

# Faith Today

To Connect, Equip and Inform Evangelical Christians in Canada

MAY/JUNE 2012



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## Marketplace Missionaries

Entrepreneurs and  
Christian thinkers  
examine how their  
faith relates  
to business

Befriending  
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Immigrants

p. 28

Boomer  
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The Jul/Aug 2012 issue of *Faith Today* will be delivered electronically. Watch for a notification email in early July. The next printed issue arrives in September.

To read the special summer issue, just visit us in July or August at [faithtoday.ca/digital](http://faithtoday.ca/digital). And please invite your non-subscribing friends to stop by and check us out. What a great way to share your *Faith Today*!

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PHOTO: HOPEMISSION.COM



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# THE HERITAGE



Claudiel Huot  
Luc-Antoine Couturier



*Home to Old Québec—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—the Québec City area also harbors a rich religious heritage. Québec is the oldest Catholic parish in North America. And nearby, the Sanctuary of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, the continent’s oldest Roman Catholic pilgrimage site north of Mexico, draws nearly a million pilgrims each year.*

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## Christ and Cash?

Christ is leading many Christian professionals into new ways of thinking and working.

**C**hristians sometimes assume we must leave our faith outside the workplace door. Perhaps we worry it might interfere with our work to bring up matters best left personal and private. But such concerns are clearly misplaced according to our cover story “Marketplace Missionaries” by Debra Fieguth.

The business people quoted are enthusiastic about how their faith is relevant to their work, and each has a unique understanding of God’s personal call. It’s inspiring to hear how they are anchoring their business practices in their faith and biblical principles. The results are often evident in the products and services offered and the respectful care they show for staff and clients. What’s more, these businesses are profitable.

A variety of ministries have sprung up to support people in the marketplace and to provide Christian spiritual direction. Their leaders share with *Faith Today* some profound and relevant advice.

Integrating faith and work takes thought, and thankfully Canadians have access to some great training in biblical thinking at our seminaries and Bible colleges. In “Baby Boomers Head to Seminary” by Patricia Paddey, you will read about how more and more Christians over 50 are going back to school. Paddey, who signed up herself, discovered she wasn’t the only “older” student. And she found how learning is becoming more conversational as young and older students share and learn.

Reading such articles can help us understand the changes occurring around us in the marketplace and our semin-

aries. *Faith Today* is also starting two new columns to extend that understanding even further.

First is the new series “Blessed is the Man” by Doug Koop. This series is named after Psalm 1, and will reflect on following Christ as a Christian man today (complementing our ongoing “Women Alive” column). In his debut Koop looks at men in the nursing profession.

Our second new department is called “Q&A” and will consist of short but insightful interviews with a variety of Canadian Evangelicals – starting with pastor Darryl Dash.

One more thing. As *Faith Today* did last year, we will be publishing our July/August issue online only. Instead of waiting for a printed issue to arrive in your mailbox, you’ll be able to go online to [faithtoday.ca/digital](http://faithtoday.ca/digital) to read the complete issue. You can download it to your computer for offline reading, share articles with friends over email and Facebook, as well as print off articles to keep. Please help us share more widely what God is doing across the evangelical church in Canada by telling others about this special issue. If we have your email address, you will receive a notification when the issue is ready. If not, please send your address to us before the end of June at [editor@faithtoday.ca](mailto:editor@faithtoday.ca). (Oh, and if you’re a potential advertiser, feel free to ask us about adding a short video or slideshow to your July/August ad.)

Enjoy your reading! **FT**

**GAIL REID** is managing editor of *Faith Today* and director of publishing and resourcing for The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

## Faith Today

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**Two in One**

Re: Books & Culture (Mar/Apr 2012)

I very much appreciate the review by Violet Nesdoly of my book, *This Hidden Thing*. Just a small clarification. The two awards mentioned are actually one and



the same. McNally Robinson Booksellers sponsors the Book of the Year award at the annual Manitoba Book Awards. The prize awarded in 2011 is for a book published in 2010.

Dora Dueck  
Winnipeg, Man.

**Milestones**

**APPOINTED**

**Larry Worthen** of Halifax, N.S., as executive director of the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada. He replaces Roger Gingerich, who has resigned after five years in the position. Worthen has worked for the Government of Nova Scotia since 1998 and has a broad understanding of provincial human rights legislation. He has also managed housing for people with mental health difficulties, directed agency relations for Metro United Way and directed the Arthritis Society in Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and Newfoundland.



**Larry Worthen**

**Bruce Guenther** as president of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary Canada, a partner in the ACTS consortium of Langley, B.C. Over the past year 12 months, serving as interim president, he has already strengthened and renegotiated the MB seminary's relationships with several Mennonite organizations and helped bring it into The Journey, a new cross-denominational school in Edmonton affiliated with ACTS Seminaries. Guenther has taught church history at the seminary since 1999.

**RENAMED**

**Kingswood University** is the new name of Bethany Bible College of Sussex, N.B., a school founded in 1945, affiliated with The Wesleyan Church (about 66 per cent of students have that background) and accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education.

**AWARDED**

**Downhere**, a celebrated Canadian Christian rock band, with the 2012 Juno Award for best contemporary Christian/gospel album of the year for *On the Altar of Love* (Centricity, 2011). Also in the running were *Crazy Love* by Hawk Nelson; *Forevermore* by Jon Bauer; *Imperfections & Directions* by Kellie Loder; and *Don't Close Your Eyes* by Sky Terminal. It's the fourth time Downhere has won this category in Canada's mainstream music awards.

**crossroads**

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**A novel and a non-fiction cancer journal** won the 2011 Word Alive Press publishing contest. The Winnipeg-based publisher chose the two manuscripts from 200 entries. *The Lion Cubs* is a novel by Chrissy Dennis of St. Catharines, Ont., that tells a story of divine restoration involving a teen runaway and a middle-aged widow. *The Ben Ripple* is a candid and victorious journal written by Lisa Elliott of Stratford, Ont., during her 18-year-old son's struggle with leukemia. Details and ordering at [wordalivepress.ca](http://wordalivepress.ca).

**RELOCATED**

**Grace Television Network** is moving from St. Catharines, Ont., to Toronto this summer. Since World Impact Ministries purchased The Christian Channel in June 2009 and changed its name to Grace TV, it has grown to become "Canada's largest 24/7 provider of Christian TV programming, reaching 60 per cent of Canadian households." The move will simplify operations and make the channel headquarters, eventually on the premises of Toronto International Celebration Church in the North York neighbourhood, more easily accessible to guests and visitors. Peter Youngren is president and CEO. 

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# Horses Help Kids Heal Near Edmonton



PHOTO: HOPEMISSION.COM

**Horses of Hope uses an established summer camp environment to create a safe place for youth and adults from troubled backgrounds.**

**F**or eight-year-old Billy, an Edmonton boy from a fractured home, the difference was like night and day. Billy attended the Horses of Hope program at Brightwood Ranch, a ministry of Edmonton's Hope Mission. Horses of Hope, launched last September, uses an established summer camp environment to create a safe place for youth and adults from single-parent, foster or group homes to find much-needed hope – with the help of a horse. “It’s a way to let them know there’s a God who loves them,” says Brent Ankrom, program director for Horses of Hope.

“‘Heal the hurts of kids through God and horses’ is a phrase we use around here,” says Ankrom. Kids bond with their horses and instructors as they learn riding skills, care for their assigned animal – and take steps toward healing from abuse and trauma. The continuing relationship with the same horse allows a child or youth to build up confidence and trust. “A horse doesn’t judge me, a horse doesn’t care what your background is like. It’s willing to let kids ride, and eats out of their hand. Lots of kids will say ‘that horse likes me,’” says Ankrom.

Staff gently teach the children the similarities between a horse’s love and the unlimited and non-judgemental love of God. Horses of Hope also attempts to connect with the child’s family when possible. Four family dates are included in the year-round program when families can visit the ranch and enjoy “a family day that they may not be able to afford. We cover the cost,” says Ankrom.

Families meet the horse and staff who have worked with the rider, participate in a fun family rodeo, and have an opportunity to interact with other families and staff, maybe even while scaling the camp’s climbing wall.

“We would like a long-term relationship with these children,” says Ankrom. With time, the children who attend “can thrive and reclaim their lives by finding hope and healing in God’s love. A horse can love unconditionally,” explains Ankrom. “It will love kids just because they’re kids.” **FT** —Michelle Zarins

## Ghanaian University College Runs With Canadian Leadership

**I**t’s a remarkable success story. All Nations University College in Ghana ([allnationsuniversity.org](http://allnationsuniversity.org)) opened its doors in November 2002 with an enrollment of 37 students. Not quite a decade later, they have close to 3,000 hailing from 15 different nations. And all this growth is largely being managed from right here in Canada.

Some 75 per cent of the university’s current leadership is made of African expats who reside here. “We believe that

with time, the local leadership will imbibe the vision and [run] things,” says Samuel Donkor, founder and president of the institution. “But we wanted to bring a new approach to doing things in Ghana.”

A native of Ghana himself, Donkor came to Canada in 1981 – where he quickly founded Toronto’s All Nations Full Gospel Church – and where he remains senior pastor. But his heart never really left his home. “Africa is blessed with resources, but we’ve not been able to harness them

because of corruption,” he says. Donkor – together with other members of the Ghanaian diaspora – determined one solution would be to provide young people with not only the practical skills gained through post-secondary education, but also Christian values to help ensure good management of the country’s future.

The university college, which touts itself as providing a “Christian environment of truth and integrity in the fields of engineering, business and sciences,”

## Planting the Seed of Environmental Awareness

**S**hortly after celebrating the Good News of Jesus' resurrection, churches across the country celebrated Good Seed Sunday. An initiative of the Surrey, B.C.-based A Rocha, Good Seed Sunday ([goodseedsunday.com](http://goodseedsunday.com)) was created to send a simple message: If you're a follower of Jesus, part of that means caring for His creation.

Interest in the environment is "bubbling with Christians," suggests Luke Wilson, A Rocha community relations co-ordinator. Especially in churches which have traditionally held to a split between the sacred and the secular, Good Seed Sunday shows how Christians have a role to play with creation. "Not in the same way as the environmentalists, but a way directly linked to faith and a sense of worship."

Citing verses from Genesis and Psalms – and not wanting to create a proof-text argument – Wilson says there is much in Scripture which points to humanity's responsibility for creation.

"It's part of our mandate as Christians."

Held April 22, Good Seed Sunday was part of A Rocha's three-pronged approach to environmental stewardship: conservation science, education and sustainable living. This approach led to the growth of two study centres, numerous adults and children educated, the growth of a number of conservation projects across Canada, and dozens of community gardens.

Good Seed Sunday resources provided a theological grounding for Good Seed Sunday and included sermons, worship resources, Bible study and small group materials,



PHOTO: BROOKE MCALLISTER

### ■ Showcasing a food share from A Rocha's Community Shared Agriculture project in Surrey, B.C.

national lines – including Mennonite, United, Presbyterian, Anglican, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Baptist, Reformed and Pentecostal – had signed up for resources. While some churches may have missed the actual Good Seed Sunday, Wilson says churches can still connect with A Rocha to hold an event.

"We're hoping to do this every year," he says. A Rocha has another event slated to take place around Thanksgiving Sunday. **FT**

–Robert White

a Sunday school teacher kit, daily devotionals and more. A Rocha also promoted practical action projects, like community gardens, as a way to care for creation and connect people to their local communities.

The Good Seed Sunday idea came from a discussion among A Rocha staff about how to better engage with churches. "We've felt for a long time that we were spinning our wheels in a number of directions with churches," says Wilson. "Instead of waiting for churches to come to us, we decided to be proactive."

He says they used the A Rocha website and social networking to publicize the event. Launched before Christmas, by mid-March 70 churches from across the country and across denomi-

is located in the capital city of Ghana's eastern regions, Koforidua.

Adriana Ion, 27, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in biblical studies with a minor in business administration at the school. Now she's pursuing a Masters of Theology degree there. "My life has been drastically transformed," Ion says, "to the extent that when I first returned home, my parents were amazed to see the change in my life. As a result they allowed me to bring my younger brother to the university. He's in his second year studying computer engineering."

With 1,000 acres of land, Donkor says, "It will take years and years and years to populate that site with buildings." An engineering complex and two student residences (one for men and one for women) are under construction, and due to be completed within a year.

Such rapid growth has come with its share of challenges. Donkor says finding qualified faculty has been one of the biggest. "When you launch a new program that is not common in Ghana, you have to get faculty from outside. [We've recruited staff] from Canada, India, anywhere we

can find people who are willing to help."

Simply finding places to put everybody has been another challenge. Not yet a residential school, students have had to find accommodation in town. "The [town] council has said to me, 'You are driving up rental prices in town!'" says Donkor, who flies to Ghana once a month for 10 days at a time to provide on-the-ground oversight. He says they're seeking "individuals with expertise" who are willing to go to Ghana for short or longer terms to teach or provide administrative help. **FT**

–Patricia Paddey

# Crossroads Christian Communications Turns 50



PHOTO: CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS INC. (CROSSROADS.CA/50)

**David Mainse's TV ministry began as a weekly black-and-white broadcast.**

In 1962 John Diefenbaker was prime minister of Canada, the Trans-Canada Highway opened, Saskatchewan introduced this country's first public health care program – and David Mainse launched Crossroads Christian Communications.

Over the past 50 years, while other scandal-plagued televangelists have often distracted viewers and supporters from

the gospel message, Mainse has been a notable exception.

Under his leadership and direction, what began as a weekly black-and-white, 15-minute broadcast that aired after the nightly news on a small Pembroke, Ont., TV station has grown to become an expansive family of ministries that includes multimedia programming, a missions or-

ganization, a broadcast school, and a national prayer centre that staffs 100 volunteers to field 30,000 calls each month, providing 24/7 telephone prayer support to Canadians.

