



Photo by Elise Arsenault

541 Eatery & Exchange: The Heart, the Fruit and the Need

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER

The first thing I notice upon entering 541 Barton St. E is its centrepiece: a long, rectangular, ash-wood harvest table. Surrounding it are several mismatched wooden chairs, seating equally mismatched people. I see two caffeinated businessmen, scrutinizing their file folders. Next to them, a young girl makes Snow White dance on her momma's teapot. Across the table, a trio of infinity-scarfed girls share scones and plans for the weekend.

"Nowhere else in the city do you get that," says Sam Kamminga, Redeemer alumnus and staff at 541, "nowhere else have I seen such a diverse group of people sit at the same table. Some are really well off, some not so well off, and some are from Ancaster, others from downtown. They're all having different days, and yet they're eating the same food here, together."

The concept of 541: Eatery & Exchange was conceived a number of years ago by Michael Bowyer, Community Pastor of Ellis Avenue Church in East Hamilton. His vision is one of inclusivity, offering affordable, accessible and high-quality foods to those from all walks of life. The establishment opened this past summer with funding from Compass Point Church in Burlington, and operates on 80% volunteering-staff. Proceeds from all purchases cycle back into community programming.

There is currently an after-school program for kids on Wednesday afternoons, including homework help and recreational activities. Though still in the works, Sam says, "we're still finding our footing, but are planning on

expanding from there, possibly extending from Monday to Friday."

"The most fruitful program yet," says Sam, "is job training. Some people say they want to get a job at Starbucks

or MacDonald's, but aren't in a place where they're given a chance." 541 equips volunteers with job experience, work skills, and a reference for when they apply elsewhere. This only strengthens their vision, "because those getting involved often have a better perspective on ministry, and poverty, than we do. We learn from each other." Volunteers stress immersing themselves within the community they serve: "We want everyone to have the opportunity to receive from us, but also to be able to give back and be

"Nowhere else have I seen such a diverse group of people sit at the same table."

a part of what we are doing; everyone has something to contribute."

The cafe runs from 7 AM to 7 PM, Monday through Saturday, but the serving doesn't cease between hours. A local church, The Meeting Place, holds their services there on Sunday afternoons. "What's unique to us," shares Shira Gamey, member of The Meeting Place, "is that we do church with people we actually see throughout the week – we don't just pray on Sundays with each other. We have a geographical closeness that brings a different dynamic to how we grow as a community."

Beginning as a basement Bible study, The Meeting Place soon grew into a church community with Sue Carr, 541's Executive Director, as it's Pastor. "Each week we take time to share the burdens of our hearts," Shira explains, "we

love one another, pray for one another, and dine together. It is in these spiritual rhythms that I find God at work, knitting us into a community that actually walks through different seasons of life together."

Next comes the Prayer Room, managed by Shira and run by the Greater Ontario House of Prayer. "541," she says, "has graciously allowed us to set up in their basement, and we are excited about what God is going to do with this partnership." The space is free to visit from 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday to Friday, and will soon include an array of prayer stations. My quick visit downstairs last week revealed a quaint room with guitars, canvases, and the ideal atmosphere to intercede and receive through earnest times of prayer.

There is so much happening at 541. The vision is Biblical, the people are genuine, the space is blessed and the results are fruitful. There is, however, still a need. "We always need volunteers," Sam says, "for front-of-house, for kitchen, for cleaning and for absolutely everything else. Without volunteers we can't operate." This need for staff is not only to get brooms to floors or food to tables, but to get hearts to hearts in intentional chats with customers: "We want to be able to care for people – to interact with them as we wipe down tables and strike up conversations in a natural way. We can't do that when we're understaffed." If you feel drawn to volunteering, I was told to get in touch with Sue Carr, a "wise, British lady who would love to sit down with you and talk about your heart, your giftedness and willingness, and then figure it out from there."

Remember that harvest table? Did you know that Redeemer alumnus Jeff Wynands crafted it? We're already making an imprint here, my Royal friends, and so is the kingdom of heaven. Let us join in by giving of ourselves to a ministry that, like Christ, longs for the outcast to be known, the hungry to be fed and the last to be first.

P.S., When you visit, ask about the Button Jar.



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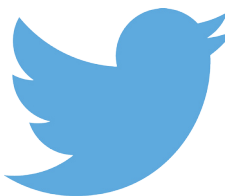


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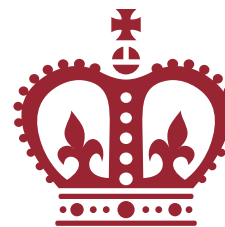
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Letter from the Editor



LAURA HEMING
EDITOR-IN CHIEF

This Thursday, I sat in a line of ecstatic high school kids. This was an attempt to get the perfect seat for the premiere of the third part of my favourite movie series. I was not joking around about this premiere. I had thought long and hard about what the perfect time to arrive at the theatre would be in order to get prime seating. I chose the perfect attire for optimal comfort, as well as the perfect array of movie snacks, carefully chosen not to be too crunchy to obstruct my hearing, and not too salty, so I didn't need to leave the theatre to buy a drink.

I know — crazy. But to be completely fair, this viewing had been a major anticipation of mine for just about a year.

Mockingjay (if you did not already guess) did by no means disappoint. I will not give away anything for those of you who are planning to see it soon. What I can say is that Katniss had further portrayed herself as the perfect hero. I found myself leaning closer to the screen at every high intensity scene, watching her stone face shake and quiver as she carefully

spouted quick and wise words that would fleetingly catch on as the catch phrases of the rebellion, or would become the marching song for the districts as they paraded for freedom.

This all brought me back to a deeper meandering. The showing up hours early, the contemplation of snacks that would not obstruct hearing, the tears (yes, there were some tears), the close listening to Katniss's words and the way those words caught on fire by the people around her. It brought me to think that this careful and excitable anticipation should be the way we approach the one who speaks holy truth — with great eagerness, carefulness, and deep emotion.

Looking over our writing repertoire for November's edition, it reminds me of our initial goal of integrating faith and culture. The goal was to allow students, as well as ourselves, to see how Jesus literally is a vein in every valve of life — bringing life and meaning to every single thing we do.

The way I approached the viewing of my favourite movie is the way I desire to approach serving and living for my true king. It is the way we as a team initially desired the student body to see Jesus. That is, to get excited about the fact that He is in everything and, ultimately, to ignite a fire to serve and heed His words in great anticipation for His coming.

As we approach Christmas, let us take the same approach to His throne. Through realizing His involvement in each part of culture, let us glorify how great a God we serve, and let that awareness kindle an eagerness to keep listening, waiting for and repeating His words with great excitement and anticipation. Let His song be our daily song as we march toward our forever home of Heaven.

Letters to the editor and article submissions must be sent to thecrown@redeemer.ca and must include the name and contact information of the writer, although we may print anonymously by special request. Works submitted as letters will be edited for clarity and length only.

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

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The Student Senate Budget: Why All the Cuts?

NICO THIESSEN, ALEXANDRA WOUDA
AND DANICA THOMSEN

This year's Student Senate budget allocations have sparked interest in the student body, so we would like to take this opportunity to address some of your concerns and questions.

As you may know, Student Senate had a reduced budget this year to work with because of the financial impact of decreased enrolment. Although our budget was smaller than anticipated, we still fund clubs and activities in the Redeemer community, from Church in the Box, to The Crown, all the way to Knitters Anonymous. In order for Senate to maintain a balanced budget while funding clubs, significant cuts had to be made for clubs and for Student Senate activities.

We asked clubs to work with as small of a budget as possible, and about 25% was cut from each club's budget proposal as a result. For example, unless it was essential to the group, each club's refreshment and snack budget requests were cut entirely. We also asked some clubs to have a higher fee for members to join. We did our best to remain consistent in what aspects of all budgets we cut and disperse funds fairly according to each club's needs.

The Student Senate budgets were no exception to cuts, either. The Spiritual Activities and Services Committee cut Fall Retreat entirely to reduce costs. Senate will also not be providing the three bursaries and awards we normally do.

The budgeting process was difficult for us and has required sacrifices from both clubs and Senate in order to use wisely your student fees while also honouring our promises from previous years.

