

RESIDENT TESTIMONIES

KATIE SOKOLOVA

I am Katie, and I have been involved at Ambrose since September 2022. My Christian journey has been challenging but life-changing, and I am happy to have it culminate here at Ambrose.

As a person from a non-Christian family, I would not have imagined having a place where I could live and praise God openly. When I first decided to follow Christ, I was a fragile born-again teen, shielding my faith from my parents in fear of conflict and tension. My parents, growing up in the Soviet Union, did not see my faith in the way that I did. After the Union collapsed, their first exposure to religion was in the form of a Korean cult (the Unification Church), and so they saw my conversion as a result of brainwashing rather than a calculated, wholesome decision. My sister and I went to great lengths to honour our parents while also growing in our faith - taking the transit for 2 hours to get to church, rather than making them drive us to a place they did not want us to attend. When my parents were not home, while other teenagers would invite their friends to the party, my sister and I were thankful to pray out loud for our food at the table. It is astonishing that I get to pray over my food out loud every day, and it is not only welcomed but expected.

Ambrose has also been an amazing place of growth through the connection with older ministry personnel who mentor and invest in our lives. I only started attending Church every Sunday when I moved to Montreal, since that was not an opportunity I had living with my parents. When I was still looking for and getting involved in the Church community in my first year, the pandemic started and cut off my connection with the churches I went to. I have not had a lot of time to grow familiar with older church members to the point where they could mentor me. Mentorship at Ambrose is one of the first opportunities I have to seek guidance from older Christian adults, and I am thankful for their advice and life experience. As well, having them intimately involved in day-to-day life is a big blessing, since nothing is too big or too small for them to aid me in. I have had Ambrose staff pray for me over my uncle's passing as well as over a small thumb injury. I feel their love for me in the big and small.

Overall, I have been at Ambrose for a little more than 2 months but it has been an amazing opportunity to connect with the Christians around me and grow together. Theological conversations at the dinner table, prayer in the evenings, and even just time spent together remind me of Christ and His love. Having exposure to this amazing ministry is strengthening me, and having me see what ministry can look like. As I consider the possibility of being involved in ministry after graduation, Ambrose is a place I look at as an example and an inspiration.



*Come to me, all
you who are weary
and burdened, and
I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon
you and learn from
me, for I am gentle
and humble in
heart, and you will
find rest for your
souls*

Matthew 11:28

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SOPHIE PERSAUD

Home has always been a difficult word for me. Although scripture tells us in Hebrews 13 that our world is not our home and that we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven, it still felt like many had a “home”, somewhere they went back to during the holidays, a place of familiarity. I guess I did have places like that, where I could call home, but in reality what felt like home was not a place but more so people. When I moved back to Canada from South Korea, I immediately felt alone. My “home” which was my family was now across the world. Fortunately, I made a lot of new friends but we were not united in faith. Thankfully, by God’s grace, I met some brothers and sisters in Christ who went on to become my roommates during my last year of university and later became my connection to Ambrose House. Today, Ambrose House is my new “home”. I distinctly remember a resident of our house greet me by saying “welcome home”. We had never really met each other, yet there was a warmth and acceptance that was so purely conveyed. I told myself that day that that is what I wanted “home” to feel like - unconditional acceptance, like the arms of our Heavenly Father. Ambrose is a place that welcomes you in, embraces you and becomes your “home”. I still struggle with the notion of “home” sometimes, but nonetheless I know that Ambrose is my “home” and I do not feel any doubt about it. Everyday I thank God for this new home that supports me as I establish my identity in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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