



Responses to Keith Martin as a Nonreligious Chaplain:

I am very excited for you as you take these new positions. Congratulations and best wishes. I know you will make a difference.

JoAnne Fleming-Valin, Collingwood

I'm glad to see you pursuing spirituality and goodness and provoking others to do so.

Jon Fuller, a friend

I think the students could really use your services. So many students are struggling with a basic question, namely 'What's the point?'

U. of G. Asst. Professor, Dept. of Mathematics
College of Physical and Engineering Science

I think it's wonderful that we have a non-religious chaplain. My work in the theatre is all about recognizing our spirituality and the daily struggle within us between good and evil. Can we not lobby for you to have a greater presence on campus? There is so much trauma among the students, we certainly need you!

U. of Guelph Professor
School of English & Theatre, College of Arts

I just wanted to thank you for hosting the group (With or Without God). It was exactly what I was looking for for months. It really helps to finally meet people who are where I am and understand the struggles that I have.

U. of Waterloo student

Thank you for all your guidance. I feel strongly for the safe space you have created at Guelph to explore options to spirituality.

U. of Guelph student

Thanks for spending so much time with me yesterday to discuss my current situation. I really can't express how much I appreciated it. I didn't expect it, but I think I can get back on my feet today. It feels right to now focus and meditate on the more positive aspects of my life again. I'm proud of myself for getting to this place as quickly as I did, but you really helped me along. Your friendship and support means a lot to me. I'm glad we crossed paths.

U. of Guelph student

SPECTRUM

SPECTRUM Artistic and Educational Media Association is a non-profit, registered charity promoting media arts in education. *Our mission is to provide schools and registered charities with artistic and educational media that foster life-enhancing values.*

Spectrum's history can be divided into 3 chapters. **Chapter 1**, during the 1980s, focused on **Exploring Values and Beliefs**. Under IVCF, Spectrum produced and presented two 3-screen, 9-projector multimedia presentations. One of these, *In Search of a Sun: An Inquiry into Values*, was presented 500 times to nearly 100,000 people in all 10 provinces. Whenever possible it was shown with its sequel, first *Between Reflections*, then *Say It Isn't True: An Inquiry into Faith*.

Chapter 2, in the 1990s, saw Spectrum become an independent artistic and educational media resource with an expanded mandate, **Probing Values, Beliefs and Social Concerns**. We further described our work as 'Fostering a civil, just and caring society.' Our media format shifted to 3-projector, wide-screen presentations followed by audience interaction and response. From 1990 to 2001, Spectrum produced and gave 900 presentations of *Take It Back* (Caring for Planet Earth), *Dear God* (Barriers and Bridges to Faith), and *No More Turning Away* (From Hunger, Poverty and Injustice) to 220,000 students and adults in 8 provinces.

Chapter 3 began in 2002 with the goal of 'Fostering Social Responsibility and Spiritual Awareness.' In 2009, concerned that some people might interpret 'spiritual' as 'religious' or think we were promoting

New Age spirituality, we revised our goal to **Fostering Values That Enhance Life**. Our initial focus was on providing opportunities for conversation around media (books, music and movies) that explore a progressive or metaphorical understanding of life and spirituality. With **Inspiring Students To Care**, a program in partnership with Rotary Clubs of District 6330 and Zone 24, we updated and transferred *No More Turning Away* and *Take It Back* to DVD, placing 1100 DVDs in 42 school boards in 6 provinces across Canada. In 2014 we produced *Seismic Shift: Spirituality for the Rest of Us*, a multimedia resource for exploring spirituality with university students and adults.

This past year Spectrum sponsored me as a nonreligious chaplain at U. of Waterloo and U. of Guelph, expanding Spectrum's presence on the university campus.

Spectrum's Board in 2014-15 consisted of Bev Garinger, Bonnie Jacob and Paul Bruer until December, and Bev, Bill McKenzie and Daryl Wark in the spring. Bev is the manager of Warton Video The Source, and is a member of The Rotary Club of Warton. Bill and Daryl are members of St. John's United Church in Warton, which is sponsoring Keith as a nonreligious chaplain. Bill has retired from his business, McKenzie Pharmacy, and is also a member of Rotary. Daryl is an Employment and Training Consultant with the provincial government and has two sons in university.

Spectrum's **Advisory Council** includes Ruth Cathcart, Paul Bruer, Isobel McGregor, and Malcolm Rust. Ruth is the author of several books on early Canadian furniture and the architecture of historic Canadian houses. Paul is a retired professor and progressive member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Warton. Isobel is a retired chaplain at U. of Waterloo and active with both Parkminster United Church in Waterloo and Grand River Unitarian Church in Kitchener. Malcolm is a retired minister in St. Thomas. Isobel, Larry Kelly, and Tui Torre are members of Keith's Chaplaincy Support Team in Waterloo.



Spectrum's Board of Directors, May 2015

SEISMIC SHIFT



In 2013 I published a book called *Seismic Shift: From God to Goodness*. Subtitled 'A journey of loss and discovery,' it describes my journey from belief in God as a higher Being to God as a higher Ideal, especially the ideal of Goodness.

In 2014 Spectrum produced a companion multimedia presentation entitled *Seismic Shift: Spirituality for the Rest of Us*. It explores a progressive alternative to traditional faith, New Age spirituality, and atheism.

This past year *Seismic Shift* was shown once at the U. of Waterloo (to students in the With or Without God group) and three times at the U. of Guelph (to several chaplains as a preview, to the Guelph Secular Humanist Society, and to students and chaplains at a campus showing in the Grad Lounge).

Here are a few responses to the presentations:

Remarkable piece. Well articulated viewpoint.

I really love how you presented your experience as opposed to how others should go through their journeys.

I liked how you threaded the needle between faith and nontheism and sought to bring people of either persuasion to the point being made.

Very moving and thought-provoking. The logic is strong and complete.

Engaging and interesting. Provoking without being offensive. It would make a great discussion starter.

Emotionally compelling. Hopeful. Inclusive.

NONRELIGIOUS CHAPLAIN

In September I became a nonreligious chaplain at U. of Waterloo and U. of Guelph. When it comes to religious identity, "no religious affiliation" or "none" is the fastest growing segment among students and adults. I am a chaplain for the "nones," especially students who are, or want to be, spiritual but not necessarily religious. My goal is to point students to universal, life-enhancing values like goodness and compassion rather than a particular set of beliefs.

In my first year I was on each campus at least one day a week, sometimes two. Besides office hours, I had a "Spiritual but not necessarily Religious" booktable twice a month. And in January I started a weekly group for students called "With or Without God: Where spirituality is about values, not beliefs."

Several copies of *Seismic Shift* the book were purchased by or given to students, staff and alumnae. *Seismic Shift* the multimedia production was shown four times on campus, with a panel discussion after the Grad Lounge showing involving the Jewish chaplain, a humanist student, and the Christian Ecumenical chaplain.



photo by Anna Yo

A 5 page Nonreligious Chaplaincy Report, with 25 appendixes and 13 pages of photos, is available on request. If you would like to be part of my work on campus, your financial support (through Spectrum or St. John's United Church) would be a real encouragement, enabling me to encourage students to live by life-enhancing values.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Martin, Director

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