

## **Follow me**

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." – Matthew 4:19*

Engaging in outreach is difficult because we are often afraid of rejection and failure, or we might think that we're not "spiritually strong" enough to defend our faith. But over the past three years of my journey at CCF, I've come to realize that these reasons all point towards a bigger picture. We are afraid to outreach because we have lost sight of what Jesus has called us to do: to follow Him and make His name known.

## **Submission**

*"For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." – Romans 8:6*

We struggle to accept this call because submitting to the authority of God requires us to give up our desires, goals, and ambitions and look solely at Him. We have become lethargic to being more outreach driven because its hard, and we have realized that following the desires of our flesh is much easier than following the will of God. The call to follow Jesus helps us to see that outreach is more than just hosting events, but rather it is the way that we should be living our everyday life.

My hope is that CCF will be able to embark on a journey where we introspectively examine the things that hold us from truly submitting to Gods will. The integration of outreach in our lives can only transpire if we commit our desires to follow Jesus and trust that His plan is greater than ours. By surrendering ourselves, we allow Jesus to work through us and create a heart for The Gospel, and a heart for Him.

## **A Heart for the Gospel, A Heart for Christ**

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." – Psalm 51:10*

Following Jesus requires submission. As we delve deeper into the Gospel, our hearts grow more attuned to the Kingdom and we become more compelled to submit. We often prioritize our own agendas when we perform outreach. We confine outreach to merely large group events and we measure our success based on how many people attend. However, we forget that it is God who works in the hearts of people, and not us. It is only when we are able to see what God sees, and love as God loves that we are able to truly create a culture of outreach in our fellowship. It is not easy to accomplish, but this is a vision that I am excited to challenge and journey with the fellowship for the following year.

### Possible Practical Components

- More training for IG leaders to find ways to incorporate outreach during IG times
- Workshops for evangelism training and prayer for the community
- Discussion with Ministry leaders on how to make their ministries more open to non-Christians
- Support committee to incorporate elements of outreach into their vision