Crossroads also operates Crossroads Television System (CTS), consisting of television stations in Burlington, Calgary and Edmonton. Several spinoff ministries have also launched after being birthed by Crossroads, including the Circle Square Ranch children's camps (which Crossroads gave to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in 2011), and the programs *Context With Lorna Dueck*, *Full Circle* and *It's Your Call*.

But *100 Huntley Street* is Crossroads' highest profile program. Launched by Mainse in 1977, it is this country's longest running daily TV talk show.

Trudie Harding, 72, of Port Perry, Ont., has been a fan – watching off and on – for decades. "I love to hear the stories of how people have come to know the Lord," she enthuses, "and of the transformations that God has made in people's lives. I think it's so needed in our society today. We need to hear that there's hope and redemption."

Harding appreciates the way Mainse built his ministry on a willingness to work

## Finding a New Way to Fund Missions Work

A missions support agency and a firm that's developed "giving solutions" have teamed up to make it easier for missionaries to raise money. LoveGlobal.com began as a way for the "outliers – effective and passionate missionaries working outside of large organizations or denominations," to spread their stories and raise funds, says the LoveGlobal.com website. (See "Canadian Initiates Housing in Haiti.")

The ministry's main aim is to help missionaries become fully funded. "A group of us decided there needed to be a new way to communicate," says LoveGlobal.com spokesperson Darian Kovacs in an introductory video on the ministry's website. "We'd get a report six months to a year later about where our donation went. We'd see edited photos or edited video

that wasn't actually true to what was going on. We wanted to provide a space where it was safe for people to post updates about the good, the bad and the ugly about missions."

When setting up the ministry, the team behind LoveGlobal.com turned to the Benefic Group – a Vancouver-based company with 30 years' experience providing legal and administrative guidance to charities – headed by Blake Bromley. Walking LoveGlobal.com through the legal labyrinth of registering as a charity and obtaining non-profit status, Bromley saw how some of the firm's other tools could also help the ministry.

"We had developed some web-based software that helped with the problems of telling stories on the web, driven by our desire to assist missions in their fundraising."

## Canadian Initiates Housing in Haiti

Canadian Steph Forster has launched a one-year fundraising initiative to house, feed and educate Haitian children. “The kids we are helping are living on the streets, being exploited, abused and trafficked,” says Forster, who works with her Haitian husband David Limage. Forster, 28, met Limage in an outreach to Haiti after the earthquake of January 2010.

This initiative was born in October 2010, when Limage presented his bride with a wedding gift of six acres of land in Port-au-Prince. The couple formed a ministry called Haiti Love Revolution ([haitiloverevolution.com](http://haitiloverevolution.com)), to care for street kids who are often used to transport drugs from place to place in the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

Together with Spero Industries – a Canadian non-profit based in Chilliwack, B.C., that provides “low-cost, highly durable permanent homes to aid victims of disaster in developing nations around the world” – Haiti Love Revolution plans to build six homes for children.

“We’re hoping to move people out of tents and cardboard, and provide a place they can feel secure in,” says Gregg Stiles, Spero’s director of operations. The homes are being built in Chilliwack and then shipped to Port-au-Prince where local Haitians will assemble them on the land given to Forster as a wedding present. “We already have the housing for the land built and ready to go,” she says. “We just need the funds to ship it here.”

The team hopes to raise \$105,600 by next January to transport the housing, pay local workers to lay foundation for the buildings, and carry on with the rest of their plans that include a school, teachers, clothing and a clean water supply for the children.

“I went through a very difficult time and have experienced street life in Haiti,” adds Limage, who also runs Nehemiah Records, a label committed to helping share the music of street kids with the world. “We need to show these kids that Jesus loves them. To show them they have something good



**A child from the street outreach in the tent cities in Port-au-Prince.**

PHOTO: STEPH LIMAGE

to offer the world.”

Limage and Forster are registered under the banner of Love Global ([loveglobal.com](http://loveglobal.com)). (See “Finding a New Way to Fund Missions Work.”) **FT**  
–Emily Wierenga

across denominational boundaries. “God doesn’t have denominational barriers,” she says. “I’ve learned not to be judgemental about people that don’t belong to the denomination that I think has got the answers.”

Mainse – who stepped down as president of Crossroads and host of *100 Huntley Street* in 2003 – began treatment in April for myelodysplastic syndrome (pre-leukemia). His diagnosis came on the heels of a recently completed “Thank

You Canada” tour, during which he travelled across the nation, holding meetings in 170 communities to convey his personal thanks to Canadians for their support.

Plans for the 50th anniversary celebrations include public tours of the Crossroads broadcast facilities and a week of special programs May 28 to June 1, to be hosted by Mainse.

“Founder’s Week will include bloopers and footage from the archives,” says Caro-

lyn Innis, communications director, “and we’ll be bringing on our current CEO [Don Simmonds] to cast a vision for the future.”

During an interview posted on the Crossroads’ website, host Jim Cantelon asks Mainse if he has any regrets. “None,” Mainse says emphatically. “Absolutely none.”

“I hope they go on for another 50 years,” Harding says. “I think they’re doing a tremendous job.” **FT**

–Patricia Paddey

says Bromley, who was born in China to missionary parents.

His missionary background goes even deeper, with both maternal and paternal relatives involved in missions ministry: eight of his mother’s siblings are missionaries and his paternal grandfather wrote the book, literally, on the first hundred years of Plymouth Brethren missionary work in India.

The missionary world “is going to disappear,” Bromley worries, “if we do not adjust the fundraising model.” LoveGlobal.com is trying to fill that gap.

An ever-aging population means the generations which have supported missionaries have died or are growing older and leaving legacies in their wills. The current generation “doesn’t have a passion for missions. Or, if they do, it’s in a very different context or paradigm,” says Bromley, noting the world is increasingly moving towards web-based platforms. “Most mission organizations do prayer letters

by email and send brochures electronically,” he says. “They may have moved their modus operandi from the 1950s to websites, but they haven’t changed how they operate. Their generation of donors [isn’t] hip to web technology.”

LoveGlobal offers missionaries a platform to tell their stories to current and potential supporters. Through weekly fundraising tips and Internet chats, missionaries are inspired and work on creating fundraising campaigns. LoveGlobal advocates for the missionaries and tries to find a “champion” who will raise funds on their behalf.

The next challenge, says Bromley, will be to get established missions organizations to shift gears. “We can demonstrate success of individual workers, the early adopters in this space,” he says. “LoveGlobal.com isn’t in [the] business of becoming a mission organization – it’s about how what we do enables missions.” **FT**  
–Robert White



## How Broad Is Your Gospel?

Are business and economics religiously neutral? Of course not!

**T**he word “secular” suggests there are areas of life that are non-religious. It assumes some aspects of life are sacred, but others are not.

In Christian circles we often talk of “spiritual things,” the implication being there are non-spiritual things.

These distinctions may be culturally prevalent, but are they true to the gospel?

I commented in a previous column how significant it was for the Supreme Court of Canada to acknowledge that philosophically there is no place of absolute neutrality when dealing with religion.

Interestingly, Bob Dylan came to the same conclusion in the lyrics to “Gotta Serve Somebody.” He sings, “It may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody.”

If there is no neutral place, then we worship and serve someone or something in all we do. For example, in a society that preaches individual autonomy, the one who “sits on the throne” is the individual.

People of many times, places and religions have recognized this. Christians may think first of the Apostle Paul’s words, that if we do not worship and serve God, then we “exchange the truth of God for a lie, and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:25).

Dutch politician and theologian Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920) put it another way: “There is no part of creation to which the Lord does not cry out and declare, ‘Mine!’ ”

All these voices echo the psalmist, who declared in Psalm 24:1: “The Earth is the Lord’s.”

So when we go to work, when we play, when we study, when we pray – and, yes, when we pay our taxes and vote – who do we worship and serve? (Think of 1 Corinthians 10:31: “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”)



### Together for influence, impact and identity

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is the national association of Evangelicals gathered together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals and a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society. Visit us at theEFC.ca.

While living in our society, though, those of us who affirm the Lordship of Christ can get caught up in the debilitating myth of neutrality. We can presume religion really does not have much to say beyond “behave ethically” in employment, economics and other areas.

When I was about 11, my closest friend wanted to be a pastor. I didn’t sense that call, so I decided I would be a businessman and support him in his ministry. It never occurred to me that being in business was also a worthy calling in itself and not merely a means of making money for Christian ministry.

Likewise, when I went to university to study economics, it didn’t occur to me to challenge the basic assumptions of economic theory: that demands or wants are unlimited and resources finite, and therefore the basic problem is one of scarcity. We were taught economic forces (demand) look for supplies, and the market determines the price of goods and services, and thereby their allocation. Adam Smith, the father of economics, wrote about the “invisible hand” of the market that directs economic activity.

My gospel was too narrow. My understanding of the scope of God’s redemptive plan through Christ was too limited, and my understanding of what a life of discipleship meant was truncated. I told my friends at university that Christ was Lord of my life, but from their vantage point, it meant only that I was an ethical person, attended church on Sunday – but my faith had little to do with my studies. Business and economics was outside what I understood to be the scope of my faith. It did not need to be reconciled to Christ.

Are business and economics neutral? Of course not! What would happen if we exchanged the notion of scarcity with a biblical notion of stewardship and the related notion of enough, and saw business as contributing to our well-being by creating meaningful work and producing goods or providing services that sustain and enhance life – and that our task includes caring for creation, not exploiting it?

This is what I think the Apostle Paul meant by the need to transform our minds (Romans 12), and take all thoughts captive to make them obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). The gospel challenges culturally prevalent myths and assertions. This is often hard work, but part of our witness and being a disciple.

Our surrounding culture and its myths should not determine the scope of the gospel. We are to be living witnesses to the breadth and depth of the gospel in all we do. **FT**

**BRUCE J. CLEMENGER** is president of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Read more of his columns at theEFC.ca/clemenger.

## Reducing Bullying

The EFC has spoken out this spring after Ontario and Quebec proposed new anti-bullying laws.

The EFC research report *By the Numbers: Rates and Risk Factors for Bullying in Canada*, released in April, provides an overview of bullying trends, the reported frequencies of bullying behaviours, risk factors for bullying and perspectives on criminalization of the behaviour. This 30-page document is free online.

A major concern in current public policy discussions is Ontario's *Bill 13, the Accepting Schools Act*. EFC legal counsel Faye Sonier and Don Hutchinson contend the wording of the proposed bill is problematic and fraught with interpretational difficulties. In an open letter to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty sent April 2, they recommended three specific amendments: the definition of "bullying" be amended so as not to capture innocent behaviour or speech protected by the rights to religious freedom and expression; the provision that mandates gay-straight alliances be broadened to permit more diverse and inclusive groups; and the provision that may restrict the ability of churches to use school space for worship or meetings be removed.

These and other anti-bullying resources are free at [theEFC.ca/acceptingschoolsact](http://theEFC.ca/acceptingschoolsact).

## Abortion and Being "Human"

Laws related to the beginning of human life are also prominent in the public eye this spring. You'll find related new resources at [theEFC.ca/human](http://theEFC.ca/human), including the EFC's new *Abortion Polls in Canada: A Compilation by Topic of Opinion Polling in Canada from 2007-2012*. It sums up what Canadians say about their beliefs on when life starts and when it should be protected by law (see also p.17 of this issue of *Faith Today*).

The webpage also includes updates on M-312, the parliamentary motion to review the outdated definition of "human being" in Canada's *Criminal Code*. The EFC supports this motion.

## Talking Adoption With a Cabinet Minister

EFC President Bruce J. Clemenger and his wife, researcher Tracy Clemenger, met with Diane Finley, minister of human resources and skills development Canada, in February to talk about adoption and the role of churches in contributing to the well-being of children in Canada.

They discussed legal changes to employment insurance to assist couples fostering with a view to adoption, changes the minister had announced in January. They also looked ahead to a report on adoption by the standing House of Commons committee on human resources, which will soon be tabled in Parliament.

The EFC is also launching a new initiative on adoption at [adoptionsunday.com](http://adoptionsunday.com).

## Religious Persecution and Children

Public policy issues that impact children remain an important focus at the EFC. In March the EFC's Religious Liberty Commission released a 23-page report entitled *The Overlooked Demographic: A Report on the Impact of Religious Persecution on Children*.

The document, available at [theEFC.ca/overlooked-demographic](http://theEFC.ca/overlooked-demographic), considers various ways in which children worldwide are affected by religious discrimination and persecution. It also summarizes the biblical mandate to protect children and makes recommendations to the Canadian government on foreign and domestic policy initiatives.

## Prayer Breakfast Draws Politicians

Canada's 47th annual National Prayer Breakfast, an event for federal government leaders and others in Ottawa, was held May 1, with the EFC's Don Hutchinson as the closing speaker of the three-day student forum that accompanies the main event. Other activities included dinner with speaker Nazanin Afshin-Jam, co-founder of Stop Child Executions; panel discussions with Members of Parliament; and breakfast speaker Father Raymond J. de Souza of the *National Post*.


## Suicide Prevention Initiative

The EFC supports a private member's bill requiring the federal government to take the lead in working with non-governmental organizations and provincial and territorial bodies to develop a national suicide prevention framework.

Bill C-300 is put forward by MP Harold Albrecht (Conservative, Kitchener-Conestoga) to implement a key recommendation of a recent all-party parliamentary committee on palliative and compassionate care (which he co-chaired with NDP MP Joe Comartin).

The EFC's Faye Sonier expressed support at [theEFC.ca/activateCFPL](http://theEFC.ca/activateCFPL) on March 9, noting the EFC has a long history of supporting initiatives to protect Canada's most vulnerable people.

## Understanding Prostitution Law

In March the Ontario Court of Appeal released a decision that could strike down some of Canada's prostitution laws. The decision in *Bedford v. Canada (Attorney General)* not only fails to protect women from exploitation, but could lead to a situation where Canada's most vulnerable are put at greater risk of violence, exploitation and trafficking. The Canadian government says it intends to appeal the decision. The EFC offers insights and suggested action in recent blog postings and news releases at [theEFC.ca/prostitution](http://theEFC.ca/prostitution). There's also a link there to some moving and insightful reading from the Mar/Apr 2011 *Faith Today* cover story. 