It is important to note that this year's budget was not negatively affected by the increase in Senate fees to provide yearbooks to every student. The increase in Senate fees gave us just under \$23,000, which completely covered the cost of the yearbooks with a small surplus.

Senate ran a deficit last year because of a budgeting mistake, but that was covered by a loan we redeemed back from the University. Our decrease in available funds was due only to decreased enrolment.

Senate is remaining optimistic; we are doing our best to plan ahead for the future to protect the aspects of the Redeemer community that we love and contribute to. In planning ahead we are working with the Financial Services office of Redeemer to be conscious of enrolment projections for the coming years. We are also tracking the cost projections of clubs, activities, and services, making reductions where appropriate.

Student Senate is also finding ways to cut back to make itself more efficient. This year, we are having an audit performed on our organization, which may lead to combining four positions into two. We hope this audit and any changes made are honouring to the student body, because we are accountable to you.

We hope we have been able to answer your questions as to our situation and the decisions that have been made thus far. As we move forward in the year, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to stop by the Student Senate office or email Nico at senate@redeemer.ca.



2014-2015 Student Senate

A Quick Note To Readers

Redeemer is presently undergoing significant budget cuts and changes, as Dr. Krygsman in our last issue explained would need to be the case. We at The Crown want to respond wisely and well to these changes, and so we are waiting until the situation has stabilized before we open our pages to reporting and commenting on these issues. We would like to respect the fragility of the situation and will be discussing it further at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,
The Crown Staff

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Food Drive Part Two: Where It Goes

JUSTIN EISINGA
REPORTER

When most people think of neighbourhoods on the Hamilton Mountain, they don't necessarily associate them with increasing levels of poverty and food bank use. Those are associations most commonly made with the lower city, in neighbourhoods like Beasley or Barton Village. This common misconception, that poverty is a 'downtown problem,' is one that Neighbour 2 Neighbour knows all too well.

It's something Doug Farraway, Director of Development for the social service agency, is passionate about dispelling. " [In the past] the mountain was the destination. The mission was to get to the mountain. Open spaces, bigger lots, better air. That's changed, but the perception lingers," says Farraway. "The per capita poverty rate on Hamilton Mountain is 16%; the rate for the rest of the city is 18%. They're virtually the same!"

Each September, Redeemer students collect bags of food throughout the neighbourhood surrounding campus as a part of LAUNCH activities. This initiative began as a way for first year students to reach out to the community. The food that is collected is delivered right to the doors of Neighbour 2 Neighbour, replenishing the shelves during a season that most don't associate with higher levels of food bank use. According to Farraway, the 8,600 pounds of food that were collected by Redeemer students this year was an incredible gift.

"Poverty doesn't take a vacation," says Farraway. "In between [the major holidays] the demand doesn't go away." The major holidays Farraway is making reference to are Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter, which are the most popular times for people to get rid of surplus cans of soup and boxes of Kraft Dinner. September is especially important as families send their children back to school and are in need of food to prepare lunches and snacks. The reality is that Neighbour 2 Neighbour's community food programs are a central component to the work they do in preventing poverty in Hamilton Mountain neighbourhoods.

Founded in 1984, Neighbour 2 Neighbour was birthed out of a need for food services in Upper Hamilton. Originally housed in a storefront, the demand for services provided by the centre eventually necessitated a move to the current larger location in 1994. Executive Director Denise Arkell was brought on board to help expand and guide the centre to best serve the Hamilton Mountain community. Ever since, Neighbour 2 Neighbour has seen tremendous growth; the centre now boasts 11 equivalent full-time staff, and many new programs have developed over the years.

Although Neighbour 2 Neighbour offers a variety of services to those in need, including family services and educational support, a large portion of the centre's energy goes towards their Community Food Access Programs.

"It's all about bringing people together surrounding food," Arkell stated.

However, Arkell does not shy away from making it known that agencies like Neighbour 2 Neighbour shouldn't really exist. "Food banks are a short-term stop. They are not fixing anything until we find a way of really dealing with the preventative part. Unfortunately there's no cure for that we're going to be able to come up with."

Arkell believes policy changes that implement better

families they serve each and every day. They also want the surrounding community to join in, especially Redeemer students. In February, Neighbour 2 Neighbour is looking for student participation in Coldest Night of the Year, a walk-a-thon that raised significant funds when it took place for the first time earlier this year. Both directors would also love to see students engage on a whole other level: spending a night sleeping outside as a part of their annual Sleep Out for Hunger event. This event doubles as a fundraising opportunity and an educational experience.



Denise Arkell (Executive Director) and Doug Farraway (Director of Development) from Neighbour to Neighbour Centre

wages are key to addressing poverty and issues around food security. "Let's not beat around the bush here, the issue of poverty is income," says Arkell. "Until incomes are changed, agencies like Neighbour 2 Neighbour will be around."

At the end of the day, Arkell has been tasked with leading an organization that is on the forefront of poverty prevention in the City of Hamilton. Finding innovative ways to address these problems is something she is good at, and the development of Neighbour 2 Neighbour over the years is evidence of that.

Denise and Doug want what's best for the individuals and

Ultimately, however, what Arkell and Farraway would love to see are students engaging in their community by giving of their time. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and serve Neighbour 2 Neighbour and the people they serve. Food is always streaming into the centre that needs to be sorted, there are kids that need to be tutored after school and the community gardens could always use some care. To foster a habit of giving back, not just with our money but also with our time, is something that should never be delayed. Contrary to what our culture tells us, time is a gift far more valuable than money could ever purchase.

ASFA: Redeemer's Newest and First Female Science Club

CHELSEY HURST

It all began in a Chemistry lab.

Students were busy at their stations preparing for their presentations. In just a few minutes they would demonstrate to the rest of the class all of the knowledge they acquired over the past year of the chemical processes and interactions that take place at the molecular level.

Anticipations were high. Excitement and a sense of creativity filled the air. In less than 20 minutes the presentations would begin, and the sound of explosions would ring through your ears, colourful flames would dance before your eyes and elephant toothpaste would bubble up seemingly out of nowhere.

It was in this environment that the idea was born, and ASFA had its beginning.

We didn't plan to discuss it. No one came there that day with the idea percolating in their minds for some time

before then. It just . . . happened.

Like any great invention of times past, the moment was right, and we could all feel it. Well, by "all" I mean myself, Alanna Van Ommen, Alyssa Tuinstra, Ewuraesi Dwira, Sarah Veerman and my sister Jackie Hurst. Just the usual fab-six that could be caught hanging around a chem lab on a Friday afternoon from 2 to 5 PM.

But this day was different. The conversation inevitably got around to how great it was being in a science program here at Redeemer, and how great it was knowing so many other fantastic ladies in the science programs at Redeemer, and, finally, how amazing it would be if there was a place where all of the scientifically inclined ladies at the school could come together and have camaraderie and fellowship with each other.

In no time at all the rest fell into place, including an emblem, a secret symbol and, of course, a name. We knew the name had to be dynamic and something that would represent the magnitude and quirkiness of the idea.

There seemed, therefore, to be no better option than ASFA, The Association of Scientific Females Anonymous.

Eight months later, and here we are, an established club that meets once a month to have the very fellowship we aspired to from the start. We play games, eat cake and have scientific-themed fun together.

Officially, ASFA is a new science club on the roster at Redeemer. Unofficially, it is a place where ladies can depend on for a safe and stimulating environment where relationships can be formed and deepened throughout their time at Redeemer.

Now, we look forward to the future, and to what other amazing plans God might have for us to accomplish as a group.

If you have any questions about ASFA, or would like more information, email Chelsey at churst@redeemer.ca. Hope to see you there!

The Day Canada Remembered It Has an Army

CALEB BLACKWELL

In my 4 years of reserve service, I have never witnessed so much outright support for the Canadian military as I have since the Ottawa shooting. Before this, most conversations I had with anybody outside the military involved their personal opinion on Afghanistan, which was largely negative. The immediate reaction to the death of Cpl. Cirillo actually shocked me in light of past sentiments. The people of Hamilton built a monument made of flowers to this fallen soldier right in front of the Hamilton Armouries. There was overwhelming involvement from Canada in general when they brought Cirillo home along the highway of heroes. Everyone all of a sudden had sympathy and condolences to offer active members of the Forces, from classmates to intoxicated gentlemen on James Street at odd hours of the morning.

