

The Ministry

A Semesterly Brock CRC Newsletter



We often are so busy...

...trying to pursue God's will, His Kingdom, and His power in our ministries that we tend to overlook the truth that God's Kingdom, power, and Holy Spirit are already at work. This truth has been made evidently clear at Brock University this past semester. Through His Spirit, God has been continuing His work of doing new and glorious things on campus. Not only in the CRC ministry and new Faith and Life Centre, but also in the hearts of countless students at Brock University.

Let me explain. As the new CRC Chaplain entering into my first full-time semester, I wanted to bring exciting changes, new ideas, and ministerial success. I had ideas about what a successful semester might look like, and how it could be achieved. But I quickly learned that my job this semester was to join in the work God was already doing! I am humbled to be a small part of the Kingdom work happening all around me on Brock's campus. I hope this brief newsletter gives you all a glimpse into this Kingdom work. Work that is sustained by your constant prayers and support.

Rewind to **January 2019...**

As I began my new position, I had the opportunity to host my first Toonie Supper as Chaplain. The Toonie Supper is a ministry that has been faithfully run at a church nearby Brock for years. Local churches provide a meal, and students come around the table for a homemade dish, for just \$2.00. That night a beautiful meal was provided by Jubilee CRC. The table was set and we were prepared to engage students. As the new Chaplain, I had high hopes for how this ministry, and the opportunity to meet and build relationships with Brock students. But my first night, only one student showed up. It was a hard pill to swallow.

Fast-forward to **December 4th, 2019...**

Nearly a year later and one semester into being full-time, I carefully placed a home-made meal prepared by Trinity CRC on our counter-top in the new Faith and Life Centre right on campus. I always feel some nerves as we prepare for students every two weeks for Toonie Supper. But this time, as I set out many more chairs than one (see image below). That is because over the past Fall 2019 semester, over just five Toonie Suppers, The Ministry has served over 200 students! One reason why we have seen such amazing growth is because we have a new space – the Faith and Life Centre. This building has provided incredible opportunities to engage students with the love of Christ daily. The Toonie Suppers are just one example of the exciting things God is doing in the CRC Campus Ministry at Brock University.





Semester Summary: A Quick Glance

The Ministry Bible Study Group

- 12 students, 1 weekly study night, 2 studies completed over the whole semester: “Fear of...” and “Why Pray?”

On Campus Events

- Faith and Life Centre Grand Opening
- CRC Ministry Launch Bonfire
- ‘Your Stories’ – A Faith and Mental Health Event
- Square Dance: Stompin’ Your Stress
- Café Day - serving students free coffee and treats during exam study days
- Church + Connect: Luncheons
- Brock Community Hikes
- Classis Open House

Holiday Gatherings at the DeBruyne House

- Thanksgiving - ‘Pumpkin Everything’ Party
- Christmas Party and Gift Exchange

One-on-One Discipleship + Scripture Reading

- 8 students in discipleship relationship
- 3 students meeting for intentional scripture study
- 1 student participating in Scriptural Reasoning (reading the Qu’uran and the Bible side by side).
- 1 student who gave his life to Christ
- 1 Resonate-grant funded student leader

Toonie Suppers

- 5 meals with over 200 students served

Faith & Life Centre Hospitality

- 1200 cups of coffee, tea, and juice served to students
- 500 students, between Nov. 1st - Dec. 10th attended Faith and Life ‘Drop-in hours’
- 3 Christian Clubs, 1 Catholic Club, and 1 Muslim Club use and participate in the Centre space weekly.





When I look back at these brief point-form notes, I am so overwhelmed by God's faithfulness. These notes paint a clear picture that God is up to something big through the CRC Chaplaincy and the Faith and Life Centre at Brock University. Brock is a school that was founded as a self-declared 'secular institution' in 1964. 55 years later, it seems that God is opening doors that were previously shut. Glory be to God!

Friends, the hearts of students are changing here at Brock. The Ministry is building relationships with and growing in our impact on the whole University Campus. If you ever want to hear more stories or specifics of what has been happening this semester on campus, please reach out! Join me for a cup of coffee in the Faith and Life Centre or attend a Classis Open house. As always, this is not a ministry of 'Chaplain Zack', but of the local church and Classis. I am so excited to see how God might use **all of us** to bring the Gospel of Christ's love and hope to the lives of students, faculty, and staff at Brock University.

So, as we prepare for another excitement-filled 2020 winter semester at Brock, we ask for your continuous prayers that God's Spirit would keep moving in incredible ways in the Brock community and beyond.