

INTER VARSITY

The season of Advent is reminding us to pause, pray and anticipate Jesus. We are grateful for the work that God has been doing in and through us. Ashley is exploring different ways to reach Gen Z students through redeveloping ministry structures and Josh stepped into a new role as Chief of Staff and Vice President of Philanthropy as FaithTech seeks a Jesus revival throughout the technology industry.

Ashley's Update

Over the past several years, our campus ministry has been re-working its ways of doing ministry with Gen Z students. Some of the old structures were not serving students like they used to. We needed to pivot in order to reach these students for Jesus.

This past November, I attended our National Leadership Council meetings where we learned about the Strauss-Howe Generational Theory from James Choung, VP of Strategy and innovation in InterVarsity USA.

A key takeaway is that each generation has a specific "gateway question" that informs the way they live and make decisions. While Gen X wants to know 'What is real?' and Millennials want to know 'What is good?', the question for Gen Z is 'What is beautiful?' They are characterized by a deep longing to see wonder and beauty in the world. They are ready to stand up for what is just. Crucially, they are willing to follow those in leadership that have proved their trustworthiness.

We know the beauty and wonder of Jesus and the hope is for students to experience this first hand. Prayer is one of the primary ways that students have been encountering the beauty and wonder of Jesus. They are encountering

Jesus, and through these encounters are led into



scripture to discover a transcendent God.

In this advent season, I encourage us to pray deeply for young people:

- Pray that students encounter the living Christ and receive his hope, peace, joy and love.
- Pray that these encounters lead them to exploring scripture in community and ask questions about God's beauty and justice.
- Pray that they will come to see that God longs for reconciliation and restoration in our relationship with Him, with others and the land.
- Pray that this generation will lead the church with compassion and creativity.
- Pray for campus ministers as they build trust and relationship with students on campus to help usher them into God's presence.

Josh's Update

Going from a 100+ year organization like InterVarsity to a 10 year old organization like FaithTech is like going from a giant cruise ship to a nimble speed boat. It takes a tremendous amount of resources and energy to get a cruise ship moving or to make a change in direction. However, once it's in motion, keeping it moving becomes much easier. For a speed boat though, change, risk, and redirection is the name of the game. For what you lose in depth, you gain in agility and capacity for creativity.

This past month, I've accepted a new dual role at FaithTech as Chief of Staff and Vice President of Philanthropy (yes, I know that it feels like almost every update I send out comes with a role change). My new role continues my leadership of our philanthropy and fundraising responsibilities, but now adds a new layer of organizational management, long-term strategic planning, and leadership pipeline development. My primary purpose is to assist our Founder and CEO James Kelly in executing our organization in pursuit of our purpose – to see a Jesus Revival in and through the technology industry by practicing redemptive technology design.

This role feels very fitting as it allows me to incorporate and bring to the table both creativity and depth, short-term execution and long-term planning, and immediate decision making and culture formation. Through this role, I've been able to see the convergence of influences—the pathways, relationships, and communities that have formed who I am today—come together in a deeply encouraging way. Many of you have been part of those. Thank you.

A large part of what I'm focused on right now is establishing the heart of our organization's culture. Throughout FaithTech's story, there has been a significant focus on "what" we do, the creation and development of game-changing technology for churches and non profits (example [here](#) and [here](#)). However, as we move forward towards our 10th year anniversary, there has been an



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Family Update

Almost every weekend, we take Corey to ride the subway or GO train. That is his favourite past time. We attended the opening of Line 6 of the TTC this month and Corey participated with much excitement. His dream is to work for a transit company one day.

Micah participated in his first Christmas concert through his daycare. He curiously stood there and watched as his teachers sang and danced. Proud of him for making it through the whole song with no tears!

Also, Micah turned 2 years old in November! He had a Bluey themed birthday party with his cousins and grandparents. He enjoyed every minute of games, presents and especially the cake!

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increased need to establish more of “who” we are. How can someone “feel the heartbeat” of our ministry as they engage with us? How do our structures and systems communicate our values to our staff and volunteers? What do we need to celebrate and mourn? These questions excite and energizes me.

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FaithTech**

My hope is that through this role, God will empower me to help FaithTech enter the next critical phase of our story as a ministry and non-profit by establishing the structures, rhythms, and systems we need to achieve our purpose with creativity and innovation.

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