# Q & A With Darryl Dash

**Darryl Dash** is a Fellowship Baptist pastor, currently planting a church in downtown Toronto. He previously served as pastor of Richview Baptist Church and Park Lawn Baptist Church, both in west Toronto.



(L-R): Charlene, Darryl, Josiah and Christina Dash.

**What is your greatest joy in ministry?**

Seeing people change over time. It's like seeing pictures of children. You don't see it day by day, but over time it's clear that people are changing.

**What has been your greatest struggle?**

Ministry's never done. The demands are always greater than my time and ability.

**What Bible passage do you most connect with right now?**

2 Corinthians 12:9: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

**What is the best theological book you've read in the last year?**

*The Gospel Commission* by Michael Horton (Baker Books, 2011).

**What is your greatest concern about the Canadian Church?**

Most of the churches I know are plateaued. My greatest concern is a lack of evangelism. Related to that is a lack of confidence in the gospel.

**What book is on your nightstand right now?**

*Church in the Making: What Makes or Breaks a New*

*Church Before It Starts* by Ben Arment (Broadman and Holman, 2010).

**What is your best advice for those entering ministry right now?**

It's the same advice I give couples who are about to get married: expect that there will be hard times. Ministry is incredibly tough. It's going to bring you some of your greatest struggles, but it's also going to bring you some of your greatest joys.

**What's the best sermon you ever heard?**

My youth leaders took me to hear Al Martin preach back in the 1980s. He preached on John 8:44, on the devil being a liar and a murderer. I can still remember that sermon to this day.

**Share one ministry anecdote that convinced you you were in the right place at the right time.**

A couple of years ago we were tired and discouraged. We booked a week away at the Pastor's Retreat Network in Wisconsin. We were one of four ministry couples. Just before we arrived, we discovered that close friends who lived in Chicago were also booked to attend. We couldn't have planned that if we'd tried, and we couldn't have picked a more life-giving couple. It was clear evidence to us that God was looking after us. **FT**



# Are Most Canadians Pro-Choice?

By Faye Sonier

The months of May and June promise to be especially busy for pro-life Canadians. The National March for Life comes to Ottawa May 10, beginning with a rally on Parliament Hill, and there are also the Rose Dinner and National Campus Life Network's student dinner.

Pro-lifers nationwide will also be closely monitoring the progress that Member of Parliament Stephen Woodworth's motion, M-312, is making through the House of Commons. The motion requests Parliament form a special committee to study Canada's *Criminal Code* definition of the term "human being."

Canada's current legislative definition spells out that a child becomes a human being only when it has fully proceeded, alive, from its mother. If the baby toe is still in the birth canal, the baby isn't yet granted any human rights. Debate on the motion may begin April 26.

All this pro-life activity is encouraging

and exciting. So too is the fact that Canada's pro-life movement is increasingly young, educated and engaged, as noted in the May/June 2011 issue of *FaithToday* (read the cover story at [theEFC.ca/FaithTodayProlife2011](http://theEFC.ca/FaithTodayProlife2011)).

Some of our detractors are responding by accusing us of living inside "anti-choice bubbles" and being out of touch with the rest of Canada – which in their opinion consists solely of pro-choice citizens.

How do Canadians really feel about abortion? In February the EFC published *Abortion Polls in Canada: A Compilation by Topic of Opinion Polling in Canada from 2007-2012*. This report revealed some interesting findings.

A 2010 poll revealed only 21 per cent of participants knew "a woman can have an abortion at any time during her pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever." Most people polled, 66 per cent, assumed

wrongly there are restrictions on abortion in Canada. (The other 13 per cent said they were unsure about access to abortion.)

Basically, most Canadians are unaware of our existing abortion laws (or lack thereof) in Canada. Many of us hold the inaccurate idea a child can only be aborted within the first three months of pregnancy.

Asked when they believed human life should be legally protected, only 22 per cent of participants in a 2011 poll said "from birth" (thus agreeing with the current *Criminal Code*), while 59 per cent believed the unborn child should be protected at some earlier point during gestation.

Another 2010 poll suggests 50 per cent of Canadians feel limits should be placed on abortion access. Only 41 per cent felt abortion should be permitted in all cases.

Transparency and parental consent are also issues. An encouraging 67 per cent of respondents supported

Canada implementing informed consent laws concerning abortion, according to a 2007 survey.

A 2011 survey found 48 per cent supported clinic and hospital disclosure of abortion statistics (and 92 per cent felt sex-selection abortions should be illegal).

Should minors require parental consent prior to undergoing an abortion procedure? A 2010 poll suggest 55 per cent of Canadians think so.

What do all these numbers come down to? Clearly, most Canadians believe there should be restrictions on abortion in Canada – and increased transparency.

While many Canadians might not refer to themselves as pro-lifers, their conscience, gut instinct or common sense informs them there is something wrong with endorsing unlimited access to abortion for any reason at any time.

Statistics clearly indicate Canadians

Many Canadians hold the inaccurate idea a child can only be aborted in Canada within the first three months of pregnancy.



Faye Sonier

see value and worth in the child in the womb.

Pro-lifers are not in the minority, not part of some fringe group. We are part of a body of Canadians that truly embraces human rights for all human beings. Some Canadians just have yet to find a way to voice their position. **FT**

**FAYE SONIER** of Ottawa is legal counsel with the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life.

## Helpful EFC Webpages

- Summary of five years of abortion polling: [theEFC.ca/abortion-polls2012](http://theEFC.ca/abortion-polls2012)
- Info on parliamentary motion M-312: [theEFC.ca/human](http://theEFC.ca/human)
- Read "Young, Female – and Pro-Life," the May/June 2011 *Faith Today* cover story: [theEFC.ca/FaithTodayProlife2011](http://theEFC.ca/FaithTodayProlife2011)
- Actions you can take on abortion (also links to an EFC YouTube video from last year's March for Life): [theEFC.ca/abortionaction](http://theEFC.ca/abortionaction)
- EFC posts on abortion from its ActivateCFPL blog: [theEFC.ca/abortionposts](http://theEFC.ca/abortionposts)



# Meet Some of Canada's Marketplace Missionaries

Entrepreneurs and Christian thinkers examine how their faith relates to business. *By Debra Fieguth*

**A** chance encounter on a Mexican beach led Jason Stoter to establish a business selling hammocks. He was doing a semester abroad as part of his MBA program when he took some time out to go to the beach near Puerto Vallarta. “A guy comes running up to me draped with hammocks, about 15 of them. He was really struggling because they were heavy.” Stoter bought a hammock to bring home. As soon as he returned to Canada the idea to import hammocks took hold. He was inspired by the beach entrepreneur. And, “I just really fell in love with the hammock.”

A love for the product is one thing that motivates Christians in business. A sense of calling is an even stronger pull. “For me it wasn’t about the product – although I’m in love with the product,” says Esther De Wolde, CEO of Phantom Screens in Abbotsford, B.C. “I just have a bent for business and making it successful. But I define success differently than the world does.”

Talk to Christian entrepreneurs and you’ll find a common theme – a desire to make a godly difference in the marketplace. “Research shows that Christian business people and entrepreneurs feel very strongly called to the marketplace,” says Rick Goossen, head of Vancouver-based Covenant Group Family Wealth Advisors. “They see it as valid as any other calling. They feel the marketplace is their mission field.”

“A person’s work is an act of worship,” adds Gerry

Organ, chair of Purpose at Work, a nationwide partnership initiative facilitated by The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. “You don’t leave your business to go into ministry. Your ministry is in business.”

*Faith Today* interviewed a sampling of these marketplace missionaries in Canada to ask them how faith relates to their work.

Alice Klamer was a high school teacher who started Blue Sky Nursery with her husband Don in Beamsville, Ont. It wasn’t her plan to become president and owner. She had three kids and a job of her own. But when her husband died of cancer in 2000 after 20 months of illness, she was ready to lead the business. “I said I would give myself 10 years, so it was a lot of hard work.” 12 years later, “The business has grown at least two and a half times.” Klamer is surprised at her own success. “Sometimes I have to pinch myself, because God has really blessed me.”

She realizes she has been “blessed with a business sense.” There’s also an integration of values that means she treats both clients and employees with the same degree of respect. “I realize my employees are my most valuable asset,” she points out. “I compensate them well and make sure their workplace is safe.”

She goes above and beyond in her care of the seasonal workers who come from Mexico every year to work in the nursery, providing them with exceptional housing and paying bonuses. “I give all my employees bonuses,” she notes. “They get to enjoy that profit too.”



“I try to glorify God in everything I do” says Jason Stoter, next to one of his company’s hammocks.

Jason Stoter kept his day job as finance officer while he built his hammock business, Vivere, in Guelph, Ont. “I always wanted to have my own business,” he recalls. His boss was gracious enough to let him scale down to four days a week, and eventually two, while the business was being established. Although it took him three years to sell his initial shipment of 5,000 hammocks, after that, “I managed to grow the business 50 to 100 per cent every year,” he says.

“I try to glorify God in everything I do,” he says about his approach. “I need to honour Him in everything that I do because He really made this all happen.” Now he imports mostly from China and to a lesser extent from India. He visits the factories twice a year, partly to make sure the work environment meets a high standard. “In the factories that I deal with, working standards are very good.”

“As a Christian this is extremely important to me, that people are treated in a very ethical way.”

Ian Daniel is the president of NCOL (or New Creation Consulting), a 15-year-old company that specializes in e-commerce and e-business solutions. With a team of eight creative programmers in downtown Vancouver, he focuses on providing a good

## Evangelical Health Grows Insurance Business

**Y**ou probably don’t have a rich uncle. That sobering fact is at the heart of a recent radio commercial. The ad suggests – rightly – that we all need/want to save a little bit of money each month, and refers listeners to D.L. Deeks Insurance Services Inc., located in Markham, Ont.

It is no accident the ad plays on Life 100.3, “Ontario’s Christian Superstation.” It is mostly evangelical Christians who are listening, and that is exactly the audience D.L. Deeks, founded in 1981, is interested in reaching.

They offer an Evangelical Group Plan, as well as many other insurance packages: a Tyndale Group Plan (for staff, students, and alumni of Tyndale University College & Seminary); a PAOC group plan (for members of congregations of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada); a Salvation Army Group Plan and a Baptist Churches Group Plan. There’s even a plan especially for pastors that currently serves about 1,800.

Clearly, these are policies crafted especially with an evangelical Christian market in mind. And there is a sound business – and ministry – reason behind that. “Our experience has taught us that the evangelical community, by and large, experiences a better loss ratio,” explains Serge LaPalme, chairman and

chief executive officer of Deeks. He is quick to clarify there is no “known actuarial empirical data” to bolster his belief Evangelicals as a whole experience fewer claims – and therefore are eligible for attractive rates on insurance purchased through Deeks’ plans – because they live what LaPalme calls “a disciplined life.”

But there is logic, and there are Deeks’ 17 years of experience interacting with this generally sober, hard-working, careful-driving (usually an older car!), church-attending group. “If you are a dedicated Evangelical, you will be at church on Sunday morning, Sunday night and probably on Wednesday night. It’s logical that Evangelicals would not be exposed to the same weekend traffic, and therefore wouldn’t have the same frequency of accidents as someone constantly on the road,” explains LaPalme.

“We estimate they would drive 15 per cent less. If you are an Evangelical, I suppose your living habits would be a little different. It doesn’t make you the perfect person, but more than likely you are an abstainer, normally you are a non-smoker, normally you focus on the family, on education. It’s not that you don’t have the same risks and toils of everyday life, but when you

product clients will love and tell others about. And he does it without advertising. "Our marketing budget is zero."

He calls it relationship-based consulting. Those relationships go beyond talking business. "One of the things I do more than you would imagine is counselling my clients," he says. And there are many opportunities to share his faith. "Some of the longest conversations I have are about my positions and worldviews."

As a person who works long hours, he knows it would be easy to just write a cheque to support ministries and missions. "But that's not what God wants. He wants us to tithe our time." Daniel has established a non-profit agency that allows his team to do work for churches and parachurch organizations without charging them the same as he would a business. The result? "God has grown our business in such a way that our for-profit and non-profit work has always stayed in an appropriate mix."

Colin Parker named his Kelowna, B.C.-based company Red Giraffe because "We work with organizations to

help them stand out and be different." A giraffe, of course, being the tallest in the crowd, also sees things from a different perspective.

The five-year-old company helps businesses organize their sales and marketing. But not just any businesses. Being a Christian "has influenced a lot of the choices we make," he says. "I've turned down clients." He won't, for example, take on a night club. But he will suggest another company to do the marketing. "We're very strict about how we do our marketing," he adds. "If it's not true, it doesn't go in." That often leads to "some great opportunities to talk."

Parker, who is typically at his desk in Kelowna by 5:30 or 6 a.m. to talk to clients in eastern time zones in Canada and the United States, uses free webinars to "let people know who we are and what we do." About twice a month he'll offer a webinar on a specific topic, with between 60 and 100 people online. That helps him develop clients beyond his geographical location. Last year close to 5,000 people joined a webinar on LinkedIn – and out of that Red Giraffe was able to get new business.

"I just love business and see it as a



**Alice Klammer's Blue Sky Nursery grew at least two-and-a-half times its previous size in twelve years**



**"Our experience has taught us that the evangelical community, by and large, experiences a better loss ratio." Serge LaPalme and David Deeks.**

bring all those factors together, you will not suffer the same risk exposure."

It's not that Deeks doesn't sell insurance to any other faith group, or just the normal non-believing customer. They do. "We do not discriminate against anybody," says LaPalme. "Some of my clients are rabbis, some are Muslims. The irony is that they come to us because of what we believe in. Ethics is at the core of what we are. We are not perfect, but we have hearts."

