I’m just trying to enjoy this time in my life because I’ll really never have anything like this again.



I drink lots of coffee. And friends around me helps. My advice is do your homework!



My advice is just to make art. That’s how I cope. There’s really nothing else to say, that’s how I handle end-of-school busyness. Art relieves the stress. My slogan is kind of like Nike’s – “just do” (not “it” though... “just do,” I don’t like the “it”).



I’m the type of person that studies very intensely last minute! I feel like I retain the information better the day before the exam. I’m actually more motivated to study closer to the exam, rather than a few days in advance when I have other things on my mind.

A Gift of Compassion Lessons from an Ugandan Child



EMMA ROORDA
REPORTER

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them”
(Romans 12:6)

For the past month and a half, I have been living in Jinja, Uganda, working with a medical organization called One4Another International. I had the opportunity to intern with O4A for about six months back in 2015, and I am so grateful that God has led me back to Jinja a second time. One4Another International is a pediatric organization which assists children who are in need of life-changing surgeries. While working in Uganda, my role consists of completing much of the media work involved with the organization, creating medical forms, designing posters, meeting with O4A partners, and most importantly building relationships with the children and their caretakers.

The following story is just one of many ways in which God has been beautifully shaping and equipping me for His Kingdom during the time I have spent serving here in Southern Uganda.

It only took a second — one second for a small spark to cause a kerosene lamp to catch flame. It only took a second for the cotton dress of five-year-old Gift to burst into flame. And it only took a second to cause third degree burns all across little Gift’s neck, chest, arms, and back.

Five months later, after an extensive surgery to remobilize her right arm and countless hours of treatment to help her aching scars, Gift now shows signs of restored life.

Gift and her family members regularly travel a significant distance via both taxi-van and motorcycle taxi to the St. James Orthopaedic Clinic to receive treatment. The first day that I met little Gift, she arrived with her mother, who

had her infant son tied tightly to her back. Gift held an obvious dread in her eyes, knowing that she was about to have her wounds dressed once again — a process that often involves the painful application of antibiotics to the wounds. Gift’s petite body remained stiff from both fear and the bandages that seemed to swallow her upper body.

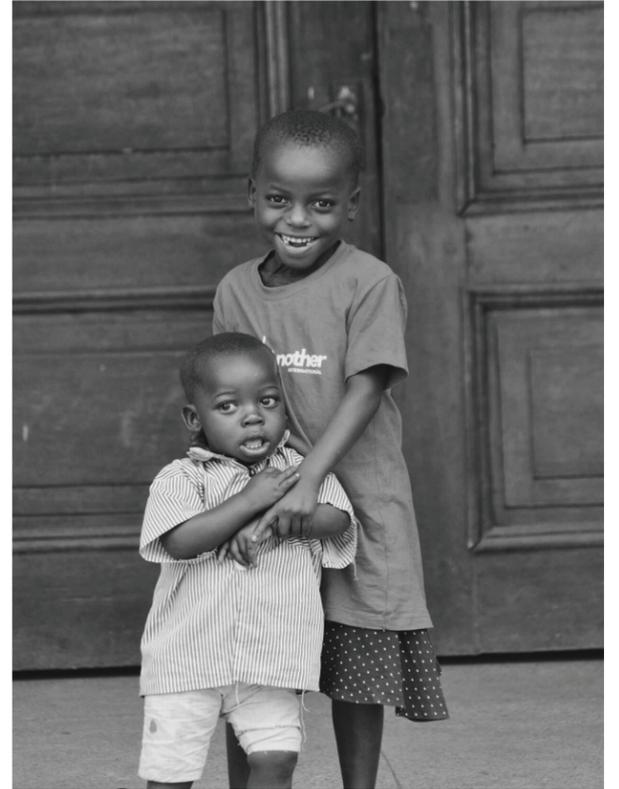
As a nurse began removing the old gauze, the child wailed in discomfort, clearly traumatized by her past experiences and the current stinging pain of the burns. Her mother, who had now begun to move closer to the bed where Gift lay, left her son (who I had now been informed was called Elia) sitting helplessly on the bed beside. As the mother approached Gift, I slowly moved closer to the baby, partially so that I could make space for Gift to feel comforted by her mom and partially because the one-year old was moving dangerously close to the end of the tall medical bed.

