

# THE CROWN

REDEEMER'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1983

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## 10K Strong

Oh when the fans go marching in!



KRISTEN BORGDORFF  
REPORTER

“OH WHEN THE REDS, GO MARCHING IN! OH WHEN THE REDS GO MARCHING IN! OH HOW I WANT TO BE IN THAT COLOUR, WHEN THE REDS GO MARCHING IN!”

If you just sang the echo of the anthem in your head, you are likely a member of the Royal Family, and this is good news for you — Redeemer has started a new campaign for you to sing about, and if you don't yet know the anthem, it looks like you need to attend a Redeemer home game. This year, Redeemer has launched its 10K Strong Fan Campaign, with the goal of seeing a total of ten thousand fans at our home games, cheering for our very own Redeemer Royals.

In a recent interview, Peter Reid, the Sports Information and Marketing Coordinator in the Redeemer Athletics Department, unpacked the idea behind the 10K Strong Campaign: “It's a way of tracking our fan attendance. We haven't done this in the past, but we would like to track the amount of fans that we get at each home game. We think that we have some of the best fans, that the community is great — and we wanted to showcase that and get some real numbers behind who comes to support us and how many people a season.”

How does it work? Everyone who attends a game gets a ticket that will tell them which number fan they are. For the

most part, all of the tickets are the same — the exceptions being the milestone tickets. This is a collection of gold tickets that mark milestones in the count to ten thousand. For example, at a recent soccer game, the 500th ticket was given out. The fan received a prize, their picture was taken, and they were celebrated. This fan will also be entered into a draw at the end of the year with the other milestone ticket winners to win a grand prize. After only two home games, 581 tickets have been given out — which is already more fans than anticipated!

Redeemer is part of the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA), and is known for having one of the largest fan bases in the area. One of the hopes of the 10K Strong Campaign is to push other schools to encourage their students to attend games. Our goal of ten thousand fans is meant to promote a record in the OCAA. “We've already had people across the OCAA say that they're going to run a 10 thousand plus 1 fan campaign next year to try to beat it,” says Reid, “which is awesome because we have not struggled in the past to bring in fans. But other schools do, and I think it's better for the OCAA, and better for the overall product, if we can help boost that and do our part to really provide a good fan experience and student experience.”

A strong sense of community is evident at Redeemer, and the hope for this campaign is to encourage its growth. The campaign is a way to encourage and engage students, facul-

ty, alumni, family, and friends to come together and cheer our teams on. “With the lower enrolment at Redeemer over the last couple of years, our fans' attendance has gone down,” explains Reid. “We're still one of the best attended venues in the OCAA, but our attendance has gone down. We draw a lot on our on-campus students, and there just aren't as many. So, we've seen a decline in attendance even though we feel like our product is going up, the quality of the competition that we're putting out there is going up.

“So we wanted to do something to really try to push and bring as many fans back — and out for the first time — just really as many as we can get. Everything we do is from a fan engagement perspective and is for our students and the community that is involved.”

You can be involved by attending games, purchasing Royal Family t-shirts from the Athletic Centre, visiting the Athletic Centre to keep up to date with current events, following Redeemer Royals on social media, and posting pictures of you and your friends at home games on your social media accounts (tag @redeemerroyals and use the hashtags #royalfamily and #10kstrong). Come on down and sing that anthem! Go Royals, Go!



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## Elise's Piece A Letter from the Editor

“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Let's pardon the RUC athletics-related pun there (or better yet, embrace it), but pay attention to the spirit behind the question. Pulled from a conversation between Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai in an Old Testament story, this is the line that challenges Esther to consider how her role, her location, her calling, and the timing surrounding all of these things speak of the presence of a great and deeply involved God.

Rising from orphanhood to royalty, Esther is queened because of her beauty and honoured because of supernatural favour. When Mordecai brings her word of death threats against their people, she confronts them with fervour and surrender, resolving to approach the King with an appeal that could have her killed. The result is a compromise that gives the vulnerable a fighting chance, the murderous their sentences, and the loyal their celebration. In the face of devastation there is triumph. The whole shebang screams of God's presence, I'd say. But guess what?

His name is no where to be found.

God's mention is absent throughout the entire book of Esther. His provision and direction, rather, speak on his be-half.

I don't know what brings you here, now. I couldn't plot your levels of certainty or spit-ball your range of excitement if I tried. I'm pretty good at hangman though, if we want to give that a shot with a word describing your attitude this year — but I digress.

Be reminded that, just as in Esther's saga of radical trust, lives of faith are not prone to coincidence, but to the works of a great and deeply involved God. The hands that round the sun, usher the waves, sharpen the peaks, and safeguard the sparrows will not drop you — or your hopes.

Instead, when given the go, our God charges these hopes with beauty and supernatural favour. So reread Mordecai's million-dollar — or three-million shekel — question, and know that its relevance stands stronger than ever here in your moment. Your “royal position” is a meaningful one, and now is the time to engage it with fervour and surrender, assured that even when God is faceless, He is near.

