

THE EMBASSY

HUMBER POLYTECHNIC | UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH-HUMBER

A PUBLIC WITNESS

One of the things I enjoy most about ministry at Humber are the opportunities we get to share God's love in quite *public* ways. Here's some of what we got up to this past semester:





Above are a couple of photos from our last Embassy giveaway, where we handed out around 120 Bibles (along with tons more free candy) over the course of a lunch hour! It's a lot of fun, and often sparks great conversations with those who don't consider themselves Christian.



For another example, this special "open-air" service we held in the Student Centre/cafeteria (above) which included a live band, gospel-centred teaching and discussion. It's definitely a lot more work to stake out a common space for a gathering like this, but the upshot is that students often discover us this way—just by walking by!

"72% of leaders have witnessed an increase in spiritual curiosity in their neighbourhoods and communities."

— Reigniting Faith report (click for more info)

This encouraging little takeaway comes from this national survey conducted by Alpha Canada and the Flourishing Congregations Institute just one year ago—and seems to mirror some of what I've been sensing on campus too! Many of my campus colleagues are noticing the same thing: a growing interest and openness to faith among the young adults we're trying to reach.

Take our Embassy communities, for example. Although they always include a mix of students at different stages in their discipleship, there was a noticeable uptick in those showing up who were newer to Christianity and/or in "exploring" mode over the course of this year. In fact, **I've** never purchased more study Bibles for students than I have over the last 12 months!

By the way, if you're curious about some of the factors that might be driving this, <u>here's a fantastic podcast</u> I often recommend. Start at season one!

THE AC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Apologetics Canada is a ministry with a stated mission to "equip the Christian community with a biblically sound, intellectually robust, and culturally engaged faith", which also describes why campus ministries like ours enjoy such a natural partnership with this awesome organization.



We often pull in apologists from AC to help equip our students, so I was totally honoured to be asked to speak at their most recent Leadership Summit. This is a special retreat for a select group of young leaders, designed to create space for connection, equipping, and direct engagement with some truly gifted teachers (some of whom I follow myself).

Naturally, I decided to let the *real* apologists in the room tackle the heavier topics. :) Instead, I focused my session on how God is often seen calling the underdogs—the ill-equipped and even (as in Moses' story) downright fearful—and not simply the exceptionally gifted, which is a theme in scripture I've always found encouraging on a personal level. The conversations I had with some of these young leaders were so meaningful!

By the way, check out this <u>free resource</u> featuring AC's Wesley Huff (an apologist, scholar and long-time friend of The Embassy) to get a sense of why the content they produce is so helpful toward building our students' faith and equipping them to engage with unbelieving friends.





Why it matters...

Hear it from a recent grad. Your prayers & support are what make testimonies like this possible!

"Attending The Embassy over the last three years of my life has been a true blessing to me. When I first arrived at Humber, I was in a place where I was very distant from God, yet I was very hungry to know Him and know more about Him. I hadn't yet found a community to belong to, and upon discovering the Embassy, it instantly became an extremely welcoming and open space to talk about my faith.

I have always been so grateful for the way it welcomes listening, questioning, and engaging in any sort of conversation about Christianity. It was the perfect place for me to grow in my faith and learn more about God, while living in a very secular environment.

Through my time at the Embassy, I built lasting friendships, grew more deeply and disciplined in my relationship with Christ, and found a community that I could return to weekly to learn, listen, and grow in my faith. I am extremely grateful to Trevor and leaders of the Embassy for the work they do to bring this community together."

- W. R., Film and TV Production grad

- We've just finished onboarding some new Executive student leaders for the fall. Half of this core team is new to their roles, so pray for courage for them as they step up to serve their peers in ministry. Pray also for a sense of unity and shared mission on the team.
- I'm currently exploring some new discipleship initiatives in light
 of the increase of students in our community who are newer to
 following Jesus. Please pray for God's direction, especially
 as we work within tight resource limits.
- Pray for continued favour with the school administration. It's not uncommon for Christian ministries like ours to hit roadblocks on campus due to ideological differences with school policies or cultural norms. Pray for continued protection, wisdom, and open doors in our dealings with the powers-that-be.



Pray for us!

Here's some of what we're praying for as we gear up for the fall. Join us!

FINANCIAL UPDATE: BACK ON TRACK!

Good news: we finished the semester with ministry budgets in the black, and thanks to a very busy season of fundraising so far, we're feeling some welcome relief over here. Barring any unexpected changes to our donor base, we should meet September in good standing.

To those who pray for us regularly and/or support the ministry financially: we can't thank you enough. Your partnership is what keeps the doors open, the conversations going, and the gospel moving forward on this campus! Here's how to support us.

Click to DONATE



Wishing you a fantastic summer!

We hope you're in for a season of rest, joy, and renewal. Here's to some sunshine and unhurried time with those you love! Thanks so much for your support, and expect to hear from us again in September. Till then,

- The Gingerich Family