



Catholic Christian
O U T R E A C H

**CCO Staff
Information & Discernment
Guide**

*The following is a the text from a letter written by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II,
to Catholic Christian Outreach Canada
on the occasion of the Rise Up 2002 Christmas Conference in Edmonton, Alberta.*



From the Vatican, December 28, 2002.

It is a great joy for me to greet you on the occasion of your National Christmas Conference. The memory of my meeting with you and so many other young people from around the world in July of this year remains vividly etched in my mind.

At the World Youth Day Prayer Vigil held in Downsview Park on Saturday, the evening of July 27, I called for a new generation of builders to respond to the aspiration of humanity for a civilization of love marked by freedom and peace. Indeed I entrusted this hope of mine specifically to you, my dear young people. As members of the Catholic Christian Outreach you are generously responding to that appeal through your courage to be disciples of Jesus, living the life of the Beatitudes on campuses throughout Canada. In this way, as you strive to be the salt of the earth and light of the world for others, you become shining beacons illuminating the way of the Lord, answering the question that stirs in the hearts of all young people: "to whom shall we go?" (Jn 6:68).

Yes, Jesus Christ is the sure foundation of your hope and joy. Immersed in him and his paschal mystery your own lives will grow in holiness, which is the authentic path of true witness to the light of his loving presence in our world. And so I confidently renew my appeal to you: listen to the voice of Jesus! Let His light shine in your lives, continue steadfastly on the path of holiness, share with everyone "the good news of a great joy which will come to all the people" (Lk 2:10).

Invoking upon all of you the joy and peace that the birth of our Savior brings, I cordially impart to you and your families my Apostolic Blessing.

JOANNES PAULUS PP. II



Dear potential staff member:

Welcome to Catholic Christian Outreach. We want to personally congratulate you for considering a career with our exciting organization.

CCO is a team of highly committed, like minded people who are dedicated to fulfilling the call of the Church in the area of evangelization. Over the last many years our organization has grown and become a recognized and respected lay movement throughout the world.

The Catholic Church is calling for a renewed evangelization. In the words of Pope John Paul II: "The harvest is abundant! But there are still relatively few ready to proclaim Him [Jesus] in a credible way. There is a need for young people inspired with the missionary spirit, because it is young people who should become the first apostles of the young."

Each day God brings new challenges and opportunities for CCO to spread His Word. With these challenges and opportunities lies a need for more staff; men and women who are ready to use their life for God's glory.

As you read the following pages, we pray that God will use them to help you discern a possible call to full time ministry with CCO. God Bless you as you embark on the journey of discernment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Lockert".

Jeff Lockert
CCO President

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Important Considerations

Our World Desperately Needs the Saviour

With more than six billion people on the planet, the need and opportunities to present the life-changing message of Jesus Christ have never been greater. On our university campuses the Gospel message is frequently challenged and undermined, students need to hear the Good News of Jesus and be given the opportunity to respond.

“The mission of Christ the Redeemer, which is entrusted to the Church, is still very far from completion. As the second Millennium after Christ’s coming draws to an end, an overall view of the human race shows that this mission is still only beginning and that we must commit ourselves wholeheartedly to its service.” (Redemptoris Missio, #1, Pope John Paul II).

“Since salvation is offered to all, it must be made concretely available to all. But it is clear today, as in the past, that many people do not have an opportunity to come to know or accept the Gospel revelation or to enter the Church.” (Redemptoris Missio, #10, Pope John Paul II).

The Labourers are Few

In light of the tremendous spiritual needs of individuals throughout the world and its growing population, Jesus’ words carry much significance:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest, to send out labourers for his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38).

For someone to pray this sincerely, he or she must be willing to be an answer to this prayer.

You Can Play a Strategic Role

You can play a vital part in fulfilling the Great Commission by using the talents and skills God has given you to influence lives with the Gospel. Catholic Christian Outreach has many opportunities where you can do just that. In the next few pages, we will give you a brief overview of CCO and invite you to consider joining us in our mission.

“Those who are incorporated in the Catholic Church ought to sense their privilege and for that very reason their greater obligation of bearing witness to the faith and the Christian life as a service to their brothers and sisters and as a fitting response to God.” (Redemptoris Missio, #11, Pope John Paul II).

Making This Personal

Although it is not for everyone, we believe that in view of the needs of the world and the mandate of Jesus Christ, all Christians should prayerfully consider full-time Christian ministry. We would like to invite you to investigate this possibility and present CCO's ministry of campus evangelization as a strategic response to this call. Our application process is designed to help you discern God's direction for your life.

What About You?

- Where are you in the process of considering full-time Christian ministry?
- Do you have the same heart, mission and spirituality as CCO?
- How is God leading you? Do you sense He is calling you to be a CCO missionary?
- What questions or concerns do you have?
- Would you like to begin the process of becoming a staff member with Catholic Christian Outreach?

The following information will help you begin this process.

Our Unique Characteristics

Our Purpose

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

Our Statement of Faith

- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate: He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scripture; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
- We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
- We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
- We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
- With firm faith we believe all that is contained in the Word of God, whether written or handed down in tradition, which the Church, either in solemn judgment or by its ordinary and universal teaching authority, sets for our belief as revealed by God.
- We firmly accept and hold each and every thing definitively proposed by the Church concerning its teachings on faith and morals.
- Moreover, we adhere with religious submission on intellect and will to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the College of Bishops enunciate in the exercise of their authentic teaching authority, even if they do not intend to proclaim those teachings by definitive act.

Our Strategy

- To Proclaim boldly the Gospel message, clearly and simply, to university students.
- To Equip them in their faith, evangelization, and leadership skills.
- To Commission them to proclaim to and equip others.

The goal of our campus movement is simple but far-reaching: to fulfill the Catholic Church's primary and central mission of evangelization on the university campuses of the world. In other words, take the gospel to every student every year. Through campus wide programs and events, staff and students work to make that goal a reality.

Our Place in the Roman Catholic Faith

CCO is:

- A lay association of Christ's Faithful which is responding to Christ's command that His disciples "Proclaim the Good News to all creation" (Mark 16:15-16, Matthew. 28:18-19).
- A concrete way to foster the Church's primary and universal mission of evangelization (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, #14).
- A positive answer to the call of Pope John Paul II, for a "new evangelization" in our times (*Redemptoris Missio*, #33).
- An active outreach to the distressingly small numbers of believing and practicing youth.
- A positive and successful influence in the promotion of religious vocations.
- A practical way to respond to cults and fundamentalist sects aimed at undermining the faith of Catholics.