As I walked over to Elia, I suddenly noticed that his lips were quivering and his body was shaking. The baby was staring with a deer in headlights expression at his sister’s vigorously bleeding wounds. Tears welled up in his innocent, dark eyes. Despite the unpleasantly soggy cloth wrapped loosely around his groin, I picked him up and turned his little round head the opposite direction of his older sister.

My coworker also noticed the baby’s sadness and slowly leaned over to me. He whispered, “The brother sees Gift crying and feels sorry for her. It’s like they have a connection.”

I responded, “Yes, that’s true; he doesn’t even understand what’s happening, yet he sees that his sister in pain, so he’s crying for her.”

It was only as the little guy sorrowfully set his head upon my shoulder that it dawned on me: this baby — this one-



Gift and her little brother. (Photos by Emma Roorda)

and-a-half-year-old infant — had just taught me an important life lesson.

Sometimes, I really cannot understand why God has led me to Uganda. More broadly, I often feel lost and unsure about the plans He has for my life or even why certain life complications seem to stand in the way of living out my calling as a child of Christ. Yet I bear a strong sense of compassion for the injustices in the world. Agony and abuse that has come from the brokenness that is so present in this sinful world has always been a heavy weight on my heart. I don’t know why there is so much pain in the world or why I feel so called to act upon these injustices, but what I do know is that I want to weep and lament alongside those in pain, much as this young child compassionately cried for his sister. Not only do I feel a strong desire to lament, I believe that I should lament. We all should.

I looked down again at baby Elia’s loving face as he remained in that somber, tearful state — lips quivering, eyebrows furrowed. His sadness only subsided when his older sister was finished with her bandage changes.

After the procedure was finished, Gift’s mother smiled and thanked us. I sent both Gift and Elia home with lots of hugs and ‘sweeties.’

As I look back on this situation, I’ve realized that I owe Gift’s family a much greater “thank you” than the one they gave to me. Gift’s bravery and her brother’s tender soul touched my heart. This experience has reminded me that even though God’s calling for me may seem difficult or confusing at times, this complicated life journey that I am trekking is a gift from God. I may not always totally understand all of the details, but it is important that I continue to mourn alongside those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice.



God in Our Genes

Taylor Cabana's Independent Study

KRISTEN BORGENDORFF
REPORTER

"I had become aware of there being such a thing as a 'God Gene.' Paired with my knowledge that the pathways we have and use are determined by our genetics, I determined that this would therefore mean that spirituality is a vital component for human survival. Humanity needs to believe in something greater than themselves in order to function properly."

These words come from Taylor Cabana, a fourth year Biology student at Redeemer, who completed an independent study last semester. Her research was focused on the biological need to believe in something greater, and her conclusions were eye-opening.

In her studies, Cabana wanted to bridge the gap between religion and biology. "I found it interesting how other people thought about science the same way I do," Cabana comments. "I really wanted to dive deeper into this with my research project."

An excerpt from the preface of her paper reads as follows: "Whilst taking [courses in] biochemistry and genetics I realized that the overlap was undeniable, where genes code for proteins that are used in metabolic pathways, which provide a variety of products to be used in different areas of the organisms."

Cabana uses an analogy to simplify her thought process: "An organism is like a city — important buildings and areas have many routes of access. For example, you wouldn't put a hospital with a highly valuable level-one trauma centre in the middle of a rural area with nothing around at the end of a 20 km road with that road being the only point of access. "This idea would be highly dysfunctional, as important areas require easy access in order to optimally provide their designated function. Therefore a hospital should be located in the centre of a city or in areas with great accessibility such as downtown. To link this back to metabolic pathways, if the end product of a pathway is vital to an organism's survival, then the system will often put in place many sub-pathways, or detours, to ensure that the end product is produced."