Peace,  
Elise



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## Facilitating Change

### A Letter from Student Senate



JOHANNA BENJAMINS  
STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT

In my second year, Redeemer's IT department had an unsuccessful upgrade that caused the printers in the Redeemer Library to stop accepting student cards. Crisis ensued. Without student card access, students were barred from printing on campus. Assignments were late. The majority of the student body was affected. As we complained to each other, the problem seemed to grow bigger and bigger.

Finally, a student senator noted the problem in a weekly meeting. Within minutes, the Dean of Students had emailed Ron Cornies in IT, explaining the pressing nature of the issue. IT had already been working to address the problem, but once they realized how much trouble it was causing students, the school made all printing free until the matter was resolved.

This unforeseen problem must have cost the IT department hours of work and Redeemer a fair amount of change, but do you know how our student body responded after the incident was resolved? We didn't. We moved on with our classes and social lives and forgot.

Having served on Student Senate for four years now, I have had the joy of working behind the scenes to fix everyday issues like inaccessible printers. Every year I am humbled to realize that behind every office door there are people who are just as dedicated to excellent Christ-centred education as we are. Excellence requires time, money, and hard work — or at least two of the three. And let's face it — as students, we are often hampered by time and money. Further, some of the problems we see probably won't be resolved in the four to six years before we graduate. So what are we going to do about it?

That's exactly the question that Shannyn Osborn asked. Frustrated that Redeemer didn't have the funds to set up a compost system, she and SEEDS, Redeemer's Green Team, collaborated with Campus Services and Redeemer's maintenance crew to set up a system for free. Because of Osborn's initiative, all Redeemer's compost now goes to the Hamilton Victory Garden located

behind the school.

When Nina Drenth (née Schuurman) and others were frustrated with the perceived amount of food waste on campus, as a member of Student Senate I collaborated with Doreen Gringhuis from Campus Services and a local food bank supplier to work towards a solution. Extra food from The Market (Redeemer's on-campus grocery store), which used to be thrown away, is now given to people in need.

When Redeemer's Athletic Department lost the funding to support its hockey and rugby teams, guys like Daniel Grootenboer and Kyle Goforth collaborated with Student Senate so that they could still play at club level.

Just as the above students have demonstrated, answering the question of "where to go" starts with looking at ourselves. Great things happen when students stand up and facilitate change, even if that change seems a long way off.

One of the ways Student Senate helps facilitate such change is by meeting quarterly with our local MPP to address certain issues. One such issue is the fact that our disabled students continue to be granted less funding because we are a private institution. Another is our limited access to OSAP information as a private school, currently only available through public universities like McMaster. Though these are big-picture concerns, addressing them begins with conversations amongst students.

Senate is always looking for better ways to get Redeemer students more connected with each other and our beautiful city. We are excited to partner with you in any initiative you bring forward. Let's make this a great year.

Johanna Benjamins  
Student Senate President

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## Interested in writing for us?

Email [thecrown@redeemer.ca](mailto:thecrown@redeemer.ca)

# Hipster Music, DIY Ideas, and Fancy Potatoes

## An Account of Supercrawl 2017



Donovan Woods [Photos by Dylan Knibbe]

KRISTEN BORGDORFF  
REPORTER

From coffee shops to stages, from basements to booths, from garages to fryers — Supercrawl 2017 was a great chance for local artists to get their names out into the world and for Redeemer students to see a bit of Hamilton's downtown core. Every September since 2009, Hamilton has closed James Street North for a weekend to welcome local artists, musicians, food trucks, and hundreds of festival goers. Many Redeemer students know that this is an event that should not be missed. It is a perfect opportunity to master the bus system while creating memories with new friends. If you missed Supercrawl this year, do not fear — after reading this short article you will be caught up to date. Supercrawl is known for its lineup of “hipster artists” — musicians that only your cool friends have heard of but that you pretend to know because you just want to fit in. Donovan Woods, an artist from Sarnia, is a prime example. Before his performance, he shared a story about how he was once paid in coffee beans at a local coffee shop because the shop could not afford to pay him. This inspirational story entertained a large group of fans (as well as some people who were pretending they were fans because their friends wanted to watch). The mixture of his cheeky humour with his angelic voice was an engaging experience for everyone listening.

Although the musical performances may be what draws so many people to the festival, booths displaying the work of local artists line the street. I had the opportunity of speaking to three of these local artists.

Aimee Cline is the owner of Vintage Charm, a store on James Street whose motto is “ReFresh, RePurpose, ReLove” — Cline does this by selling antique furniture, home décor, and gifts. To draw Supercrawlers inside her store, she had set up a booth just outside for the weekend. It was one of those shops that a Redeemer student would go in, take some mental notes, and then go home and recreate something they saw after a quick trip to Talize. Cline mentioned how Supercrawl is one of the busiest times of the year, but, unlike many other artists, Supercrawl is not her primary source of income. Rather, her primary income is from online orders, mainly from customers throughout the

GTA. You can find Aimee's store at 233 James Street North, or you can visit her website at [vintagecharmhome.com](http://vintagecharmhome.com).