Our Values

Catholic Christian Outreach believes that evangelization is not primarily programs and methods but rather people sharing with people. What is most distinctive about CCO is its emphasis on training with transferable methods and materials, and its commitment to living out the gospel of Jesus Christ in the context of the Roman Catholic faith.

As a guide to developing its programs there are three main aspects that stand out as particularly Catholic.

First, is CCO's desire to ground its efforts for the evangelization and sanctification of men and women in the teachings received through Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium of the Church.

Secondly, CCO understands that evangelization is not just a one-time action or decision but a process. Although CCO does believe evangelization involves an initial conversion, it must also include incorporation into the community, participation in the sacramental life of the Church (especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation), a response to the universal call to holiness, and finally, in the words of Pope Paul VI, "the person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, #24).

Finally, as a movement CCO believes strongly in operating within the God-ordained structures of the Church and submits to the apostolic authority of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.

Our Five Founding Tenets

In response to the large number of university students who were becoming increasingly alienated from their faith, CCO set out to challenge students to deeper conversion to Christ, to develop their leadership skills, and to give them a heart to serve the Church. Catholic Christian Outreach was founded at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 1988, after receiving the approval of the local Bishop. During that fall semester, CCO began by offering small faith study groups on campus. From a humble beginning of four students, the movement now serves hundreds of students on campuses across Canada through a wide array of programs and outreaches.

During these early years, there were five clear principles or tenets which have become essential pillars of the movement. They are:

1. CCO is to be “evangelists of the youth”.
2. CCO is to proclaim Christ clearly and simply.
3. CCO believes in the importance of reaching one person at a time.
4. CCO’s goal is to reach the whole world with the message of the Gospel.
5. CCO expects God to do great things through His people.

For a more detailed explanation of these tenets and the beginnings of the movement, please read the article in the Appendix titled: “The Five Founding Tenets of CCO” (p.24).

Career Opportunities - Campus Staff

As a campus missionary with CCO you can share the love of Jesus Christ with countless students, build believers to maturity, and teach others so they “will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2). As a growing university student movement we have had many requests to expand to other campuses in Canada. The possibilities are unfolding like never before. All we need is God's grace to call more labourers!

The CCO Campus Internship program is the beginning of a new career as a full-time Catholic lay missionary on university campuses. Each year the Campus Internship Program begins at the end of August and lasts for eight months. At the end of this time, successful campus interns are invited to serve for two or more years with CCO.

Internship Objectives

- To learn the CCO's philosophy and methodology of campus evangelization and leadership development.
- To be actively involved in CCO, at a pace that is tailored to their experience and competency in CCO's philosophy and methodology of evangelization and leadership development.
- To demonstrate a strong, consistent prayer life (meditative and intercessory).
- To complete all required reading and assignments on time.
- To effectively manage their time and demonstrate personal organization skills through the use of a time management tool.
- To be actively involved in a parish and possibly other adult movements or associations in the diocese.
- To learn Support Team Partnership and Development philosophy and strategies.

Timeline

The first semester of the internship program will focus on the basic fundamentals of CCO materials and strategy. During the second semester, or earlier for those interns who were student leaders in CCO, the process of multiplying this training into students begins. Here we practice having a “next generation mindset” of working with a student who is working with another.

First Semester: Observe, be observed, and be independent in: meeting new students interested in CCO, sharing the Ultimate Relationship Booklet, leading Faith Studies, and preparing testimonies.

Second Semester: Train students to: follow up new contacts, lead Faith Studies, prepare a testimony, share the Ultimate Relationship Booklet.

Weekly Internship Training will include: movement strategy, campus practicals, reading and writing assignments, and accountability in the areas of personal prayer, campus intercession, evangelistic appointments and other assigned tasks.

Weekly Work Schedule: generally staff are on campus between 8:30am and 3pm. Phone calling (4:30-6:30pm and 9-10pm) and events (6:30-11pm) typically happen in the evenings. Interns will learn to time block into their schedule such things as:

- internship training
- staff meetings (daily check-ins, planning, team spiritual formation)
- one-on-one staff meetings
- student executive meetings
- recruitment tables
- campus prayer
- faith studies
- follow up appointments with new people interested in CCO
- situational specific one-on-one's with students
- phoning
- large group events

The program also includes assignments and practical reading, including:

- *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert E. Coleman
- *Dedication and Leadership*, Douglas Hyde
- *Handbook of Catholic Apologetics*, Peter Kreeft and Fr. Ronald Tacelli, S.J.
- *Redemptoris Missio*, encyclical letter of John Paul II
- *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey

The Campus Internship Program is designed to train and ensure that new CCO staff are ready to embark on this cutting-edge career.

Internship Salary

For your internship year, CCO gives a stipend that can cover approximately half of a modest salary. Since there are different costs of living across the country, the portion given to interns by CCO is determined by geographical index as outlined on the CCO Staff Salary Calculation Form. CCO's monthly internship stipend as paid out by geographical index: Vancouver \$950, Saskatoon \$750, Ottawa \$800, Kingston \$700, Halifax \$725. All interns will be required to support raise at least another \$500/month before August 1st to supplement the half of their salary paid through the stipend. The exact details of each individual intern's support raising situation will be worked out in consultation with the Human Resources Department.

For more information on Support Team and Partnership Development (STPD), see *STPD Questions and Answers* on our website at <http://careers.cco.ca>.

For any questions regarding the CCO Campus Internship, feel free to email hr@cco.ca or call 613.736.1999

Career Opportunities - National Headquarters

CCO headquarters offers challenging positions where you can use your education, skills, and gifts to support the work of the campus staff and to lead the movement nationally and internationally.

The CCO HQ Internship program is the beginning of a new career as a full-time Catholic lay missionary within a corporate setting at the National Headquarters office in Ottawa, ON. It is designed to give HQ interns a comprehensive knowledge of the various aspects of the National Headquarters while at the same time preparing them to serve within a specific area of the administration.

The HQ Internship Program combines personalized training in aspects of the Catholic faith, the movement of CCO, leadership, teamwork, and practical office training. Listed below are some of the various topics covered:

- Understanding the beginnings of CCO and our charism
- Understanding giftedness, aptitudes, personality and temperament
- Time management, project management and goal-based planning
- Faith formation in evangelization and the Catholic Church.
- Job shadowing in the areas of finance, marketing, human resources, development and information technology
- Understanding of CCO's philosophy and methodology of campus evangelization and how it can be lived out in the HQ environment

The program also includes assignments and practical reading, including:

- *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert E. Coleman
- *Dedication and Leadership*, Douglas Hyde
- *Redemptoris Missio*, encyclical letter of John Paul II
- *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey

The HQ Internship Program is designed to train, equip and ensure that new CCO HQ Staff are ready to embark on this cutting-edge career. It is also designed to be a final discernment process before joining full-time staff with CCO.