But 80 per cent of Deeks' customers are Evangelicals, if you define that as attending church at a denominational affiliate of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Evangelicals, estimated by some sociologists to include three million Canadians, are a broad and flourishing base for a business to serve. "It's a very growing community," says LaPalme.

It's also a community Deeks gives back to on a routine basis. Their corporate philanthropy is well known and strategic. "We have an obligation as Christians to focus on missions and projects that are dear to our hearts. We donate from our corporate proceeds back to the community we serve," says LaPalme. (Full disclosure – that philanthropy has also benefitted the EFC, which publishes *Faith Today*.)

Vision, mission, and passion are words that are part of the vocabulary of many Christians in business – and Deeks is clearly among them. LaPalme has what he calls an "ultimate bottom line." If Evangelicals are saving money on insurance, they have more purchasing power – and more giving power – for their own (hopefully Kingdom-oriented) vision and mission in life.

"The ultimate aim for us in our vision is through our community to assist mission," says LaPalme. "There's logic in this." **FT**

–Karen Stiller

ministry," says Esther De Wolde, who co-founded Phantom Screens 20 years ago with two partners. "To me, business is a mission field." As owner and CEO she's seen the company through periods of growth as well as economic downturns.

Several years ago De Wolde attended a forum for Christian executives at the Billy Graham Training Center in North Carolina. Meeting many other people who shared her heart for servant leadership "changed my entire life around."

There, she learned about corporate chaplaincy, and was determined to find a chaplain when she got home. It took about five years, but eventually, through Outreach Canada, she was able to get the services of a chaplain who visits the company one day a week, and is available at any time to talk to employees.

"We believe everyone is a holistic being," De Wolde explains. Employees come to work with mental, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects. And "They're cool"

with the chaplain's weekly personal visits. "Only one out of a hundred employees has said 'I don't want a visit.'"

The company took a hit during the recession a few years ago, necessitating layoffs at Phantom. Telling people they no longer have a job is never easy. "The biggest thing is to respect them as human beings and love them through it, but try to make as soft a landing as possible," says De Wolde. Extra notice, generous buyouts, and help in finding new employment are part of that

## Ministries in the Marketplace

As Christians in business are increasingly recognized as marketplace missionaries, the organizations that focus on them are also growing. The 28-year-old **Canadian Christian Business Federation** (ccbf.org) has seen a 50 per cent increase in membership over the past 18 months, "and that phenomenal growth continues right across the country," says CCBF executive director Keith Knight.

In 2010 there were eight local chapters, all of them in southern Ontario. Today there are 20, including new ones in Winnipeg and Edmonton. There's a growing recognition of the importance of integrating Christian beliefs and business practices. "Many business people have business sense and spiritual sense," says Knight, "but they lack the space to be able to connect the two." CCBF has a five-year curriculum covering 50 issues facing business leaders today, from managing stress to building healthy alliances, making godly decisions and taking risks.

**Marketplace Chaplains Ministry** has recently expanded into Canada (mchap.ca), with chaplains now in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and New Brunswick. The 28-year-old ministry, based in Texas but operating in four countries, uses 2,600 chaplains to serve 500,000 employees at 500 companies. Most client companies employ Marketplace Chaplains as part of an employee benefits package.

The first company in Canada to enlist the help of Marketplace Chaplains was Troyer Ventures of British Columbia, which

employs 160 people in two provinces.

"People are not going to come to church to hear" the gospel, notes Steve Troyer, now one of the directors of Marketplace Chaplains. Troyer has seen "a number of people who have made commitments to the Lord through that ministry."

In Ottawa, Gerry Organ is chair of **Purpose at Work** (purposeatwork.ca), a nationwide partnership initiative facilitated by The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. He also directs national initiatives for One Way Ministries (onewaymin.org), one of the partners in the group.

Bible studies, prayer meetings, "one-on-ones," and friendship are some of the ways he sees reaching out to business people. One Way also holds appreciation banquets to show support to people in business.

Vancouver-based **Entrepreneurial Leadership Organization** (eleaders.org) holds yearly conferences for some 500 Christian entrepreneurs. "Entrepreneurs live outside the box," says Rick Goossen, who started the organization. With their creative minds they often fit better into parachurch organizations. "If they're still in churches, they're sitting in pews but impassive, disconnected." ELO has hosted joint conferences with the World Evangelical Alliance, and the latter has just launched a global Business as Mission think tank (bamthinktank.org).

**Intricity** (intricity.ca) has been ministering to executives in downtown Toronto since 2004. With only one paid staff and 24 teams of volunteers, Intricity uses large

events and small Bible studies to connect with people. In April, for example, an invited group of CEOs donned hard hats and picked up hammers to help with a Habitat for Humanity build. A Bible study or discussion at Starbucks might be the first step non-Christian business people take in exploring faith, says CEO Alana Walker Carpenter.

Toronto's finance district is also home to **King-Bay Chaplaincy** (king-bay.com), which offers daily lunch programs, coaching, counselling and more.

Every Friday, Esther De Wolde attends a **Leader Impact Group** (leaderimpact-group.com) meeting with colleagues in Abbotsford, B.C. "We don't want to be a care group," she stresses. "We study the topic of leadership and the relevance of faith." While she loves church on Sunday, "LIG on Friday night might be the only church these business people will go to."

**Christian Business Ministries of Canada** (cbmc.ca), based in Oshawa, Ont., has been reaching out to the business community for many years through prayer, friendship, Bible studies and events. A new development is web communities, including a LinkedIn group, says board member Colin Parker.

**Corpath Forums** (corpath.ca), based in Calgary, Alta., is a national business leader network that spun off from CBMC in 2010. Corpath equips Christian CEOs through monthly peer-led forums in Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. John Wiseman of Calgary is executive director.  -DF



PHOTO (LEFT): DAN LUM OF LEADERIMPACT GROUP

**Another challenge for those who run small businesses is the balance of their work and personal life. Clockwise from left: Esther De Wolde, Ian Daniel and Steve Troyer.**

soft landing. The corporate chaplain was also invaluable in the process.

### Challenges and Opportunities

One of the common challenges Christian business leaders face is the sense of loneli-

ness and isolation that comes with being the head of the team. "Most entrepreneurs are quite isolated," says Rick Goossen of Covenant Group Family Wealth Advisors. "They're the centre of their universe. Everybody reports to them."

For Christians there's sometimes the added isolation of not having other believers around them. "I actually thought in my simple, naive way that I was the only Christian businessman left," confesses Steve Troyer, who started his private company, Troyer Ventures, in 1999 in Fort St. John, B.C.

Another challenge for those who run their own businesses is the balance of work and life. There are high expectations on CEOs and entrepreneurs, says Alana Walker Carpenter, CEO of Toronto-based Intricity, which reaches out to executives in Canada's largest city. "I don't know anybody who doesn't go on vacation without their Blackberries."

Esther De Wolde in Abbotsford, B.C., admits that it's "through the grace of God" she is able to maintain the balance between work and family life. "I have an incredible team here at Phantom," she says. "I can disappear for a time and things can keep rolling." Recently she took time off for a business-mission trip to Colombia, where she was able to share her story in boardrooms.

De Wolde plans her work life so she can be home every afternoon at three to meet her two teenage daughters after school. It has taken time and effort to achieve that balance, she says. "When my

## Recommended Books

- *The Servant Leader: Transforming Your Heart, Head, Hands and Habits* by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges (Thomas Nelson, 2003). Reading this book about 10 years ago, says Esther De Wolde, "put meat on the bones" of what she was already thinking about.
- *About My Father's Business: Taking Your Faith to Work* by Regi Campbell (Multnomah, 2005). "Every person we meet is an opportunity to touch someone for the Kingdom of God," says Steve Troyer, whose approach changed after he read the book. "I'll never forget the first time I was able to lead someone to the Lord in my office."
- *God in the Marketplace: 45 Questions Fortune 500 Executives Ask About Faith, Life and Business* by Richard and Henry Blackaby (B&H Publishing Group, 2008). The Blackabys are Baptists from Alberta.
- *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting* by Marva J. Dawn (Eerdmans, 1989). Intricity's Alana Walker Carpenter has used this guide in a session on balance.
- *Becoming an Entrepreneurial Leader* by Rick Goossen and R. Paul Stevens (IVP, forthcoming). The book will offer guidelines on "how to be effective in the church, community and business," says Goossen. Stevens, based at Regent College in British Columbia, has previously published many popular books on theology of work. **FT** -DF

kids were younger, I was still learning not to be a workaholic. Pre-kids I definitely was a workaholic.” She also credits being grounded in the Scriptures, “a very active prayer life,” and “incredible mentors” for keeping her strong.

Colin Parker at Red Giraffe in Kelowna, B.C., has learned to put business aside for

his family, which includes three young children, one with special needs. Otherwise, “It’s easy to be somewhere and not be there,” he observes. “I don’t check my email past a certain time. I just stop, unplug. And I rarely answer my cellphone on the weekends.”

NCOL’s Ian Daniel has been meeting



“Research shows Christian business people and entrepreneurs feel very strongly called to the marketplace,” says Rick Goossen.

weekly with the same small group of men for decades. “We meet for accountability and fellowship and prayer and teaching,” he says. “We test all major life decisions against each other.”

Words like integrity, honesty, fairness, humility and compassion come up often in conversations with marketplace missionaries. In an environment where there is so much competition and pressure – “It’s dog-eat-dog on Bay Street” is how Walker Carpenter puts it – it’s vital to have the tools in place to meet challenges and temptations.

Yolande Chan, a professor at Queen’s University’s School of Business in Kingston, Ont., has this advice for young people entering business, advice she gives to all students, Christian or not: “Speak and act as though what you are saying or doing is going to appear on the front page of the newspaper.”

Integrity, honesty and generosity were the principles that guided Rick Ward during the seven years his family owned a Cora’s Restaurant franchise in Newmar-



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ket, Ont., where he had a practice of compensating his servers for poor tips. "I used to say to staff, 'If you don't get 15 per cent, come to me. I'll make it up.'"

If Christians act with integrity, "God will bless us," says Ward. "Leading someone to the Lord," he adds, "might be the blessing – not the money." **FT**

**DEBRA FIEGUTH** of Kingston, Ont., is a senior writer at *Faith Today*.

## Christian Business Schools

**F**or young people wishing to study business in a Christian setting, there are several colleges and universities across the country offering programs. Here's a sampling, from east to west:

- **Moncton, N.B.** – Crandall University ([crandallu.ca](http://crandallu.ca)) has a school of business.
- **Toronto** – Tyndale University College ([tyndale.ca](http://tyndale.ca)) offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration. And Canada Christian College ([canadachristiancollege.com](http://canadachristiancollege.com)) has a degree in business and communications.
- **Ancaster, Ont.** – Redeemer University College ([redeemer.ca](http://redeemer.ca)) has a BA in business.
- **Otterburne, Man.** – Providence University College ([providencecollege.ca](http://providencecollege.ca)) offers a degree in business administration.
- **Winnipeg** – Canadian Mennonite University ([cmu.ca](http://cmu.ca)) launched the Redekop School of Business in October 2011, offering both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a BA with a major in business.
- **Caronport, Sask.** – Briercrest College ([briercrest.ca](http://briercrest.ca)) has a BA program in business administration.
- **Langley, B.C.** – Trinity Western University's school of business has been ranked by the *Globe and Mail's 2012 Canadian University Report* as the number one business school in British Columbia and the second best in Canada, after Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. TWU ([twu.ca](http://twu.ca)) offers both an undergraduate degree and a Master's in business administration. **FT** –DF



**H**ow do you do it?" It's the first question that comes to mind when you meet Natalina Macleod, who cheerfully juggles the complexities of her life as a wife, mother of two, and marketing manager at Power to Change, one of the largest Christian non-profit organizations in Canada.

"I quote to myself every morning, 'Another day. Let's go for it,'" she says with a laugh. They're words you would expect to hear from a professional with 13 years of marketing know-how under her belt, three of those running her own business. But that mantra is less the daily pep talk of a consummate multi-tasker, and more the thankful prayer of a woman who never takes a single day for granted.

Her first-born Nolan had pulmonary stenosis and went into surgery within an hour of his birth. "The only thing I could do was pray and wipe his mouth from all the tubes. If that doesn't make you grow up at 25 years old, I don't know what will."

A second blow hit when her second son, Markus, developed a rare form of cancer. "He had a four percent chance of living, and they basically gave me a videotape on how to grieve your

child." To everyone's surprise, Markus pulled through: "I went from watching a grieving video to praising God." But the trials weren't over. In that same year, Natalina contracted a cancer of her own. "If it wasn't for Jesus, we would never have made it out."

It's her relationship with Jesus that continues to ground Natalina and give her strength. Looking back on those terrible times, she's able to see how much she learned about faith, sacrifice, and surrender. "Now I know that the little things [I face everyday] I have no control over, so I sacrifice them to God." And she wishes other people would come to know what she knows: that God is the only one who can give us the courage and hope to make it through.

This is why Natalina is thrilled about her current role: she gets to use her gifts to share the Good News. "I love being able to present the Gospel in a way that motivates and inspires people, instead of scaring them away. It's very challenging, but very rewarding." What excites her most is her current project: the 35 Day Challenge, a five-week online course in evangelism that use video, short lessons, and daily action steps to gently coach people through the process of engaging friends with the Gospel.

As a woman who's lived through her worst fears, Natalina is hopeful that the 35 Day Challenge will help people overcome their nervousness and learn to draw courage from Jesus. "Evangelism scares most people," a passionate Natalina explains, "but it's the one thing that is needed most. You have to swallow your fear and actually do what Christ asked. It takes courage, but Christ was the most courageous person that ever walked."



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# Business & Ministry Profiles

## Connecting faith with vocation

### Canadian Christian Business Federation

The Canadian Christian Business Federation was created almost 30 years ago to help Christian business men and women connect their faith with their vocation.