It all seemed a little sensationalist. And that concerns me.

Don't get me wrong, I am deeply pleased with the public's reaction. Every bit of support for Cirillo's family and his unit was fantastic. That being said, I am worried that everyone's staunch patriotism and appreciation that they displayed on the 24th of October, when people lined the streets to see Cirillo's motorcade, will fade into either complacency or the typical shade of disdain.

In my experience, part of the reason that people become unappreciative of military personnel is that they fail to understand the difference between decision makers and regular workers. Asking me to bring home the troops from Afghanistan while I'm waiting for my bus to go home after work is likely not the best forum for your comments on foreign policy changes. Why? I'm a corporal in the army reserve. My area of influence within the Canadian Forces is limited. Talking to me is like demanding that a cashier at Wal-Mart fix their company's policy on foreign labour because you disagree with the idea of sweatshops.

In my opinion, the key to this great outbreak of patriotism is the treatment of soldiers as individuals rather than part of the corporate structure. The people of Canada were exposed to an individual versus an establishment, and they beamed with pride at the service of the individual. People forgot about their personal stances on Afghanistan and F-35s, and they took the time to celebrate the service and life of an individual.

Reservists are people who give up their time to train for contingencies that scare them. Here in Hamilton, there is no contingent of regular force military members, which means that most of the soldiers you see have regular day jobs, or they go to school full time. I'm not saying that you should go up to them and thank them for their great sacrifice, but when you see a soldier, try to see their individual willingness to step into a conflict so that the citizens of Canada can continue a free and unharassed existence. You don't have to agree with the government's decisions to appreciate the sacrifice of an individual.

Religious Freedom in Focus: Political Science Students Engage with Ambassador Andrew Bennett

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER

On November 5th, students in Dr. Koyzis' class Political Science 121 put Dr. Andrew P.W. Bennett, Canada's Ambassador of Religious Freedom, on the hot seat during an open question and answer period. Below is a segment of that conversation, tapping into the realities of working to combat the violation of religious freedom overseas.

POL-121: Tell us a little bit about how you were appointed to the position you have.

Dr. Bennett: This position is a new position, having been created only last year by the government. I was working as a public servant at Natural Resources Canada. It was in that position that I was approached by Minister Baird, Canada's foreign Minister, to see if I would take on this appointment. The office and I exist by virtue of a cabinet decision.

There was a need, they felt, to establish this new office within the department of foreign affairs due to the increase of violation of religious freedom in the world. I serve at the pleasure of the cabinet for a period of three years. I am not a partisan player; I am not involved in a particular political office in Ottawa; in fact, the office itself is embedded within public service.

POL-121: When the current government leaves office, as all governments do, will your position still exist?

Dr. Bennett: Well, I hope so! There is certainly a need that for it, given the state of the world and the increasing level of persecution of people of faith. Again, under the Canadian system, no cabinet and no parliament can bind a successor parliament or cabinet, so I would hope that the office would stay in some form.

What's interesting is that there will be a general election before my term ends, so we'll see what happens in that election, and what might come about as a result of it.

POL-121: The United States has had such an Ambassador for much longer than Canada. We all know very well that the United States is more powerful than Canada. When you hear about Christians being beheaded in Iraq and Syria, for example, what can Canada do to try and rectify that situation? Or are we limited simply to raising awareness?

Dr. Bennett: That is an interesting point of comparison. The big difference is that in the American system, typically, new bodies within government are created by statute – by law emerging from congress.

Both the Office of International Religious Freedom and the Commission put out annual reports. This report takes direct aim at those countries that are violating religious freedom. They've essentially developed a type of category called "Countries of Particular Concern" and then will list countries within this category of CPC.

The Canadian approach tends to be one of encourag-

ing dialogue, trying to work at a grassroots level within civil society, and building up awareness of the root causes behind religious persecution. We try to engage governments where we can – those governments that we can talk to – in a positive way, to encourage them to correct the problems within their society around religious persecution.

This doesn't mean that we don't take a stand against countries that are blatantly abusing religious freedom or people's rights, we will speak out forcefully in that case, but we also want to try and have a dialogue so we can move things along.

I'm certainly not naive to think that we can change things overnight. In many cases, what we're talking about is multigenerational change. Canada engages through advocacy, policy, activities and programming; we have a budget of about 2.5 million to spend on projects that we hope will get to some of the core issues behind violation of religious freedoms.

In the U.S. there's less emphasis placed on the project and the programming element – we tend to place a heavier emphasis on that. We tend to build upon Canada's sort of "honest broker" reputation. We also work through the United Nations; there's a whole U.N process in terms of defending religious freedom.

POL-121: What are we doing about the ISIS massacres that are taking place?

Dr. Bennett: Obviously the situation there is very grave, in the barbaric persecutions we're seeing of not only religious minorities but also Sunnis and Shias who disagree with ISIL. There are a number of ways in which the government is responding, but the immediate need is humanitarian assistance. There's a very large number of internally displaced people within both Iraq and Syria who need shelter, food and medical care – these are the immediate actions that are being taken by our colleagues within the development side. Then, there is the defense aspect, where department of national defense is supporting an ally's effort to combat ISIS.

Our office is focused very much on working with the communities that are being persecuted, especially those who are now in countries of migration. Principally Iraqi and Syrian Christians are leaving in droves, tending to go to countries such as Jordan and Lebanon. We're seeking to support them so they can maintain a presence in the region.

We're conscious that there are Christians that need to leave, and so we have, through citizen and immigration



Ambassador Bennett and Dr. Koyzis (Professor of POL-121)

Canada, a whole refugee resettlement program whereby these persecuted Christians and others can come to Canada and find refuge. The concern is that we don't want to empty the region of Christians, because if we're true about advancing the Canadian experience in pluralism, we have to support pluralism in other countries. Christians in these countries play a disproportionate role in terms of supporting educational institutions, hospitals and orphanages – they care for the Muslim populations.

I'd rather have a living, breathing, worshipping Iraqi Christian here in Canada, than dead in Iraq, but at the same time we see our office's role as ensuring that they can maintain a presence in that region, until such a time that they can go back.

POL-121: Do you have to be wary of your own Catholic views while in your position?

Dr. Bennett: We all come with a particular perspective, so I have to be careful of my bias towards Catholics. As a public servant I am responsible for dispersing public funds, in supporting my Minister, so I want to make sure that I'm balanced in that and not showing favouritism.

One interesting thing, as I've engaged religious communities in Canada, is that when they first meet me they don't know me from Adam, right? They just know me as an Ambassador and academic civil servant. But, without exception, whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Jews or Bahá'ís, when we begin the conversation and they find out I am a faithful Christian, all the barriers come down! We then engage in a very deep way, because they would see that "Ah, this guy is actually faithful. We have different theologies, but he kind of gets us." We can actually talk, not only about religious freedom, but also about faith. That has been tremendously beneficial in helping me to do my work.

Tension and Transformation: The Themes Fuelling Redeemer’s Upcoming Art Show



Part of Alicia Hampton’s piece based on John 12:1-8



Chrisy Hurn’s “The Paradox of the Table”



Rebecca Vink’s “Tarnished Portraits”

ELISE ARSENAULT
REPORTER

Beer bottles are emptied, glass is stained and a halo is secured about the ears of one sketched goat. Art students Chrisy Hurn, Alicia Hampton and Rebecca Vink finalize the art series to be featured at Redeemer’s showcase in December. I spoke with Chrisy and Alicia last week, hearing firsthand about the muses, media and heart behind their creations.

Chrisy Hurn’s series, The Paradox of the Table, derives from Matthew 25:32-33. “Jesus separated the goats from the sheep,” she explains, “it is through these pieces that I am asking myself ‘am I a goat or a sheep?’” Having sculpted, drawn, painted, cut and pasted her response to this question, Chrisy admits its introspective nature but stresses its relevance to believers as a community: “We all have our sins and struggles; we all have the stuff that we suck at, but Christ still calls us to meet together as a body, to drink the blood and eat the bread together and remember what Christ has done for us.”