In her research, Cabana was able to draw from different disciplines including biology, philosophy, and psychology to conclude that there is a connection between biology and spirituality. Her final paragraph in her research paper reads, "I feel that I have been successful in my goal to provide evidence that VMAT2 [also known as the "God Gene"] not only is related to someone's disposition to being spiritual, but as well that that this trait is vital to quality and preservation of human life."

Cabana continues, "All things considered, spirituality in general, independent of religion, has preserved life. It simultaneously is addicting and overcomes addiction. The preservation of [the "God Gene"] throughout centuries of human existence provides further evidence that we need to believe in something greater than ourselves to survive." Cabana was able to use her independent study as a way to connect spirituality and biology. What a blessing it is to be part of a Christian university that fosters an environment that encourages the discovery and study of these connections.



Recognizing Religions: Confucianism

Learning about Other Faiths

EMMA ROORDA
REPORTER

As you probably already know, Redeemer University College is a Christian educational institution. We believe in the Trinity and that Christ died on the cross, wiping away our sins and reconciling all things to Himself — this knowledge is engrained into the minds of most Redeemer students. Even though we abide in this truth, our faith in God should not limit our curiosity of what others may choose to believe. Both locally and internationally, the human race is made up of people who walk intersecting paths of differing religious faiths. Most importantly, evangelism is strengthened with knowledge of other religions. Our world is becoming a globalized planet, and I believe that it is our Christian duty to be informed of other cultures and their religious beliefs. This is why I have taken some time to look at various unique religions from all around the world. This month's 'Recognizing Religion' is Confucianism.

A Short History of Confucianism

Around 500 BCE, the Chinese scholar Confucius became a very well known and vigorously followed political figure and philosopher. Confucius can be compared to the famous Greek philosopher Socrates who, during the same time that Confucius was beginning his Asian philosophical reform, had been constructing the foundations of Western philosophy on the other end of the globe. "Confucius' teachings, preserved in the Analects, form the foundation of much of subsequent Chinese speculation on the education and comportment of the ideal man, how such an individual should live his life and interact with others, and the forms of society and government in which he should participate" (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy). Those who take these writings seriously can consider themselves followers

of Confucianism.

Today, many countries in Asia such as Vietnam, China, Japan, Singapore, and Korea still have large communities of Confucius followers. In fact, traditional Chinese religions like Confucianism hold the place of the eighth most practiced religious faith in the world, with a population of over 7 million followers worldwide. Even though it has been long understood as an Asian religion, Confucianism has morphed into a world religion over time. This is largely due to recent trends of immigration and globalization, yet it can also be attributed to the alluring sentiment that the religion holds. Confucianism seems to intrigue Asians and non-Asians alike because it speaks highly of living a life of good morals, as well as learning to value others and oneself — all concepts most human beings are intrinsically drawn to.

Living out the Confucian Faith

According to Confucius, the pure mind has no thought of evil. This human epitome of a wholesome nature includes those who are humble, have a yearning to learn and a generous nature, show compassion towards others, remain loyal, demonstrate obedience, and respect other people and the environment. Abiding by these qualities ensures what Confucianism refers to as the status of a true "gentleman" — one who lives out a pious Confucian faith.

The aforementioned qualities of one who embodies pious Confucianism are prescribed in the Analects, written by the Master Confucius himself. Throughout his Analects, Confucius constantly refers to the "sheng," translated into Western rhetoric as the "gentleman." Confucius describes the actions of a gentleman, demonstrating to his readers an

idealistic model of one who is flawlessly noble. He stresses that a sheng always longs to walk the way of the righteous, the "Tao." A gentleman who does not stray from the Tao lives a life of integrity. The Analects of Confucius dictate how a person of the faith should behave, acting as a guideline of piety for both Confucius believers in 500 BCE at the time of the Analects writing as well as believers in the modern day.