This connection happens in several ways, the most popular being the monthly breakfast meetings that currently take place in 23 locations across Canada – and new chapters are being formed monthly. These chapters bring Christians together for mutual support, encouragement and mentoring. Men and women meet over breakfast to discuss topics relevant to business leaders. Participants use materials based on the NIV Study Bible, which is the foundation of CCBF's five-year-long "curriculum."

Christian university business students and faculty also attend these breakfast meetings, and CCBF members are encouraged to provide mentoring opportunities through CCBF's *INturn* program, placing students in Christian business environments.

Members are also able to post help wanted ads on the CCBF website without charge, creating an opportunity for them to recruit

Christian CEOs, managers and employees.

Though membership in the organization is encouraged (and new members can sign up for as little as \$150 a year), it is never a prerequisite to attending the breakfast meetings.

The CCBF membership is broadly ecumenical. Check out the website [www.ccbf.org](http://www.ccbf.org) for more information or to become a member.

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The Lord stated that He needed to leave us in order to demonstrate His finished work

on the cross and enable us to do greater works than He had done. The only prerequisite was to have faith in Jesus Christ. Preachers and theologians have done much to explain the substance of this claim by Jesus in John chapter 14. However, there is a global movement afoot that may add a new dimension to this prophetic statement. It is called workplace ministry.

The world's largest unreached people group is people in the workplace. The marketplace exists in a multitude of forms in every nation and in every city on earth. Citizens spend most of their lives either

sleeping or working. This surely explains the global, Spirit-led movement of workplace-related ministries and the choice of many to live out their faith at work—to be the salt and light at the office and in the factories.

Every person who comes to know God through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ is a chosen and anointed servant who is called to transform the workplace by establishing His kingdom there. Perhaps this is indeed the "greater work" that Jesus referred to. I can't wait to find out. ■


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# Befriending Muslim Immigrants

What are Christians doing to extend a hand of welcome?

By Randy Hoffman

PHOTO: SUE CARELESS

Several Christians recently told me about a Muslim man they met at an immigrant welcome centre. The Christians were there to serve a Christmas meal and give gifts. This Muslim man couldn't believe total strangers – especially Christians – would show this kindness to him. His countrymen in the Middle East had tortured him and left him for dead.

He had come to Canada just a few months before, carrying with him some horrible memories. God is bringing thousands of people to our doorstep from parts of the world least reached by the gospel. Many, like this man, are leaving their homelands because of persecution, war and disasters.

Despite their varied histories, today's Canadian immigrants have some things in common. Virtually all of them would like good lives for their children, better than the lives they left behind.

And, depending on which statistics you trust, slightly more than half each year's inflow is now coming from Muslim countries. (Canada's population included 7.2 million first-generation immigrants in 2006, according to a recent Pew Forum report. Muslims then made up 9 per cent of Canada's total immigrant population.)

Whatever numbers the experts eventually agree on, we can already say there is a real opportunity here for Christians to reach out. How are Christians responding to Muslim immigration? Let me share some true stories, although I'll change the names for privacy.

## Two Iranian Lives

Amira fled Iran, together with her family, because of persecution. One day the Iranian secret police (the Savak) knocked on her door. They wanted her husband for questioning, which was to be only a few hours. Days turned into weeks, and Amira was frantic. Where was her husband, and what was happening to him?

Finally, after three weeks he showed up at home – thin, beaten, frightened. Amira cared for him, and they began to make their plans. After some time they quietly left home as if going to visit some relatives. They made their way out of Iran, and after some time ended up in Canada.

One day Amira met Catharine. Catharine invited Amira over to her family's home for some tea. Over time their friendship grew, and Catharine regularly prayed with Amira for her needs. Catharine helped Amira with her English and assisted her in practical ways.

After some time they began to trust each other and became close friends. Amira began to ask questions, and Catharine shared about her living relationship with the Lord Jesus. One day Amira was praying with Catharine. At the end of the prayer, she looked up and said, "Catharine, I have to tell you. I have fallen in love with Jesus! I want to follow Him." Amira prayed with Catharine, received Christ as her Saviour, and has been growing in her faith ever since. She and Catharine remain close friends.

Another Iranian Muslim in Canada is a man named Ali. He began coming to church and started making some friends. He was attending because he was curious and searching. After some time, one of the men in the church came up to him and asked if he wanted to become a Christian.

Ali was surprised, and responded, "I am a Muslim. I like coming to church and making friends. I see that there are good people here." The Christian man replied, "We are very concerned that people who come here are Christians. If you are not interested in being baptized and becoming a Christian, then this is not the place for you."

Ali was shocked and hurt. He left the church and never went back. He feels bitter at the way he was rejected.

# in Canada

## An Afghan Tale

Yusuf was a young man in Afghanistan struggling with a hard home life. Eventually, he made his way to Pakistan, where he met some Christians. They loved him, cared for him, and he began to trust them.

As the stories of their lives were shared with each other, truths about Jesus were explained to him. Yusuf had many questions, which were patiently answered by the Christians. After some time he came to faith in Jesus, and then began to mature in his walk with the Lord.

A couple of years later Yusuf was able to come to Canada. He went to Bible college and was there during the events of 9/11. Unbelievably, he was personally blamed by angry people as though he were responsible for all that was happening in the world. Yusuf became discouraged, left Bible college and almost lost his faith.

Years later Yusuf met John. John became his good friend. They talked and shared about their lives. John invited Yusuf into his home and treated him as part of his family. As their friendship grew, and Yusuf saw John was committed to him, his trust deepened. One day he said, "It has taken me almost a year to really trust you, John."

They have begun to do serious Bible studies and pray together about his life and his past problems and hurts. Yusuf is responding to the loving relational discipleship. He watches and participates in John's home life, coming over every week. Although John and his family are not perfect, he does apologize when something is done that bothers Yusuf. Yusuf sees the honesty and openness. He is growing in his faith and is again following Jesus.

## What About Us?

We too can be like Catharine or John. There are more than 1 million Muslims in Canada. Many of them come with their stories of hurt, pain or desperation. Others come with sadness and discouragement over what is happening in their home countries.

Most are lonely and struggle to understand how things work in the West. They want to get settled and start their lives over again. They want their children to have a future. Almost all of them would love to have a Canadian friend. We can be that friend.

Jesus has with His blood "purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). As Canadians we have not only a responsibility to shoulder our



PHOTO: SUE CARELESS

**Muslim refugees from Zanzibar enjoy a Matthew House (a small shelter network in Toronto) Christmas party at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.**

part of this task, but also to take advantage of the opportunity the Lord has given us, right on our doorstep.

To help, the Canadian Network of Ministries to Muslims (CNMM) is holding a national conference on ministry to Muslims in October 2012 in Toronto. You can find details at [Loving-MuslimsTogether.org](http://Loving-MuslimsTogether.org) and in a brochure inserted in this issue of *Faith Today*.

If you want more information and resources about reaching your Muslim neighbours, contact us at [info@cnmm.ca](mailto:info@cnmm.ca). In-depth training is also available – just ask about our nine-month CNMM internship program in Vancouver, B.C. **FT**

**RANDY HOFFMANN** of British Columbia is the national director of the Canadian Network of Ministries to Muslims, a now-independent ministry launched on the partnerships platform of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

# Baby Boomers Head to Seminary

Going to seminary for the first time – at 50 – can be a bit daunting. Our writer signs up, fears and all, and is surprised by what she finds.

By *Patricia Paddey*

I imagined myself a sort of Indiana Jones, who – though admittedly rickety in his last movie – still had a noble quest to pursue. My own quest would involve travel – not to some far-off mysterious land filled with danger – but to seminary. At 50.

Receiving definite confirmation such a course of study would have God's blessing was thrilling. Getting accepted into the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program at McMaster Divinity College (in Hamilton, Ont.) represented a decades-long dream of pursuing theological studies come true.

Even as I tried to quash niggling fears I just might have bitten off more than I could chew, I admit I also felt bold and brave – and maybe even a teensy bit proud of myself – for attempting it. After all, it's been almost 30 years since I completed my undergraduate degree.

I screwed up my courage and made peace with the idea of being something of a trailblazer, an adventurer sans fedora, readily going where few my age had gone before. I would dare to wrestle with hard questions, and learn new truths about God as I explored the hallowed corridors of divinity school, surrounded by earnest youngsters.

I didn't expect to be the only "mature" student in seminary. But I was shocked to learn that I was, in fact, a relative latecomer to an already well-established trend. According to

the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), which includes more than 250 graduate schools in the United States and Canada, Baby Boomers constitute the fastest-growing generational group among seminarians today.

ATS collects data on the age of students every other year from all its member schools. In 1995 people over 50 made up a mere 12 per cent of all seminary students in Canada and the United States. By 2009 (the most recent year for which data is available) the figure had grown to 20 per cent. And according to Dan Aleshire, executive director of ATS, the numbers are even higher when looking at Canada alone. "Twenty-seven percent of students in Canadian theological schools are over the age of 50," he says.

Just over one in every four students may not seem like an overwhelming cohort, but it's enough to suggest older students are likely having some kind of an impact on the seminaries they attend.

At ACTS Seminaries in Langley, B.C., principal Ken Radant says older students have long been a significant presence on that campus (where the average student age is 36), and they bring a wealth of life-and-ministry experience to the classroom. "It means the classroom has to be more conversational, which is good," he explains. "You also get more student-to-student peer mentoring going on ... and that's enriching."

While older students who've long been absent from the class-

PHOTO: MOUSSA FADDOL (FOTOREFLECTION.COM)

Patricia Paddey in the library at McMaster Divinity College.



room might look to younger ones for help in grasping the routines and rigours of academic study, younger students may turn to older ones to share the kind of wisdom, encouragement and support that comes through the perspective of lessons learned with advancing age.

“I’d say older students are typically very committed,” says Michael Knowles, professor and George F. Hurlburt chair of preaching at McMaster Divinity College. “Sometimes younger students come out of an initial sense of exploration. The older students will say, ‘I’ve had this call on my life since I was a child. I’ve been fighting it for 40 years, and now I’m going to obey.’ So they’re very focused and determined.”

Or maybe, like me, they’re just really glad to be there. And a wee bit terrified. Fear of failure can do wonders for your focus.

On the evening of my first class, ethics and character, I strategically chose a seat in the middle of the room, set up my laptop, set out my textbooks (which I’d already read cover to cover), and opened my blue binder (well stocked with loose-leaf paper and the course syllabus). Then I looked around the room and counted grey heads. I felt my whole body relax as I realized that one-third of my fellow students were – ahem – “older.” Clearly, what I was about to do was indeed “do-able,” because others were already doing it.

My back-to-school jitters largely dissipated within the first few weeks, and I’ve since been comforted to learn the qualms I experienced are common. The reasons Boomers go to seminary are likely as individual as the individuals themselves. Eliza Smith Brown, director of communications for ATS, attributes the phenomenon in the United States to several factors, including simply “tracking the population bulge of the Baby Boom generation as it ages.”

But in Canada, she says, “Some would link the growing numbers of over-50 students to the decline in church attendance, and the need on the part of many devoted parishioners to step up and take leadership positions when shrinking congregations can no longer afford full-time pastors.” Whatever the reasons, there is considerable commonality as to both how Boomers get to seminary and the doubts they have about going.

There are only three basic ways people become involved in any group – including seminary – according to Arthur McLuhan, a PhD student in sociology studying the impact of seminary on the character development of students.

“People are recruited, encouraged or affirmed by other people in their lives,” McLuhan explains. “Second, they engage in seeker-ship, meaning they pursue some level of personal interest. And third, [it’s about] attaining some other end, such as professional accreditation.”

McLuhan says the three processes overlap a great deal. And over all three, "People must manage their reservations," he says. "Things like: Will they be able to manage the school work? Should they leave their job? Will they measure up to everyone else? Will they be able to keep up?"

Of course, having the sense of "being called" to seminary is invaluable when

coping with the misgivings that inevitably arise. Caroline Schleier Cutler is one of my Boomer classmates. Approaching the end of her MTS degree, she'd like to carry on with her studies, complete a PhD and eventually teach in a seminary. "At times it's been harder than I ever thought it would be," she admits. "Just finding the time and the balance for study and family."

But she knows she is where she's meant to be. "It's something God has willed and called me to," she says, adding God has given her the assurance, "He wants me doing something that gives me joy, that at some point will make a contribution to the lives of others as well."

No doubt the "can do" attitude that has defined the Boomers as a generation contributes to the phenomenon of their growing numbers on seminary campuses. We all know people are living longer. And the generation that made 60 "the new 50" and 50 "the new 40" isn't about to let a little thing like age stand in the way of fulfilling a calling.

Ever since Boomers burst onto the planet in the post-war period, dominating every institution we touched as we passed through life, we've been "uniquely positioned to have significant input into every sphere of Canadian life," as sociologist Reg Bibby observes in *The Boomer Factor: What Canada's Most Famous Generation Is Leaving Behind* (ECW Press, 2006).

Radant, at ACTS Seminaries in B.C., thinks the Church will ultimately benefit. "I think it says something good about the desire of a lot of folks in our churches to do something meaningful with their lives. I don't see it as running at cross-purposes with the fact that we have a lot of young, enthusiastic people who are looking to spend the next 40 years in ministry."

Knowles, here at MacDiv, believes it's good to consider ways of "doing church" differently, to ensure we're reaching the spiritual hunger of our times. "We have the Word of Life," he says. "We need to be imaginative, prayerful and patient as we wait to see what the Spirit of God is doing – to speak in a way that today's ears are prepared to hear."

Knowles' words come as an encouragement to the ears of this Baby Boomer. They are also a reminder God speaks to and through people of all generations. There will only ever be one Indiana Jones. And that's ok. Followers of Jesus Christ are never too old to answer a call. Or pursue a noble quest.

