



mission canada
BECAUSE WE MUST

mission:HUMBER

Reaching students with a message of hope and purpose in Jesus Christ

Friends, Family and Supporting Churches,

Merry Christmas! Rebecca and I hope this letter finds you well. As ministry at Humber is wrapping up for the semester and students are heading into exams, I've found some time to write another newsletter in an ongoing effort to keep you informed about how things are going over here.

We had an incredible semester of ministry at Humber College! It's hard to believe that we're already in our second year of ministry – time flies when you're having fun! Here are some highlights from the last semester:

First off, **meet The Embassy's new worship leader!** That's right – Rebecca has stepped up to take on this role at Embassy services and she's doing absolutely fantastic! She has an incredible voice (some of you might know that already) and continues to develop into a fine worship leader. Having her take a more prominent role in the ministry is proving to be a huge blessing, and the students have really taken to her. Musically, the worship element at Embassy services has improved dramatically over the last year as we've been able to involve students at Humber and local musicians that are skilled for the task. If you happen to be in the area, feel free to come worship with us! :)



Becky leading worship at Embassy



Embassy Popcorn Giveaway - Humber Orientation '09

An event that really helped The Embassy get off to a great start this semester was our **popcorn giveaway** before the Fall semester began. We gave away approx. 700+ bags of microwave popcorn to 1st year students during Humber's orientation week

events. Each bag was affixed with a sticker explaining what The Embassy is, what it's like and where to find us. It proved to be an important event, as it really helped us spread the word amongst the student body.



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What effect is your prayer / financial support having at Humber College?

I thought you might enjoy hearing firsthand from a few students we've been working with this year:

"The Embassy has really strengthened my walk with God - It's really important to have a campus ministry that cares for students and looks out for opportunities to spread the miracle of Christ in today's society."



- Peter Brinn,
2nd yr. Radio Broadcasting student

"For me, the last four years at Guelph-Humber has been a growing faith experience. This would not be possible without a campus ministry like the Embassy Humber, which provides community, teaching and a chance to have a personal relationship with Christ inside an impersonal college. If college is a place to help you prepare for life post-graduation, then campus ministry is a necessity for each college. I am so thankful that I had a personal ministry like the Embassy Humber available to me."



- Elise Teeninga,
4th yr. Family and Social Services student

One of the most enjoyable aspects of this church is the varying perspectives and backgrounds that each Christian brings as many of us have attended different church denominations. This has been beneficial in understanding other people's ways of explaining various aspects of the Christian faith. Embassy has also helped me to make many connections and new Christian friends from the school whom I may not have met otherwise. This has been very important to me as I feel this is important for growth and encouragement in my walk with God.

Also, having a pastor (Trevor) at the school has been invaluable as I feel students need someone who is gifted and appointed to teach the word of God, as well as having sound biblical background. Just as I feel all other churches need pastors for guidance, this student body of Christians is no different.

Having a church on campus has been incredibly important to me, as it has given me and other students a place to worship and fellowship right at the school. It can be intimidating for someone who knows no one to just walk into a local church on his or her own. However, a congregation of students at the school is less intimidating.



In addition, having the support of a church at school is reassuring as college can sometimes be a difficult place to be a Christian, with so many other influences.

- Clayton Mousley,
2nd yr. Industrial Design student

Please help us continue to reach students at Humber College!

As 2009 is coming to a close, we're trying very hard to meet our ministry budget for this year so we can avoid falling behind before 2010 begins. Would you consider helping us do this?

To date, we're pleased to report that we've successfully raised 87% of our ministry budget. This budget includes all ministry-related expenses (including all salary, administrative, resource and supply costs). This means that we have only to raise \$7,279 more in order to reach our bottom line this year - we're almost there, and every little bit helps!

How can you give? Now, you can give online with a credit card at www.paoc.org/donate/TrevorGingerich, or simply send us a cheque made out to "The Embassy Humber". Remember, your donations are tax deductible! If you become a supporter, you'll be sent a tax receipt from Mission Canada for your donations. Your support will go a long way in reaching students at Humber College!

We simply couldn't do it without you!

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Raised so far: **\$47,721**
(or 87% of ministry budget)

2009
ministry
budget:
\$55,000



As always, Rebecca and I are so thankful for your prayers and support - it means so much to us and to the students we serve. Wishing you and your family God's best this Christmas,

Trevor + Rebecca



Trevor Gingerich (far right on platform) worships at Humber College in Toronto, ON.