The Master Confucius also writes that in order to fully understand the many traits that embody a true pious gentleman, one must first come to know what it means to be humane. Confucius speaks on the concept of being humane, or what he refers to as "ren." Plausible synonyms for ren in modern English are words such as altruism or benevolence. In book four of the Analects, Confucius speaks often about a person who exhibits ren. He quotes, "If you are really committed to ren, you will not have resentments." A second translation of the Analects states that "if one sets one's heart on ren, there will be none he hates." A gentleman exemplifies ren as an expression of moral virtue. It is the inner awareness of oneself that causes people to strive to be virtuous followers of the Confucian faith.

Questions to Ponder

Why do you think some people are so drawn to this faith? How does a Confucian worldview contrast with a Christian worldview? Are there any similarities? What might Jesus have to say about acting as a "true gentlemen"? What do you suppose are the most fundamental differences between the Analects and the Bible?



The Lion in the Marble On Being Refined this New Year

NATALIE LANTZ

New year, new me? I see that everywhere I go, gym memberships go up, and everybody is talking about the new diet they are on. What actually changes when that clock strikes twelve and everybody toasts to the new year? Does the slate get wiped clean, finally giving you the chance to work off those twenty pounds you gained in February of last year after ditching your gym membership?

As one of my first year core courses, I am required to take CTS-110, Being and Knowing in a Digital Age. This course may not pertain directly to my English degree, but rather to my life, my relationship with Christ. It reminds me why I am at Redeemer, why I chose this school over all the others.

We started out the class by looking at some work by Henri Nouwen. The piece we looked at starts out by talking about a sculptor who was carving a piece of marble while a young child stood nearby. As the sculptor carved more from the piece of marble, a lion was revealed. The young child asked with excitement in his voice how the sculptor knew that

there was a lion in the marble. I can imagine the sculptor leaning down, setting down his tools, and looking straight into the little boy's eyes. He answers with this: "The secret is that it was the lion in my heart that recognized the lion in the marble."

Nouwen writes, "Spiritual formation is the careful attentiveness to the work of God, our master sculptor, as we submit to the gradual chipping away of all that is not of God, until the inner lion is revealed." Truth bomb.

This reminds me of a video done by The Skit Guys called "The Chisel." I don't know if you have seen this video, but to me it represents what Nouwen is saying. Basically, God is chipping away at the bad parts in the main character, who keeps complaining that it hurts. God responds by saying that it hurts Him too, but it must be done in order for the man to reflect His Father. God is chipping away at the marble surrounding our hearts so that the lion may be revealed.

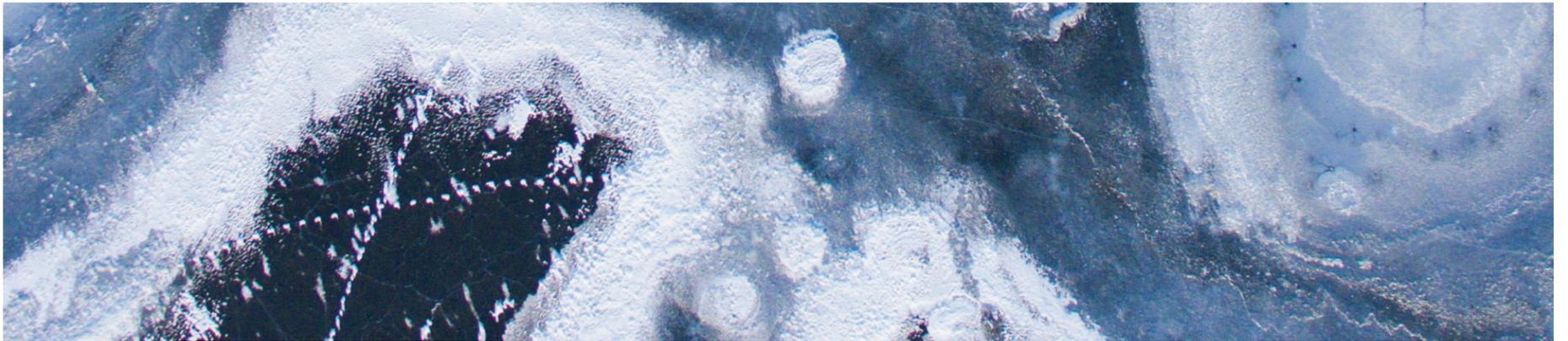
I know that before I really began to dig deep with God, I thought that a life with God meant everything was going to be pain free. It's been the opposite in the most beautiful way possible as He has called me, stretched me, showed Himself

to me, and loved me through every single trial.