Tracey, an employee at Homecoming Goods, was eager to discuss how her Supercrawl experience had been both overwhelming and positive. This was Homecoming Goods' first year being at Supercrawl — they had heard the interest in local artists is rapidly growing in the Hamilton area, and they knew that this was their crowd. Their potted succulents, array of popular pins, and other miscellaneous fads would have spiced up any first year dorm room. Coming from Toronto, they were not sure if Supercrawl would meet their expectations, but they were amazed to have their expectations exceeded. For more information about Homecoming Goods, take a look at their website: [homecominggoods.com](http://homecominggoods.com).

At another booth I found Geek Trappings, a group of four friends that had taken their separate talents to create a brand that sells anything “geek,” from tutus to snow globes. These ladies have been at Supercrawl for the past four years and are constantly amazed by how many people come through. “Rain or shine, people come and it's always busy.” The ladies were excited to share that this year's business was even more successful than last year's and that the geek culture is now more popular than ever. See? Supercrawl has things for everyone! Geek Trappings can be found on Facebook with a quick search of their brand name. While Supercrawl was overflowing with art, music, people, and lights, I must say that my absolute favourite part was the food. The countless trucks, the endless opportunities, and the \$10 I had in my backpack made for a challenging decision. Picking between powdered donuts, cotton candy the size of my head, steaming poutine, and countless other mouth-watering delights was not easy, but I eventually decided on a Potato Tornado. What is a Potato Tornado? It's only the most wonderful treat you may ever be the given the opportunity to indulge in (also known as a spiralled potato on a stick).

Supercrawl 2017 was the perfect weekend to pretend to sing along to music I didn't know, steal ideas from local



a potato tornado in all of its glory

artists, and have a taste of some sacred food. If you missed the opportunity to attend Supercrawl, do not fret — Hamilton has monthly art crawls that you can attend for a similar experience! Dates for these events can be found at [tourismhamilton.com](http://tourismhamilton.com).

## Catch an O-fish-al Internship With the Help of CELC

MARY ANN BENJAMINS  
CELC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Kyle Goforth spent the first part of his summer hip wader deep in fish. Well, maybe not literally, but as an intern for Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association and Fish Hatchery he helped stock 18,000 one-and-a-half-year-old rainbow trout and 15,000 young lake trout. That's a lot of

fish! Kyle is an Honours Environmental Studies Major, and after completing his internship, his advice to anyone else searching for an internship is this: "Think outside the box. Try something that really excites you and may be applicable to a future career. Or do something that you have always wanted to learn more about, and just test to see if you like it. The internship will fly by, so enjoy it while you can!" Participating in a work-integrated learning opportunity like an internship is a great way to equip yourself to enter the workforce with confidence.

If you are interested in finding out more about internships, the best place to start is by setting up an appointment with Sandy Ma, the Internship Coordinator at Redeemer's Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers (CELC). If you're not yet familiar with CELC (pronounced "silk"), CELC's mission is to work with faculty and employers to prepare students to find their callings and careers. As part of Redeemer's 2020 plan initiative, CELC's goal is to triple the number of programs with co-op opportunities and ensure experiential learning options in every program. We are the one-stop-shop for answers to questions about internships. We can also provide interview prep, co-op coordination, and job search strategies so that you are job ready by the time you walk across the stage on graduation day.

To find our office, just take a walk down to the main office. The bright colours of our new window wrap should direct you right to our doorstep. Take a moment to meet our newest staff member, Angel Brejcha. As our Career Coordinator, she is busy organizing job prep workshops — but she's always open for individualized career guidance as well. CELC is also busy helping Business Co-op students find jobs for their January work term. Did you know that about eighty percent of Redeemer grads get hired by one of their Co-op employers?

Bruce Wilson, recently promoted to be the director of CELC, has our whole team getting ready for some key fall events like the International Teaching Career Fair 2017 on October 2nd, as well as the Hamilton Employment Crawl (HEC) on October 12th. Are you interested in Advanced Manufacturing, IT/Digital or Life/Health Sciences? Then

don't miss the opportunity to network with prospective employers at HEC this fall. Take a minute to drop by and chat with Mary Ann Benjamins, the centre's admin, for information about these and other events.

Finally, CELC manages an in-house job board called HireRedeemer. If you're looking for part time work to bring in a little extra cash during the school year, a summer job, or a full time job for after graduation, we've got jobs, jobs, and more jobs for you to pursue. Great experience inspires leaders with integrity. It's never too early to think about your future, so if you have questions, stop by CELC or email us at [celc@redeemer.ca](mailto:celc@redeemer.ca), and we'll assist in any way we can.



## Learning to RE-create A Summer Student Experience

ELISE ARSENAULT  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"The library is a key place to seek youth out, since it's somewhere they can be transient."

"They'll get to know you as you make art with them. We've got big journals and small ones — which will yours be?"

"Flip the base, sharp side down. Put some elbow grease into it this time, and bam! You've made yourself a button."

"Don't worry. Only knocking one box off the art cart while wheeling it in is actually pretty impressive."

So go some of the pieces of wisdom I received over the course of my summer internship at RE-create, a drop-in art studio for at-risk and homeless youth in Hamilton's downtown core. From mid-June to late August, I partook in several outreach walks, studio times, BBQ fundraisers, and youth centre workshops under the leadership of Studio-Coordinating Meghan, Studio-Assisting Mouse, and Outreach-Working Randy. My skills were refined in designing posters, defrosting deserts, updating social media, navigating the city, and the overall making of art.