Fedora not required. **FT**

**PATRICIA PADDEY** of Mississauga, Ont., is a senior writer at *Faith Today*.

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# Preparing Students for Life and Ministry

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Bethany College isn't alone in its size, location or overall aim. (Canada has many fine colleges that teach the Word and train for Christian life and ministry.) What gives Bethany its special flavour – what invites you to take a closer look – is our emphasis on *active, informed discipleship*. Our mission is to “nurture disciples and train leaders to serve.” We work hard to integrate in-depth learning and active service. In dorm life and classrooms, sports and artistic endeavours, student leadership and service-learning trips, this discipleship is central to everything we do.

Our students often tell us that what makes Bethany stand out is our *community life*. This is no accident. We know that

*discipleship* happens best *in community*, and every student is given opportunity to thrive in a close-knit community. This goes beyond the often life-long friendships that grow at Bethany: it includes focused mentoring and personal discernment components.

At Bethany, we repeatedly see how God uses these aspects to bring about amazing *transformation* in the lives of our students. Whether you come for a two-year diploma or a four-year BA degree, you can expect your time at Bethany College to yield lasting change in your life.

Details at [bethany.sk.ca](http://bethany.sk.ca).

## Academic excellence Briercrest College and Seminary

Briercrest College and Seminary offers university-level education marked by academic excellence and a commitment

to develop leaders and disciples who will serve with distinction.

Students will find a rigorous learning community marked by small classes and outstanding faculty, most of whom have doctoral degrees from some of the world's best universities. Briercrest offers a truly outstanding community experience, as students come to Briercrest from across North America to explore the intersection of faith and learning alongside other students with similar goals.

In addition to vibrant programs in biblical studies and theology, we offer rich and growing programs in the arts and sciences with particular strengths in English, history, music, philosophy and psychology. These disciplines support a diverse array of professional programs, including degrees in applied linguistics:



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### Practical Bible Training Capernwray Harbour and Capernwray Quebec

When I prepared to attend a year of Bible school, I thought one year to study the Bible couldn't hurt; my parents would be in favour and fund the endeavour.

Coming from a Christian home and a Christian high school, I presumed I was a "good Christian." That attitude was shattered when I heard from our first lecturer that "the Christian life *isn't hard and it isn't easy – it is impossible.*" I quit trying to live the

Christian life and began to trust that Jesus Christ, who redeemed me from the *penalty* of sin, was prepared to *live in and through me* to give me daily victory over the *power* of sin.

I had begun to learn the meaning of Colossians 2:6: "As therefore you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

That year of Bible school became foundational in discovering what it means to live abundantly in Christ and to *live by faith* in all areas of my life, such as career, marriage, children and daily living.

I now serve as a teacher at that Bible school and have the privilege of leading students to the same truth that sets us free, Christ Himself.

A year at Bible school may change your life forever.

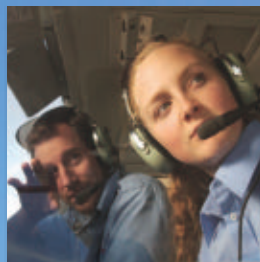
Visit [capernwray.ca](http://capernwray.ca).

### Changing the shape of education

#### Carey

The pattern of entry to ministry is shifting. Many churches are calling laypeople to fill the clergy ranks and asking that these men and women be trained on the job. The local church is increasingly becoming the location where contemporary discipleship and vocational study takes place, and Carey is

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changing the shape of education to better address this shift in educational patterns. Contextualized and applied learning, coupled with a sound academic foundation, is the unique shape of theological education through Carey.

Carey's Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree is a sharp and focused 72-credit-hour program. The 24 courses are available through various distributed-learning formats, 16 of which are online and the remaining eight are by hybrid means. This accredited MDiv program is accessible, practical and transformational yet retains its academic quality. Clergy or laypeople who choose to study while remaining employed should be able to complete a degree in approximately four years. The unconventional format of the degree allows students to be part of an academic milieu *while remaining within* their neighbourhood or faith community. Carey also offers a Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and a Doctor of Ministry degree.

Visit [carey-edu.ca](http://carey-edu.ca).

### Equipping for the race Emmanuel Bible College

Get on the right track at Emmanuel Bible College.

God has a plan for your life, a finish line

for you to cross. Emmanuel Bible College, located in Kitchener, ON, provides ministry training and Christian education to help you prepare. Bringing together Bible/theology, general studies, professional courses and hands-on experience, a degree from Emmanuel equips you to run the race that's been laid out in front of you.

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- Our Expedition program gives you one or two semesters of intense, real-world experience locally and overseas, allowing you to explore practical ministry opportunities and seek God's guidance for your life.
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### Communicating biblical truth Heritage

Heritage is one school with two distinct divisions. The college provides high-school graduates with general and theological education that prepares them for various ministry vocations or further education. The seminary provides college and university graduates with theological education that equips them to plant, teach and lead the Church or to advance the work of para-church ministries.

College students can earn various certificates or degrees with a focus on musical worship ministry, child and family ministry, youth and family ministry, world missions, or pastoral ministry. Pastoral students can apply for a two-year internship that provides both academic credit and focused, on-the-job learning about the real world of ministry. All this occurs in a community of students and faculty who are deeply committed to the worldwide mission of the Church.

Most seminary students pursue either the MTS degree (general theological studies) or the MDiv degree (normal pastoral preparation), but others are studying just for personal enrichment. Studies are done with faculty who are scholars in service

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of the Church, who are committed to help students understand and communicate biblical truth in a way that causes gospel-driven churches to flourish.

To book a tour of our campus, visit [DiscoverHeritage.ca](http://DiscoverHeritage.ca) or call 800-465-1961.

### Consider the Horizon advantage

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- Our annual tuition costs are the lowest of any accredited Bible college in Canada.
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- Our core faculty are all PhDs, licensed ministers, and vibrant experts in their fields.
- Our student body represents a cross-section of evangelical denominations.
- Our courses take place on evenings, weekends, as one-week modules and in six-week terms, giving students flexibility to work or study part-time.
- We are an affiliated college of the University of Saskatchewan.
- Our library contributes to one of the largest theological collections in Canada.

- Our youth and children's ministry majors combine with studies at a community college, giving students qualifications to work in both the church and public sectors.
- Our eight-month, supervised internships place students in real-life ministry, better preparing them for Christian leadership.
- Our classes don't run on Fridays.

Horizon College and Seminary is *preparing leaders for Christian life and ministry.*

Visit [horizon.edu](http://horizon.edu).

### Equipping for ministry MacMaster Divinity College

Do you want to be equipped to handle the increasing complexity and diversity of ministry in today's culture? Then *Summer at MacDiv* is for you! Equip yourself to read, teach and preach the Word with a new perspective and a relevant message in a biblical studies course. Learn skills in managing finances and marketing, genuine care for the congregation and community, and engaging today's generation through media in one of our church leadership courses. Develop your pastoral counselling skills to deal with anger and anxiety,

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Visit [macdiv.ca](http://macdiv.ca).

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The first year of study at PLBC, known as LifeLaunch, is designed for young adults who want to build a firm foundation for their future before making the big decisions of life: education, career, marriage and ministry. This program is fully transferable into our degree programs.

The two-year tracks include associate degrees in theology, music and youth ministry. The Institute of Music Ministry (IMM) and Youth Ministry Institute (YMI) are leading the way, with cutting-edge courses and built-in internships.

The two-year programs can also transfer into the four-year degrees: a BA in pastoral leadership and BA in church ministries, offering majors in biblical studies, missions, youth ministry, worship arts, Christian education and counselling.

Our newest program is the Diploma of Professional Counselling, a full-year three-semester program followed by a two-year internship and licensing with the Canadian Professional Counsellors Association.

PLBC is committed to training leaders to make a world of difference! Check us out at [pacificlife.edu](http://pacificlife.edu); call us at 604-597-9082, toll free 877-597-7522; or e-mail [plbc@pacificlife.edu](mailto:plbc@pacificlife.edu).



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May 14-18: **The Book of Hebrews** (College and Seminary)

#### CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

May 7-11: **Islam and Current Events** (College and Seminary)

May 14-18: **Conflict Management and Resolution** (Seminary)

#### COUNSELLING

April 2-6: **Clinical Supervision** (Seminary)

*\* offered in Dryden ON.*

May 7-11: **Psychopharmacology** (Seminary)

*\* offered in Calgary, AB.*

May 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26: **Counselling Across Cultures** (Seminary)

*\* offered in Calgary, AB.*

May 21-25: **Applied Positive Psychology** (Seminary)

June 11-15: **Addictions and Codependency** (Seminary)

June 25-29: **Research Design & Methodology** (Seminary)

*\* offered in Calgary, AB.*

July 16-20: **Addictions and Codependency** (Seminary)

*\* offered in Calgary, AB.*

August 6-10: **Foundations of Counselling** (Seminary)

*\* offered in Calgary, AB.*

#### PHILOSOPHY

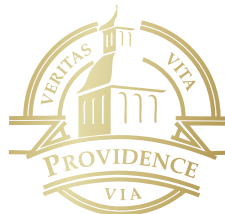
April 23-27: **William Lane Craig's Campus Apologetics** (College)

#### TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (TESOL)

May 14-18: **Psycholinguistics** (Seminary)

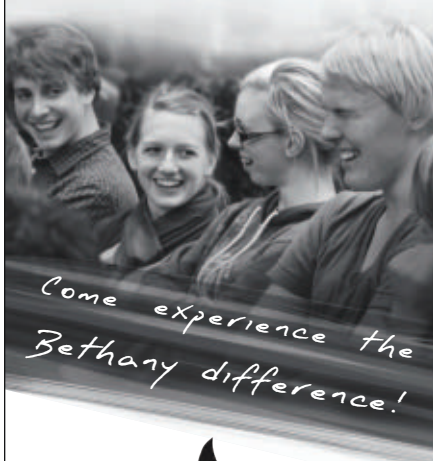
July 23 - August 17: **TESOL Institute** (College and Seminary)

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August 13-17

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**Leadership Module** (Seminary)

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There is no easy solution to this dilemma, but today's Christian leaders must somehow proactively address the question of the education of children. How can we justify entrusting such a vital responsibility to a secular system? Statistics show that generations of young people are turning away from

the Church and the work of the kingdom of God. *This is a vital and strategic issue on the agenda of kingdom mission today.* At Peoples Christian Academy we are open for dialogue. Visit [pca.ca/4](http://pca.ca/4).

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**Prairie Bible College** began in 1922 and specializes in training effective workers for churches and other Christian ministries. We offer accredited four-year Bachelor of Arts programs in a variety of areas, including ministry, theology, intercultural studies and worship. Prairie also offers several foundational one- and two-year programs.

In 2006, Prairie opened the first college in Canada offering practical two-year programs deliberately integrating Bible and ministry education. With programs in health care, human services and business administration, **Prairie College of Applied Arts & Technology** (PCAAT) has created even more options for students to pursue valuable careers and ministry opportunities. Mission teams from PCAAT go to India, Mozambique and Guatemala, and a trip to the Philippines is being planned.

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recent audit, Transport Canada indicated that our students scored higher on flight tests and written exams than other students from across the nation. With almost 50 students, a fleet of seven aircraft and close ties to several mission aviation agencies, **Prairie School of Mission Aviation** is well equipped to train pilots for service here at home and around the world.

Find out more at [prairie.edu](http://prairie.edu).

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Providence Seminary offers accredited certificate, masters and doctoral programs that will prepare you to help the Church accomplish its mission. Our graduates make an impact in churches and ministries in Canada and around world.

As an inter-denominational evangelical school, Providence provides education for students from over 15 denominations. We think Christians better reflect Christ when they grow in their own tradition and understand the traditions of others. Providence offers graduate training for pastoral, educational and counselling ministries through traditional, modular and online courses.

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learn to “be change” in the world while they study with us.

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- BA in music – performance, contemporary, church music

• BA in theology – biblical studies, Christian spirituality

Visit [rockymountaincollege.ca](http://rockymountaincollege.ca).

### Integrating faith Redeemer University College

You *belong* here – at Redeemer University College, a Christian academic community that encourages you to integrate your faith into every aspect of your life. Located in Hamilton, ON, Redeemer offers more than 70 majors and minors as you work toward your Bachelor of Arts, Science or Education degree.

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And you will discover your passion. We'll help you discern your calling through experiential learning opportunities such as co-ops, internships and off-campus stud-

ies. We also offer career resources and mentoring programs that will help you find your unique place in God's world.

Get to know Redeemer for yourself. Come for a visit. Learn more at [redeemer.ca/visiting](http://redeemer.ca/visiting). We look forward to seeing you on campus!

### Educating laity Regent College

Regent College is an evangelical, international graduate school of Christian studies based in Vancouver and affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Canada's third-largest university. It was founded in 1968 as the first graduate school of theology in North America to make education of the laity its central focus. Regent College is a place of academic rigour, cultural engagement and vibrant faith that transforms intellect, imagination and character.

We offer four graduate programs: the Diploma in Christian Studies, the Master of Christian Studies, the Master of Divinity and the Master of Theology. Our summer programs attract visiting faculty and students who wish to spend part of their summer deepening their faith and exploring topical issues facing Christians in all vocations.

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Visit [regent-college.edu](http://regent-college.edu).

### Spirit-filled creativity

#### Rosebud School of the Arts

Rosebud School of the Arts (RSA) sits at the heart of one of the most vibrant artistic communities in Canada, where students discover a life of Spirit-filled creativity and artistic expression. Through its conservatory programs, Rosebud develops honest, caring and talented theatre artists who have the skills and the heart to make a difference in the world.

Unique to Rosebud School of the Arts is its affiliation with Rosebud Theatre, Western Canada's largest rural professional theatre. With over 40,000 annual patrons, Rosebud Theatre provides students an unparalleled opportunity to practise their craft in a working theatre, honing their skills as apprentices with professional theatre mentors as they prepare for a career in the performing arts.