She contemplates this perpetual conflict, found in ourselves and in Christians as a body: “It is about the paradox and the tensions within my own Christian faith, but also those arising from being broken people and living in a community with other broken people.”

After unpacking this theme for a year or so, Chrisy sees its potential to resonate with everyone. “We have all dealt with these questions in one way or another. My hope is for people to connect with that experience, recognize those questions within themselves, and take them home.”

Lastly, Chrisy mentions two things. The first, a shout-out to her friend Nabi Bersche, who will be performing that evening. The second, a reminder to not only question the art but also enjoy it. “I also just want people to like the art, and to appreciate the aesthetics of it!” she says, “because, in the beginning, my love for art came from the perspective of loving art for art’s sake.”

Rebecca Vink’s Tarnished Portraits makes use of old and corroded pieces of jewelry, wire and chain to form the features and contours of faces. Tarnished bits are used to symbolize a union between our past and present. “Our past can be something we tend to run away from, for we are often ashamed or resentful of it,” says Rebecca, “we are embarrassed to have it show us battered and bleeding – something we’d rather hide from.” We are not to fear our own vulnerability, for “there is something beautiful about exposing ourselves, laying in brokenness, because somehow we get back up.”

Where wire meets canvas, mess meets masterpiece in this powerful series. It’s in the colliding of past and present, Rebecca believes, that our character is built strongest. “It is our tarnished past that helps piece us together into our present selves. Our past has a purpose: to bring both inspiration and knowledge.”

Alicia Hampton’s four art pieces are based on John 12:1-8. In this passage, a dinner is held in honour of Jesus, and Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with expensive perfume. This action becomes more profound upon realizing that, as Alicia says, “in order to open and to pour from the jar, you first have to break the top off.” Alicia interprets this symbol in light of walking in faith, saying, “as Christians we encounter suffering and brokenness, but we have to be broken in order to let our colour out and bless people around us.”

With emphasis on our becoming new creations in Christ, Alicia’s four pieces carry the viewer through a transformation they are to bear in fear and wonder. Sculpture and stained glass are her mediums for this story, beginning with the depiction of humans as self-focused. Seasons come when we think we are perfect. We hold our colours within us, and so we’re unable to pour into one another’s lives. Then, with excitement in her voice, she says that when we are “cracked open, vulnerable, we can then be rebuilt and refilled with the Holy Spirit. Pure joy is said to come when we are changed, for then we are able to pour our colourful blessings unto others.”

When asked with what thought her viewers should be left, Alicia’s words come with sincerity: “Sometimes, fear of suffering and brokenness hinders us from blessing others. But it can be a gift; God allows us to be broken in order to heal us from it and further His kingdom through it.”

I hope this picking-of-the-artistic-brain stirs a curiosity that brings you to the exhibition, which is held in Redeemer’s Art Gallery on December 6th. It is also with said hope that I leave the mention of beer bottles, glass and goats unexplained, for I entrust you with their interpretation. Let us, then, “appreciate art for art’s sake” while still pondering the skill and creativity with which our own lives have been shaped.

Travel, Learn & Serve: Firsthand Stories From Service Trip Adventures

JUSTIN EISINGA
REPORTER

As Student Life prepares for several reading break trips during the 2014-2015 academic year, below are the reflections of three students who have attended a Reading Break trip in the past.

Alanah Palmer – Nashville, Tennessee

I had the opportunity to be a part of Redeemer's Service and Learning trip to Nashville, Tennessee. One of the highlights of my trip was the Music City Roots radio broadcast that we attended at the Loveless Café. We heard different bands from the South in styles ranging from bluegrass to folk. It was refreshing to hear a collection of the special music that has grown out of that area. It was a couple hours of great fun between the team and show hosts with their thickly accented banter.

I also enjoyed talking to a few recording artists and young people involved in the music world of Nashville, hearing about how they find the balance between faith and pop culture.

However, I think the most impactful part for me was visiting a group of Nashville residents called People Loving Nashville. Their mission is to cook meals for about 150 people on a weekly basis, as well as supply basic necessities such as clothing, toiletries and towels. We joined them one evening to help cook up and serve chicken fajitas and conversation. I wrote in my journal afterward: "I am not always a fan of street ministry etc., but I like how People Loving Nashville does it. It's a weekly event, so there is a level of support, as well as relationship. They interact with those they're serving and strive to make them feel like individuals, not just another body in another line. The people I served by handing out clothing were all so thankful and generous. THEY'RE HUMANS TOO! I helped several sweet ladies pick out hats that they liked, chatted with one guy about Canada, Justin Bieber and Miley, and I laughed a lot."

Anthony Ramuscak – Hamilton, Ontario

When we turn on the evening news, often we hear of a shooting in downtown Hamilton or other dangerous acts like these, and from stories such like this one you may feel hesitant of venturing the streets at night.

Last year during reading week I had the opportunity to go on the Hamilton Mission Trip. My initial interest for going was one of curiosity, wanting to be with friends and avoid sitting around the house all week procrastinating on work – I think you know what I mean. Even though my reasons were not really set on doing God's work, I quickly felt the need to do it.

God opened my eyes and my heart drastically; one day our group was going to Homestead to help them out for the afternoon. Mark DeVos gave my friend and I simple directions where to get the bus if we got separated from the group. We followed the directions but missed one detail and got lost for three hours downtown in the cold, wandering around. I felt that God used that moment to show me something, but more importantly to help open my heart to His desire not my own. My friend and I eventually found where we went wrong and got on the bus to meet up with the rest of the group, but that moment I will never forget.

A highlight of the trip was getting to know others and interacting with strangers, men and women, young and old, talking to them about God and worshiping together.

Danae Montgomery – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Last year I attended the Philadelphia Service and Learning trip that Redeemer ran, and it was one that I will honestly never forget. It probably sounds so cliché to say that I expected to go there and change people when really it changed me, but that's the truth.

In Philly I got up close and personal with poverty and the many different faces that it has, many that I did not expect. Truth be told, poverty makes people uncomfortable, especially when it isn't something that necessarily affects you in such a direct way. However, Philly afforded me the opportunity to cross social barriers and begin to understand just how real that struggle is and how much needs to be done to resolve this very real issue. One of our first days there, we were each given a dollar and told that this was all we had to provide a lunch for ourselves. I will never forget running into people who asked me for money and when they saw that I was in the same situation as them, even temporarily, there wasn't the slightest hesitation to tell me where I could find a cheap meal that was

close by and a warm place to eat it in. More strikingly was the opportunity to sit on the sidewalk and eat lunch with a man whose luck had very much run out. Even though he barely had any for himself he repeatedly offered us his own food, ready to give up his entire meal just to try and feed us.

I will never forget the people of Philly nor how selfless and giving they were despite their circumstances. It has given me a new appreciation for all that I have, and it has loosened my grip on material things as my perception and understanding of value has forever changed.

If one of these short reflections has sparked a curiosity in you, learn more about the three trips that Student Life is planning this year. We are planning trips to Montreal, Detroit and Hamilton. Come by Student Life and chat with Micah van Dijk for more information or visit www.redeemer.ca/csl to apply. Below are descriptions of each trip.

Montreal: The historic city of Montreal is the centre for French-language Canadian popular culture and host to many famous festivals and venues. During the trip we will be engaging in conversation with creators and experiencing their creations. Questions around faith and culture will be practically explored. This trip is also an excellent opportunity for students to practice their French-language skills, though a working knowledge of French is not necessary to attend.

Detroit: This city has been in the news quite a bit recently as it struggles through bankruptcy. Citizens are migrating out of the city creating significant challenges for the remaining population. This trip will be partnering with Center for Student Mission (CSM) in serving in Detroit and learning about the unique challenges currently found as well as the creative solutions being implemented.

Hamilton: Hamilton has become one of Canada's most up-and-coming cities over the past few years. This has not always been the case. Traditionally, the reputation of Hamilton has been of a working-class city full of poverty and social problems. As the reputation of Hamilton changes on a national scale, learn how the citizens of Hamilton are facing new challenges of gentrification, rising housing costs, and many of the similar social issues they faced in the past.



