



# LIFELINE



## SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Hey Ministry Family!

We began the month of September finishing off our 21 Day "Journey through John" where we read through the book of John with students who opted in. Each day one of our leaders shared a devotional on the chapter with questions sparking discussion in the daily instagram group chat thread. We started in August and finished on September 8, which was the first day of classes for this Fall 2020 semester. It was beautiful to see students chewing up scripture together and applying it to their lives. And what a perfect way to begin the semester. One of our leaders told us that it really strengthened her faith leading some of the devotionals, and that even her brother woke up each morning excited to participate in the daily bible reading and engage the questions.

We also had a special vision casting meeting with our leaders, as we do at the beginning of each academic year. We took time to talk about where God has brought us in the years past, and where He's leading us this year. We spent time in prayer over our current students, and for the new ones we knew God was about to entrust to us.

We hosted our first ever Digital Welcome Week during the first week of classes with three nights of special events designed to engage new students and it was so exciting to see that happen! Between the School Survival Guide, Meet and Greet, Board Games Night, and Cooking Tutorial we had about 30 new students connect with us through our Instagram account (@lifelineru) which is our main online hub.



The following week we hit the ground running with our Fall 2020 Kickoff service, which we are now doing on YouTube live to make it even more accessible and shareable for students. This was a huge undertaking to figure out equipment, programs, encoders, and all of the technical behind the scenes stuff that comes along with it. However, by God's grace and through some truly incredible provision, it was a stellar first night! We had no glitches, and great engagement in the live comments throughout. We've been going live each week on YouTube since then and we're so pleased with what God is doing through it.

Following the live-streamed teachings, we do what we call the "afterparty" on Zoom where students can come and ask questions about what we just talked about, or tell us about their week and connect relationally.

Then on Thursday nights we do what we call "Living Rooms" which is bible study for people who don't know how to study the bible. During these moments students get to ask questions, and interact with us as we all dig deep into the Word and what it says about various topics. We do them on Zoom to facilitate that conversational approach to delving into the Word. So far this month we've talked about who the Holy Spirit is, the purpose of marriage, and what Jesus-centred dating looks like.

One of my favourite parts of ministry is the one-on-one and small group connection where deep, honest and personal conversation can happen that can lead to freedom, healing and growth. I love hearing students' stories, as it gives me a sense of how they came to be who and how they are. I'm always honoured when students open up, and this season has been no different.

We continue to meet with students in that smaller format at different times throughout the week, and they continue to share their victories and struggles with us. And because of this, we're able to encourage, care for, build up and challenge them in ways that are specific to them.

We want to thank you so much for your continued support for LifeLine! We couldn't do what we're doing without you. You are enabling us to continue to share the gospel with Ryerson students and make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

A few months ago I had the privilege of being interviewed on a podcast by Kevin Rogers called "Sidewalk Skyline" on urban ministry. I've included the link to that episode in the email this newsletter is attached to if you'd like to listen to it.

Please pray with us for creativity as to how to continue to engage new students. Pray for the new students who have joined our LifeLine family, that God would help us integrate them into our family and disciple them. Pray for breakthrough in the lives of our students who are wrestling with addictions and wounds, because we know Jesus is able and willing to bring freedom.

Blessed to Call You Partner,

David + Krysten Burke