Once an individual has been accepted to the internship program they would begin for an eight month term beginning in September. At the end of their internship, successful HQ Interns are invited to serve for 2 or more years with CCO.

Internship Salary

For your internship year, CCO gives a stipend that can cover approximately half of a modest salary. Since there are different costs of living across the country, the portion given to interns by CCO is determined by geographical index as outlined in the CCO Staff Salary Calculation Form. CCO's internship portion as paid out by geographical index is \$800 in Ottawa. All interns will be required to raise at least another \$500/month before September to supplement the half of their salary paid through the stipend. The exact details of each individual intern's support raising situation will be worked out in consultation with the Human Resource Department.

For more information on Support Team and Partnership Development (STPD), see *STPD Questions and Answers* on our website at <http://careers.cco.ca>.

Potential roles in the CCO National Headquarters include:

1. Communications, Marketing & Promotions

- Corporate Fundraising
- Graphic Design and Multi Media
- Conference, Mission, and Events Organizing
- Sales & Promotional activity
- CCO store Management
- Publications and Editing
- Journalism
- Media/Public relations
- Alumni Development

2. Accounting & Finance

- Budgeting & monitoring national accounts
- Not-For-Profit tax legislation compliance
- Internal controls
- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable
- Donor development
- Payroll
- Fund accounting

3. Human Resources

- Staff Recruitment
- Personnel Management
- Employment Law/Human Rights Code Compliance
- Organizational Policy Management and Development
- Staff Training

4. Information Technology

- Web development and management
- Network Administration
- IT Troubleshooting
- Software management
- Graphic Design

For any questions regarding the CCO HQ Internship or other opportunities at CCO National Headquarters, please contact hr@cco.ca or 613.736.1999.

Short Term Opportunities - VINE Program

VINE (Volunteers in the New Evangelization) is a commitment to offer your gifts and talents to CCO for about a year in a specific field of service.

1. National Headquarters VINE

With the increasing conviction among young adults in our world to make a difference through a year of service, CCO has embarked on a new journey redefining the field of business. At the National Headquarters in Ottawa, students have an opportunity to use their education combined with their passion for Christ to gain valuable work experience. As a non-profit organization we have a variety of positions: marketing, finance, project management, public relations. Some of these roles and responsibilities include:

- Assisting in national communication initiatives
- Creating & coordinating national prayer partner correspondence
- Assisting with the management of donations and ministry partners
- Managing incoming revenue using accounting software
- Tracking expenses for our national organization
- Interacting and networking with a nation-wide staff team
- Contributing to national conferences
- Experiencing a national staff family rooted in prayer and living for Christ

Participants in the HQ VINE program will be expected to begin work at the beginning of September and will finish their term at the end of May.

2. Campus VINE

Are you a student leader who would love to be able to do CCO full-time and not worry about school and classes? Perhaps you are looking to take a break from school or work and “give a year to the Lord”? Are you looking to be formed as a leader in the New Evangelization? Why not take 8 months to do the VINE program on one of our CCO campuses?

CCO’s Campus VINE program is designed to provide short-term help in our work of campus evangelization, while forming leaders who will be able to contribute to the life of the Church.

The primary roles of a participant in the CCO Campus VINE program include:

- Learning and implementing CCO’s philosophy and methodology of campus evangelization
- Reaching out to new students
- Organizing and executing outreach tables and other outreach strategies
- Meeting with new contacts (including sharing the Ultimate Relationship booklet)
- Welcoming and investing in new people
- Leading Discovery Faith Studies

Participants in the Campus VINE program will also:

- Assist in the planning, organization and execution of various campus events, retreats and conferences.
- Be immersed in the life of a CCO missionary as a co-labourer on the campus staff team.
- Receive mentorship from a senior campus staff member.
- Participate in regional staff retreats and formation days
- Attend CCO's National *Rise Up* Conference and national staff gathering, Dec 27th to Jan 3rd.

Participants in the Campus VINE program add great vitality and excitement to the local CCO chapters through their contagious zeal, energy, witness and service.

Participants in the Campus VINE program will begin their year with a one week training program in August designed to immerse them in the philosophy and methodology of CCO's campus evangelization. This week will be designed to equip them not only for their year of service on campus with CCO, but also for a lifetime of service to the Church.

Participants in the Campus VINE Program can expect their term to start near the end of August and end in the middle of April. Exact dates will be established in consultation with the local supervisor.

Information about fundraising for Campus and HQ VINE

The team that a VINE program participant is assigned to (HQ or particular campus) will assist and mentor the VINE program participant in their Support Team and Partnership Development, orientation to the staff team, and in finding affordable housing (which could be a billet or room and board opportunity, if suitable).

Estimated fundraising cost for the VINE program is \$12,000-\$15,000. Actual fundraising targets may be different and will be established on an individual basis according to various factors (cost of living in their assigned city, any debts or loan payments, housing options). Please contact the Human Resource Department to discuss your individual situation.

Support Team and Partnership Development training materials will be sent out shortly after acceptance. STPD can begin immediately and is done in the spring and summer. **All fundraising must be in place before start date.**

Standards for Staff

Because our staff members are placed in positions of high visibility and spiritual leadership CCO's standards are high. Our selection process focuses on your spiritual, social and emotional maturity, as well as well as your personal and family life.

In order to qualify for CCO staff you must:

- Be a practicing Catholic and have a good knowledge of Scripture and Church teaching.
- Have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- Understand and fully agree with our statement of faith and ministry objectives.
- Be able to state clearly how and why God is calling you to the ministry of CCO.
- Demonstrate a concern for others and a willingness to learn how to introduce others to Christ.
- Have either the necessary formal education or on-the-job training to meet the demands of your assignment. In most cases a university degree is preferred.
- Possess good emotional, mental, and physical health.
- Have leadership qualities, be attractive to others in personality and character, and/or manifest potential in these areas.
- Have a reasonable degree of self-assurance and an ability to handle pressure.

Personal Debt

Because of the modest nature of our salaries we strongly recommend that our staff avoid incurring significant debt. Out of concern for your financial well-being this will be discussed during the application process.

Tenure

All career staff members, campus and HQ (with the exception of those on the VINE program), are encouraged to consider their commitment to the ministry of CCO as a lifetime involvement, and are expected to spend a minimum of two years on staff after their internship year.

Salary, Benefits and Training

Support Team and Partnership Development

CCO looks upon university campuses as a mission field. Thus, it considers its staff members to be missionaries *ad intra* (Redemptoris Missio # 34), reaching out to and bringing the faith to spiritually hungry students on university campuses in Canada. In doing this missionary work, the question often comes up: “how do you financially support yourselves?”

It is CCO’s policy that each staff member develops a support team to finance his/her involvement in the movement. This approach is called Support Team and Partnership Development (STPD). Essentially STPD offers the opportunity for families and individuals to be involved with the work of CCO by financially and prayerfully supporting a CCO missionary. CCO staff members meet with potential supporters and share with them the vision of CCO and the opportunities available for them to help. This approach of inviting the faithful to sponsor the work of the Church has been used for centuries and is based in spiritual principles.

But CCO also employs this approach for a number of practical reasons. Firstly, it provides CCO with the opportunity to meet with many people and to share CCO’s exciting vision for the spiritual lives of young people. Secondly, it allows supporters to make a personal connection with their giving. They are not giving to a vague general cause but rather are helping to sponsor a specific missionary’s work. Thirdly, it has been proven to be an effective means of raising funds. CCO Staff members have been successfully using this approach for over 20 years. They have been able to purchase homes, live comfortably, and support growing families.

In order to be effective in STPD, new CCO Staff members receive extensive training and resources to assist them. This enables new staff to be confident from the time of beginning to brainstorm a list of potential supporters, through the initial contact and presentation, to the follow up and on-going care of a support team. Like all good things, STPD requires dedication and hard work, and can be challenging at times. But it brings with it many blessings including growing in the trust of God, wonderful friendships with supporters, and the furthering of CCO’s work in the lives of students in Canada.

For more detailed information about STPD please contact our Human Resource Department at hr@cco.ca or (613) 736-1999.

Salary Considerations

All staff members work under the same financial policies and pay scale. The goal of our salary structure is to provide an income which allows staff members to meet individual and family needs. Salaries are based on:

- Prior related work experience
- Length of service on CCO staff
- Education
- Geographical location

Benefits

CCO staff raise additional funds to provide opportunities for medical, dental, and pension benefits.

Ministry Expenses

Ministry expenses are reimbursable.

Other Benefits

- On-the-job training programs
- Short-term international opportunities
- Annual staff training
- Seminars and conferences relevant to your position
- Working with a team of skilled and experienced people
- Organizational commitment to the family
- Opportunity to work with some of the most visionary and enthusiastic people in the world

Training and Development

We are committed to helping you develop your character and ministry expertise. After the initial training period, staff are continually challenged to grow and mature in their personal life and in their ministry. We foster and encourage individual creativity and initiative. Part of the training is designed to help you increase the scope and depth of your leadership abilities.

The following are some of the opportunities available to you for your ongoing development:

- Eight month CCO Ministry Internship Program
- Staff training conferences
- National and International summer projects
- Professional development seminars
- On-the-job training
- Book and video courses
- Continuing education (university/adult education classes)
- Diocesan formation programs

Getting Started

The Application Process

- Pre-Application (Preliminary Ministry Interest Form)
- Full Employment Application
- Comprehensive Interview
- Reference Checks
- Criminal Record Check

Other Helpful Articles Available in the Appendix:

- A. History of Effectiveness
- B. The Five Founding Tenets of CCO
- C. Support Team Building and Sacred Scripture
- D. Considering Family Concerns
- E. Discovering God's Will in My Life

The First Step

To take the first step in discerning to join staff with Catholic Christian Outreach, complete and submit the Preliminary Ministry Interest Form which follows this page. This is not an official application, but rather the first step in the process of discerning.

This form can also be filled out online at the CCO website: www.cco.ca.

Our mailing address is:

Catholic Christian Outreach Canada
1247 Kilborn Place
Ottawa, ON K1H 6K9
Canada

Phone: (613) 736-1999
Fax: (613) 736-1800

hr@cco.ca
www.cco.ca



Catholic Christian Outreach

Preliminary Ministry Interest Form



Note: This is not an application for employment with Catholic Christian Outreach. Rather it is information that allows us to serve you as you discern your skills and calling to our missionary apostolate.

I am interested in the following staff position (circle one):

A. Internship B. Headquarters C. Campus V.I.N.E. D.HQ V.I.N.E. E. Other

Personal Information

Mr. Mrs. Miss Other _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date of Birth _____ No. of Children/ages _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work/Cell Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Current Occupation _____

Degree(s) _____

School _____ Graduation Date _____

Name of church you now attend _____

What is your marital status _____ Have you ever been divorced? _____

Experience

1) Who or what influenced you to inquire about working with Catholic Christian Outreach?

2) Are you currently involved in ministry? Explain. _____

3) Are you or have you been involved with Catholic Christian Outreach? Yes No If yes, please indicate:

CCO conferences or missions you have been on and when: _____

Position on CCO student executive and when: _____

All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

4) Please list your professional skills, abilities, and experiences: _____

5) All our staff members are responsible to raise their own financial support. Would you be willing to raise your own support?

Yes No Maybe Please explain: _____

6) Indicate your level of interest in full-time Christian work (1=little interest, 10=very interested)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10+

7) Would you consider relocating? Yes No Maybe Please explain: _____

8) When would you be ready to begin the transition into CCO ?

Immediately 6-12 months 1-2 years 2-3 years don't know Projected date: _____

9) If financial resources were not an issue, and you could do anything you wanted to do, what would you begin tomorrow?

10) Please write down any question you have or need answered at this time. _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

CCO Staff Information & Discernment Guide

Appendix

A. History of Effectiveness

- 1988** Inception at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK
- 1991** First overseas mission project to Manila, Philippines
- 1992** CCO is incorporated as a non-profit organization
- 1994** Mission project to Bialystok, Poland
Expansion to the University of Regina, SK
- 1995** CCO goes to the world via the Internet: www.cco.ca
- 1996** Mission project to St. Lucia, Caribbean
- 1997** Expansion to Carleton University in Ottawa, ON
- 1998** Expansion to Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, BC
- 1999** IMPACT! Summer mission project in Ottawa, ON
- 2000** Expansion to the University of Ottawa, ON
Mission to the Gambia, Africa with the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Mission to Rome for World Youth Day
Rise Up Christmas Conference in Vancouver, BC
- 2001** Rise Up *Raising the Standard* Christmas Conference in Ottawa, ON
- 2002** IMPACT! *Go Deeper* summer mission to Ottawa and Toronto
Rise Up *A Call to Respond* Christmas Conference in Edmonton, AB
- 2003** Expansion to Douglas College in Vancouver, BC

-
- 2003** Rise Up *Next Generation Leaders* Christmas Conference in Saskatoon, SK
- 2004** IMPACT! *A new generation of builders* summer mission in Halifax, NS
Expansion to Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS
Rise Up *Apostles for the New Millennium* Christmas Conference in Toronto, ON
- 2005** *Fixed on Jesus* summer mission to Cologne, Germany for World Youth Day
Rise Up *The Cry of the Gospel* Christmas Conference in Vancouver, BC
- 2006** CCO National Headquarters move from Saskatoon, SK to Ottawa, ON
Rise Up *Jesus: Our Heritage, Our Hope* Christmas Conference in Québec, QC
- 2007** IMPACT! *Apostles to the Nations* summer mission in Vancouver, BC
Expansion to Queen's University in Kingston, ON
Rise Up *Renaissance of Hope* Christmas Conference in Calgary, AB
- 2008** *Recontrez Jesus* mission the Quebec for the International Eucharistic Conference
Witness to Hope mission to Australia for World Youth Day
Expansion to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC
Rise Up *Jesus: Yesterday, Today, Forever* Christmas Conference in Toronto, ON
- 2009** IMPACT! *Draw every heart to Him* summer mission in Saskatoon, SK
Rise Up *The Word Became Flesh* Christmas Conference in Winnipeg, MB
- 2010** IMPACT! *Transformed from Glory to Glory* summer mission in Calgary, AB

Next Twenty Years.....more than we could ever ask or imagine!!!

B. The Five Founding Tenets of CCO

By André Regnier

My motivation to start CCO did not only come in response to a need on university campuses; rather it came from God's clear call. CCO is God's vision for how His work can be fulfilled on university campuses.

What is that vision? It has always been and will continue to be important that we as a movement are clear on what God has called us to do. In order to keep our focus and to stay faithful to that calling, we have developed five tenets. These tenets serve as a compass or guide for what we do and how we do things. These tenets or principles are more than just good ideas, they are prophetic words spoken to CCO by God over the years.

In my last year of university, I went through the "Life in the Spirit Seminar". I was expecting to receive extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit, and at the time was disappointed to only receive these simple words of prophecy: "You will be an evangelist of the youth." I now, however, realize the power of these words. It is because of these words and because CCO focuses on youth on university campuses that our first tenet in CCO is to be "evangelists of the youth."

CCO believes there is not a more strategic and important group of people to focus on in order to make the greatest impact on the world. The next generation of leaders: of doctors, of lawyers, of teachers, of politicians, and of those making decisions that will lead our country into the future, will be coming from our universities. If we fail to focus on them at this critical time of discovery and development, we fail to impart the value and the power of the gospel to the future generation. Consequently, leadership in this country will continue to lack the influence and formation of Jesus Christ and His Church.

University students are in a period of life where they desire to make a difference in the world. They have the energy, the freedom, the enthusiasm and the idealism to make a difference. History has shown the impact young people can have (communism, hippie movement) when they believe in something and put their natural God-given energy into making it happen.

The vision for CCO expanded further when I attended a conference in my last year of university. One of the speakers at this conference quoted Philippians 1:18 "*all that matters is that in any and every way...Christ is being proclaimed! That is what brings me joy.*" These words had a profound impact on me. I felt as if they had been spoken directly to me. This scripture has formed the second tenet and it is one of the most defining elements of the ministry.

The words spoken by the Holy Father "many (Catholics) do not know Christ or do not know him well enough" is a reality on university campuses across the country. Since our faith is based on a personal life giving experience of Christ, this lack of knowledge and experience of Christ cripples the spiritual life of Catholic young people. Without this experience many young people find that their faith has little to no value. It is not that they are abandoning their faith, it

is that they are unaware of the importance of knowing the person of Jesus Christ. When young people have a living encounter with Christ, their faith comes alive. Their connection to the Church becomes real and life giving. They have a great desire to share that faith with friends, family and classmates. Seeing the effect that a clear proclamation of Christ's gospel has on students and reflecting on Philippians 1:18, the second tenet became obvious: "proclaim Christ clearly and simply".

The first few years were an exciting time of growth for the ministry. In spite of the growth, I would find myself in the Chapel crying out to the Lord for all the nations of the World. "What can I do for the Church in Russia, China, Africa, South America? How can I reach out to these people?" One day I received an answer: "One person at a time". I realized that the individual student is of great value and holds great potential to accomplish great things for God's glory.

CCO knows that the greatest impact young people will make will not be at university. They generally only spend four or five years of their lives on campus. The greatest impact will be felt as they go out into the world to work and raise a family. If we can prepare them to take leadership in sharing their faith they will take that learning experience and continue to be leaders for the rest of their lives. If the Catholic Church is going to have an impact on the world, its individual members have to be missionaries in the communities around them. That is why we believe that every CCO member is a missionary and we are all called to reach one person at a time.

Coming out of the chapel, another impression I had was that we must look beyond our families, our cities and our countries and ultimately to the ends of the earth. This was the call to the disciples in Matthew 28, but they did not go beyond the local area in which they lived. Their heart was for the whole world and they were aware that the salvation offered through Christ was for *all* people. It is true that we may not all be missionaries in a foreign country, but our heart and concern is for all people to be saved by Christ. This is Christ's heart, so it must also be ours, therefore CCO's fourth tenet is to "reach the whole world." CCO imparts a vision to students to have an impact on the world.

Over the years God has done great things in our midst. Each year seems to bring new opportunities for the ministry. We are excited and encouraged by these opportunities, but it should not surprise us. Early on, the Lord often directed my attention to Ephesians 3:20: "God is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine." Our fifth tenet is to have great expectation. He is showing us what our expectations should be. Whatever we do, however small or large, we should always have an attitude of great expectation. We expect that God is going to use events and initiatives for His glory. God never fails to answer our prayers. He has taken CCO from a small group of enthusiastic young people to a national movement having international influence. Is there a more wonderful or more hopeful place to be than in the midst of young people who are working for the kingdom, expecting God to work powerfully through them?

It is the hope and intention of CCO to serve the Church on university campuses as long as God calls us. It is essential that we stay focused on what God has called us to do, however long that may be. Sometimes it is easy for us to forget what impact we can have in people's lives.

However these five tenets will assure us that as we continue to strive for what we have been called to do, we will have a great impact.