"Nothing will teach you like an audience," said Nathan Schmidt, RSA acting instructor and a frequent performer. "Students aren't just up there for nine shows, but for ninety shows! The young actors live on the deck in a real way, not just as an exercise."

Rosebud's one-, two-, and four-year programs emphasize personalized mentoring, hands-on training and study trips to world-class theatre around the world, including New York City and London, England. These opportunities are the hallmarks of an educational dynamic available only in Rosebud.

Visit [rosebudschoolofthearts.com](http://rosebudschoolofthearts.com).

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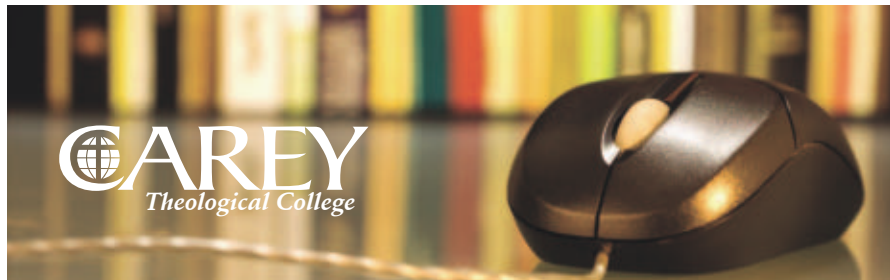
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## Dinner With the High Priest

The head of the Church of Satan says he doesn't believe in Satan.

**J**ust a few weeks ago I had a dinner I will never forget. My dining companion was charming, intelligent, sensitive, polite, sophisticated and lively. It was clear from the servers at this restaurant on New York City's west side that he is a frequent and well-liked patron.

During our three-hour conversation he spoke with fondness of his wife Peggy. He had tears in his eyes when he shared about the death of their dog. His love for and expertise in music and art were evident. He treated me with respect and was not at all antagonistic when I shared various things about my Christian faith.

Welcome to my encounter with Peter H. Gilmore, head of the Church of Satan. This is the church founded in 1966 by Anton LaVey, who also authored *The Satanic Bible* (Avon, 1969). The church was originally headquartered at LaVey's house (famously painted black) in San Francisco but is now based in New York where Gilmore and his wife, who is high priestess, have lived for decades. They joined the movement in 1982 and met LaVey four years later.

LaVey died in 1997 and Gilmore became high priest in 2001. He is author of *The Satanic Scriptures* (Scapegoat Publishing, 2007), a collection of his essays, and most famous for leading a public satanic ritual in Los Angeles on June 6, 2006 – a date related to the “666” of the Bible and popular occult religion.

I met with him for three reasons. First, I promised him a copy of my *Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions* (Nelson, 2009) since he had provided pictures and helpful input for the chapter on Satanism. Second, he agreed to an interview for this column and some other publications. Third, I hoped I would have the opportunity to be a friendly witness about Jesus.

Friendly is extremely important since he often gets death threats from Christians, a not so subtle signal of the fear Satanism creates.

Some of that fear is based on a popular misunderstanding that Gilmore and his fellow Satanists actually worship Satan. They do not. Rather, Satan is viewed as a symbol of all that humans should strive for: freedom from God, a rebellious spirit, relentless focus on self, and delight in the so-called evils of the world.

This is the standard approach of most Satanic groups,

including the First Satanic Church (started by LaVey's daughter Karla) and John Allee's First Church of Satan.

Satanism has a Canadian presence. Some Canadian members of Gilmore's group are featured in Joshua Warren's documentary *Inside the Church of Satan* (2008). Robert A. Lang, based in Ottawa, is the major voice in Canada for the Church of Satan. He can be followed on Twitter. As well, Scott Rob ran for political office in Edmonton two years ago and made no secret he was founder of the Dark Collective, the first Satanic-based church in Canada. Further, both Toronto and Vancouver host Satanic groups, according to the Satanic International Network website.

I highlight Gilmore's winsome and pleasant personality for two reasons.

First, by way of contrast, Satanism is a very depressing, nasty philosophy. His denial of Satan's actual existence doesn't change that Gilmore's own writings are very anti-Christian, duplicating the message of LaVey. *The Satanic Bible* notes the crucifix symbolizes “pallid incompetence hanging on a tree” and that anyone “who turns the other cheek is a cowardly dog.” The black book also advises indulging in “greed, pride, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth.” Gilmore writes in his own book the following words for a Satanic funeral rite: “Hail, Satan, full of might! Our allegiance is with thee! Accursed are they, the God adorers, and cursed are the worshipers of the Nazarene Eunuch!”

Second, in spite of Satanism's nastiness and blasphemy, my dinner conversation affirmed for me the Christian view of humanity. While Gilmore has written to me that he is trying to live “as Jesus-free as possible,” his positive characteristics are nonetheless evidence of God's common grace. Meeting him reminded me how we all need to look beyond stereotypes for evidence that each individual is made in the image of God.

More importantly, the interchange with Gilmore and a new examination of Satanism increased my appreciation for the gospel. Satanism is clearly about selfishness, while Jesus is about giving. Satanism is about darkness, Jesus is the light. Satanism is about death as the end for humanity. Jesus is about resurrection and new life, as Easter celebrations recently reminded us. The biblical promise of a day when all cries of “Hail, Satan” will be replaced by “Hail, King Jesus” is still good news. **FT**

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**JAMES A. BEVERLEY** is professor of Christian thought and ethics at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto. His brief guide on Mormonism will be available this fall from Thomas Nelson.



## A Woman's Legacy

We need God's power to properly "tell the next generation . . . so they put their trust in God" (Psalm 78:4,7).

**S**earch Google for "legacy of parents" and you'll discover top results referencing "the legacy of parents who abuse alcohol," "legacy of addiction," "legacy of sexual abuse" and "legacy of marital discord." Not that this is surprising.

Sadly, these are common realities in our sin-ridden society. Statistics remind us Christian families are not immune to the pain and temptations of this broken world. But surely it's not a legacy of sin we hope to imprint on future generations. So, what's wrong?

For those raised in homes dominated by strife, the knee-jerk reaction says, "I never want to be like my parents!" These good intentions run awry, however, when our desire to do things differently is pursued without God's guidance. The results can be detrimental to the opposite extreme. On the other hand, those with a positive upbringing can overly sentimentalize their parents to the point of idolatry, and fear not attaining their parents' seemingly perfect standard.

Consider your parents' legacy. Their example, whether overt or unconscious, taught you both how to live and how *not* to live. As you pass on a legacy to your children, nieces, nephews or grandchildren, what are they learning from your example?

It has been said a strength pushed too far can become a weakness, even a sin. We must seek God's help to prevent this. A childhood of neglect can lead well-meaning parents to smother their children, just as a spiritually lackadaisical upbringing can lead a believing parent to impose extreme strictures. Let's consider some examples.

### Good Work Ethic v. Workaholism

Colossians 3:23 exhorts us that in "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." The Bible is full of examples – Isaac, Joseph and Ruth, to name a few – of those who demonstrated a strong work ethic and were responsible and faithful to their commitments. This is a positive legacy to pass on to our children!

Problems arise when work becomes an idol or escape, when social applause matters more than God's approval, and when our relationships with co-workers are closer than with our families. We may think we are teaching our

children to work hard when they are actually learning our job or status is more important than they are.

Conversely, do our children see us take pleasure in rest when we break from our work? Or do they wonder if we actually work at all? If our children overhear us lie to our boss about a "sick day," or see us doing the least amount of work possible, they will learn laziness, not playfulness. Instead, God calls us to honour Him both in labour and rest, that we may be refreshed to serve Him better.

### Compassion v. Worry

Women are known as natural nurturers – blessed by God with a maternal instinct. When pushed too far, this godly compassion can fool us into believing worry is godly, thereby justifying our fears.

Interestingly enough, you may have noticed the Bible never says, "God was afraid," or "Jesus worried." No, not once. Rather, 1 John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

To pass on a legacy of love to our children, we must trust in God to overcome our fears.

### Legacy of Godliness

As Christians, we have been commissioned to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you" (Matthew 28:19). This teaching begins in our homes. As parents, our first mission field is our family. God's Word must be our guide for raising our children to pass on a legacy of godliness.

This is not possible in our own strength. We must continually seek God to know Him more and lead our children to Him. Thankfully, His grace is sufficient for every mistake we make as a parent, and every sin our parents committed against us. By His grace, our Heavenly Father can take even the most devastating family legacy and transform it into one that brings Him glory for generations to come. **BT**

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**MICHELLE (NAGLE) ARTHUR** is executive director of Women Alive, a Canadian ministry equipping women and teen girls to become dedicated followers of Jesus Christ. For help cultivating a mentoring culture among women in your church, contact her at [info@womenalive.org](mailto:info@womenalive.org) or 1-800-387-4753.



PHOTO: KEVIN THIESSEN

Pastor David Dawson and some of the George Jay students picking their cars.

# Central Baptist Church, Victoria, B.C.

In 1927, when Victoria’s population was a scant 42,000, there were undeveloped lots within a block of city hall, and street cars trundled their way along a few Victoria streets, James Rowell heard the call of God to reach this city for Christ. Eighty-five years later God’s presence continues to challenge Central Baptist Church ([centralbaptistchurch.ca](http://centralbaptistchurch.ca)) to reach out to its downtown community, and connect with those who may not be drawn to church on their own.

Kevin Thiessen, pastor of missions and outreach at Central, arrived there in July 2010 to facilitate the congregation’s desire to engage the city yet again. Acknowledging the church is often a “safe house for Christians,” Thiessen’s challenge at Central is to raise up ministries using the unique gifts and abilities of current members to live out God’s truth in ways that reach others who may be hurting, seeking and spiritually lost.

## Christianity As a Verb

As members at Central have learned how their community has broken down, their desire has grown to add value to the community, meeting specific needs as God reveals them. They have discovered their downtown neighbourhood provides many services for the homeless, but very little for low-income families.

One member of the Victoria Cool Aid Society (provider of shelter, health and employment services) listened to Thiessen explain this and suddenly responded, “So Christianity as a verb – I love it!” Schools in such areas are increasingly becoming social service providers in addition to educators, and alert churches like Central are building trust and partnerships with them – in Central’s case with George Jay Elementary School, representing 50 different cultural groups and 16 languages. Church volunteers connect with staff and students, building relationships with families through lunch hour sports, choir and car clubs, one-on-one reading, and a morning Toast Club. Through familiarity and trust, parents and staff are realizing Central is a safe place to come.

## Walking the Talk

A Harvest Party group from Central recently gathered 300 people to carve pumpkins in families – two-thirds from the community. Such activities are helping Central become known as more than a building on Pandora Avenue – as a community of people who genuinely care, who make a difference in their neighbourhood.

When Central floated the idea of a community kitchen, parents said, “Host it at the church.” Community families now connect there with church families as they learn new recipes,

prepare nutritious meals, and address food health and safety issues. Childcare is provided during preparation before families eat together. Leftovers go home with additional organic products from what is now called the Good Food Box.

Discovering January and February are months of increased need, Central has organized a food drive. Quadra Elementary School principal Marilyn Campbell responded, "Your kindness, your caring has lifted some of the anxiety for families. With basic nutrition, students have a far greater chance of having a successful day at school."

Artemis Place is an integrated counselling and education program at Central for at-risk girls ages 15-19. This ministry began with church ladies delivering cookies. Lisa Ellis, executive director and former Artemis student, tells Central volunteers, "We are so incredibly blessed to have all your support, from birthday cakes to Christmas donations, construction, work parties, first-home hampers, volunteer

group leaders and so much more. The delivery of a birthday cake is like having a favourite grandparent care about you – it creates such happy excitement."

### Creating God Spaces

A Saturday breakfast club has been at the heart of Central's outreach ministry for years as downtown Victoria churches rotate responsibility to provide a hot breakfast for homeless neighbours.

"We know this food will only satisfy for a few hours," Thiessen always tries to say, "but our hope is that you will find Someone who will be with you for eternity." Rather than simply serving breakfast, he encourages congregational volunteers to join guests at tables, to listen and eat with them, creating God-spaces for spiritual conversations.

A Sunday morning ESL class engages participants from Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe in English conversations based on the Bible. This group is invited to join the congregation for special events.

An international fellowship also meets bi-weekly after the Sunday service as a place for newcomers to find friendship and practical help with their transition to Canada.

Grief Share and Divorce Care ministries at Central have made a huge impact on the neighbourhood. Ellen Bayens came to faith through the love of group co-ordinators. As she grows in faith, learning to cope with personal challenges, she says, "I'm in the 34th week of a 12-week program."

Stories of how God is working through Central are highlighted in the testimony of one young woman and her fiancé who came to faith through a Christianity Explored course. In her baptismal testimony she said, "God filled a hole in my life I didn't know I had."

### From Far to Near

"We're only scratching the surface," with all these activities, says Thiessen. He would like to see a larger percentage of Central's congregation of 500 engaged in mission, but commuting to a downtown church doesn't make it easy to be highly involved during the week. Some members participate in short-term projects.

As Thiessen seeks to identify gifts and passions of Central members, more are being released into ministry. He encourages them to "Consider or create venues where those far from God can draw near to God," whether that first connection is built through a musical jam session, a book or bike club.

The objective is for communities of Christians and not-yet-believers to experience life together, to seek the living God together. Thiessen realizes there are challenges to engaging a multigenerational, downtown congregation – not going too fast, not starting too many programs, being intentional and consistent to build sustainability. The goal is to make the Kingdom tangible so the Good News is not just heard, but living and active in the lifestyles of His followers. **FT**

**CHARLENE DE HAAN** is a freelance writer in Toronto. She is also executive director of Camino Global and founder of stepUPtransitions.ca. Read all the profiles in this ongoing series at [faithtoday.ca](http://faithtoday.ca).



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# The Manly Art of Nursing

How the lady with the lamp unwittingly led us astray.

**M**en are under-represented in the ranks of registered nurses. Okay, well, so what? There aren't many male dental hygienists either, and women are rather rare on the oil rigs.

