



CAMPUS NOTES

“FRIENDS OF THE MINISTRY” NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Beauty in the Bullring: A Space for Worship</i>	1
<i>Becoming the Beloved</i>	2
<i>Taking It to the Local Church</i>	2
<i>Digging “The Well”</i>	2



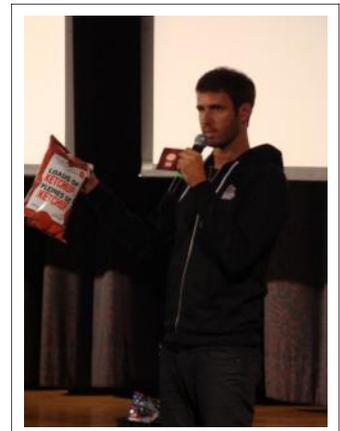
TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS

Self-injury, depression and suicide cannot be sentenced to the margins of campus life. They're part of a harsh reality that is best spoken of openly and honestly. On Sunday, March 25, we tried to do just that—speak honestly and bring hope.

Together with a number of other campus groups, we hosted the founding director of *To Write Love on her Arms*, Jamie Tworowski. He was joined by musical artist Noah Gundersen. One of our

students, Emmalena was instrumental in pulling this event together. Here's a few of her thoughts:

The To Write Love On Her Arms event was a night I never want to forget. Noah Gundersen started the evening by sharing some of his music with us, which was simply beautiful, stirring up emotions that words rarely can. It was a perfect mix of humour and music, and Jamie's honesty on the subject really brought it to a place that I think many people not only



Jamie Tworowski

sympathized with, but also got to see the pain that people go through. The Q&A time was a very powerful moment for me as it brought up many people's personal experiences. They were looking for comfort for themselves, their

loved ones, wanting answers to their pain, and also asking how they can help. Pain is everywhere, including the university campus, and I think it rests with every person to play a part in bringing hope to those who are suffering.

—Jamie VanderBerg
Campus Minister
—Emmalena Huyer
Student



A Full House—War Memorial Hall

BEAUTY IN THE BULLRING: A SPACE FOR WORSHIP

Between turkey dinners and family gatherings, I received the sort of email over the Christmas break that gets me really excited. Written by Mariah Hamilton, a studio art student in her second year, it read:

I think it would be so beautiful to make a space for people during one night of the week this semester to worship, listen to teaching, and have communion

together. It could be something low key and inviting. I think it would be a sweet thing to invite people that love and know Jesus and also those that aren't familiar with church or with Jesus.

On Sunday, March 9, Mariah and a number of other students pulled together our —article cont'd on page 2



Alana, Tim, Hannah and LJ—The Bullring

GUELPH CAMPUS MINISTRY



**James VanderBerg
Jenn McIntyre**

University of Guelph
javander@uoguelph.ca
(519) 824-4120, ext. 52392

BECOMING THE BELOVED

It's almost as if Henri Nouwen has sat with us at 31 Kent Street every Tuesday night. He has been a father to us, a mentor and a guide along the way. Our small group, which has been meeting in a vibrant student house, has been reading several of Nouwen's books. Though he passed away years ago, his voice remains strong in his writings, and he continues to point to Christ.

For us, this small group has been a journey into the compassion of God, so richly expressed in the life of Christ. Jesus entered our place of pain in order to open up new life. Of compassion, Nouwen writes, "It asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion,

and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human." The compassion of God pushes us headlong into that full immersion, and it has been a joy to grow in faith as a "baptized" community.

Our Tuesday evening small group is just one of several groups eager to grow in faith and to practice

resurrection. When I look around at the students sitting on the couches, I see living proof of God's grace and his ongoing movement toward redemption. These students have heard God refer to them as his Beloved, and they're eager to share that love with those around them.

—Jamie VanderBerg
Campus Minister



A Few of our Nouwen Readers

TAKING IT TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

With a growing community of students focused on leadership, hospitality, social justice, worship and discipleship in the name of Christ, Guelph Campus Ministry is making an impact. I had the opportunity to hear and see this first hand while

attending a campus ministry church service at Maranatha CRC in Cambridge.

Ten students were in attendance at this service, demonstrating their commitment to this ministry and to offer gratitude to one of the many communities of

believers supporting it. The congregation was blessed through the musical talent of one of GCM's students, Jordan Vetro. Jordan performed a song he had written for a hate crimes vigil on campus, reaching out to those hurt by hate crimes and dealing with

intolerance. (This stands as an excellent example of GCM's social justice involvement on campus.)

Campus Minister Jamie VanderBerg offered a great message of encouragement in faith and community, while the newest hire at GCM, Jenn McIntyre, introduced all the students to the congregation. Jenn was hired in the fall of 2010 as an intern and has now been hired on an ongoing basis as a part-time Campus Ministry Associate. This addition has been a tremendous blessing to the students and to Jamie, and the ministry continues to grow in faith.

Thanks be to God!

—Andrew Elgersma
Member, GCM Board



Winter Retreat 2012—Crieff Hills

BEAUTY

cont'd

first *Church in the Bullring*. It was a beautiful evening that included praise music, teaching, shared communion, integration of art and worship and time for fellowship. The event was held in the Bullring, the student owned and run coffee shop in the middle of campus that holds the nickname of the "campus living room."

At the centre of GCM's vision is the value of a student-led ministry. The main role that Jamie and I play is to walk with and encourage students as they seek to use their gifts in ministry. With the amount of enthusiasm Mariah was able to inspire in other students, it didn't take a lot to turn an idea into a wonderful worship service. It was also a tremendous joy to see Mariah's creativity and love for worship infused into an evening of praising our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Jenn McIntyre
Campus Ministry Associate

DIGGING "THE WELL"

A bridge was built and *The Well* was dug. Last year, Tim Likely had a dream—he wanted to start up a ministry for children with special needs and a support group for their parents. He pitched the idea to Kortright Presbyterian Church.

This January, a bridge was built with that local church and the ministry, *The Well*, was born. It's a monthly Friday evening gathering that makes great use of student volunteers!

—Jamie VanderBerg
Campus Minister

YOUR DONATIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING CAMPUS MINISTRY PROJECTS:

STAFF EXPANSION—\$30,000 PROJECT BUDGET

WORSHIP SERVICES—\$2000

DISCIPLESHIP, INCLUDING WINTER RETREAT—\$1500

HOSPITALITY, INCLUDING COMMUNITY DINNERS—\$1000

ON-CAMPUS SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES—\$500

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNSHIPS—\$8000

Donations can be made online at www.guelphcm.ca, or cheques can be made payable to "Classis Huron" and sent to: Guelph Campus Ministry, University of Guelph, McNally House, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1