

Merry Christmas

May our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts and homes with His amazing presence, peace, love, joy, and hope!

CRC Campus Ministry

University of Northern British
Columbia

Prince George



Final products! We made 250 bags for the students. My living room looked like Santa's factory right before Christmas. It was the best!



Hanging out with UNBC First Nations Centre staff and students.

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate Christ's birth with gratitude, knowing that God has indeed fulfilled His promise to reconcile humanity to Himself, I am also filled with deep gratitude for your continued support for the CRC Campus Ministry at UNBC. In the second half of this semester, God has blessed me with many opportunities to build and deepen relationships with the UNBC community. He has reminded me time and time again that His good and faithful work is grace-filled and unceasing. I am thankful for new friendships with students, faculty, and staff, and anticipate ministry opportunities for God's glory. I am so excited to see all that God will do in 2021 in campus ministry. Below are some highlights from the latter half of this semester!

The second half of the semester came with stricter COVID-related rules and regulations. The campus continued to remain virtual and non-essential presence on campus was discouraged. However, God is faithful! His goodness has been evident in so many ways. Our weekly morning devotionals ("Scripture & Sunrise") and Thursday evening bible study on Mark continued virtually. CRC Campus Ministry continued to partner with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) for these weekly activities. The best part of the devotions were the opportunities to follow-up with students throughout the week on the prayer requests that were shared. This has been a wonderful way to continually remember that we have a Great Good Shepherd who hears and answers our prayers! The highlight of the bible study that comes to mind is the evening that Derek Joyce (IVCF) and I taught a student how to pray for the first time! It is such an honour to experience God's incredible grace as students continue to seek after our Lord Jesus Christ.



Goodies for the "goodie bags"!

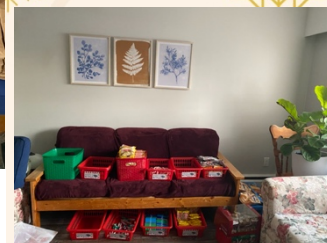


Food, drinks, encouraging notes all went inside these bags!

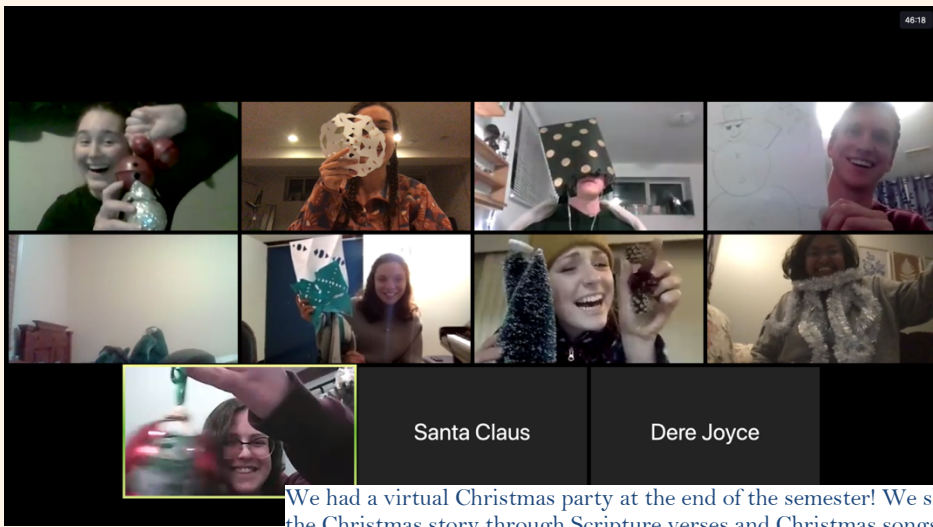
Yet another highlight! This semester CRC Campus Ministry partnered with two UNBC departments to provide pre-exam stressbuster "goodie bags" (especially for students in residence). These bags included food/drink items, coloring pencils, coloring

sheets, etc. The goal of these "goodie bags" was to encourage students as they entered into the exam season. Camus Ministry also provided Christmas popcorn for students and invited them to watch the movie "Home Alone" on Zoom. We had students from the UNBC

Twelve baskets in my living room with twelve days' worth of Christmas gifts for students!



residence and other parts of BC join us for the movie night. I am in awe of the ways that God opens doors. He made so many partnerships possible so that we can continually minister to students and encourage them during this strange/challenging season.



We had a virtual Christmas party at the end of the semester! We shared the Christmas story through Scripture verses and Christmas songs.

I started off the semester feeling anxious and worried that I would not be able to meet students and reach the larger UNBC community. I had all kinds of questions running through my mind: What if I couldn't connect with students? How would I minister to this community during COVID? Now, I'm running out of space here, because I can't write out everything that God has done! You'll have to email or call me to hear even more ☺

God has continually made the way. He has given favour, strength, mercy, and grace in every step. I've hung out with graduate students for virtual coffee (for something called "Sip and Chat"). I've even had the opportunity to sit in on a graduate thesis defense online! I've learnt so much as the Chair of our UNBC Interfaith Spiritual Care Centre. I've had the joy of praying with a faculty member regularly on Thursday mornings. I have been so humbled and have felt amazingly supported



We watched "Home Alone" with a group of students before exam week...eating the popcorn from one of the days of Christmas!

by the prayer gathering on Friday mornings where members of the Northern CR Churches have prayed with me and for me. God has been faithful! I can't say this enough! I have also found support and encouragement through the virtual ZOOM gatherings of CRC campus ministers throughout various parts of Canada and the US. God has been unwavering and relentless! I rejoice that this ministry is so wonderfully supported by friends like you, and most importantly, by our God.

PRAYER: We need your prayers! Please pray for students and their various needs (especially for mental health, dealing with bereavement and/or illnesses of family/friends, those who have tested COVID positive). Please pray that I would continue to minister faithfully through the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. Please remember the UNBC faculty and staff. Please pray for wisdom and guidance, as they continue to navigate the virtual academic world.

Please watch for an email invitation or email me to join a weekly prayer gathering for the UNBC community.

SUPPORT: Please prayerfully consider financially supporting this ministry. Your support is so important and goes a long way in this ministry! You may visit the ministry's website to learn more (<https://croatunbc.wixsite.com/crcatunbc>) or contact me at (sharon.dhavale@gmail.com or 778-349-2440). Please feel free to contact me with any other questions/concerns/thoughts too.

Favourite Memory

Two memories to share with you! I got to hangout on a weekly basis with the First Nations Elder-in-Residence, Marcel Gagnon, and the Aboriginal Connections Coordinator, Spencer Hammond. As we got to know each other, we had many insightful discussions on faith and spirituality. I was often asked to start or end or time with prayer, and to share my understanding of Jesus with them.

My roommate and I taking pictures together and embracing the snowy winters of Northern BC is a second favorite memory!



Spending time with other CRC campus ministers on ZOOM!



Taking every opportunity to be on campus! It's been pretty empty. My roommate, Terri, and I at UNBC!

From: Sharon Dhavale
Campus Minister at UNBC

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW