

TALITHA KOUM

Making students feel seen, known and loved as we arise together.



Dear friends,

We often talk in FOCUS about Jesus' Little Way of Evangelization. How he had 12 friends, and essentially took them on a three-year camping trip. How he invested deeply in three of those men—Peter, James and John—and showed them how to pray, encounter others and just *live*. It's an example that resonates in my own heart. Maybe because I love camping so much, but maybe because I had to learn it the hard way this year. By trying to balance everything—by trying to invite not just my five teammates, fiancé and two disciples on a camping trip, but all 500 people we have coming to Sunday Mass—I over-extended myself and ended up doing very little of it well.

In that incapable self-gift, Jesus showed me the power of the Little Way through our student missionaries. This year, we've engaged the most students in Campus Ministry history through the efforts of our incredible student missionaries—the title we give to any student who has made a verbal commitment to making Jesus the center of their life, and said yes to being trained in how to evangelize. In the following pages, you'll see how their investment in their fellow students—through bible studies and discipleship—is leading to an explosion in Tech students' desire for life with Christ.

Praise God campus is not the only place this Little Way is lived! Though I am leaving campus, I will continue working for FOCUS as a Marketing Specialist for the Alumni Team. I get to strategically communicate the Gospel to program alum through multi-channel media. As I step away from on-campus mission, I'm grateful for this year's deeper reconviction of Jesus' method. I was joking to my spiritual director the other day that for me, it's going to be the Tiny Way—just one person, because that's what I can handle right now. But even just one person knowing Christ more deeply is fruit being born.

How are you being called to live the Tiny Way? I'd love to hear from you!

In Christ,
Katherine

TEAMMATES ON MISSION

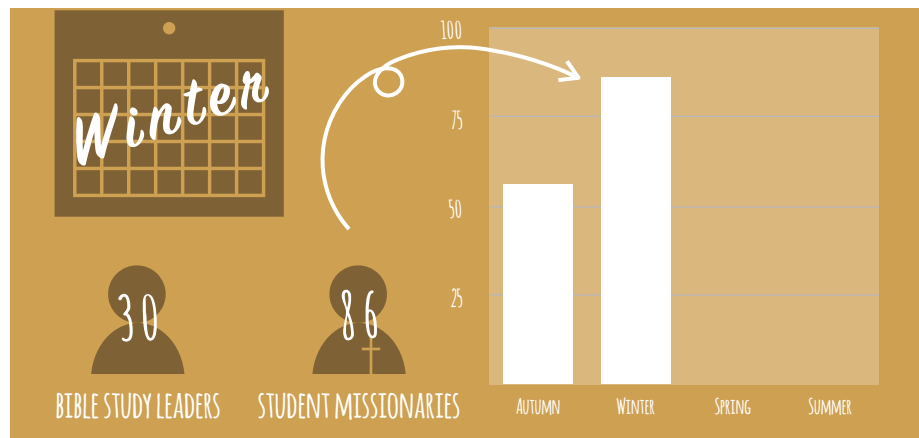
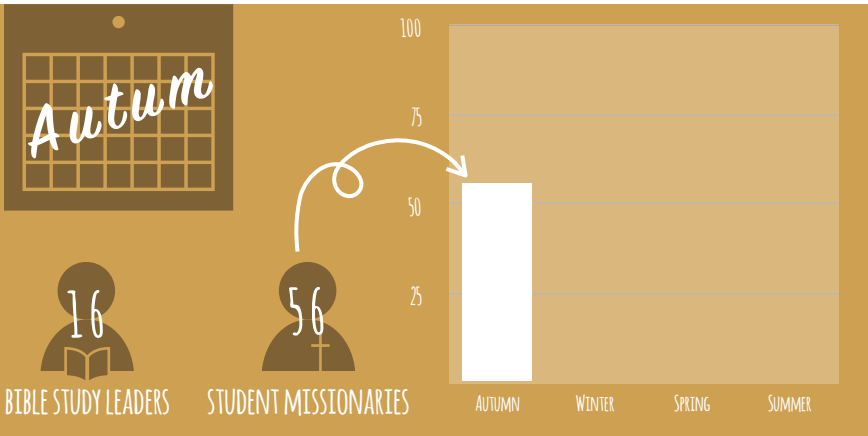
STUDENT MISSIONARIES
AT BACK-TO-SCHOOL
BONFIRE ON THE BEACH

