



## **Like Actual People!**

Good evening wonderful friends and partners in ministry! Thanks so much for journeying with us thus far! What a ride we've all had these past few years!! But this campus year has felt way more normal; we can approach people again to have conversations!!! Like actual people! Not through a screen, or via an app; real people...in real life! It has been a joy for our staff and students to be able to engage in this way again. One of our student leaders said a few weeks ago right before doing walk up campus evangelism, "We can actually do what we've been talking about for two years!"



## **FIRST IN PERSON CONFERENCE (in years!)**

We have just returned from our mid year Student Life National Conference. Again, this was the first one (that wasn't digital!) that we've had in 3 years! Although Daniel and I are feeling old (compared to an 18 year old student!), we are still thrilled to be able to invest in students in this way and have a front row seat in them engaging deeper with Jesus and his heart for the world. It still feels like a privilege to do what we do alongside tremendous colleagues many of whom we have known since they were students.

Also, while we were at conference, I got to visit one of my mentors in Hamilton, (the woman who we laughably hold personally responsible for me saying yes to dating Daniel all those years ago!!) It was also so great having our kids witness this community & we pray they will be little spiritual sponges soaking it all in! ;)



## MEET ANGELO

We came across this young man named Angelo on campus this year. We met Angelo through some of the his high school friends who are now involved with Student Life and started to become curious as to what we were about. Angelo came with us to conference and spoke of his wrestling with impressing God, how this topic of His grace was groundbreaking for him and how different students at conference had enhanced his view of grace more and more. A week after conference, we were all back at Victoria University and Angelo ducks out of for a moment to attend his tutorial and we find out later that he had announced to his whole class that he is now involved with us and if anyone has any questions regarding Jesus, God or spirituality to link up with us and as a result 2 students did just that! Angelo has been a regular to our weekly prayer times, sharing times and is such a bundle of teachability trying to meet up with any and everyone within Student Life for camaraderie and to bounce off many questions he has about his newfound faith in Jesus!

**Photo Above (from your left): Gershom, Angelo and myself**







## BACK YOUR BACKYARD 🍷🎯⚽

Our outreach initiative straight after mid year conference consisted of an attempt to support local businesses (a language and a spirit many of our students are on board with) whilst bridging into ways to share the gospel with more students. We were able to give out local business instant prizes as students filled out our online survey to indicate their interest in knowing more about Jesus.

Through this campaign, Caleb (one of our key students) got to lead a guy named Lakshan to Christ. Which is awesome. But how it came about is quite a story too; Caleb had just met a guy named Jarred who had recently heard about who Student Life was on his plane ride to Wellington from Christchurch. Jarred was attempting to share Jesus with a student on that plane not knowing that student was one of our key student leaders (Beatrice) who was also prompted to share the gospel with Jarred!! Crazy! They exchanged details after finding out they were both Christians and Beatrice linked Jarred with Caleb. So back on campus Caleb takes Jarred with him to an 'back your backyard' appointment and it's there that they both meet Lakshan and Lakshan decides to follow Jesus!!!



## ↑ FAMILY UPDATE ↓

It has been a whirlwind with us post conference with sick kids but they've all championed through it and 'normality' has reared its head again. Brandon started playing Saturday morning soccer (and we are still grieving the loss of our slow

Saturday mornings!) 😊 and his team name is the Stingrays, so this has influenced Jax's cake request for his fourth birthday as pictured below.



## PRAISES & PRAYERS

Navigating marriage in the midst of ministry responsibilities and little people responsibilities!

Wisdom for our student ministries in navigating how the new 'conversion therapy' laws impacts our conversations on campus.

The 8 students from Wellington who attended conference that are still exploring faith. Please continue to pray that those many seeds sown that week will take deep root in their lives.

Praise, for you guys; our partners in ministry. We often look through our list and think through the history & conversations we've had and just feel so blessed by your friendship and that we get to journey with you, and you with us, over many many years! Thank you!



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