That, and I've learned to celebrate the creativity and resilience of youth.

After mornings spent in the computer lab archiving, in a basement praying, or in a coffee-shop de-briefing, studio time would roll around and the youth would roll in — sometimes half-an-hour early — eager to make something. Some



had go-to spots and mediums, while others experimented weekly; whatever the case, there was always a strong sense of freedom as people went at it.

And it was contagious! I initially set out to refine my basic collaging skills over the summer, but left instead with a fistful of buttons, an embroidered backpack patch, an India ink portrait of a turtle wearing a flower crown, and the swirly product of a paint-pouring workshop. I also successfully knitted half a washcloth.

Fun art projects aside, I was challenged to think more deeply about the realities of the lives of youth at-risk, perspectives on gender and sexuality, attitudes towards education and employment, and dynamic relationships between inner-city organizations. I was granted pieces of people's stories and inspiration as I watched them discover, bit by bit, the limitlessness of their art and their potential.

In short, I'm very thankful to have had such a summer and to have left doubtless that RE-create is a real haven for downtown youth.

And guess what? The studio is still alive and kicking throughout the school year, and always welcoming of new volunteers. If this sounds like a sort of experience you might jive with, reach out by finding the "RE-create Art Studio" on Facebook or emailing [emmas@shalemnetwork.org](mailto:emmas@shalemnetwork.org). There is much to be learned in that white-walled, art-riddled, and freedom-filled space.

## 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.

### *What was an unexpected area of growth this summer?*



I am a first year, so maybe just in general preparing to come to university. But specifically in my job at McDonald’s, I learned a lot of lessons. Because of my job, I found myself being more direct and maybe a bit more assertive than I usually am. Also learning to use initiative and common sense...those aren’t usually things that you would associate with McDonald’s, but I experienced that growth because of my job there. I really learned how to properly work with other people, regardless of their skill level or abilities, or what they look like or even talk like.



I continue to grow in finding ways to manage work and rest and other commitments. So just juggling work commitments, family commitments, church commitments...and my own sanity in good ways. I think that is how I have been growing this summer.



I worked in a factory, so it was very repetitive, kind of boring work. So I think I have grown in the way that I’ve learned patience, with myself and with God... and with my family especially. That was often tough, but learning this really helped me.



I was stretched in a lot of ways this summer because every day was different. I didn’t have a routine at all, and then especially toward the end, I felt God telling me to do certain things, and I learned to say yes to them. I was put in some very vulnerable situations this summer and it was in those moments that I really grew — in my faith, in my character. I faced a lot of fears and conquered them. This summer was really character building, and my relationship with God really grew through taking those leaps of faith.



I am part of an evangelism team — we go to the streets and hand out gospel tracks. So that has stretched me out of my comfort zone and put a burden on my heart for the lost. Also, I moved out of home for the first time recently. That was scary at first, I was terrified. I have never been away from my family for too long, and I am really close with my brothers, so that was hard. So yeah, I have been stretched out of my comfort zone a lot in the last few months.



I think I grew a lot through different experiences. I was able to get a lot of work experience both in what I am studying here and then also unexpected writing jobs. I ended up getting to write a few articles and stuff like that. So it was a lot of figuring out what I want to do after school, what I am interested in.



So over the summer I grew spiritually because I had an opportunity to work with a city organization — Liberty Youth and The City of Hamilton. I understand the type of people that are around the city and the type of people that need help. It just strengthened me to know that people are needed in order to make Hamilton succeed. I think if we get the right type of help and all hands come together, then I think we can actually make Hamilton a better place.



Through work, there was a lot of growing and learning this past summer....I am not very organized, I had to learn to be much more organized....making sure I am on top of everything so I can get things done without life falling apart and being stressed all the time. This helped me enjoy my summer!

## Royals for the Win (Jay's for the Loss)



EMMA ROORDA  
REPORTER

Last Thursday evening, student spectators witnessed a very unfortunate win for the Royals (let's put that under the verbal category of "things Redeemer students never say").

As per the annual tradition, a bus full of eager Redeemer students had the chance to cheer on the Toronto Blue Jays in game two of their series against the Kansas City Royals last week. The group arrived about a half hour before the first pitch, quickly indulged themselves with some infamous downtown Toronto "street meat," and took their

highly esteemed seats in the nose bleed section.

Even though the game ended in a nail-biting 1-0 win for Kansas, Redeemer students still had a lot of fun hanging out at the ball game. For students who have just recently made the Redeemer campus their home, this outing was a unique opportunity to bond with new friends and escape the busyness of dorm life for the evening.

First-year Redeemer students Chelsea Cheel and Kara Van Kesteren agreed that, thanks to the fantastic organizational skills of some upper-year Redeemer students and faculty, "the trip to Toronto was great, and definitely something that should continue to be done every year." Student Cha-



nel Verstraete added that "the music and dancing at the game was lit."