Our five tenets have shaped the movement to what it is today and with God's guidance, it will continue to grow! We will continue to be a movement that is defined by being evangelists of youth whose mission is to proclaim Jesus' name clearly and simply, one person at a time. CCO's mission is to have a major impact on the world and with our attitude of great expectation it is possible. "For **nothing** will be **impossible** with God." Luke 1:37.

C. STPD: Questions and Answers

What is STPD?

STPD stands for “Support Team Partnership and Development”. All CCO staff have the unique opportunity and privilege to rely on God’s providence. Each individual missionary develops their own team of financial and prayer supporters who contribute directly to the funds for their salary.

However, STPD is more than just a funding model. The relationships developed through STPD opens up new doors for evangelization and spreading the good news of what God is doing in the lives of university students. When viewed in this light, STPD becomes more than just a means to an end, but in fact a unique opportunity to reach out to your family, friends, fellow parishioners, and others who are interested in partnering with you in this work.

How many people support a missionary and how much do you get paid?

Each CCO missionary’s individual salary is based off of 4 criteria:

- 1) A base salary of \$30,000 per year (as of May 1st, 2010).
- 2) Geographic cost of living adjustment
- 3) Educational adjustment
- 4) Years of CCO experience (or other related work experience, if applicable).

A first year staff member’s salary is generally comparable to that of a first year teacher’s salary.

Each staff member generally has a team of 100-200 supporters who donate anywhere from \$10-\$500 per month. Each staff member will receive training, guidance and supervision as they work towards achieving their support raising goals.

What if it is taboo in my family to ask for money? How will I raise the funds without their support?

STPD is a radical lifestyle of relying on God’s providence and therefore can often raise many questions and concerns from family members. This is an issue many staff and those discerning staff have and will continue to face in responding to the call to be a missionary. Ultimately, regardless of the circumstances, we need to first and foremost place our trust in God. If He is calling us to this movement, then we need to believe that He will provide everything we need. Place your trust in Him and you will not be disappointed. Know also that God will never be outdone in generosity. We have seen many examples of how an individual’s missionary call to CCO staff has resulted in conversions and changed hearts within their family.

I don't know who I would ask to be on my support team?

Before rushing to the details of who might join your support team, the first question that needs to be asked is, "Do I believe God has called me to be a full-time missionary?" If the answer to this question is yes, then we need to trust that God will provide for everything we need, including a support team.

On the practical side, CCO has a training program and various materials that will help you identify strategies that will best allow you to recognize the potential in the relationships you already have and to maximize the opportunities that exist around you to develop new relationships. While there are a number of strategies related to speaking to large groups, organizations and parishes, the most effective means of support raising in CCO's experience has always been through personal relationships.

How do you juggle your time between ministry and STPD?

STPD is an integral part of the ministry of each CCO missionary. Without our supporters, our evangelization is not possible. Each staff member is expected to be dedicating at least few hours every week to the growth and maintenance of their personal support team. For interns, the summer months (April to August) are dedicated to their initial STPD efforts. As one's support team becomes more established over the course of a few years, less time is spent on large-scale efforts to seek out new support and more time is spent working with and through the current members of your support team.

How will I know how to develop a support team?

CCO has an excellent STPD training program that teaches you not only how to raise funds effectively but also instills the key attitudes and mindsets that drive our paradigm of living on providence. Each staff member receives a small introduction when beginning their initial support raising. For VINE members and interns raising the supplement to their CCO stipends, this is often sufficient. For staff who are embarking on the journey of raising a full salary for the first time, STPD training time is set aside beginning in September and continues throughout the eight months of the internship program.

What will I live on once my internship stipend runs out and I'm just starting the STPD process?

All interns who successfully complete the Internship Program are given a bonus stipend for the end of April and a half-stipend for the month of May to assist them financially as they begin to develop a support team.

I think I'm called to staff but I just don't think I'm called to ask for money.

STPD is more than just asking for money; it is an integral part of our movement. We are forced to rely on God to provide for our every need in a unique and radical way. The trust and confidence in the Lord that develops through this process form a way of life that extends to all aspects of the life of a missionary, including their home life and their ministry within the movement. This trust in providence is based in the 5th of CCO's Five Founding Tenets: Great Expectations. This spirit of Great Expectations informs every element of our movement and inspires the hearts of our staff, and is often most acutely developed through STPD.

If you feel like you are being called to work for CCO but are not sure about the idea of support raising your own salary, here are a few questions to consider:

Do you believe that God is trustworthy? Do you believe that if He promises something that He will deliver?

Do you place your sense of security in your own provision for your life or in God's provision for you?

If God is calling you to be a missionary with CCO, do you believe that He has already prepared a support team for you?

What are the specific barriers that are concerning you? Take them to the Lord in prayer.

What if I have student loan debt? Will I make enough money to pay it back?

Many have joined CCO's staff team with outstanding student loans and been able to pay them back. Your student loan may have a clause that qualifies it for interest relief if your salary falls below an established threshold. In this case, your loan would not continue to incur interest for a certain period of time, and some programs even allow for payments to be frozen for a period of time.

Each individual situation will of course have its own set of loan terms and other circumstances that would need to be considered. Please contact CCO's Human Resource department to discuss your individual circumstances.

How do I save for retirement?

CCO places a high priority on planning for the future and saving for retirement. As a result, CCO has set up a Group RRSP Plan through the Royal Bank. When staff members make a minimum contribution of 5% of their gross monthly salary into their RRSP portfolio through this group plan, CCO will contribute an additional 2% of your gross monthly salary on your behalf.

D. Support Team Building and Sacred Scripture

“Who came up with this support raising idea?”

Nearly 3,300 years ago, God designed a comprehensive financial plan that would adequately provide the salaries and benefits of His full-time workers.

In the book of Numbers, God called the Levites to be His first full-time ministers. There were plenty of qualified and motivated laymen (i.e. Moses, Joshua, Caleb) to work in the tabernacle, but God was looking for more than part-time help. He wanted to meet the demanding spiritual needs of the nation, but these could not be met by even the most dedicated workers in their spare time alone.

God created a position for lay ministers in His kingdom, and these first full-time workers, the Levites, were instructed to rely on God for their income and financial stability.

The Lord tells Aaron in Numbers 18:20, 21, “...*I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel...to the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform...*” (See also Deuteronomy 18:1-2).

The Lord staked His credibility on providing financial security for His servants. While the nation of Israel worked the land and faced the financial uncertainties of drought, disease and famine, the Lord promised to provide for the Levites through the tithes and offerings of their countrymen. The Israelites were charged with the responsibility of providing for the finances of the Levites, and they were to give of their best.

“Didn’t God change His missions budget in the New Testament?”

