

# GUELPH CAMPUS MINISTRY

a bridging Christian community



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## CAMPUS NOTES



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## YOU'RE INVITED!

### FORGIVENESS: GROWTH FROM A TRUNCATED STUMP

While on sabbatical last year, Jamie spent time reflecting and writing on forgiveness, wrestling with the cliché "forgive and forget" and struggling with what it actually means to give the gift of forgiveness. Though not an official book launch, Guelph Campus Ministry (GCM) would like to give you the opportunity to hear some of his musings, coupled with a creative re-reading of the biblical narrative. Throughout the course of the evening, music by the Nicole Ensing Band ([www.nicoleensingband.com](http://www.nicoleensingband.com))

will be woven into mix along with some campus ministry stories. It promises to be a meaningful and entertaining evening!

This fundraising event will be taking place on Thursday, May 26, at New Life Church (400 Victoria Rd N, Guelph), starting

at 7:00pm. It's free of charge, but donations of any size will be gratefully accepted. Search "Growth from a Truncated Stump" on Facebook and you'll find even more details, or contact Guelph Campus Ministry directly at ([gcm@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gcm@uoguelph.ca)).

### Forgiveness: Growth from a Truncated Stump

Sabbatical musings by . . .

**Jamie VanderBerg**

A creative re-reading of the biblical narrative in an age that's desperate for forgiveness.



Together with . . .

**Nicole Ensing Band**

A Guelph band with jazz stylings, folk charm and rock 'n' roll energy.



## GRYPHONS CARE: SYRIAN REFUGEES

This semester, the Multi-Faith Resource Team and GCM partnered with World University Service of Canada (WUSC) to fundraise for the sponsorship of two Syrian refugee students. On March 7, *Gryphons Care: A Fundraising Dinner Supporting Syrian Student Refugees* was hosted by these groups.

These efforts were prompted when the University of Guelph announced that they would be taking on two additional Syrian refugee students through the existing Student Refugee Program, in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. This is a program run by WUSC at the University where, every year, two to three students from refugee camps are resettled and given the opportunity to complete an undergraduate degree.

To support these efforts, WUSC and GCM began planning *Gryphons Care*, which involved collaboration with various University groups. The dinner planning committee was made up of student volunteers from WUSC and the MFRT, and was aided by the guidance of Jamie VanderBerg. Working as part of the planning committee, we had the chance to learn about delegation, relationship management and how to support each other. This was by far the largest event any of us had ever had the opportunity to plan and it presented unique challenges, as well as significant learning experiences.

The evening was inspired by Syrian culture, featuring Syrian dancers, Syrian theater, an educational presentation on

the history of Syria and a vegetarian dinner of Syrian cuisine. The keynote speaker, Sarah Kuwalty, one of the two Syrian students, gave a moving speech about her experience as a refugee thus far. The dinner was a huge success, being attended by almost 300 university students, staff and faculty and raising just under \$13,000 for the sponsorship.

—Angela Sweeney  
WUSC Chair



Fundraising Made Fun!!!

# STORYTELLING: THE LOST ART OF LISTENING

Our thoughts follow a narrative. Our lives are full of stories: the ones we live, the ones we tell, the ones we don't tell, the ones we wish we could tell... I've been drawn to stories from a young age, writing all sorts of weird anecdotes as a child and enacting a variety of fictional situations with my siblings. I have great respect for brilliant storytellers, perhaps because I

consider it a talent that I lack, but so desire to cultivate.

This semester, we invited local storyteller Brad Woods to come and facilitate a conversation for our monthly *Matters of Faith* event, and we endeavoured to engage with storytelling as the lost art of listening. I've had the privilege of interacting with Brad in a variety of different contexts prior to hosting him in this capacity. The most consistent one of these being his regular storytelling at an after-school program, where, as soon as he starts to speak, he catches the attention of even the most distracted child. This event was a bit different in nature. Instead of a small group of angsty, sweaty children gathered on a gym floor in front of a man on a stool, we

sat in a circle of couches and chairs in a campus pub—a circle of people with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives gathered together, sitting on the same level. The conversation that ensued was compelling, and was really framed by the people who were present. Brad started the evening by asking what we wanted to get out of it. The description of the poster encapsulated the evening with incredible accuracy: "Knowing our stories and how to tell them helps us know ourselves. Our stories tell us who we are, where we're from and where we're going. In the end our stories are who we are, they are all we are and they are all we have."

Knowing and telling our stories take self-exploration...

and vulnerability. It's a topic that has the power to make many people cringe, but shared honesty is so important and is a blessing. It's at the heart of communication. It's at the heart of social change. It's at the heart of social connection. I walked away from that evening with a bit of hope, as well as a challenge. Hope that being a storyteller isn't as much about performance and literary quality as it is about listening, living and walking with others. I also walked away with a challenge: to share my own story by letting other people step into it—not just the refined and sanitized well-formed parts of it, but the complicated and broken messiness as well.

—Becca MacDougall  
Ministry Associate



Brad Woods at *Matters of Faith*

# REWEAVING THE UNRAVELLED: A CHRISTIANITY & CULTURE LECTURE

Every year, GCM hosts its annual Christianity & Culture Lecture. This year, David Kupp's presentation about urban disintegration was a treat for all who attended.

Challenging our current perceptions of urban and rural settings through his study of geography and urban social behavior, Professor Kupp spoke about the escalating challenges of sustainable development. Professor Kupp is the Director of Urban and International Development at Wycliffe College, and his discussion brought up many intriguing points.

Our families all come from different starting points, and many originate in a rural setting, such as a village or small town. One of Professor Kupp's demonstrations showed this; how we see rural now, as opposed to what it used to be, is very different. I

found it fascinating that 'rural' might not even really exist anymore. We are all connected in one way or another, whether physically by roads or virtually by telecommunication or social networking sites. As these boundaries have been evolving, our social landscape has been changing, and how we interact with people around us does as well. Community is so much more than just a designated area such as a neighborhood, as it includes churches, schools, teams, leagues, and groups on social media. If we seek to serve our communities, it is important to keep all of this in mind, and serving in other countries even more so. A highlight for me



Part of the Winter Retreat Crew

was when we actually went into a discussion about how the layout of houses affects the home and how people interact with each other, and it is so true!

Professor Kupp's lecture left everyone who attended with something to think about. Personally, having moved to another province for school, it is encouraging to have environments where people on campus and in the community can grow and converse with each other. The lecture was such a treat!

—Danielle Nyarko  
Student



Dr. David Kupp, Wycliffe College

## YOUR DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING CAMPUS MINISTRY PROJECTS:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNSHIPS—\$1500

WORSHIP SERVICES—\$2000

DISCIPLESHIP, INCLUDING WINTER RETREAT—\$1500

HOSPITALITY, INCLUDING COMMUNITY DINNERS—\$1000

ON-CAMPUS SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES—\$500

AND, OF COURSE, STAFF SALARIES . . .

Donations can be made online at [www.guelphcampusministry.com](#), or cheques can be made payable to "Guelph Campus Ministry" and sent to: University of Guelph, Raithby House, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1