

THE EMBASSY

HUMBER COLLEGE | UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH HUMBER

BACK ON CAMPUS!

After two years of online-only ministry, it's hard to describe just *how satisfying* it felt to finally begin gathering students together this fall. Because we knew how starved for connection many students have felt over the last two years, we decided to lean harder than ever into building open, welcoming communities of mutual support, generous hospitality and deep conversation. It was a semester to remember! Here are some highlights.

REBUILDING... FOR THE BETTER

"I'd love to join Embassy, but I have a class on Monday nights." This has always been a disappointing thing to hear from students we meet at giveaways or club fairs. Although smaller events tend to happen on other days of the week, our main gatherings have always been on Mondays. It's a rhythm that works well for many students, but still precludes others from fully participating.

However, the pandemic forced a "reset" on everything we had become accustomed to doing. We started the fall with what felt like a blank canvas—a rare opportunity to remodel the ministry to reach more students than ever and position it for growth.



MORE OPTIONS, MORE ENGAGEMENT

So starting this past September, we launched 3 separate Embassy communities that meet on different days during the week. The hope was that this would enable us to reach more students than before the pandemic—and by God's grace, it's working! We're already seeing a substantial increase in student engagement along with much better retention (students showing up much more consistently) than before COVID.

But the numbers don't tell the whole story. One night, one of our core leaders was approached by a student with some very unique perspective, having been part of The Embassy in her first year (before the remodel):



"She didn't feel as welcome or cared for as she does now. She felt that before, when Embassy was a bigger production, people got missed in the hustle and bustle of getting things ready and she didn't always feel that people truly cared to know her. This year has felt SO much more welcoming, she said. She really feels loved and cared for each week."

Needless to say, this particular piece of feedback was a huge encouragement to everyone on the team. Perhaps the pandemic "reset" was precisely what we needed to build a better Embassy! (Who knew?) Another advantage of this new model is how scalable it is, allowing us to add additional groups on additional days, times or locations provided only that we can raise up the student leaders required to help lead them. So, please pray for us as we seek to expand the team, which will in turn expand our reach!



MEET THE NEW INTERN!

Remember that prayer request for "more help" included in our last newsletter? Meet Hebsiba Shaji! Hebsiba served on our student Executive while studying at Humber and began a part-time ministry internship with us this fall:

"Hi everyone! My name is Hebsiba. I'm a recently-graduated international student from Kerala, India.

College life was stressful for me. Moving to a new country, COVID, multiple part-time jobs, questions about faith, etc. Embassy made me feel like I was apart of a community that tackles questions & life situations together. The teaching provided is relevant to life, and group discussions allow people to reflect and engage with others on the same journey. I needed that. The students at this campus do too.

Humber currently has 6000+ international students from 130 different nationalities. It's been exciting to join Embassy's mission and lend my experience to help care for them. Thank you for every way you support us."

Aside from helping to lead one of our communities, keeping on top of communication and mainting our social media presence, Hebsiba has taken the lead on new initiatives designed to better care for Embassy's growing international

student community. Here's another interesting fact about her: directly after she graduated, Hebsiba landed a job with Humber's own IT department. She is on campus every day, making it unusually convenient for her to be involved! Hebsiba is also currently working toward her permanent residency (PR), so please pray with us that she'll be able to secure her citizenship in due time. She is a true gift to us!

"I'M SO GLAD I FOUND THE EMBASSY..."

Hearing students express this to us (as we have on multiple occasions this past semester) is always deeply encouraging. Pulling students into a Christ-centred community is a big part of why the ministry exists, so experiencing such a strong start to the school term is very exciting! It also fills us with gratitude toward our faithful supporters.

Humber has a community of faith for young adults to belong to because God continues to provide for us—through you! See the next page for how to support our efforts to introduce students to Jesus and help them thrive in their faith during these crucial few years of their lives. Thank you!



Financially-speaking...

We're thrilled at how effective the new ministry model is proving to be, even as **launching multiple communities (and other new initiatives) has multiplied ministry expenses**. In addition, we plan to ramp up outreach efforts on campus too, which will no doubt continue to draw new students to The Embassy! In order to sustain all of this however, we're looking to increase our donor base in 2023. So, now is a great time to consider supporting the ministry financially if you're able.

Here's how The Embassy is funded: similar to a missionary working overseas, I (Trevor) am responsible to raise 100% of everything required to keep the ministry going every year. Fundraising can be a real challenge of course, but "many hands make for light work"—even a small donation makes a difference, especially if we can count on it every month! All gifts are tax-deductible, too. Here's how to follow through if you'd like to give:

- **Donate online via credit card (one-time gift OR monthly commitment):** Quick and easy! Just go to: <http://donate.embassyhumber.com> and follow the on-screen instructions.
- **Donate by cheque (one-time gift):** Cheques can be made payable to "PAOC Mission Canada". Just put "The Embassy - Rev. Trevor Gingerich" in the memo line and mail it directly to the address below. I'll be able to see and track your donation as soon as it's processed!
- **Donate by EFT (monthly commitment):** Please contact me (via email or phone below) so I can send you the required donation form to set up automatic withdrawals directly from your bank account.

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Have a question? Let's chat!
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