Redeemer Service Learning Trip to Nashville, Tennessee

When Feedback Fails: It’s Course Evaluation Season

DR. BEN FABER
REPORTER

This is a plea for students to take course evaluations seriously.

The three people most deeply invested in the evaluations are your professor, his or her dean and yourself. Your professors rely on your feedback for their growth as effective teachers. They want to hear from you what works well and what doesn’t work well, how they can improve and what would enhance students’ engagement in the course.

Professors want your input on course content and delivery. Should they challenge students more? Should they ease up? They want to know what they can do to help students achieve the learning outcomes in the course. Sometimes professors will get comments — both serious and silly — about their appearance, their personality and even their gender. Not very helpful; sometimes very hurtful. Just remember that your professors are counting on you to help them develop as teachers.

The deans are the supervisors of your faculty. As academic administrators, they have to ensure that programs meet the stated outcomes. But they also are the encouragers of your professors in their professional development. They need your evaluation of courses with faculty for whom they are responsible.

At the end of every academic year, each full-time faculty member sits down with his or her dean to review the past year and to make plans for the next year. Teaching is one of three key areas that faculty and their deans discuss at this year-end interview. You should know that the deans read the results of all the course evaluations — every word. Faculty and their deans make decisions about their professional development with input from several sources, especially your course evaluations. Just remember that your deans are counting on you to help them encourage

their faculty as teachers.

Students are as important as instructors in the evaluation process. Yes, the evaluation is an exit survey of sorts. But future students — your peers, dorm mates, siblings — will eventually also take these courses; your responses and comments will impact the quality of their learning experience. Letting your professor know what you found meaningful in the course ensures that students after you will enjoy the same. Your evaluation is not just about this past semester; your evaluation will shape the course and the professor in the future. Just remember that both your fellow students and your own future self are counting on you to keep courses challenging, rewarding, useful, engaging and fulfilling.

Above all, you owe it to yourself to take course evaluation seriously. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on what you have learned, how you have learned it and how you have been shaped as a student. It’s called “Evaluation of Instruction,” but you could also think of it as your “Evaluation of Learning.” When you’re asked to rate the professor in some area of instruction, ask yourself how you would rate in that area. For instance, one question asks about how prepared the professor was for each class. How prepared were you for class? Did your level of preparedness, good or bad, make a difference to your learning? Another question asks about integration of Christian perspective with teaching. Did you work hard at connecting your faith with your learning? Before you respond to the question about the professor’s availability, ask yourself: “How available was I to help my classmates?”



Dr. Benne Faber is an assistant professor in the English department. Some of the classes he teaches are: Introduction to Poetry and Drama, The British Novel and History of Literary Criticism.

This semester, I challenge you to consider the questions of the evaluation form in relation to yourself, your learning and your contribution to the course.

Before you write a comment or fill in a bubble on the Scantron sheet, think about your professor and his or her dean who will be reading it. And think about your own learning style, personal preferences, likes, and dislikes. Perhaps put them aside and give yourself a little evaluation first. Now that would be taking course evaluation very seriously, indeed.

Prophet or Profit: How Business Students Can Be a Light in the Overlap of Faith and the Firm

NICOLLE KATZ
CROWN STAFF

Who are we?

We are The Harvey Specters of this school. Truth be told, we like to flaunt our assets. We’re the ones headed to class dressed to the nines, coffee mugs in hand, and yes we’ll take a refill – even after 4 PM. If you search for us, you will usually find us huddled around the front library tables by day and attending 1 (or 2 ... or 3) evening classes by night. We speak in revenues and dollar figures, often expressing ourselves in a good spreadsheet or a very tasteful graph. We are the Redeemer Biz Kids.

There is nothing simple about being a Christian in the secular business environment. For students, the path beyond graduation seems ominous, as the business world is portrayed as cutthroat and hostile, with constant deadlines to be met, figures to be reported and promotions to be achieved. Consumerism is glorified and profit is god. Christians find themselves in ethically compromising circumstances where they are faced with morally testing questions: Should I throw my co-workers under the bus to get ahead? Should I manipulate this information? Should I stay quiet even though I know this is wrong? But despite these challenges, Redeemer’s business students intend to use ethics to glorify God through their careers and be a light to the confusing overlap of business and faith.

To 4th year Patricia Verbeek, being a Christian in business means “knowing when to not fall into society’s pressures in business – not just going along with what the competition and other high heads are doing.”

“Being a Christian is my first and foremost profession; what I do to earn money will facilitate that calling” explains Jackie Hurst, a 4th year management student. Jackie is one of many students who believe that being in business is a vocation.

Jackie reflects on the importance of honesty at the work-

place. “Management doesn’t blink at white lies or conflicts of interest – that’s the environment. But you, as a Christian, just can’t compromise.”

Personally, I’ve often been asked why I left Ryerson, forfeiting a Bachelor of Commerce degree to seek out a Bachelor of Arts in Business at a small community-centered school in the mountains. But, as I tell numerous of individuals, the switch was more than worthwhile. I have been so encouraged by the many formative discussions I have had with professors and peers who have been similarly challenged by being an image bearer of Christ through their work. Many of my colleagues have experienced the value of the Christian business community at Redeemer.

4th year Jessica Prins reveals the benefit of having Christian business peers: “At Redeemer, I am surrounded by people that have the same ideas as I do. I don’t feel out of place when I want to do the right thing. The ultimate goal for us business students is that we want to be lights in the business world even though it is not a typically Christian environment. Even when I graduate, I am glad to have the support of others who feel the same as me.”

The students also explained that the business professors at Redeemer have had a hand in inspiring and shaping the businessperson of faith they aspire to be. For this, Jackie said, “I’m not too sure what God wants me to do exactly, but it’s great to be encouraged by Professor Busuttill who also believes that God has a plan for me and it’s okay not to know right now.

So, what is faith in the firm? It’s integrity, honesty, bravery, prayer, and mission in the workplace; it means staying humble and being an example for those we work with and those we work for. It is being a steward over the resources we manage. It means having a servant heart and being diligent in our activities. Ultimately, it is a calling to advance the Kingdom wherever we work, every single day. We are sure that being a Christian in business will bring about many obstacles, but, as my peers will tell you, we are up for the challenge and embrace the opportunity.



Harvey Specter of the TV program “Suits”