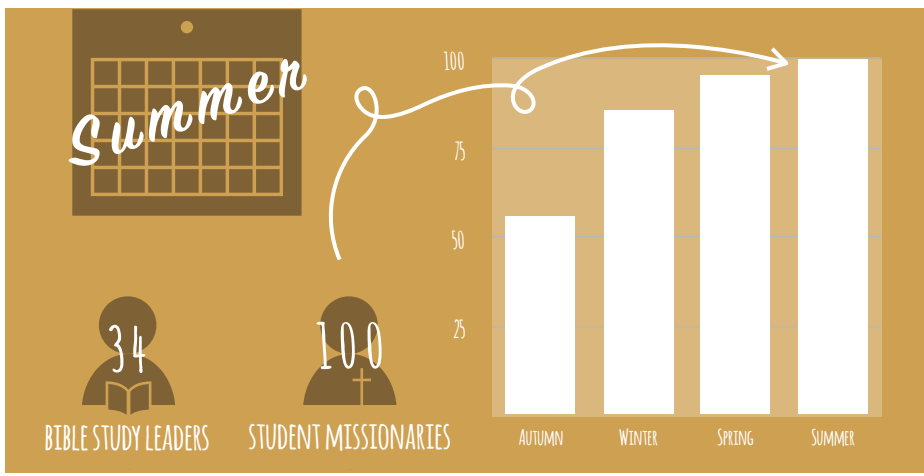
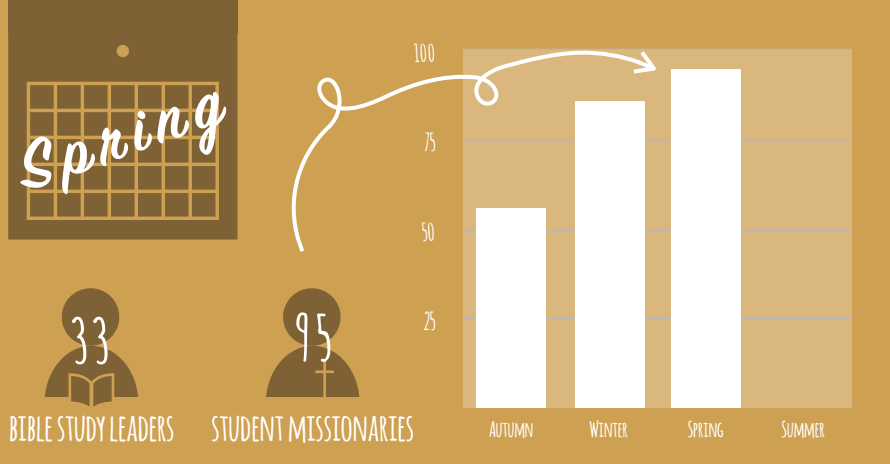


THE MAIN THING

DISCIPLESHIP IN REVIEW

FOCUS missionaries' main job is mentoring students to become missionary disciples of Jesus. We teach them how to pray daily, lead a bible study, share their testimony, and then go on to teach other students those same skills. These student missionaries are the primary mobilizers of evangelization on campus because they have a built-in relationship with their peers. One of the major metrics of mission this year was the number of student missionaries we gained over the year. Take a peek at our growth throughout the seasons!





Inspired by the growth you're reading about? FOCUS' discipleship materials are available for anyone! Visit focusequip.org and click on "Discipleship Articles" to start your journey.

THE BEST THING

KATIE PAKENAS

Studied: Biomedical engineering

Doing: engineering for Stellantis (an automotive manufacturer) in Detroit

Craziest thing we did together? Carry a canoe on our backs through campus during finals week so we could canoe the Portage for an hour.

Favorite memory? Listening and dancing to Outlaw'd (a local country cover band) when they played at Schmits, the townie bar.



THE FRIENDS I MADE

GRACE OJALA

Studied: anthropology and applied geophysics

Doing: grad school for archaeology

Best discussions? Almost every week during bible study when someone would ask "Does God have free will?" and bring new thoughts to the table.

Most known for? Pranking people with her two best friends, Emily and Erin (or pranking them). Rubber ducks, sticking forks in the yard, etc. Always harmless, always humorous.



BEST PART? BEING FRIENDS WITH THEIR FRIENDS



PRAYER REQUESTS

~In thanksgiving for the growth in student leadership over the past year, and for all God has accomplished in our community during my three years at Tech

~For the careers and vocations of the women I walked with this year: Grace (getting married in June!) & Katie; their friends and disciples Erin, Emily, Katelyn & Kristin; and Maria, Anna, Madi, Allison, Ella, Grace, Erin, Amber, and all young adult women in Houghton.

~In gratitude for all of you, and for all former, current and future mission partners of FOCUS missionaries

~For Cody and I, as we enter into marriage

In Christ,

Katherine Stevenson

Katherine (Katie) Stevenson



Found in Mark 5:35-43, *talitha koum* means "little girl, arise!" We are called to be the little girl—to be redeemed through Jesus' love for us, and arise to live life as His disciples. It tops every newsletter as a reminder to see, know and love the students around me, helping them arise to spread a hunger for God in their homes, schools, and workplaces.



TEAM MICHIGAN TECH 2022-2023:
KAM, NATALIE, ANNA, MATT
ADRIANE & ME