The annual outing to a Blue Jays game is a terrific (and cheap) city excursion for Redeemer students of all ages. From the deep chats during the bus ride to the cheesy popcorn in the grand stands, this little adventure is a great way for students to let loose, forget about the joys of schoolwork for a bit, and make meaningful connections as a school community in a setting that differs from that of usual campus events. Fourth year student Rachel Guetter sums up the excitement of the experience, claiming that "the Blue Jays trip was a ball of a time." So I guess it was a win for the Royals all around.

## #RUCLaunch Summer Camp or University Orientation?



KRISTEN BORDORFF  
REPORTER

"We've never had such a close race before," says Micah Van Dijk, Redeemer's Activities and Orientation Coordinator. "Yellow took an early lead through much of the first few weeks, but then Green and Orange made a last minute surge with a strong showing at Student Senate's fall retreat and the Study Smart Seminar. Yellow managed to hang on by one point!"

Each September, first year students at Redeemer have the opportunity to participate in different events and orientation activities to earn points for their Launch team. At the end of orientation, the Launch team with the most points wins the Cooper Cup. This year, the members of Team Yellow were crowned as the victors.

Launch is an opportunity for new students to transition to Redeemer in an exciting way. "I just remember being excited to have arrived, but it felt really weird to think that this was going to be home for a while," says first year student Selena Reitsma when asked about her Launch experience.

"Then my Launch leaders showed up at my dorm in duck hats and tutus, and it felt more like camp than the scary world of university."

Jordy Meijering, a second year transfer student, was also a fan of Launch, describing it as "a very memorable start to [his] Redeemer career." Meijering went on to list some highlights: "We participated in a series of fun, interactive activities that built relationships in a more natural way. One such activity was the movie lip-sync battle, in which we acted out the scenes of a movie to a popular song. This was a great way to meet new people and warm up to each other as we worked together to prepare and perform the act as well as cheer each other on."

Another second year transfer student, Grace Rajballie, named the mud pit as the highlight of her experience. "It was so amazing to see everyone come together, laughing hysterically as we challenged each other in tug of war," says Rajballie. "The event ended with everyone covered in mud, running around, taking pictures, and just having a good time."

Other Launch events included outings to a Blue Jays Game,

the Toronto Zoo, and Supercrawl. A games night, movie night, and Chopped (Redeemer's own cooking competition) were a few additional on campus activities that took place during the first few weeks of the school year.

While Launch's on-campus events and activities are a highlight for many students, Launch also seeks to extend its reach into the community through an annual food drive. On September 4th, students delivered over 4000 flyers and paper bags to homes in the neighbourhood, requesting donations for the Community Food Drive. A week later, students went back into the community and collected full bags of food from these houses. This year, Redeemer managed to break the previous record of 10,436 pounds, set in 2013, by 50 pounds. A total of 10,486 pounds of food were donated to the Neighbour to Neighbour Centre, a food bank located on the Hamilton mountain.

Every year, Launch continues to be a great way to begin cultivating community among new students. It's a chance for students to make memories and to begin making friendships that will have a lasting impact on students' lives, both during their years at Redeemer and beyond.

*Redeemer University College is crowded with globally-minded citizens. Over the years, many students have taken a leap of faith and spent time visiting or living among an unfamiliar culture. Throughout the 2017-2018 academic school year, the Crown will be checking in with some of these courageous students who have chosen to follow the call to a foreign country. So come, learn from these God-fearing individuals, and join them as they discover the beautiful diversity here on planet earth.*

## Salut Redeemer! A Letter from France

KIRSTEN KLOMPIKER,  
NICOLE KATERBERG

Salut Redeemer!

This semester, four of us third year French students — Cassy Dyck, Amelia Keesman, Nicole Katerberg and Kirsten Klompaker — are currently studying abroad in the beautiful south of France! Coming here, we were all very excited and nervous for this next step in our studies. On August 26th, after a long day travelling, we landed in the town of Montpellier and were greeted by our host families with three kisses — “trois bises.” Nope, not a hand shake or a hug— three kisses! This was just the beginning of leaving our old comfortable culture behind and openly stepping into the life of the French. Every day since then, we have been experiencing what it is like to be immersed in a foreign country, speaking a different language and eating very different food.

As much as France is known for its wine, bread and cheese, we’d like to add lentils and vegetables to that list. Dinners here start around 7:00pm or 8:00pm, and it is not rare to still be eating at 10:30pm. A typical French meal begins with an alcoholic beverage and salty snacks. Then, you move on to fruit (normally melon, in our experience), followed by a salad, and then your main course — usually consisting of a lot of unrecognizable vegetables and lentils. After you have completely cleared your plate, out comes a course solely dedicated to rich cheese and baguettes. But wait, there’s more! After you think you cannot eat anymore, they bring out the most delicious desserts. Even though you are completely stuffed by the end and the dinners are longer than what you’re used to, meals here are where the best conversations and language improvements happen.

In order to graduate Redeemer with a French degree, studying at a B2 level during a semester abroad is required. So, during our first week here, we completed an obligatory placement test. Thanks to the fabulous teaching of Dr. Curnew, we all obtained this level with ease! Now, four days a week we take the tram to the local university where all our French language courses take place. Along with our language courses, we volunteer one afternoon a week in a local Christian café called Chez Théo as part of our service learning option.

