

the GRAPEVINE

GOOD NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

FALL 2010

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REACHING FUTURE LEADERS

✿ TODAY ✿

A *Love* Story

by Elizabeth Séguin, CCO Ottawa University Alumnus and
current CCO missionary, and Patrick Tobin

Liz I met my fiancé, Pat, in January of 2006, in math class at the University of Ottawa. I knew he was the only one in the class who did well on the midterm so I suggested we study together. He thought I was cute so he accepted. It wasn't long before we became friends. By next autumn, we were dating. I told him that we could only date if he was okay with living chastely. He thought I was cute and nice, and so he agreed. I was leading faith studies with CCO and went to Mass every week. I asked Pat what his beliefs were, and he wasn't too sure how to answer.

Pat It wasn't long after we started dating when chastity got really hard to live. I didn't understand why we weren't going to have sex until we got married. Liz tried to explain why it was so important to her, but at the end of the day, it just seemed like something religious people did and that wasn't me.

Liz I was learning to what point chastity meant more than "not having sex". This was especially apparent when we did things that fell into the category of "not having sex" and yet still didn't sit right with me. I felt deep regret, and Pat saw that.

Pat It became clear to me that chastity wasn't just a tradition, or some religious conviction Liz held. There was something deeper to it, but I just didn't get it yet. I began to ask questions about Church teachings, and on more than just the topic of chastity. The funny thing was that I didn't feel pressure from Liz. There was, however, a pressure building inside me to find answers.

Liz I didn't want Pat to feel any pressure from me. I wanted him to come to Mass but I truly didn't want him to come to make me happy, I wanted him to be there to be close to his Lord and Savior. I cried out to God to place this desire in Pat's heart, the desire to get to know God.

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CCO

at home and abroad

CCO Halifax



Students, staff, alumni and supporters pose for a photo at CCO Halifax's annual "Meet the Movement", or "MTM." CCO hosts an "MTM" in every district every year to share what God is doing on university campuses through CCO. CCO is present at both Dalhousie University and St. Mary's University in Halifax.

University of Ottawa



Students eat and mingle in various CCO supporters' homes for Ottawa U and Carleton's "Progressive Supper." This annual event is one of the many ways our supporters get to meet the students we work with on a daily basis.

Canonization of Brother André



CCO's founders André and Angèle Regnier were joined by CCO missionaries Scott Roy, Etienne De Champlain, and Carol Stevenson at the canonization of Brother André Bessette of Montreal in Rome on Oct 17th. St. André is the first Canadian-born male saint. CCO's Rise Up Conference will be in Montreal this year and its theme is related to Brother André.

Carleton University



The CCO Carleton staff team and student executive at 'home' in the BSA (Blue Seating Area). Students regularly gather in the BSA to hang out and share their faith.

Leadership Summit in Rome



CCO President Jeff Lockert and HR Director Michael Hall met with global Catholic leaders in Rome for a conference on leadership in November. The Leadership Summit's facilitator was past Gonzaga University President Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, PHD who spoke on faith-based leadership in our contemporary culture.

Queen's University



Pictured above are some of the 25 people in attendance at Queen's first ever CCO Fall Retreat! Many students encountered the love of Christ in a deeper way, as well they discovered the importance of living out their missionary call as Catholic students.

University of Saskatchewan



These U of S students hand out chip bags along with "60 Second Surveys." Every semester CCO conducts these surveys as a means of reaching out to students and to advertise Faith Studies.

University of Calgary



Students gather in small groups following CCO Founder André Regnier's talk at the Fall Retreat. This is the University of Calgary's first year with a CCO mission team.

Université Laval



These young missionaries of CCO-Mission Campus serve popcorn to their peers. CCO-Laval, in its second year of ministry, has seen a rise in student involvement on campus.

University of British Columbia



The UBC student executive proves that having fun is an essential aspect of evangelization. CCO missionaries, whether staff or student, recognize the necessity of building healthy relationships in the midst of ministry.

CCO Mission to Uganda



CCO missionaries pose with the Bishop of Masaka Diocese during the Uganda mission trip in August 2010. Their CCO training conference trained local missionaries in over seven campuses across the country.

Simon Fraser University



The team at Simon Fraser University poses for a group picture at CCO Staff Training. Missionary teams work together as they build into student leaders and plan many events to help draw students into a relationship with God.