Film in Review: Interstellar

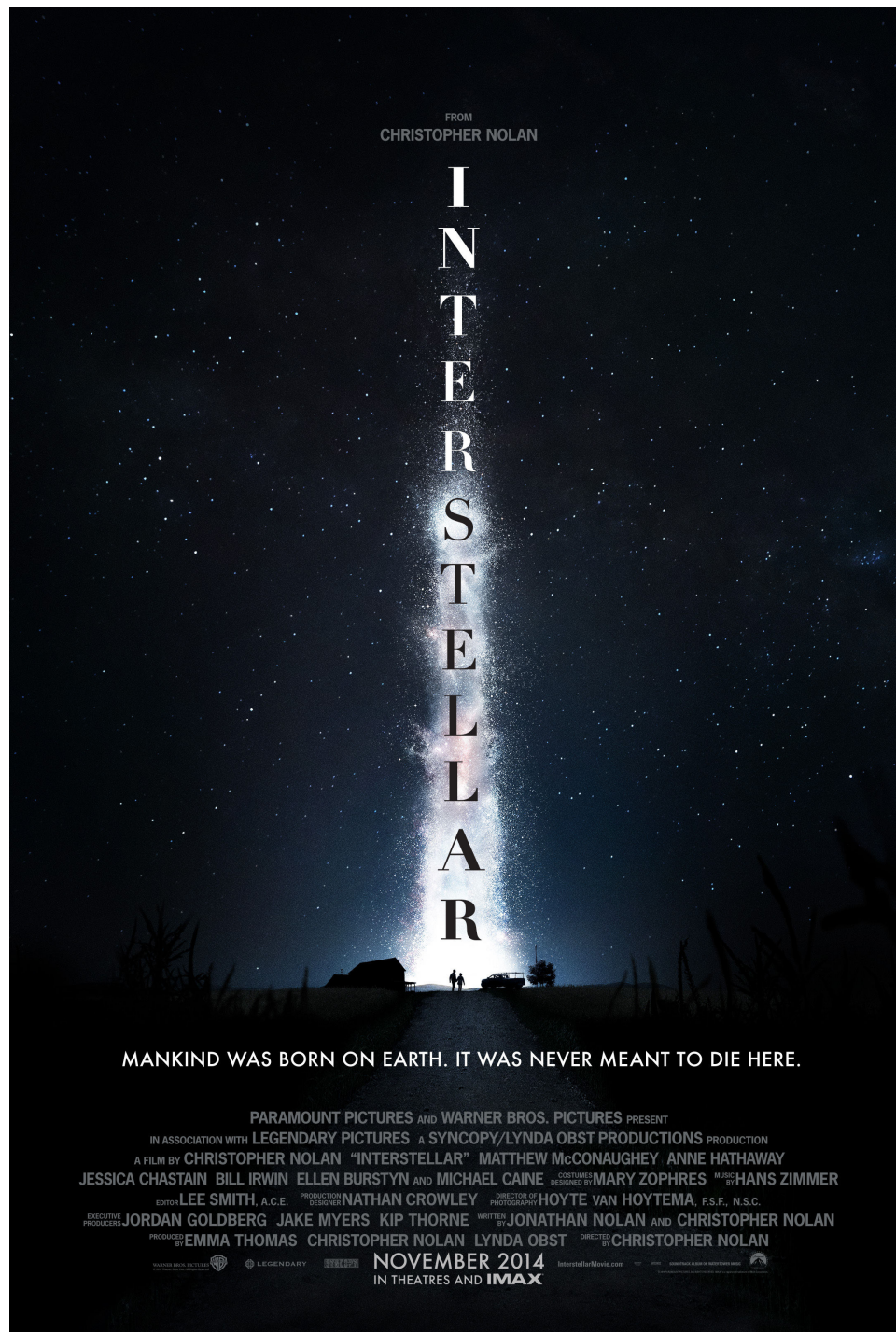
RYAN VAN TIL
CROWN STAFF

Several weeks ago, after re-watching 2001: A Space Odyssey with some friends, I wondered “would people enjoy this if it were released today?” In case you’re unfamiliar with 2001 (you might at least know it from parodies in South Park or The Simpsons), the film is a high-concept sci-fi movie from the 1960s; 2001 has cemented itself as a classic for both its unique visual effects and its mind-bendingly ambiguous story. The story has little to no character development or plot, satisfied instead with long, uncut shots of space with classical music caterwauling in the background. In short, it’s the opposite of the flashy, action-packed blockbusters of the 21st century, which prompted my question.

Why is 2001 relevant to this year’s Interstellar? Interstellar answered my question in spectacular fashion: people still will pay to see a movie like 2001 (as box office results have shown) and enjoy it (as reviews and reactions show).

Like 2001, Interstellar tells the story of a space expedition exploring an anomaly. In the case of Interstellar, the anomaly has the potential to save humanity from a deteriorating earth. The widowed father Cooper (Matthew McConaughey), an ex-NASA pilot forced to become a farmer due to a resource shortage on earth, is given the choice between following his old love (space exploration) to find a new habitable planet or his new love (what’s left of his family).

Many critics have accused Interstellar’s director Christopher Nolan (Inception, The Dark Knight) of being a cerebral storyteller. And while Nolan’s Interstellar still focuses on the intellectual rather than the emotional, this time his style works. For Interstellar, he has a reason for his method; in an interview with Entertainment Weekly, he said that the film was about the overall “experience” of watching. And an experience it is.



Despite being stuffed with expository scientific dialogue, the film works. Nolan takes full advantage of the “other-worldly” in creating a new galaxy, showing the viewer unique planets – such as a water-based planet or a black hole – without getting silly or over-imaginative. Unlike Inception, which had literally limitless potential for visual creativity go to waste, the science-heavy Interstellar benefits from Nolan’s realistic and intellectual style.

The cast, mostly a ragtag bunch of now-Nolan-regulars (Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway) as well as some newcomers (McConaughey, Jessica Chastain) do fine work, though all are light years away from grabbing Oscar nods for their performances.

Nolan also draws influence from the Breaking Bad style of POV camera work, which works well for the movie; at times the film seems like footage stolen from a NASA probe. Hans Zimmer’s organ-based soundtrack is also excellent, though at times it blares so loudly that it overpowers the dialogue. The film’s one major flaw is its transitions. Late in the movie, the story cuts back and forth between Cooper in space and his daughter on earth; the mundane earth scenes seem like a chore to get through compared to the excitement of watching a space voyage. It’s jarring and takes away from the “experience” that Nolan’s representation of space gives the viewer.

Interstellar isn’t a movie for everyone. If you enjoy a faster, easily understood plot, then this probably isn’t the Friday night popcorn fun you crave. But for those who enjoy a well-made and ambitious movie, for those who crave a film “experience” (like 2001: A Space Odyssey), it’s definitely worth the time and ticket price.

Theatre in Review: “Harvey” Hits Redeemer’s Stage

DAVID FEDDEMA

The goal of Mary Chase’s Harvey, written in 1944, was to alleviate some of the wartime grief of the period through comedy. Director Dennis Curley nicely emphasized that history in the programme for Redeemer’s production.

Redeemer’s production of the play worked to rediscover this conventional form of theatre, rather than interfere with the play’s comedic elements by injecting foreign artistic choices. It is the focus on the play’s original intent, as well as splendid performances by the cast, that made Harvey an enjoyable experience.

The play opens with a dinner social where Veta Simmons and her daughter Myrtle Mae discuss dignity and unrealized social life. The audience is then introduced to Veta’s brother Elwood P. Dowd, a man of significant peculiarity whose oddness is revealed to be sourced by a friendship with an “imaginary” six foot, three-and-one-half inch pooka named Harvey. Since no one but Elwood is privy to the presence of Harvey, they cause commotion and

embarrassment as family and doctors attempt to admit Elwood into a sanatorium.

Rediscovering the original comedic intent of this play did not produce many unique staging or technical choices; rather, it was geared towards creating a neutral set where the actors could dominate. The functionality of the set recognized this goal with practical simplicity. The walls themselves were painted in hues of green and brown, and the doors were kept solid brown. Upon the walls were few decorations: only a painting, a fireplace, a bookshelf and a window cut into the furthest wall. Nothing could steal one’s attention away from the action of the comedy. Unfortunately, in my opinion, there was little about the set that helped to support the actors’ performances. It was an unassuming set that neither excited nor bored; rather, it was simply the environment for the action.

The play itself was characterized by the splendid performance by many of the cast. Filled with smaller roles that were executed well, the ensemble as a whole performed strongly. There were plenty of moments within “Chumley’s Rest” where ensemble members scooted through the

back corridor as though they were loose patients, causing hilarious disturbances. This directorial choice was aided by retracting any serious tone, and it kept the action light and on its feet.

Despite having been born of good intentions and often working effectively, there were, however, times when this device seemed like unplanned interruptions. It made one think to compromise the quality of Chumley’s Rest, which is made explicitly known in the play. Though an interesting and humorous choice, this element felt too unpredictable.

Three of the notable performances were from Aaron Wilkinson, Jordan Guetter and Catherine McGeorge who played Elwood P. Dowd, Dr. Chumley and Veta Simmons respectively. Though these three were definitely not the only noteworthy performers, they brought a defined focus and pacing to the plot. Each actor brought a cleverly different element of comedy to the stage and complimented the other performers with it. The difference between a good performance and a great one is that a great one improves other actors’ performances as opposed to “stealing the show.” With energy fully charged, there were few dull moments on the stage.

Whether the play was being serious, exasperated, polite or pleasant, the audience relished the interaction between these characters. The moments of quick exchange were clear, which helped audience keep up with the plot. The actors made strong choices in voice and use of stage that made for an entertaining and fun experience.

Harvey was certainly enjoyable. Seeing the hard work that the crew had done come to fruition was a joy to watch. It made me proud to be able to watch the product of months of practice and smile and laugh.



What Will Your Final Thesis Say?

TRISTAN PERSAUD

In the coming months, many of us will open the doors of Redeemer, walk through the halls and sit in the auditorium for the last time as a student. When we do this, it will be as alumni. Our time here will have come to an end – like a beautifully messy, yet well-intentioned, essay.