After Christ came, God did establish a new covenant whereby any Christian (not just those in the family of Levi) could serve Him in lay ministry. Jesus, who was a carpenter, could have funded His ministry by building furniture or repairing carts and tables full time, then teaching and healing during His spare time. But that’s not the example He left those He calls to lay service.

As Jesus went out ministering full time, He relied on people (i.e. Mary, Martha, Lazarus) who helped “...*support Him out of their own means...*” (Luke 8:3). Jesus had financial supporters.

When Christ commissioned His followers “to every city and place,” He gave them the spiritual authority to minister and told them to trust Him for their physical provisions. “*Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep*” (Matthew 10:9-10). They were to accept gifts from others, as Jesus said, “*eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages*” (Luke 10:4-7). A laborer in God’s kingdom is truly worthy of being paid for his or her service. The workers in the early church lived on the same system of support that God established for the Levites.

“Paul was a tent maker. He didn’t ask for gifts. Shouldn’t I follow his example?”

The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:14, “*so also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.*” He explains that God set up a system of financial support for His workers. He also writes that even though he had the right to be supported by the Corinthians, he chose to make tents. This was an exception, however, to Paul’s normal method of ministry.

Paul wanted to make sure that the Corinthians to whom he preached had no reason to question his motives. He chose to live on a smaller salary and take less from the Corinthians in order to validate his character, his faith and his ministry with the Corinthian church. Paul may have supplemented his income by sewing canvas, but he did rely on gifts from supporters.

Many times in the New Testament (Philippians 4:10-16; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5) we see that the churches gave sacrificially to support Paul’s work. He commended them for their support and reminded them of the eternal profit of their gifts. “*Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account*” (Philippians 4:17).

This great missionary willingly received financial support from other Christians and churches, and he asked for support: “*When I go to Spain...I hope to have you assist me on my journey*” (Romans 15:24). The original language in this verse confirms Paul’s request for money. John also made reference to support: “*For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth*” (3 John 7, 8).

In examining Scripture, it is clear that Paul was a support-raising missionary, and his part time job in Corinth was a special exception to God’s financial plan for His full-time workers. The lifestyle of supported ministry to which he was called to was little different than the models followed by both the Levites of the Old Testament and Jesus Himself.

“I’m willing to do what God wants, but right now I just don’t feel comfortable raising support.”

Most people find themselves a little uneasy as they approach the challenge of support raising. It seems to go against our Canadian culture to depend on others - especially for finances.

As Catholics, we heed strong scriptural warnings about our culture’s view of morality, materialism, etc. Similarly, we should not rely on the world’s view or our own feelings when it comes to God’s Word on support for His full-time ministers. Scripture strongly states that accepting support gifts is part of God’s economy. Is that not how our church and priests are funded?

Raising support is a matter of obedience, not of feelings. If God calls you to a supported

ministry position, then He will provide everything you need to fulfil your ministry (including emotional strength and perseverance): “...*My God shall supply all your needs*” (Philippians 4:19), and, “*Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass*” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Developing a financial support team is a great faith adventure and a tremendous opportunity to see God work in your life, as well as in the lives of the people who will stand with you through their prayers and financial gifts. Your supporters are not merely doing you a favor; you are helping them make investments for which God will return benefits to them now and throughout eternity.

For further study and consideration: Numbers 1:47-54, 18; Deuteronomy 18:1-6; Luke 8:1-3; 1 Corinthians 9; Matthew 16:25; Luke 6:38; Jeremiah 29:11; John 15:16.

E. Considering Family Concerns

“I’m interested in joining staff with CCO, but my parents don’t want me to.”

When Scripture clearly teaches that we are to both honor and obey our parents, it’s hard to justify going against their wishes. Both the fifth commandment (Exodus 20:12) and Ephesians 6:1-3, as well as other passages, admonish children to revere and obey their fathers and mothers.

Your parents’ opinions are important. Your mother and father love you and are as concerned about your future as you are. So, how do you weigh your parents’ wishes when you’re evaluating many factors in trying to discern God’s leading for your life? Are their wishes the predominant criteria or merely one voice in the crowd? Neither. Your parents’ wishes should be considered as a very significant piece of information, but not as the determining factor.

There was a period of time in your life when you were totally under your parents’ authority. However, the Scriptures indicate that with adulthood, your accountability shifts from your parents to your own independent responsibility to God. You are always to be committed to honoring your parents, but there comes a time when a person must assume responsibility for his or her own life decisions and be personally accountable before God.

. What Jesus communicates (Luke 1 2:51, Luke 9:59-62, Mark 3:31-35) is that the call of God is much more important than the call of the family. We must always respect and honor our parents, but our responsibility to obey subsides when we become independent adults.

“My parents are worried that I will be wasting my major.”

It is difficult to imagine a major that would not have application in some facet of the worldwide work of the Kingdom. Many organizations have positions that someone with your particular academic degree can fill.

Your academic training, while very important, is only one part of your overall education. While in university, you also learned how to deal with pressure, how to produce, how to function under different grading styles, how to learn and, most importantly, how to get along with other people. These benefits of your education will be with you long after the specifics of your major become obsolete. These broader abilities can be used in any ministry context.

Incidentally, very few individuals actually end up working directly in the field in which they majored, just ask people you know who have been out of school more than 10 years.

Notice that the Lord never hesitated to call people away from their majors or life work to serve Him full time. For example, Moses, who was raised in Pharaoh’s court, listened to God’s call and left a prestigious leadership position. Matthew “majored” in tax accounting and Luke in medicine. Jesus never apologized for calling them away from their “majors.”

Maybe your parents are really saying, “We do not want you to waste the buying power of your

education.” That is understandable. But you only waste something by spending it on something of lesser value. Buying land with your life’s savings, only to find that it is six feet under a lake, is wasting your money.

The most valuable commodity in all the universe is the human soul. *“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?”* (Mark 8:36). Certainly it is not wasteful to invest something that you have for something of higher value. In ministry, you are investing your education in changing people’s lives for all eternity. You are purchasing the commodity of highest value. That is not a waste. That is a phenomenal investment.

“What can I do to help my parents understand what I want to do?”

First of all, sit down and ask them what their questions are. “I know you have some concerns about my future decisions, and I would like to understand them” will go a long way in opening up communication. By taking the time to listen, you are not only showing consideration and respect, but you will also be better able to address their specific questions.

Explain what you want to do and why your parents need to see your heart and the depth of your conviction. Calmly communicate your goals and desires, and give them adequate information about CCO. Many objections come from misinformation or lack of information. Talk to your parents in the context of how much you appreciate them and all they have done for you.