Coming here from a tight Christian community like Redeemer, it is challenging to be immersed in a very secular country. Thankfully, during our first week here we attended a Protestant church recommended to us by Dr. Curnew, where we by chance sat beside the women who runs Agape, a ministry of Power to Change, here in Montpellier. From there we were invited to their first meeting of the semester that just so happened to take place at Chez Théo! During this meeting, we were reminded that we are not only here to improve our French and to have fun studying abroad but that God has us here for a reason. We were challenged to consciously bring God into conversations with our fellow students who come from everywhere around the world.

Sometimes, we question why we even bother learning a complicated language that is exhausting and has taken us away from the comforts of home. But the Lord is working in our lives and has brought us to places (like Chez Théo) where we have experienced peace and encouragement over our semester here in Montpellier. Even though homesickness is a thing, we are very grateful for this incredible opportunity to study in this beautiful part of the world and experience such a unique culture. Ten out of ten would recommend.

Bisous mes amis!

Nicole et Kirsten



## “Your Kingdom Come” A Chapel Replay

EMMA ROORDA, REPORTER  
JOSIAH BOKMA, CHAPLAIN

If you are the kind of person who regularly attends Wednesday chapel services, you might recognize these words by Josiah Bokma, which do an excellent job of reminding Redeemer Students to stay in tune with the theme for this year, Your Kingdom Come, by thinking deeply about the words that comprise it.

“This line is taken straight from the heart of the Lord’s prayer,” says Josiah, “which is at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, which is the heart of our Christian calling; it’s God’s will for your life.”

He then further breaks it down for us. “Your because it’s not about us, but God, His presence and mission. Kingdom because when we live in line with God’s good desires, we and others flourish in all that we are. Come because the kingdom came near with Jesus and will come in fullness

later, but now we get to play a small but important part of welcoming His leadership and rule in our lives now.”

Part of being a citizen of the Kingdom is taking the time to pray. Often, it is helpful to dive deeper into a personal reflection on prayer—whether that be through your own prayers or those prayed by others. The following two prayers, written and previously shared by Josiah, have been published to give you the opportunity to really soak in the Kingdom message.



*God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as we come arrive to here, you welcome us. You are happy to see us and you love to spend time with us. You are touched by our honest offerings of prayer and our simple songs, just as when we seek to honour you with our studies and sports.*

*This morning enable to come to you as we are—with all that we are thinking, feeling, fearing and desiring—and meet with you. Take us as we are and continue to change us to be like who you are. In the strong name of Jesus.*

*Amen.*

*God, Here we are. We may have just come from class, full of more questions than answers. Here we are, new to a foreign space, feeling a bit homesick or back to a familiar space and feeling relieved. Here we are, minds full of the things we have to do. Here we are with our doubts and slow-to-trust hearts.*

*But Here you are: You have called us together. There are more 2 people here, so you are right in our midst. Here you are with open arms and loving eyes, active through your church across the world and right here in Hamilton. You are worthy of all our praise and all our lives.*

*Amen.*

## Recognizing Religions: Bahaism in North America Become an Informed Christian by 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 Bahaism.

There are merely seven main Baha’i houses of worship in the world — yet Bahaism is one of the fastest growing world religions on the planet. These seven main Baha’i temples act as beautifully designed gathering places for Baha’i worshippers, although people who live in accordance to the Baha’i religion will also often meet for worship and communal prayer in a member’s home. One of these temples is located in Wilmette, Illinois (just outside of the greater Chicago region.) The Wilmette temple is the only Baha’i temple located in all of North America, but it continues to

thrive as a busy religious centre, welcoming thousands of Baha’i visitors who make the journey to this temple to worship, pray, meditate, and reflect.

One of the most unique attributes of the Baha’i faith is the fact that all religions are accepted as a part of a grand story of the world. They believe in a high god and that he is the singular most powerful being. Yet other significant religious figures such as Muhammad, Zoroaster, Moses, Jesus, and Krishna are also accepted as valid. Thus the Baha’i believers welcome the prayers and worship styles of all people because they believe that all religions have ultimately played a part in the divine story of the world.

This idea of inclusivity is reflected in the setup of the Baha’i temple in Wilmette, Illinois. The main area of worship can hold up to 1200 people at any given time. This allows for the presence of various religious practises, creating a safe space for worshippers to learn from each other’s religions. Additionally, the style of the architecture and large worship area promotes the idea of peace between nations and religions. Not only does the temple foster the sense that people of all beliefs should be represented in the same room, various religious symbols from many different faiths are engraved on the temple’s exterior.

The idea that all religions are amalgamated into one single faith plays a significant role in understanding the Baha’i value of peace. Believers are huge advocates for world peace and non-violence between nations. They have built

temples like the one found in Wilmette in order to bring people of different backgrounds together — people who might have been at odds otherwise.