On Passions and Possums

Reaching Canadian students with a message of hope and purpose in Jesus Christ

I wouldn't consider myself to be a timid person, but I'll admit to a few things in life that frighten me. Possums, for example. Shortly after buying my first car at 17, I was driving home from a music practice late one night, pondering the week's events. I had recently joined a worship band belonging to a campus church based out of the University of Waterloo, and I was looking forward to being involved. The Embassy was an exciting, growing student community, and I had known nothing quite like it since making a decision to follow Christ a few years prior.

Turning onto Highway 85 and failing to realize how quickly I was accelerating, I noticed a couple of reflective eyes in the distance. Being the

compassionate person I am, I chose to change lanes in a halfhearted effort to avoid a collision with the unsuspecting critter. To my amazement, however, the animal doubled back as if to seal its fate under the tires of my car. By the time I could react, I was faced with a decision whether to harm the animal or injure myself in an attempt to avoid the inevitable.

The next few seconds passed by, seemingly in slow motion. As I approached, I seemed to actually lock eyes with the poor, helpless possum long enough that I was moved to make a split-second decision to save the animal's life. I swerved sharply at the last second and immediately lost control. I felt the car go up on two wheels and then start spinning down the highway, crossing traffic lanes and threatening to

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WE'RE HELPING STUDENTS COME TO GRIPS WITH JESUS' LIFE AND MESSAGE.

roll at any instant. I fought to regain control of the vehicle, hoping there were no cars beside or behind me as I continued to spin.

After what seemed like an eternity, the car finally came to a complete stop. Immediately checking my rearview mirror for traffic, I saw the large, ungrateful looking possum continue its lazy stroll across the highway, completely unfazed by my selfless act. I felt a sudden urge to turn the car around and finish the job.

Shortly after joining The Embassy and being inspired by this incredible student community, God put a passion in my heart for campus ministry that continued to grow over the next few years of my life. After serving as a youth pastor at a church in the Greater Toronto Area, I felt a strong leading to pursue student ministry but had no idea how to fulfil it. Few churches I applied to had a designated young adult pastor, and I began to wonder where I would ever fit. Finding myself between positions, I stumbled across a study conducted by various Christian research firms about the rate of Christian students who leave the church by the time they've entered college or university (anywhere from 70 to 90 per cent). In my heart, I felt a strange responsibility to help remedy the problem.

I was challenged by Brandon Malo (founder of The Embassy in Waterloo) about creating a new student church at a college or university campus of my choice. The Embassy would provide an internship to help me learn more about the inner workings of a successful campus ministry as I prepared to launch a new one that I would lead. This was the opportunity I was waiting for!

Or so I thought. As the first domestic missionary appointed by Mission Canada, I learned that I would be responsible to raise 100% of my own salary in addition to any ministry costs a new campus ministry would incur. It took me months to get used to the idea of moving back in with my parents, picking up a part-time job and preparing to take such a risk. After all, what if it didn't

work out? What if local churches didn't catch the vision and I had trouble fundraising for my ministry budgets? What obstacles would I encounter in trying to establish a student church in the middle of a secular college or university? The whole thing seemed so counterintuitive to my usual look before I leap mindset.

What kept me up at night was the opposite question, however: What if I didn't do it? What if I didn't follow what God had put in my heart? How many students' lives would *not* be affected because I did *not* go?

On October 6, 2008, a new campus church was launched at Humber College in Toronto. Within the first year, our community doubled in size and earned the unreserved support and endorsement of the college itself. The Embassy at Humber exists to provide students with regular opportunities to gather together to worship and receive biblical teaching that's relevant to their surroundings and pertinent to their unique stage in life. We're helping students come to grips with Jesus' life and message, and finding ways to bless the larger college community. We're changing the statistics. And I've never known a more rewarding time in my life.

These days, the only thing that scares me more than unsuspecting possums is my slowness to discern God's leading and direction for my life. Faced with a moment of decision, sometimes I wonder what tempts me to forgo the risks I know God is asking me to take.

If God were to give you an opportunity to build His kingdom, what would stop you?

Trevor Gingerich pastors a campus church at Humber College in Toronto, ON. He lives with his wife, Rebecca, and his dog, Monkey. Trevor's missionary profile can be found at www.paoc.org/donate/trevoringrich. For more information about the ministry Trevor leads, visit www.embassyhumber.com.