Most of us aren't concerned that only seven per cent of professional nurses in North America are male. We simply assume the nurse who tends our bedside or dispenses daily dosages to our aging parents will be a woman. Female doctors are way more common than male nurses.

Not that any of us would say a nurse *has* to be a woman. That wouldn't sound right in our culture. But most of us still do distinguish between "nurses" and "male nurses."

The typecasting of women as the specialists trained to look after the sick and wounded is relatively recent. It dates back to the 19th century when Florence Nightingale bulldozed her way through a maze of gender stereotypes and founded the modern nursing profession.

Nightingale wasn't a feminist ideologue – she was a dedicated worker whose experience in the Crimean War prompted her to lay the groundwork for standard nursing practices. She went on to start schools, and recruited and trained women to tend to the needs of both men and women.

Nursing was then low-status work performed largely by people unable to hold down a better job. The asylums and infirmaries of Dickensian England were gender separated with inmates usually looking after each other.

According to historian Brian Abel-Smith, "In the male wards, they were usually old men who had been perhaps artisans or labourers whence come to destitution by vice, general incapacity, imbecility, or sickness and infirmity."

It hadn't always been that way. Centuries earlier, male-dominated religious orders developed the first hospitals, and monks routinely did the work of caring for the sick, infirm, aged and handicapped. Meanwhile, the male bastions of militaries also pioneered medical services for sick and injured soldiers.

Despite these precedents, the nursing workforce today is not just female dependent, but female defined.

It doesn't occur to most men that nursing might be a

healthy calling and viable occupation. Not many little boys play with stethoscopes and bandages. Why would they? Male nurses must often endure having their masculinity questioned.

A recent report in the *American Journal of Men's Health* begins, "Men who enter the nursing profession experience negative attitudes from those around them, particularly as being less masculine than other men."

But the authors beg to differ. "The nursing profession is attracting males who hold a high degree of masculinity," they conclude. "Efforts should be made to counteract the prevailing belief that male nurses are effeminate, especially when it comes to recruiting high school and college students."

It's beginning to happen. The number of men in nursing schools is rising, partially as the result of recruiting campaigns. The American Assembly for Men in Nursing, for example, aims to have 20 per cent male enrollment in nursing programs throughout the United States and the world by 2020.

A big part of the reason is economic. Nurses in North America can collect a good paycheque, and there are openings

in the job market. More than a quarter of a million registered nurses currently work in Canada, but the Canadian Nurses Association is forecasting a shortage of 60,000 nurses by 2015. Opportunity abounds for any inclined to pursue the manly art of moneymaking.

So what does it take to be a nurse? Nursing schools are looking for men and women who are intelligent and teachable. That may be the easy part.

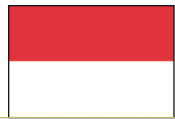
The work itself demands superior communication and observation skills. Good nurses also need a strong centre of emotional stability to remain calm and capable in a crisis. Good nurses are respectful of all people. They are kind-hearted, empathetic and flexible.

Yes, nursing competence can be measured by a practitioner's knowledge of medicine and proficiency with monitoring machines, catheters and injections. But it's also demonstrated in the ability to show compassion, practise self-awareness and exercise patience. Good character matters immensely.

Many women qualify in all these areas. And so do many men. Extending compassion by promoting good health and caring for needy people is not a gender-bound calling. **FT**

Most of us still distinguish between "nurses" and "male nurses."

**DOUG KOOP** of Winnipeg is managing editor of *Seven*, a Christian magazine for Canadian men, and the former editorial director of *ChristianWeek*. This column, named after the opening of Psalm 1, is first in a new series.



# Indonesia: Christian University Amazes and Blesses

**T**his was a jawdropper. Even though I've seen the Church at work in many countries and among hosts of tribes, I was not prepared for what I witnessed in Jakarta, Indonesia. My wife Lily and I were attending the Global Christian Forum, a new and creative venture bringing together representatives of 90 per cent of Christians worldwide. En route we visited friends at UPH University in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital city.

I heard it was a Christian university, but with all my stereotypes in place, I assumed it to be struggling to survive, especially since it is located in a Muslim-dominated nation with a population of 245 million, the fourth largest populated nation in the world.

I've been to Indonesia before and heard the sad stories of Muslim oppression and Christians losing their lives. I didn't expect much from such a place.

We drove onto the university grounds. I was shocked. The campus of UPH is stunning. It has over 10,000 students. The school is very evangelical. It includes a medical training hospital, Olympic size pools and a strategy to build campuses all over Indonesia. There is no fundraising to keep it going.

Capital costs come from the business enterprises of the family who runs it.



### On Our Knees

- For basic facts about Indonesia and suggestions to incorporate in your prayers, visit [operationworld.org/indo](http://operationworld.org/indo) and [persecution.net/indonesia.htm](http://persecution.net/indonesia.htm)

UPH charges a reasonable tuition rate, not too high for the economy, but high enough to ensure its students are serious. It is approved by the accrediting authority and has full university status with the Indonesian government.

The student cafeteria was more modern than anything I've seen in Canada.

How did this come about?

A family – begun by a father deeply committed to spreading the gospel and the evangelical message, then followed by his son – has built one of the largest business enterprises in Indonesia. They chose to make education and medical care their primary ministry.

Educationally, they have primary and secondary schools throughout the islands. The School of Education at the university is reserved for Christians. They are given full scholarships for four years, and

must promise to spend four years teaching in one of the associated schools upon graduation. Hospitals are developed, not as money-making enterprises, but to encourage people to cross the barrier of fear and access the medical treatment they need.

You'll be interested to know the name UPH (Universitas Pelita Harapan) means "hope and light." Here, tucked away in a country known better for natural disasters and persecution of believers, is a vision driven by a Christian family and their enterprise to engage their world in the love and message of the Lord, focusing on two areas through which that witness can shine with hope.

It's a good reminder the Spirit is ever about His work in places we might despair. **FT**

**BRIAN C. STILLER** of Newmarket, Ont., is the global ambassador for The World Evangelical Alliance.

## Canadian Connections

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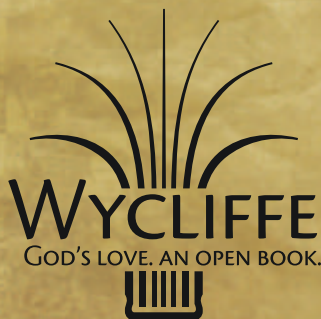
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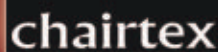


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## Simpler Pastoral Education for Simpler Times?

A modest proposal.

Isn't it great pastoring has become so much easier nowadays, so much less challenging than before? Now, if only theological education would clue in and change accordingly!

Andrew Walls, the great Scottish historian of world missions at the University of Edinburgh, notes how academic requirements for British missionary candidates rose during the 19th century. Missionaries who were to move to China or India – and learn those languages, understand those cultures, and connect the Christian faith properly with those complex religious and philosophical traditions – needed a broad and rigorous education. At least a university degree in the humanities was demanded plus specific missionary training.

Into the 20th century, major Canadian denominations continued to expect a university degree in the humanities or social sciences plus a degree in theology for their clergy here at home as well. “BA, BD” (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity) became the standard for Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists and later United Church pastors, with similar training required of Catholic priests.

And as educational levels increased among the Canadian population at large, especially after 1960, smaller evangelical denominations raised their expectations accordingly. Bible schools turned into Bible colleges, and increasingly a seminary qualification – the Bachelor of Divinity, now relabelled a master's degree (MDiv), although otherwise largely unchanged – was expected on top of a university diploma in something, if not always in a relevant discipline.

Nowadays, however, leaders of certain popular churches in the United States and Canada mock the “seminaries” that supposedly neutralize rather than “release” the holy entrepreneurship characteristic of their kind of religion. Seminaries themselves are cutting degree requirements, paring back on biblical languages, church history, doctrine, and other apparently optional courses so students can finish more quickly and cheaply.

In fact more and more institutions are trumpeting the virtues of online learning in which you don't have to leave home at all but can read books, listen to lectures and write assignments (when you can make time), with episodes of

Skyping or Tweeting or Facebooking to compensate for the loss of sustained and reinforcing contact and conversation offered by traditional (= “old-fashioned”) schools.

It is interesting to compare the rise and decline of pastoral education with the continued rise of medical education. There wasn't all that much physicians could do to help before the age of antiseptics, anaesthetics and antibiotics. But as the 20th century dawned, medical training increased apace, until by mid-century a physician was expected to undertake half a dozen years of university-level training plus at least a year of interning before practising independently, while specialists studied for years more. Medical challenges have always been huge, and as medical knowledge grew, we expected our physicians to grow with it.

Happily, however, pastoring apparently isn't like that. No, pastoral challenges in Canada today have greatly diminished. You've noticed that, haven't you? Canada is becoming a more and more ethnically uniform country, so pastors need no longer know how to understand different cultures – say, those of India or China.

Canadians are attending post-secondary education less and less, so we don't need a similarly educated person to help us co-ordinate the gospel with our lives. Just give us a charismatic speaker with great storytelling ability and a big heart.

Biomedical issues, political challenges, cultural currents, financial questions, technological innovations – everything is much, much simpler to understand today, so our pastors can be simpler people too.

Yes, let's expect less of our clergy and theological schools. Let's demand, in fact, that seminaries reduce degree requirements, lower standards for their professors, drop their tuition charges accordingly and give our next generation of pastors what they need – an education that is cut-rate, compromised and convenient. (Read between the lines of some of those seminary ads. That's what they're offering.)

Sure, those who care for our bodies need the best education we can possibly afford to give them. Can you imagine entrusting yourself or your child to a physician who learned medicine online? The idea is scandalous.

But what about those who teach us the Word of Life in the era of the Internet, the global village, multiculturalism and secularization? Do pastors need intellectually rigorous education anymore?

Do they? **FT**

---

**JOHN STACKHOUSE** is the Sangwoo Youtong Chee professor of theology and culture at Regent College, Vancouver.

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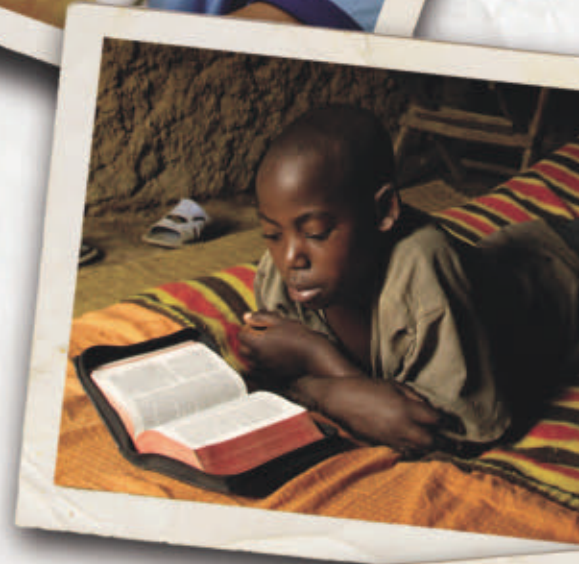
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# Congregational Prayer

## Individual Needs and God's Larger Purposes

By Derek Melanson

**A**lmost every week I do the same thing while leading Sunday morning worship – I take prayer requests. And these requests, which form part of my pastoral prayer, often follow a definite pattern. Virtually every week most of these prayer requests revolve around those with physical needs, whether those who are sick or have upcoming surgeries or other medical procedures.

Many requests have to do with *our* needs – prayers for work, travelling mercies, wisdom in the face of hard decisions. This should not surprise us. Such experiences form the warp and woof of our everyday lives.

Prayers of this kind also give us the important and profound opportunity to share our burdens with one another and bring them before the Lord Jesus, to seek from Him and from one another the strength and peace we need to deal with life's varied circumstances.

Attentiveness to Scripture, however, can also remind

us we shouldn't confine our prayers to *our* needs. God also intends our prayers to be one of the ways we participate in His larger purposes.

The Apostle Paul knew this. And in the majority of his pastoral prayers he strives to enfold his recipients' lives into God's redemptive actions.

Colossians 1:9-10 is a good example: "...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God."

This kind of prayer is different from the kind that usually fills our sanctuaries on Sunday mornings. Both forms of prayer are important, but there seems to be, as far as I can tell, a dearth of the sort Paul prayed.

Rev. Stephen Bedard, a Baptist pastor in Ontario, says this about prayers that follow Paul's pattern: "I

hope these concerns make it into their personal prayers, but I do not know. I guess it comes down to the reasons for specific prayers. For us, congregational prayer is a community-building time, and so I appreciate the requests for help and the offering of thanks for what we have received.”

I agree. I too appreciate our congregational prayer time as a time of community-building. What I would add, though, is that prayers modelled after what we see in Scripture are an essential part of such community-building. If Scripture is our authority and guide in other areas, why not here?

We also can't overlook the connection between community-building and spiritual maturity. Rev. Jonathan Beers of Timberlea Baptist Church in Nova Scotia expresses it this way: “In my experience, prayers of the congregation at first are very self-focused, but as people grow they become more community-focused and Kingdom-focused.”

As disciples of Jesus we're called to participate in God's ongoing story of salvation, of bringing creation and history to eschatological completion. Surely our prayers should reflect this.

And is this not how Jesus taught His disciples to pray? “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done.” Only after lifting these words to the throne of grace are we then invited to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

Praying such prayers also enables us to see our other needs and requests within a much larger perspective. Knowing God is at work bringing all things to His purposeful end not only enables us to face life in all its present brokenness with hope, but

frees us to praise our Lord and God with confidence for what He is doing and will do, whether or not answers to our other petitions are immediately forthcoming.

This is so because, of course, it is with the return of Jesus that all our prayers are ultimately answered. And shouldn't our present praying give witness to this? I pray it does. **FT**

“God also intends our prayers to be one of the ways we participate in His larger purposes.”

**DEREK MELANSON** of Nerepis, N.B., is pastor of Nerepis Baptist Church.

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