Every time I go through a trial, He is walking beside me, gently reminding me that He is chipping away at the bad to reveal more of Himself. Because of that, I welcome the trials. If it means knowing more of His heart, I welcome the pain. He does this "so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7). He is using a refining fire on us, for we are the gold.

Beauty out of the broken. Out of the dirt. Out of the pain. Because that's who God is. He is Grace. He is Love. He is Power. He is Life. He is Joy.

May we leave the comfortable and walk out in faith. When He calls, may we listen. May this year be one of change, seeking the Father out, looking past ourselves and into His eyes. I don't know what He is calling you to, but in the words of Nouwen, "God is doing something right now." So let Him.



Siblings or Strangers? Remembering to Love Each Other Well

AMY STEINGINGA

I was sitting on the bus with the DEEDZ team one night when a woman joined the bus, wearing a complacent look on her face. In that moment, some questions crossed my mind: *What would this bus look like if we were all Christians? How might we interact with this lady if we knew she was a Christian and if she knew that we were fellow believers? Would we put more effort into encouraging her if we knew that she had a relationship with the same God we do?*

Unfortunately, I think that in a world of only Christians we would not change much about our behaviour toward others. I may be taking a risk in saying this, but I think that we often treat fellow Christians like strangers as opposed to brothers and sisters.

This raises the question of how we treat each other within the context of Redeemer. At Redeemer, we basically live in an environment where we are always surrounded by believers. My question is this: *Do you treat those with whom you share this campus as siblings under the forgiving Father, all serving the same God, or do you sometimes treat others as strangers, like human beings of little value?*

In my opinion, we should be treating fellow children of the Lord as sacred, holy, and greatly loved by the Almighty — and therefore greatly loved by each of us.

The next question that is hopefully raised for you is this: *How can we live out of love for all Christians?* In an attempt to answer this question, I have constructed a list of practical ways through which you can love all people, both believers and nonbelievers.

1. Do not assume you are loving people enough already. I will admit that I am guilty of assuming that I love the people immediately around me to the best of my ability. Yet the Lord often convicts me of this by showing me the people that I am not aware of in my tunnel vision of self-absorption. So never assume that you are doing enough. There is always someone you can be more mindful towards.

2. Ask the Lord to help you! It is in no way easy to love all people, and I am neither an expert nor an example to follow in how to do that. Isn't it awesome that we have a God that is more than willing to help us see everyone through His eyes? I encourage you to ask Him right now to open your eyes to see His children not in the tainted light of selfishness and sin, but in His truth alone.

3. R-E-S-P-E-C-T! We all know the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12 that tells us, "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." You may say that you don't care how people treat you and in return don't watch how you treat others. However, the point is to give the same amount of respect to others that you want to be given or that is due you. We are all made in the image of the Lord — we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and we are called to love one another. Therefore, everyone deserves our respect, even if we find it difficult to require it from others for ourselves.

4. Pray, pray, pray! Did you know that it is much easier to forgive someone once you've prayed for them? This, I'm sure, is why God calls us to pray for our enemies. Whether it is a specific person on campus you don't get along with or a general attitude you need shifted, prayer is (excuse my

language) flipping powerful, people! Let God speak to you as you lay your current attitudes down, allowing Him to replace those unholy mindsets with a proper attitude.

5. Be practical in how you love. Your acts of love in our community do not have to be big, but they also do not have to be small! It can be a smile given to anyone in the hallways, even if you have no idea who they are (that's where the treating-all-people-as-known idea comes in), or it can be a note of encouragement to someone — student, staff, or faculty (everyone can use some encouragement!). For big acts of love, that you can ask God about, as I'm sure He has some great ideas if you're willing!