Our introduction, being our first year here, outlined what we hoped to accomplish during our journey at Redeemer. Our introduction addressed taking those initial steps in the process of working out big questions like “who am I?”, “what do I believe?”, “where am I going?” and “what should I do with my life?”. During our middle years – the time where we do much of the academic research – we wrestled with these questions and formed some sort of trajectory as we proceeded to our inevitable conclusion. Finally, we arrive in our last year – still alive, still wrestling with the same questions, not necessarily having come to an answer (if you have, let me know) – having certainly a matured understanding of the questions on our mind.

Then it’s all over. We exit this chapter in our lives for the next season/adventure/step in life with our final paper in hand, a document that presents the final thesis of our time

here. It represents all that we picked up and took with us, but also all that we left behind and dropped along the way – for better or for worse.

Everything in this world leaves a mark, whether big or small, on everything it interacts with. From the wind that sweeps across the sands of a desert to the hands of a potter, everything is continually shaping and being shaped by all that it interacts with on some level. It’s like the “Butterfly Effect” where a tiny drop in water leads to bigger and bigger ripples across the surface. The way I like to best visualize it is that everything tans you.

Everything is constantly radiating and consuming light, tanning and being tanned; everything is left different than how it was before. Some light can be a positive change, enriching its subject; some can be a negative change, burning and disfiguring the subject’s true identity. Soren Kierkegaard put it in a similar way in The Sickness Unto Death: “sin is: in despair not wanting to be oneself before God . . . Faith is: that the self in being itself and wanting to be itself is grounded transparently in God.”

For those who fellowship with the Light, it would seem appropriate to see ourselves as vessels, our complexion being a reflection of a life spent soaking in the radiance

of the Son who fills us with the means to go out into this world. With this, we shine the same light wherever we go, leaving marks along the way – ichthys, if you will – that identify our time spent there with a greater purpose for our lives, drawing everything we interact with back into fellowship with this Light. As free vessels, we also have the choice of filling ourselves with all sorts of darkness, all also radiating light, but a light that disfigures and destroys rather than that which enriches. Just as we pick up and fill ourselves with things that enrich, so can we pick up and fill ourselves with things that will destroy; but just as we fill, so can we also empty and remove those things that don’t bear Light.

Your life does not end when you leave Redeemer; it goes on to another chapter in the overall story that is your life. But an important chapter in your life does end, and what will the synopsis say? Were you burned more times than you were enriched? Did you burn more times than you enriched?

The essay isn’t finished yet. There’s still time to edit. There’s still time to write.

What will your final thesis say?



Learning to Live Alone After Life on Campus

JUSTIN EISINGA
REPORTER

Living alone in your own space is something of a novelty. It is exciting, of course, especially after several years of sharing a bedroom with another person and making do with small spaces shared between a group of friends. However, the novelty does eventually wear off. After a few weeks of enjoying my own space by blasting music, staying up late, and leaving the lights on, it dawned on me that I was truly, actually, completely alone.

I share a house with a married couple. I live in the attic, a finished space with broken radiators and wood floors that appear to smile at me as the late autumn snow falls outside the window. I spend a lot of time looking out at the park beside our house, as kids run from their parents’ arms towards the nearby schoolyard and squirrels scurry between trees and my windowsill. As I sit in my chair looking out the window, I find myself reflecting and spending more and more time with no one else but myself. To be honest, I’ve come to the realization that I never really spent much time in this reflective mode over the past several years. I’m beginning to recognize how valuable it really is.

Coinciding with my increased time spent alone, I also made the decision to deactivate my Facebook account. On top of this, I’ve been writing more than ever before, altogether a consequence of fourth-year studies and my job with the student newspaper, but also a result of my newfound isolation. In all of this, I’ve been making a conscious effort at reducing the seemingly endless amount of voices that seem to be streaming into my brain at break-neck speed. What I’m only just beginning to uncover is the

value found in solitude and the necessity for contemplation.

Perhaps it is a bit premature for me to be providing commentary and advice on aspects of life I am only just beginning to settle into. Perhaps I should be writing this column for you at the end of the school year, after I’ve fully learned my lessons and have an incredible piece of wisdom to share. If you’re anything like me, though, you need to hear this in the midst of the storm that is the academic year (not that we are miserable, but maybe just a little tired). What I want to implore is simply this: do not neglect your soul, for it is your soul that you need to live out of.

It is nearly impossible to live fully out of your friendships. Trust me, I can attest to that. The people you surround yourself with are important, and you surely ought to invest in good relationships. However, they will never completely fulfill you, and they most certainly have power over you (often for good, sometimes negatively so). Likewise, it is also nearly impossible to live completely out of the things you love to do. Whether it is the sport you play well, the musical instrument(s) you excel at, or the opportunities for service that bring you great joy, those things you do with your time are not there to complete you or for you to find all your meaning out of.

Now, don’t read me incorrectly; these are all good things, not evil and certainly not inherently wrong. Friendships are fulfilling and sports are enriching activities. But deep down in the depths of your soul, in the places of your being only you can explore, they shouldn’t be what defines you.

To spend time in solitude and silence is to care for your

soul. In making efforts to do so, we begin to learn about ourselves and about the living God in ways we cannot learn when we are around our friends or engaging in activities, even if we were created for these purposes. It is in solitude that the mask of our soul is peeled off and the walls we have built around it come down. Often, when this takes place, we feel a deep loneliness and our gut reaction is to run away. In a world of many voices, with Facebook, Instagram and iMessage lighting up our phones, loneliness is the last thing we ever need to feel. However, it is only by pushing through this loneliness that we come into the still and quiet solitary clearing.

Henri Nouwen, a late Catholic priest, writer, and incredibly wise man of God, once wrote: “to live a spiritual life we must first find the courage to enter into the desert of our loneliness and to change it by gentle and persistent efforts into a garden of solitude.” As I write this, I am in this desert. It is a difficult and painful place to be, as I recognize my inequities and faults and the lies that I have been telling myself for too many years. But I smell a spring rain coming, and a garden is being prepared for lush growth.

My fellow students, we all are on different spiritual journeys, but if this resonates within you, heed the call. I wish I had taken better care of my soul when I lived on campus. Do not neglect the importance of seeking time away from the noise and into the quiet places of your heart. Be strong when you face the loneliness that rests within you and walk the path towards a rich and vibrant spiritual life. As Nouwen puts it, embark on the journey of a deeply spiritual life and join the “movement from the restless senses to the restful spirit, from the outward-reaching cravings to the inward-reaching search, from the fearful clinging to the fearless play.”

THE BLOG POST

Writing creatively and somewhat abstractly is something that does not always fit into the mould of journalistic writing. We have created “The Blog Post” to allow students who enjoy writing more freely to showcase their blogs, allow people to keep up with these blogs and provide small excerpts from them. Here are displayed some of the insights from your fellow students. Be sure to check out their blogs.

Author: Tristan Persaud
Excerpt from: The Beginning
<http://tristangpersaud.wordpress.com>

When I was 17 years old I encountered Jesus, a figure I had heard about while growing up, someone I loosely believed in, but a savior I had never known. Ever since, that desire that C.S. Lewis spoke about, has been fed, not only satisfied, but continues to grow in me to the point where it overflows into this thing called praise, an awe in my vision, causing me to reroute my whole mentality on life’s purpose in order to align it with Him – my actions, my relationships, my career, you name it. I find myself up at this ungodly hour, almost crying at times as I ponder that age-old question “why?”, but instead this time with joy, having found the other side of it and the peace that surpasses all my understanding.

The other reason I am up is because I am writing to you. I’m writing about this so that I can tell you about the one thing which feeds all my hungers and gives new meaning to all my questions – He has made all the difference.

This is an exciting adventure that I am on, and I invite you to join me on it, whether it be for a short trek, or for the good fight.

