



**Joy to the World!**



There I am (second row), along with other Inter Varsity staff singing for joy in the gospel choir at the National Staff Conference (Dec 4-8)!

**Merry Christmas!** Students at the University of Guelph are now finished their final exams, and are heading home for some much needed rest over the Christmas holidays. There's been so much to celebrate this past semester in ministry on campus. From the truly delightful and capable group of student leaders I get to work with, to the much anticipated fall retreat we hosted in September, to the growing numbers of students who are attending Bible studies, there really is much to celebrate and give

thanks for.

World Student Day is one of my favourite days in the student ministry calendar. Every year on October 20<sup>th</sup>, students involved in campus fellowships around the world have an opportunity to share stories, encourage one another, and pray specifically for students in other countries. This year, we were personally connected with campus fellowships in Brazil and Puerto Rico. It was a joy and honour for our students in Guelph to take time to pray for the specific needs of students in those countries, and to know that those students we're praying for our fellowship as well. Through stories shared, students in Brazil and Puerto Rico clearly live in vastly different contexts and situations than we do in Canada, but our faith in Christ and passion to see students be transformed by Him is what unites us.

Students in Guelph have also been growing in their knowledge and practice of evangelism this semester. The InterVarsity staff in southwestern Ontario partnered together to host *Turn On Your Light*, an evangelism symposium and training workshop for students in the region. What a joy it was to find out that sixteen students wanted to give up one of their precious Saturday's, in the midst of midterm season, to learn about how to engage evangelism well, and to pray for their not-yet believing peers. We are hopeful this training day, and subsequent conversations on the topic, will produce much fruit and hope as these students continue to go out to share with others the joy they have found in Christ.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is our hope and joy!

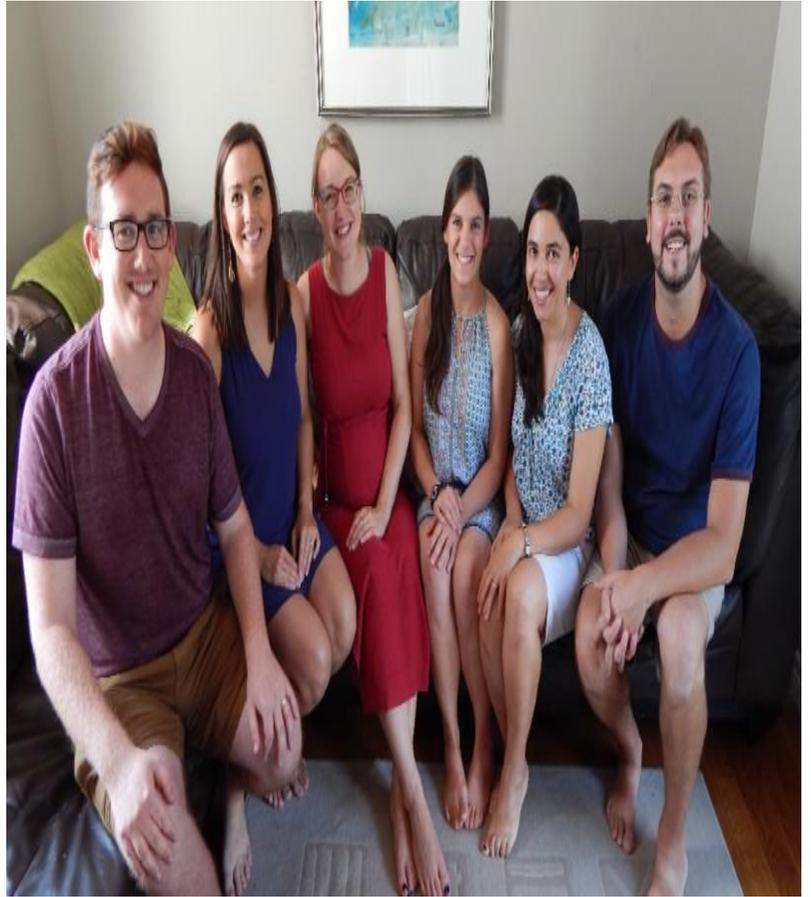
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Nyssa teaching during a manuscript Bible study at the Fall Retreat.



Students during worship & scripture study at the Fall Retreat.



InterVarsity Student Exec at the Guelph Gryphon. Top:  
Micaela, Tori, Alida. Bottom: Aaron, Aaron, Caitlin,  
John

Southwestern Ontario InterVarsity Staff Team: Ryan,  
Nyssa, Allyson, Melissa, Sevda, Matt

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## Winter Retreat Fundraising Update

**This year, I have the privilege of directing the 2018 Winter Retreat** for the southwestern Ontario campus fellowships. As the InterVarsity staff team in the region, we are excited to lead students in the theme of Prayer and the Holy Spirit. Students from seven university campuses across southwestern Ontario, including Guelph, are invited to this retreat, and we hope to have 60+ students in attendance. What a wonderful opportunity for students to build connections and trust, in and between campus fellowships.

Would you be willing to help send students to the winter retreat? To subsidize the cost for one student, we will need to raise \$80, 5 students = \$400, 10 students = \$800. How many students would you be willing to support?

[Click Here to Help Send Students to the Winter Retreat](#)

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COME  
DISCOVER  
JESUS

As InterVarsity heads into its 90th year of ministry, we're celebrating all that God has done and is doing in and through youth and students across Canada. Take a look and see what God is doing!

## Personal Update

It has been a full & fruitful season, both in ministry and as a family. I have been adjusting to the increase of working 3/4 time on campus. It's been such a joyful season on campus, that the increase of time hasn't been a heavy burden. Arya loves going to day care, as Chris has

## Prayer Requests

*Please pray for...*

...students as they finish up exams this week and head into a much needed break over Christmas & New Years.

...International students at Guelph who will be staying in Canada, away from their families, over the

been dutifully working away at his PhD, while continuing to youth pastor in Fergus.

Chris & I celebrated 10 years of marriage this year on December 15th! Ten years has flown by! To celebrate, we're looking forward to getting away to NYC for a few days over the Christmas break sans toddler (thank you grandparents!).

Christmas break. Pray that they would feel welcomed into Canadian homes as they share Christmas with new friends.

...the Winter Retreat planning team (staff and students) as we continue to work together to plan and host the winter student retreat on January 26-28, 2018.

...students to know and experience the peace of Christ this Christmas season.



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