CCO visits Cardinal Ouellet



CCO President Jeff Lockert met with Cardinal Marc Ouellet, now Prefect of the Congregation of Bishops, at his office at the Vatican in November. Cardinal Ouellet is a strong supporter of CCO and was instrumental in CCO's expansion to Laval University in Québec City.

Impact Calgary



CCO ran another successful domestic mission in Calgary this past summer. God blessed the people of the Diocese of Calgary and the CCO students and staff members from across Canada who were part of the mission team. To read about it go to cco.ca and follow the link.

Rise Up Montréal

CCO NATIONAL CONFERENCE
RISEUP
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"I AM ONLY A MAN, JUST LIKE YOU" – « JE NE SUIS QU'UN HOMME, TOUT COMME VOUS. » - FRÈRE ANDRÉ BESSETTE

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A *Love* Story

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Pat Liz didn't know that this desire was already building inside me. I was meeting all these young Catholics who seemed to be filled with a joy that I didn't understand, and who spoke of a personal relationship with Christ. I wanted that, so I dug deeper. I learned that most of what I knew about the Church was stereotypes. It turned out that the actual teachings made sense to me, including those on chastity. I realized that chastity was beyond "not having sex". It is a way of life in which we value the gift of our sexuality and respect the life-giving potential of sex. We are all called by God to be chaste, whether we are single, dating or married. Without realizing it, I started to go to Mass every week.

Liz I noticed that he had started going to Mass every week. I especially noticed when I moved to Quebec and he still never missed a week.

Pat I was surprised to realize that my desires to participate in the life of the Church really had nothing to do with my relationship with Liz. Something had changed in me. I had a personal relationship with Christ and longed to spend time with Him. Fast-forward a few months: I began to feel a desire to go to confession. I told Liz I was feeling remorse about all the un-chaste times in my life. I returned to the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time since my first reconciliation in grade two. After I confessed my sins, I felt a huge weight lifted from my shoulders. I realized that I wasn't alone, and that no matter what mistakes I make, God loves me and is always there with me.

Liz After Pat told me this, I remember telling my friend, "Now I can marry him. He's ready." Then I started doubting how ready I was. I felt overwhelmed by the new love I felt for the Lord. I wanted to give myself entirely to Him and I wasn't sure if I could do that while giving myself to a man in marriage. We broke up so that I could have time to discern my vocation. Was I called to marriage or religious life? I needed to feel free to hear God's answer, whatever it was, and I just couldn't be free to do that while dating Pat. I was too scared of what the answer would mean.

Pat I knew I had no choice but to give her that freedom, especially since I wanted to marry her. I decided to take the time to talk with God about what He was calling me to. Was it really marriage with Liz?

Liz Three months went by. They were three months of prayer, being loved by the Lord, and begging Him for answers and patience. Right before moving back to Ottawa in May 2010, it all became clear. My intimacy with the Lord had not increased in the time Pat and I had spent apart. God WAS calling me to a more intimate relationship with Him, and the way He was choosing to do that was through Pat. I saw how God used our relationship first and foremost to draw me deeper in love with Himself. I told Pat that the Lord had made it clear and that I am called to marriage with him.

Pat She wanted to know if I felt the same way. I explained to her that the same day she had received so much clarity, so had I. I too knew we were called to marriage. I went out and bought a ring, and a few months later I proposed. She said YES!

Our wedding will be April 30th 2011. We are excited to see how God will continue to work in our lives as we move closer toward the sacrament of marriage.



Rome-ing Saints

by Colleen Roy, Vancouver, British Columbia



A delegation was sent to Rome to represent Catholic Christian Outreach at the canonization of Brother André (Alfred) Besette. The CCO staff members who attended are, from left to right, Scott Roy, Etienne De Champlain, Angèle Regnier, André Regnier, and Carol Stevenson.

When my husband, Scott told me that he had been invited to go to Rome for the canonization of Brother André Besette I was horribly jealous! But my happiness for his opportunity far outweighed my envy. Scott had never left the continent before, so the chance to go to Rome and see not only the Pope, but also the artwork and the beauty, was a real gift for him. He hesitated before accepting the invitation, as he knew it would mean leaving me alone with our four children, all under age 8. Considering I was also pregnant with our fifth child, I knew that it would be a long week without him, but I didn't want him to pass up this blessing and gift despite any minor guilt I might have jokingly lay on him.

He was excited at the prospect of spending time with André and Angèle, the founder's of CCO, and getting to know Carol and Etienne better, some fellow missionaries from across Canada. He was giddy at the thought of seeing Pope Benedict up close, and he felt honoured to be present at the canonization of the first Canadian male saint who was born in this country.

