

December '25

Dear congregation of Grace Church,



Eastern Ontario Campus Team (L to R): Melody, Hannah, Deirdre, Cheralyn, Mary, Cristy, Brandon

As I write these words, it's November. It's a little gray, a little bare. But it's also the time of year you plant your flower bulbs, trusting they will bloom in the spring.

Ministry this month also feels a little bare, but we are planting bulbs, trusting that they will bloom! First years are attending Bible studies – what could happen as we offer them Christian mentorship? We have people praying together weekly for the first time in years – what could happen as we intercede for our campus?

I am grateful for the students asking these questions with me – faithfully praying for their non-Christian friends and offering mentorship to first years (more stories on the next page!).

CULTIVATING HOPE

I am also grateful for your partnership in this planting work! Your generosity in time, in finances, and in prayer allows us to keep planting seeds. **Thank you for your investment in the gospel.**

I have already spoken with many of you about the needs of our ministry this year, and you have been generous. Together, you have donated over \$57 000! **Thank you for supporting our mission!**

Our needs remain large. We want to run an Alpha course for nonChristians in January and offer more people Christian mentorship, but we can't do it without your continued support.

Would you give a special gift to the work of InterVarsity at Carleton this Christmas? Our goal is to raise \$12 500 more this year. You can give in 3 ways:

Online: www.ivcf.ca/donate/dwalters

Mail: Send a cheque to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1 International Blvd., Toronto, ON M9W 6H3, designated for Deirdre Walters.

Phone: Call 1-800-668-9766 to give via credit card.



Carleton students celebrate after five days in the book of Revelation this past May.



The Creation Care Week crew rests after a long day of battling invasive species at Windstone Farm.

Your generosity allows us to continue investing in students like Anne,* who agreed to lead prayer this year. Every week, she invites her peers into a peaceful space of gratitude, of reflection, and of intercession.

We name what we're grateful for. We pray for God to move in the lives of our friends. We name the prayers God has answered from last week. There is always at least one!

I also think of Simon,* who told us, a month after coming to his first Bible study, that he only came to InterVarsity in order to get out of leading a small group at his church!

Then God met him at UrbanCon, our citywide conference on generosity and service, and he decided to commit to our community instead of using it. Last week he was first to volunteer to lead our Bible study while I was away.

I also think of Prudence,* who called me in October with passion in her voice: "Deirdre, it is my dream to run an Alpha Course at

Carleton! Do you think InterVarsity could help me do it? I have people I want to meet Jesus, but I can't do it alone." We said yes!

It's a privilege to support students who are committed to bringing God's presence to Carleton, one prayer meeting and Bible study and conversation at a time. **Thank you for planting these flower bulbs with us and thank you for praying for their growth!**

May you have eyes to see the seeds God is planting in your own life in these wintery days. Contrary to all appearances, Jesus is on his way.

Blessings,

Deirdre



Students from across Ottawa intercede on behalf of people experiencing food insecurity at our first UrbanCon.

**name changed for privacy*