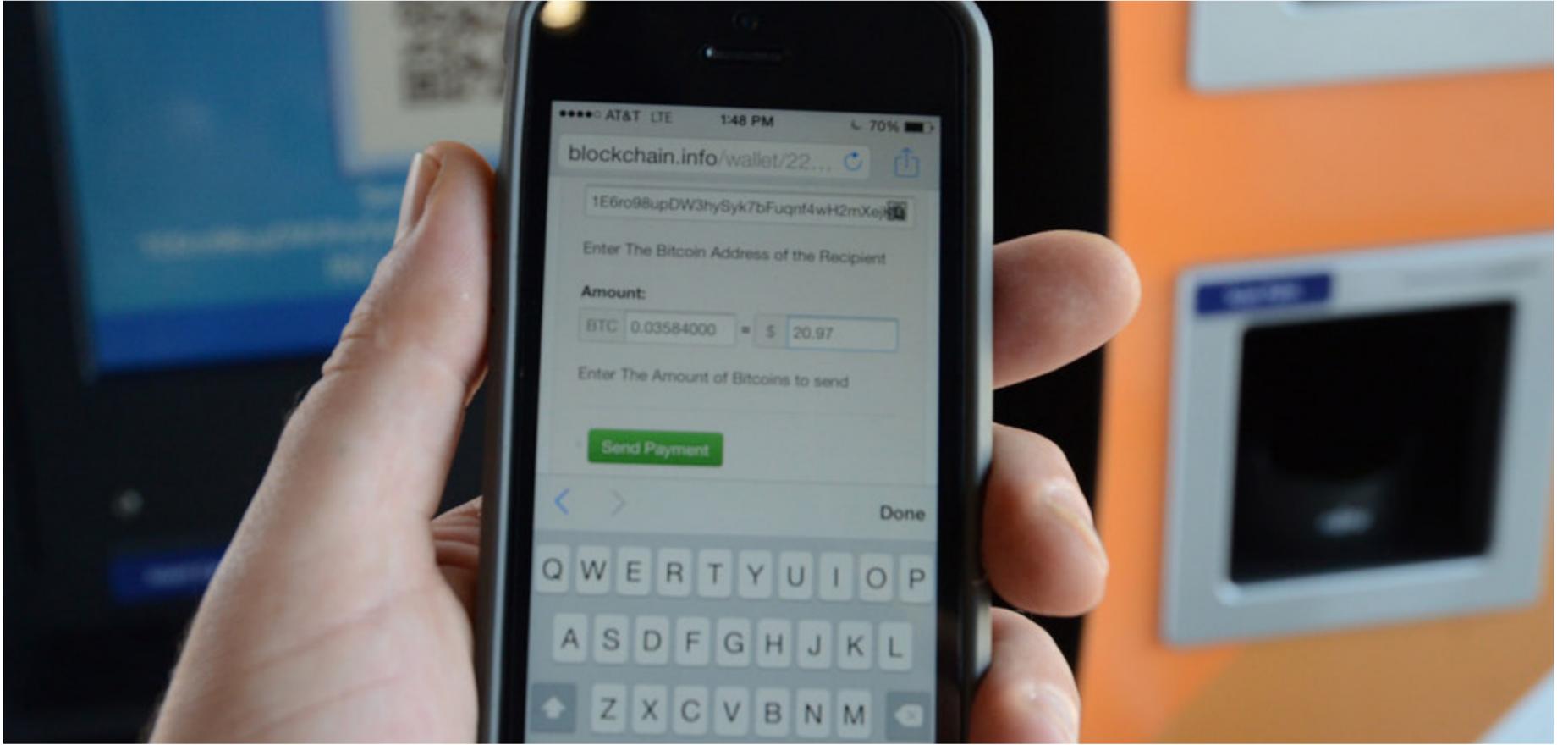
Finally, one of the most significant aspects of the Baha’i faith is the notion of unity. Aforementioned, Bahaism stresses the ideas of inclusion and acceptance of all people. This unity is expressed and upheld in the architecture found in the main places of worship. There are nine sides of the temple in Wilmette (a sacred number in the Baha’i faith); all sides meet into one dome, signifying the interconnectedness of all people. In the centre of the dome lies an Arabic symbol meaning “oh the glory of glories.” This sends a message that within the unity of the people lies one true god, and through all the different religions of the world that one god must be served.

The Baha’i temple in Wilmette stands as an intricate gathering place for North American Baha’i believers and embodies the ideas of unity, acceptance and peace among peoples. Bahaism is a unique religion in the sense that believers are not only extremely welcoming to newcomers of all faiths — they fundamentally believe that a newcomer may bring an aspect of their faith that is intertwined with the story of the world.



# Bitcoin

## A Look at the Currency of the Future



JOSHUA VOTH

If you use the internet (which I know you do), you've probably stumbled across the word "Bitcoin" while looking at pictures of cats or browsing Wikipedia for that last, sixth source for your final essay — or maybe in a video you were watching (you definitely deserved that much-needed YouTube break after reading those ten pages of that not-so-interesting textbook). But what exactly is Bitcoin, and why should you use it?

Bitcoin is a decentralized, peer-to-peer, anonymous, digital cryptocurrency. Sounds complex, right? Let me break it down for you — it's actually pretty simple. In a nutshell, Bitcoin is "cash for the internet." What about all those obscure words I just wrote? I'll define each of them so that they are clear, and then I'll tell you a bit more about Bitcoin — some advantages and disadvantages, and how you can use it.