Author: Carly Ververs
From: From Where I Stand
<http://yourloveismyjailbreak.blogspot.ca>

I spend so much time looking down
Down at my feet, down at the ground
So I don't trip when I walk
I spend so much time looking down
Down my nose at other people
Thanking God I'm not like the tax collector
I spend so much time looking down
Down at my self, down at my perceived imperfections
Wishing this and that were different
I spend so much time looking down
That I forget how blue the sky is
That I miss the wind whistling through the leaves
I spend so much time looking down
That I don't see the leaves change colour
That my back aches from being hunched over
I spend so much looking down
That my world becomes dull and grey
That the splashes of colour fade away
I spend too much looking down
It's time to start looking up
Start looking around, looking out
But mostly looking up

Author: Lana Burchell
Excerpt from: Earthly vs. Heavenly Father
<http://caramelsunrises.wordpress.com>

I have heard it said that the way you view your earthly father has a direct impact on how you view God. Think about that paternal relationship for a minute: was your father present in your childhood and into your adult life? Was he absent? How does that affect you now?

The truth is, no one is perfect, friend, not even us (hard to believe, I know). We all have people in our lives who will disappoint us, regardless of being present in a child’s life or not. I am by no means excusing or minimizing absentee fathers; I know that he has a lot to answer to God for. But this is not about him and what he did. This is about you. My granddad often said, “Bitterness and unforgiveness are like poisons you swallow and expect the other person to die.” Wise words, in my opinion.

Now, think about God. How do you view Him? Is he a grandfather-type, who sits up in clouds, not really caring too much about your life? He doesn’t interfere with things, except to give you a present every so often. Maybe He is vindictive? Does He sit up in heaven, waiting to pounce on you when you’ve done something wrong? Is there judgment and shame seething from his mouth? You could have a dozen notions of who God is.

Author: Rachel DeBruyn, Joy Mackay & Julisa Vandenburg
Excerpt from: Ginger Beer, Knitting, and a Huge Scarf
<http://twoandahalfgingers.weebly.com>

Last night, while doing homework, I was struck with an intense craving. I don't get cravings all that often, so I knew this was important: I needed ginger beer. Not to be confused with regular beer, it's like a better version of ginger ale. And because it tastes like ginger more than sugar, you don't feel as guilty drinking it! Actually, it's so ginger-ish it burns a little going down.

Anyways, I dragged along a couple friends and we drove around trying to find this stuff. We had success and, for the most part, avoided impulse-purchasing the other delicious things we happened upon.

Since ginger is really good for you, I also gave some to my sick roommate last night. She took one sip to oblige me, then gently reminded me that ginger aids digestion and she has a cold. At least I tried.

Author: Lauren Bell
Excerpt from: Life Giving Pain
<http://laurenbell0954.tumblr.com>

The idea that has been swimming through my mind all evening is “life giving pain.” I believe this was prompted through a blood drive that my school put on this week. Even though I did not meet the requirements to participate, it made me reflect on a similar experience from my past – the IV needle. I guess that this isn’t really associated with giving blood, but, to me, all procedures that involve a needle are about the same, and I have already talked about blood work in a prior post. IV needles make me think back to my latest major surgery, which was a procedure to help fix severe reflux when I was six. For some reason, two moments have stuck with me from this time, even 12 years later. One is the scent of the mask that put me to sleep – strawberry. The other is the IV that I woke up attached to. In my six-year-old mind, seeing the fluid dripping from the pump into my hand caused some mixed emotions. The pinprick that was secured into my small, thin hand caused pain, yet there was satisfaction with this pain, because each drip that entered into my body was going to make me feel better and help me recover. Thus, the idea of “life giving pain.”

As a now adult, I now ponder this on a much deeper level. In my last post I talked about why God allows bad things to happen to good people. I think that not only should humans expect suffering in this life, but they should also allow it to change and transform them. “We can’t do perfect, because that’s God’s job.” This new favorite quote of mine by Karen Kingsbury is true. If life on Earth were supposed to be perfect, there would be no need for a Heaven, or any sort of afterlife for that matter. Death, pain, and tragedy are imperfect, even evil concepts.

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Santa Claus is Coming to Town ... Way Too Soon!

RACHEL DEBRUYN
CROWN STAFF

There are two kinds of Christmas-lovers: those who let Christmas gently float in with the December snow . . . and those whose yards explode with inflatable reindeer and twinkling lights the moment they throw out their pumpkins.

When is too soon to start celebrating Christmas?

When November comes around, we hear people muttering about how Christmas comes sooner and sooner every year. Other people confess under their breath that they already brought out their Mariah Carey Christmas album. We complain that stores must have evil agendas to market more Christmas swag to us by bringing it out sooner.

But what’s wrong with starting sooner than the month of

“3.14 FOR STARTERS” By Holden Baker — Edited By Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Cautious and fearful
- 6 Workplace watchdog org.
- 10 Ritzy
- 14 Idolize
- 15 Flying stunt
- 16 "— Angel" (1933 Mae West film)
- 17 Captain Hook's "Jolly Roger," for one
- 19 Road to Damascus figure
- 20 Goddess of the dawn
- 21 Slangy switch addition
- 22 What ergs measure
- 24 Bobby, to Carol Brady
- 26 Chagall or Connelly
- 27 Sit, differently
- 28 Orlando's love in "As You Like It"
- 32 Small-eyed burrowers
- 35 Submarine captain's order
- 36 Bible's hairy twin
- 37 Jai follower
- 38 Ciphered
- 39 Objectives
- 40 Advertising element
- 41 Breaks new ground
- 42 Map surrounded by another
- 43 Questionable patent medicines
- 45 First name in pet detectives
- 46 Red-___ (franks)
- 47 It will help you get a leg up
- 51 --- Hart (lyricist with Richard Rodgers)
- 54 Elegantly stylish
- 55 Walk all over
- 56 Greek god of war
- 57 Gas stove feature
- 60 Mild's partner
- 61 Stratford's river
- 62 Glowing coal
- 63 Good wine quality
- 64 Fictional Mr.
- 65 "Heidi" author Johanna

DOWN

- 1 Nixon's undoing
- 2 Numbskull
- 3 Telegraph inventor
- 4 The Ithrite of 1 Chronicles 11:40
- 5 Is turned off by
- 6 "Maximus to Gloucester" poet Charles
- 7 London or NYC neighborhood
- 8 --- polloi
- 9 Mollified
- 10 Meerschaum user's need
- 11 Tent tycoon
- 12 Comfortable and cozy
- 13 Sacred
- 18 Cupid
- 23 Org. that sticks to its guns
- 25 Illusory promise
- 26 Chess actions
- 28 Taunts
- 29 Egyptian deity
- 30 "What's in a ---?" ("Romeo and Juliet")
- 31 Composition of some clouds
- 32 Author of "Death in Venice"
- 33 Cheap toast topper
- 34 Vietnam neighbor
- 35 Destines to a tragic fate
- 38 Audacity
- 42 Christmas eave decorations?
- 44 Director Howard
- 45 Busily working
- 47 Stood out in the crowd
- 48 Football's British relative
- 49 Groomsman, at times
- 50 --- dish (lab item)
- 51 Mary's pet
- 52 Nabisco goodie
- 53 English horn part
- 54 Doofus
- 58 It could be poison
- 59 Young rascal

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December? My personal preference is to contain Christmas to one month, to avoid drawing it out too much. Besides, I can only listen to “Baby It’s Cold Outside” so many times per year before I snap.

Here at Redeemer my dorm is celebrating already because we’ll be spending most of the Christmas season apart, back home. And although we all agreed to not listen to any Christmas music before the second week of November, I did catch a couple girls (and visitors; you still have your demerit point, Michael!) listening to the new Pentatonix Christmas album before the ordained time. (But I forgave them, because discouraging Pentatonix would be an outrage.)

But here’s why I think starting the festivities should begin mid-November at the absolute earliest. It’s disrespectful to launch into Christmas before we mark Remembrance Day. It’s crucial that we allow for time to honour the dead

before we rejoice along with the living. We give a minute of silence on November 11, but we can also keep our Christmas carols silent until the day has passed. There are many people who disagree with me – they argue that celebrating Christmas doesn’t outright interfere with honouring fallen soldiers. I don’t disagree that Christmas trees in the living room before Remembrance Day don’t hinder our respect for the fallen and our veterans. I simply see waiting as a gesture of respect. I maintain that we ought to wait before we celebrate.