6. Finally, be patient with yourself. This is not easy an easy task, but takes a daily act of intentional surrender until it becomes a permanent habit. Be gracious with yourself and others. When you feel yourself making excuses, remind yourself of why all people are deserving of your love and respect. Finally, pray for courage, strength, and motivation to love those who are difficult to love.

Know that I am praying for you as you obey Jesus' commandment, "that you love one another, just as [Jesus has] loved you" (John 15:12).



SNAPSHOTS OF 2017



January 1

The Hollywood sign was changed to read “Hollyweed.”

January 6

Ed Sheeran releases “Shape of You.”

January 20

Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States.

January 25

Tim Hortons opens at Redeemer University.

February 5

New England Patriots win the Super Bowl.

February 26

Moonlight wins the Academy Award for Best Motion Picture after it was incorrectly announced that *La La Land* had won.

March 10

The UN warns that the world is facing the biggest humanitarian crisis since World War II, with up to 20 million people at risk of starvation and famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Nigeria.

March 18

Redeemer’s rockin’ Spring Banquet!

March 30

Trumpeter swans make an appearance on Redeemer’s campus (and countless student’s Snapchat stories).



April 5

Kendall Jenner tries to solve police brutality with a Pepsi can.

April 26

NASA’S *Cassini* spacecraft takes breathtaking pictures of Saturn in its grand finale dive after 20 years of space travel.

May 22

A terrorist bombing attack at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England kills 22 people and injures over 500.

May 27

169 students graduate from Redeemer.

June 14

A fire breaks out at a London apartment building known as Grenfell Tower, killing 71 people.

July 1

Canada celebrates its 150th birthday!

July 4

North Korea tests its first successful intercontinental ballistic missile into the Sea of Japan.

August 21

The solar eclipse takes place.

August 27

Taylor Swift’s “Look What You Made Me Do” music video was released, gaining over 19 million views during its first 24 hours on YouTube. A new era begins — the old T-Swift is dead.



August 30-September 16

Hurricane Irma.

September 2

First-year students (Redeemer’s class of 2021) move on campus and begin LAUNCH activities.

October 1

A mass shooting takes place at a music festival in Las Vegas, fuelling debates about American gun control laws.

October 11

Season 2 of *Riverdale* premieres.

October 15

The #MeToo movement begins after actress Alyssa Milano urges women who’ve experienced sexual harassment or assault to post the hashtag to increase awareness of the problem.

November 12

A magnitude 7.3 earthquake strikes the border region between Iraq and Iran leaving at least 530 dead and over 70,000 homeless.

November 27

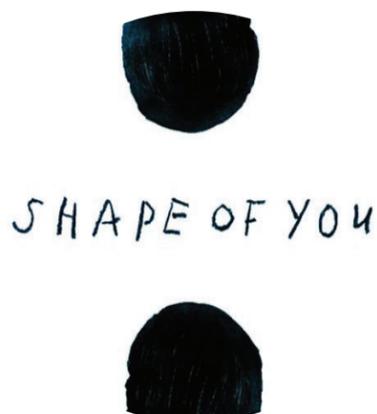
The engagement of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle is announced.

December 6

Donald Trump officially recognizes Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

December 16

Exams finish up and students head home for Christmas break.



Athlete Spotlight

Get to know your Royals!

KRISTEN BORGDORFF
REPORTER

Since 2011, the Redeemer Athletics Department has chosen one male and one female athlete per month that have shown exceptional skill, a sportsmanlike attitude, and have all around earned a place in the spotlight. We had the opportunity to sit down with this month's athletes and ask a few questions to allow you to get to know two of our Redeemer Royals in a different light.



Abby Sluys
Women's Volleyball

What do you play and how did you start playing?

I play power on the volleyball team. When I was in Grade 6, my parents forced me to go to volleyball camp. I was really mad at them before because I really didn't want to go, but then I liked it.

What's your major?

Applied Social Science.

What's one thing on your bucket list?

Zip-lining in Costa Rica!

What is a pet peeve you have?

Loud eaters.

What was your favourite toy as a kid?

Barbies.

What's your favourite show on Netflix?

Brooklyn Nine Nine.