First off, Bitcoin is decentralized. This simply means that it is a legitimate currency which is not managed by a central authority, middleman, or what we would call a bank. All other currencies like the Canadian Dollar (CAD) or the Great British Pound (GBP), which are known as fiat currencies, are managed by banks around the world. Why is decentralization a good thing? Currently, all fiat currencies (CAD, GBP, USD) are managed by banks, which means there are high-transaction costs for users and a manipulation of worth.

For example, if Molly wants to send Joe \$5,000,000, the bank would charge her a high fee for that transaction — a fee that would only get higher the more money she sent. Also, I should mention that when Molly sends Joe the five million in Bitcoin, he'll receive it within as little as an hour, instead of the days it might take through a bank (and if you send smaller amounts, you'll probably only be waiting a couple of minutes).

Peer-to-peer simply refers to a network which connects computers. In the case of Bitcoin, that network is the internet.

Finally, Bitcoin is anonymous. There is no username, personal information, social security number, home address, or photo identification attached to any transaction. There is simply a send address, a receive address (which could look something like this: 1GwV7fPX97hmave6iNrUZUog-mjpLPrPFoE), and a secret key which verifies that both the sender and the receiver are legitimate. Bitcoin transactions are encrypted (protected) with a security measure called

SHA-256. To date, we do not hold anything near the computing power that would be required to crack SHA-256. Bitcoin is stored in a digital wallet on your computer which you can download and install from the internet.

***"There is no username, personal information, social security number, home address, or photo identification attached to any transaction."***

Let's take a look at Bitcoin's advantages and disadvantages, starting with the former. First of all, you can send and receive Bitcoin anywhere in the world at any time. There are no bank holidays or border restrictions — Bitcoin is the definition of freedom. Transaction fees don't really exist either. The user can choose how much he or she wants to pay (the more you pay, the faster the transaction will be completed).

Additionally, the fees for sending Bitcoin are not related to the amount you send (unlike banks). If you send 100,000 BTC (Bitcoins), you could pay the same fee you would pay if you were to send 1 BTC or 0.1 BTC. There are also fewer risks for online shopping when using Bitcoin as a method of payment. Both buyer and seller know that their payment is secure, irreversible, and will never be frozen. The use of Bitcoin reduces the risk of identification theft and can be used in new and emerging markets where credit cards are not accepted.

You may be wondering — how is this system maintained? Surely someone or something is monitoring Bitcoin to make sure that it runs like a well-oiled machine. The answer is simple: no one person is in charge of this task. Instead, everyone can contribute. All of the information regarding Bitcoin is available to the public on the Blockchain, a public ledger where all existing Bitcoin transactions are recorded. No company, government, or organization has control over how Bitcoin is used or who can see it and use it.

Now I shall venture on to mention a few of Bitcoin's disadvantages. First, the degree to which Bitcoin is accepted is still growing. Many do not consider this to be a true disadvantage, and I might agree. Bitcoin is still gaining momentum, and your favourite online stores probably don't accept it as a method of payment...yet. It's going to take some time for Bitcoin to become a mainstream method of payment,

but those who are willing to wait will be rewarded. A second and more interesting disadvantage is Bitcoin's role in crime. Since Bitcoin is untraceable, it is difficult to track senders and recipients, making it an attractive form of payment for criminals. Thus, Bitcoin has been used as payment for drugs, prostitution, and other forms of criminal activity. There are also several accounts in which Bitcoin was used as payment for information and people being held hostage.

In summary, Bitcoin still has a long way to go, and some might still view it as "fake money." The legality of it as an accepted currency still poses troubling issues regarding taxation and regulation due to its attractiveness in illegal activity. Looking forward, Bitcoin may begin to have drastic effects on economies as it gains real-world popularity.

At the writing of this article, one Bitcoin is worth \$4,500 CAD. If you would like to purchase Bitcoin, I would recommend using a Bitcoin exchange such as Bittrex or a Bitcoin ATM (there are currently several located around Hamilton). You are not limited to buying 1 Bitcoin. You can buy \$5.00 worth (0.00112 BTC) or \$500 worth (0.11182 BTC) — it's up to you. My one recommendation, however, is this: don't invest or spend money you cannot afford to lose.



# Athlete Spotlight Coming Soon!

KRISTEN BORGDORFF  
REPORTER

Stay tuned for next month's edition of Spotlight Athletes, a part of the Crown that encourages students to get to know one male and one female student athlete each month. Since 2011, the Redeemer Athletics Department has chosen one

male and one female athlete each month that have shown exceptional skill and a sportsmanlike attitude, and have all around earned a place in the spotlight. We are looking forward to sitting down with these athletes and asking them

a few questions to allow you to get to know our Redeemer Royals in a different light.



## 10K-Strong-O-Meter



***This year, the Crown will be tracking Redeemer's goal of seeing 10,000 fans come to our home games. We are in the process of creating a unique way to portray this. Keep an eye out for an update on our community's progress in the October issue of the Crown!***



## Fan Watch

***Keep using the #RedeemerRoyal, #10KStrong, and #RoyalFamily tags for a chance to be featured in next month's reel!***





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