

Josh and Ashley's Ministry Update - Falling Into This Season

1 message

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Our first newsletter with the both of us in different ministries! Ashley has been focused on developing new resources to support campus ministry across Canada. Josh has been settling into his new role at FaithTech, and helping build a new fundraising culture in a 9 year old ministry.

Ashley's Update

Campus staff are busy at work connecting with students on campus during the months of September and October. The first 6 weeks of school on campus is a critical time for connecting students to fellowships. After the 6 week mark, the chances of connection drop significantly. If you know a student who has yet to be connected with a Christian community or a local church near their campus, please reach out and I will help to get them plugged in!

This past year, I have been working on campus initiatives to get more students in God's word, growing in community and growing in leadership. One example of that is Scripture Camp. InterVarsity runs scripture camps in the winter and spring seasons across Canada. Hundreds of students participate in week-long camps to study scripture with intention. These camps have a life-long impact. Students not only spend a dedicated amount of time wrestling through scripture passages, but they are building foundational skills in reading scripture in context, asking with challenging questions and coming to the truth with their peers. I am part of a working group creating a Scripture resource around the theme of Life and Death. We are exploring passages from Genesis to Revelation pulling out themes of God showing us what a full life looks like versus humanity trying to choose for themselves what life they want which ultimately leads to death. By highlighting the scripture arc, it will give students an



opportunity to explore the complexities of human nature, a loving and forgiving God and time to reflect on where they have been choosing death over life. Our hope is to see students across Canada discover the unconditional love of our God and how He is continually pursuing our hearts generation after generation.

Josh's Update

It's been 8 months into my new role here at FaithTech! For those of you who are not familiar with FaithTech, we believe the technology industry has a disproportionate impact on society, both in the harm they cause and the good they do. We believe the technologist, the people of the tech industry—the builders, the engineers, the AI experts—hold the power of that disproportionate impact in the palm of their hands (or perhaps, in their fingertips). Reach them, disciple them, and we'll see a revival in and through the industry.

In this current moment of history, where frontier technologies like AI, blockchain, and virtual reality continue to grow in power and influence, reaching the technologists that build those technologies is of critical urgency. If we do not, the technology industry will continue to grow in its ability to inflict destructive harm on our societies, with the most vulnerable among us paying the greatest cost. However, if we do reach the technologist, if they are transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit, and if they are commissioned in community into the heart of the tech industry, imagine what that means for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

It's been a great challenge and adventure so far helping a 9 year old ministry mature into becoming an established organization. My role has been to build a new fundraising culture among the 10 person staff team, 120 person volunteer team, and 20,000 person global network. Right now, FaithTech is mostly funded by donations from American foundations. However, our ministry spans 45 cities and 19 countries around the world. My goal is to diversify and localize our donation revenue, with more funding coming directly from the communities we serve, releasing our dependence on foreign funding.

In the last few months, I've been in Kuala Lumpur, Hawaii, London, Sao Paulo, and soon Silicon Valley connecting with tech people who work in the heart of the tech industry at companies like Google, Meta, and Amazon. They are responsible for the technology we use everyday. It's quite a different world and a very different culture. More sweatpants, less suit and tie.

The AI conversation is also taking a lot of focus. FaithTech is significantly investing in thought leadership going forward, focusing on where the technology is going and how we as Christians are called to faithfully respond in light of our theological worldview. We recently hired an ex-CIA agent as our AI Theologian, helping us navigate the complex theological and ethical questions.

Donate

Corey and Micah's Update

Corey started Grade 1 and is loving it! He can't wait to turn 6 this month because he will officially be leaving the toddler stage and become a 'big kid.' We are loving how much of a servant heart God is growing in him. He loves serving others. He is learning to cook breakfast for our family and unloading the dishwasher!

Micah is turning 2 in November! He adores Corey and likes to imitate what his big brother does. Micah is asserting himself a lot more these days and it is fun to see more of his personality come out. He eats a lot and very quickly. You can't make him wait for food when he's hangry!

Prayer

Pray for Students

Pray for students to find connection on campus with a Christian community or local church to continue growing in their faith journeys.

Pray for Technologists

Pray for technologists all across the world as we gather this fall in Hackathons (a retreat for geeks) and meetups.

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