If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with your extra time?

I would probably watch Netflix.

What does it mean to you to be a Redeemer Royal?

It means being a part of a great community, being a part of a team where we have each other's backs.



Spencer Kerssies
Men's Basketball

How did you start playing?

I started playing in Grade 7 on my elementary school's team.

What's your major?

Business.

What's your biggest fear?

Tearing my ACL.

If you could meet one famous person who would it be?

Joe Carter.

If all jobs had the same pay and hours, what job would you want?

Professional baseball player.

What is a pet peeve you have?

At home we have a cupboard of glasses. There are square glasses and round glasses. I hate when they get intertwined with one another.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Spain.

What is it like being a Redeemer Royal?

It's actually awesome! You go to a game and the gym is packed and everyone is cheering and screaming for your team. And not just basketball, it's the same for other teams like volleyball and soccer. Having that community and the fans cheering is an awesome part about being a Royal.

Upcoming Home Games

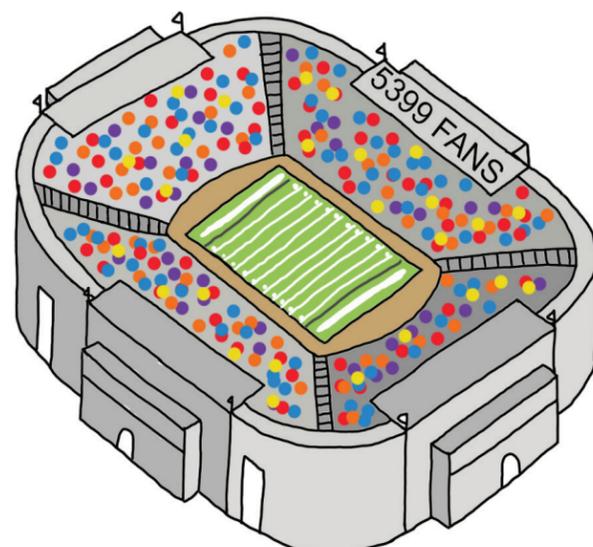
Come on out, support your own Redeemer Royals, and add numbers to the 10K Strong Campaign! All games are doubleheaders.

Basketball

Wed, Jan 31	U of Toronto	6 pm
Fri, Feb 9	Sault	6 pm
Sat, Feb 10	Sault	12 pm
Fri, Feb 16	Conestoga	6 pm
Sat, Feb 17	Mohawk	6 pm
Wed, Feb 21	Humber	6 pm