Neither Scott nor I knew much about Saint André, back in his "Blessed" days. Of course, I had heard his name, and of the Oratory, but honestly didn't really know much more than that. When Scott was in Ottawa for staff training he drove to Montreal and spent a day at the Oratory getting to know the simple, humble man we now call "Saint". Scott came home eager to share all that he had learned. He even brought home silly souvenir pens with pictures of André that float up and down at the base. The kids were well pleased!

Quebec is at a time of great potential regarding its Catholic heritage. It is widely known for its loss of faith and decrease in the number of practicing Catholics, so I see the canonization of Saint André to be a

rich and providential blessing for our country. It is also no coincidence that CCO recently started its second year in Quebec. How can there not be great things in store? Saint André was a simple, uneducated man, but he lived his life in abandonment to the will of God. Bombarded by visitors and prayer requests, he took the needs of the multitudes and passed them on to Saint Joseph to lay at the feet of Jesus. Scott said that the testimonies left behind by those who received miraculous healings were overwhelming, but the greatest gift given to these people was a strengthening in their faith. It actually turns out that I have a friend whose father was healed personally through Saint André. These stories and more have turned my curiosity into a love for the humble doorman of Quebec.

When Scott was in Rome, his love for Saint André grew as well, but I would say that even more so, his love for the Church and his passion for his work with CCO increased. Our country has great potential. With the love and prayers of men like Saint André and Pope Benedict we must have faith that our work in evangelization will bear sweet fruit.



Scott, Colleen and their children along with CCO student Brandon Lanteigne.

Curious about Saint André? See documentary, God's Doorkeeper at saltandlighttv.org

TÉMOIGNAGE D'UNE ÉTUDIANTE

Me Retrouver et en Rejoindre d'autre

par Doriane Angers, étudiante leader de l'Université Laval à Québec

Que CCO signifie pour moi? Définitivement beaucoup, beaucoup plus que j'aurais pu le penser lorsque j'ai rempli le sondage à la table de pop corn ou participé à ma première étude de foi, l'automne dernier. J'avais déjà participé à des groupes catholiques auparavant et tous m'avaient énormément apporté. J'avais donc confiance que mon implication avec CCO serait elle aussi une belle expérience. Ce que je ne savais pas, cependant, c'est qu'elle allait totalement changer ma vie.

Les études bibliques étaient parmi mes moments préférés de la semaine. J'aimais me réunir avec d'autres étudiants, partager, prier, rire et apprendre avec eux. À travers les études bibliques, j'ai commencé à vraiment vivre ma foi au quotidien et j'ai mieux compris ce que quoi je crois. À ma deuxième session avec CCO, tout en suivant Source, j'ai eu l'opportunité d'animer Découverte et ce fut une vraie bénédiction pour moi. J'ai tellement grandi dans ma foi!

CCO n'a pas seulement eu un impact sur ma vie de foi. Il a aussi affecté tellement de dimensions de ma vie. À travers mon implication avec CCO, j'ai trouvé la force d'être vraiment moi-même et donc d'être ouvertement catholique. À ma grande surprise, mes amis non catholiques et « croyants-non-pratiquants » l'ont accepté. Ils

ne m'ont pas jugée, ne m'ont pas rejetée et certains ont même montré de l'intérêt envers ce que je faisais. C'était un grand soulagement pour moi. Bien qu'ayant été impliquée dans ma foi depuis mon enfance, je n'avais jamais trouvé le courage d'en parler en dehors de mon milieu pratiquant. Ce refus de m'assumer m'avait amenée, peu à peu, à diminuer ma pratique religieuse et, bien que j'avais conservé mes croyances et valeurs, ma foi avait perdu de l'importance à mes yeux. Avant de commencer l'université, toutefois, j'ai décidé de changer. J'avais besoin de revenir à une foi plus profonde et d'avoir un groupe d'appartenance partageant mes convictions. Ce fut une des meilleures décisions de ma vie. Vivre pleinement ma foi m'a apporté une paix intérieure qui s'est reflétée sur mes relations avec les autres et à amplifié mon désir de donner le meilleur de moi-même. Ma vie était d'autant plus belle qu'à travers CCO, j'ai pu rencontrer d'autres jeunes qui partageaient ma foi et développer des amitiés précieuses.