If you sense pressure to fulfill their expectations more than your convictions, then consider saying, “I want you to know how much I have appreciated all you have sacrificed for my education. Now that I’m making my career choices do you have some expectations in return for your investment or am I free to make my own choices?” Getting their expectations out on the table will help both you and them evaluate their validity. Remember, your parents want what they perceive to be the best for you.

“What are some other steps I can take?”

- Pray for your parents.
- Determine specifically what questions or objections your parents have.
- Take the initiative to get answers and helpful information for your parents.
- Introduce your parents to other people involved with the organization in which you are interested.
- Begin to take personal responsibility for the decisions you have to make.
- Be firm and assured in your call to full-time Christian ministry. Parents can easily sense apprehension, which can raise further doubts in their minds.

Remember that disapproval probably does not mean your parents will disown you. For most parents, their children will always remain exactly that - their children. Letting go is often very difficult.

F. Discovering God's Will in My Life

I looked out the window one bright January morning and my mind drifted towards the inevitable question: what should I do after graduating university? Should I follow the prodding of my professors and parents and go to graduate school to continue my dream of working in foreign affairs? Or, should I head into lay ministry work as many of the influential Christians in my life are encouraging me to do?

I played with my coffee cup and wondered how to make this decision and how to deal with the pressure being applied by those around me. A single thought grabbed my attention: when my life was over I would have to give an account not to a person, but to God. It seemed logical then to concentrate on determining God's design for my life. Yet how was I to do that? He was not going to talk to me audibly. Would I receive a vision? How could I ever find out what God wanted me to do?

The Sound Mind Principle

At the height of my confusion, a campus staff member explained the "Sound Mind Principle" to me. It helped me to clearly understand how to find God's will for my life. This principle has also helped me in every subsequent decision.

Is this Sound Mind Principle found in Scripture? 2 Timothy 1:7 states "*God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power; and of love and of sound mind*" The sound mind in this verse refers to the keen mind God has given us if it is under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Notice the key phrase, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. If we are not Spirit-directed or Spirit-led, we will not have the sound mind of Christ but the self-centered mind of our old nature.

At a quick glance, it is important to see that the Sound Mind Principle is firmly rooted in faith and the revealed will of God in the Scriptures. Since our faith is deeply rooted in the understanding God's Word, it is important that all insights into seeking His plan be supported firmly in His Word. God never contradicts Himself. He never leads us to do anything contrary to what's already set forth in His Word.

You might think: "There are thousands of portions of Scripture which deal with God's plan and design for our lives; which do I look at?" Consider the following. What are the two greatest commandments? First, to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; second, to love your neighbour as yourself. The Spirit-led person would obviously desire to do both in a maximum way.

While most Christians seem to concentrate on how to love the Lord and develop their relationship with Him, each person needs to consider the second greatest commandment—loving your neighbour as yourself. How do you do that?

Two Key Questions

Consider, “What is the greatest thing someone has ever done for you?” Your answer, quite obviously would be: “Helping me to know Jesus in a more personally, as Saviour and Lord.” Finally then, “What is the greatest way you can help others?” The answer again is obvious, “Help others to know and love Jesus better.”

Today, more people are alive than ever before. Millions are now ready to follow Jesus if someone would tell them how. Remember all Christians have been commanded to be witnesses for Jesus Christ (Matthew 28 18:20); this is an act of obedience. One does not need the gift of evangelization.

In the context of eternity, living 70n or 80 years is very brief. You can not even be sure you will live that long. Therefore you need to make every moment count for Christ. You can not carelessly waste the time God has given you.

Evaluate in Light of Eternity

Using the Sound Mind Principle, you need to evaluate where your life will be a maximum investment for God. This is done by making a list of the most logical options of where God could use you to most effectively accomplish seeking and saving the lost. For each person the options will differ slightly. For many, the options will include working in industry, business, education, government and in various lay Christian work. I must emphasize at this point that each option must be considered in light of the fact that over two billion people have yet to here about Christ. With the attitude of putting God’s revealed will before your own., list the pros and cons of each opportunity.

Consider the wise counsel of mature faithful Catholics. Get their opinion on your pro-con list. Consider, too, any other suggestions they might have. I would caution you, thought, to not use the counsel of others in the place of seeking the Lord Himself. Remember, your life must not be dictated by what people want you to do– be it family, friends or associates. We are accountable to the Lord alone. After completing this procedure, begin to take some positive steps towards the direction that would maximize your life for Christ. You are no longer your own. Has bought you with a price. You must, unless specifically directed by the Holy Spirit, pursue what appears to be the maximum. Thus, He desires that you pursue a secular vocation only if it accomplishes this gaol more effectively than a Christian vocation.

Beware of the “Closed-Door” Method

Too often, we follow the convenient “closed-door method,” like the university graduate who stated: “ If I can not get a job in the business world, I will know God wants me in lay Christian work.” While God may close doors for the Spirit-led Christian, such a method to utilize our God given intellect in discernment.

Further, this closed-door method lacks true openness to God because it seeks God’s will

through a process of elimination rather than actively seeking to discern how our lives can be maximized for Christ.

Take Spiritual Inventory

Why not begin employing the Sound Mind Principle in everything you do in life? Apply it to the investment of your finances, your abilities and your time. Christians should take spiritual inventory regularly by asking themselves these questions: “Are my time and abilities being invested in a manner that ensures the largest number of people being introduced and shown Jesus? Are my finances being invested in such a way that the most people possible are hearing about Jesus?”

Investing our lives in the maximum way for our Lord and His Kingdom is the most rewarding life of all. Remember Jesus’ words: *“No one who has left home, (family) or farms for my sake and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age... and in the world to come...”* (Mark 10 29:30)

If you are grappling with determining God’s will for your life, take time right now to apply the principles mentioned here. As you seek Him, He will show you the way you should go.

CCO APOSTLES' PRAYER

Lord, when you called Abraham, he responded, "Ready."
When you called Isaiah, he answered, "Here am I, send me."
When the angel Gabriel called out to Mary, she responded,
"I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to
your word."

Lord, I hear you calling my name.
I hear you entrusting me the task of building your kingdom.
Like those holy men and women who have gone before me,

I give you my "Yes!"

I will go anywhere you want me to go.

I will do anything you want me to do.

I will say anything you want me to say.

Holy Spirit I welcome you and ask you to guide me.

Form in me an apostle's heart -

filled with love for Christ and zeal for souls.

I will commit myself with courage and generosity to the New
Evangelization.

I will build brick-by-brick, the city of God inside the city of man.

Amen.