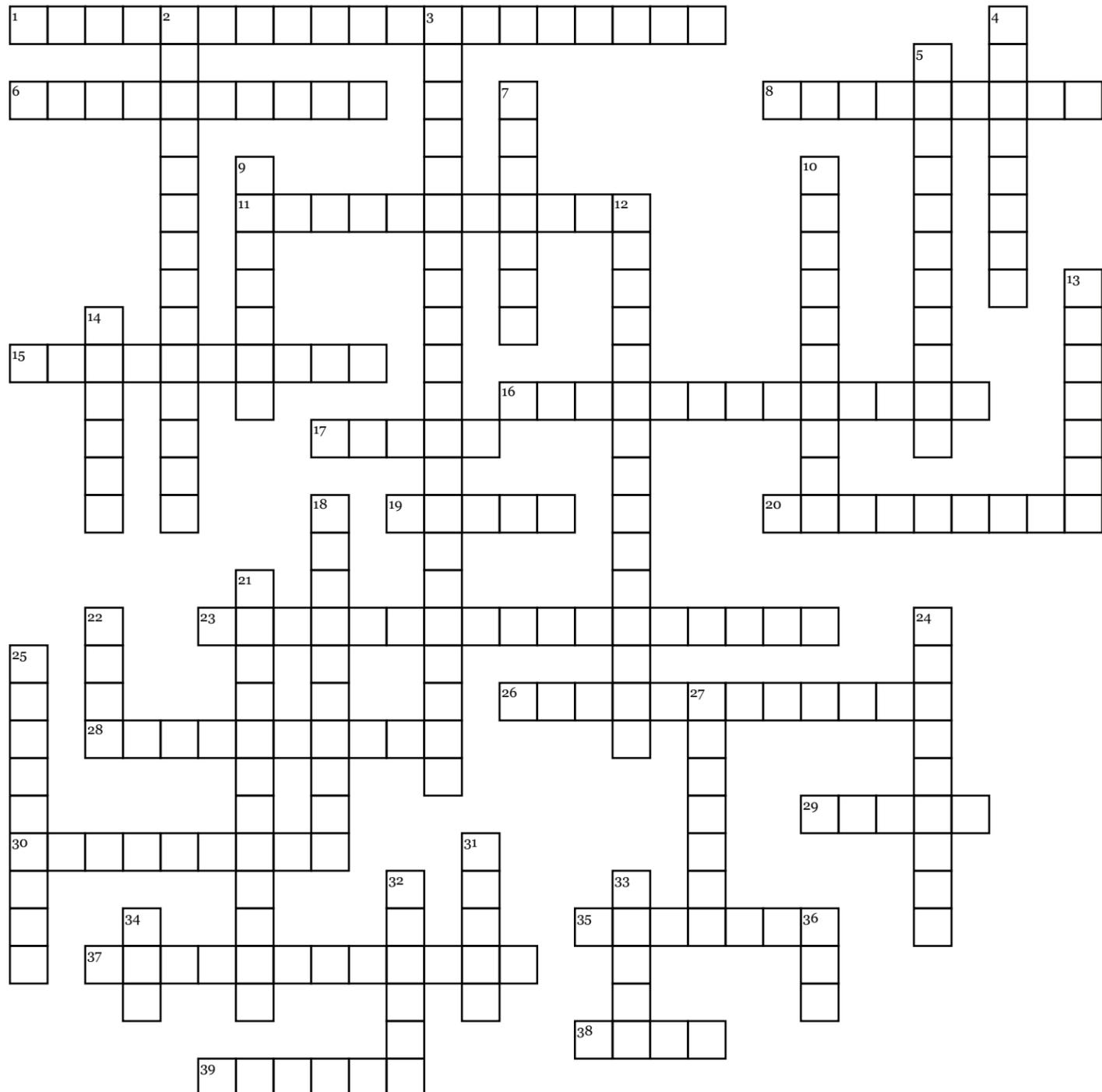
Volleyball

Fri, Feb 2	Humber	6 pm
Sat, Feb 10	Niagara	6 pm



10-k-Strong-0-Meter

Crossword 2.0



Across

1. year the Crown first came out
6. biggest shark
8. most common blood type
11. world's largest skating rink
15. this treaty was signed in 1648
16. Taylor Swift song that shares its name with a popular worship song
17. this bone in your body is stronger than concrete
19. aerobic dancing, often to Latin music
20. John 11:35
23. Toronto Maple Leafs beat this team the last time they won the Stanley Cup in 1967
26. Oprah Winfrey's net worth in dollars
28. fear of dogs
29. these birds terrorized many a student on Redeemer's campus last spring
30. capital city is Buenos Aires
35. worship night that happens once a month in the rec centre
37. this student just won Sticker Tag
38. Hamilton's blue and white bike-share program
39. first Disney character to ever fart

Down

2. Oscar Best Motion Picture of 2011
3. pineapple song in HSM 2
4. new event at Vancouver 2010 Olympics
5. tallest mountain in Africa
7. this African animal's tongue is purple
9. Tony Stark
10. dorm with the biggest basement
12. "Woah, we're halfway there, woah _____!"
13. "Waiting for you is like waiting for rain in this _____."
14. this book of the Bible has 66 chapters
18. 2018 Olympics host country
21. inventor of Listerine
22. Ariel's prince
24. last name of managing editor of Resound
25. world's largest distributor of toys
27. almost 100 million metric tons of this agricultural product are consumed worldwide every year
31. end of a shoelace
32. Friend's character with a purple door to their apartment
33. most populated city in the world
34. acorn tree
36. number of toes Donald Trump has