CCO a aussi changé ma perception de l'évangélisation. Pendant longtemps, elle a eu une connotation péjorative à mes yeux. Toutefois, avec CCO, j'ai réalisé que j'avais tort. J'ai compris qu'évangéliser n'est pas un acte d'assimilation, mais de partage de l'Évangile, de l'amour de Dieu que nous expérimentons et que nous vou-

lons faire découvrir aux autres. Cette compréhension nouvelle a changé ma façon de penser et m'a réconciliée avec l'idée de faire connaître et d'expliquer mes croyances et valeurs à ceux que je rencontre.

Loin de CCO et de mes amis le temps d'une session à l'étranger, je réalise maintenant encore plus à quel point ils signifient beaucoup pour moi et comment ils ont eu un impact sur ce que je suis et ce que je veux être. Je ne sais pas encore ce que je vais faire de ma vie, mais j'ai désormais une certitude: le Seigneur m'appelle à être son vraie disciple. Il me demande de vivre en accord avec ses enseignements et d'annoncer l'Évangile non seulement avec des mots, mais aussi par ce que je suis et ce que je fais. Il est toujours là pour moi et moi aussi je veux être là pour Lui.

Doriane avec une autre membre de CCO, Joanna Cielukowska, d'Université d'Ottawa.



STUDENT TESTIMONY

Finding myself *and reaching others*

by Doriane Angers, Student leader at Laval University in Quebec City

What does CCO mean to me? Definitely a lot, much more than I could have imagined when I filled out the popcorn survey or began my first faith study last fall. I had participated in Catholic groups before and all of them had brought me a lot, so I was confident that my involvement with CCO would be a great experience as well. What I didn't know, however, is that it would totally change my life.

Faith studies were some of my favorite times of the week. I loved to gather with other students, to share, pray, laugh, and learn with them. Through the faith studies, I began to really live my faith on a daily basis and come to a better understanding of what I believe in. During my second semester with CCO, while doing Source, I had the opportunity to lead Discovery. This was such a blessing for me. I grew so much in my faith while leading the study!

CCO didn't only impact my faith. It also affected many other dimensions of my life. Through my involvement with CCO, I found the strength to be true to myself, which meant being openly Catholic. To my great surprise, my non-Catholic and "believer-not-practicing" friends accepted it. They didn't

judge me, didn't reject me, and some even showed interest in what I was doing. This was a huge relief for me. Though I was involved in my faith since childhood, I had never found the courage to talk about it outside of my Catholic entourage. This refusal to be myself led me to decrease my religious practice and, although I kept my beliefs and values, my faith became less important to me. Before beginning college, however, I decided to change. I needed to come back to a deeper faith and to belong to a group that shared my convictions. This was one of the best decisions of my life. Fully living my faith filled me with an inner peace that was reflected in my relationships with others. It also increased my desire to give the best of myself. My life was all the more beautiful because, through CCO, I had the opportunity to meet other young adults who shared my faith and to develop precious friendships.

CCO also changed my perception of evangelization. For a long time, evangelization had a negative connotation for me. CCO helped me to see it more positively. I understood that evangelization isn't about assimilating people, but rather about sharing the Gospel, sharing God's

love which we experience and want others to know as well. This new understanding changed my way of thinking and made me want to share my beliefs and values with others.

I am currently spending a semester abroad, away from CCO and my friends back home. I now realize even more how much they mean to me and how they have influenced who I am and who I want to be. I don't know yet what I will do with my life, but there is one thing I am sure of: the Lord calls me to be his true disciple. He asks me to live in accordance with His teaching and to share the Gospel not only with words, but also by who I am and what I do. He is always there for me and I want to be there for Him too.



Newest Members of the CCO Missionary Team



IAN ANDERSON
University of British Columbia
Campus Intern



SUZANNE BARIL
University of Calgary
Campus VINE



JASMINE BEAN
Carleton University
Campus Intern



HAILEY BROWN
National Headquarters
HQ VINE



CHANTAL CASTELINO
Simon Fraser University
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ANTHONY CHURKO
National Headquarters
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KEVIN DARWENT
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ROB KOEHL
Queen's University
Campus VINE



JEFF LAVERY
Carleton University
Campus Intern



KATIE LEBRUN
National Headquarters
HQ Intern



NATALIE MORRILL
CCO Halifax
Campus VINE



JOSH NADEAU
University of Calgary
Campus VINE



HEATHER SIMPSON
National Headquarters
HQ VINE

CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CANADA



Catholic Christian Outreach is a university student movement dedicated to evangelization. We challenge young adults to live in the fullness of the Catholic faith, with an emphasis on becoming leaders in the renewal of the world.

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