# RIVERS

February 2021





# Steadfast...in hope

A Message from John Loge, President

Our God is immutable. He sustains the universe with the power of His hand.

He makes our salvation and eternity secure by His unchanging love and the indomitable work of Jesus Christ on the cross. His promises are trustworthy because His word has always come true. Scripture is replete with assurances and declarations that our God is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, and that His lovingkindness is everlasting. One verse says that His steadfast love endures forever. Therefore, my friends, on this basis, we are called to be steadfast. In tumultuous, uncertain times, we can be steadfast. In times of economic hardship, we are to be steadfast. When those in authority over us make decisions which are anything but godly, we are steadfast. Regardless of what happens, we stand with God, who cannot be dethroned. We can say with the authors of Psalm 46, "We will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea." One day, brothers and sisters, we will meet our God face to face. The Rock of our salvation assures us of final, decisive victory. Therefore, we can be steadfast, immoveable,

abounding in the work of the Lord. May it be so!

In that vein, we strive to be steadfast here at NBC. The last year has seen so many changes and unprecedented circumstances all around the world. In the microcosm that is NBC, we are currently wearing masks except in our offices, many events have been canceled, and we have to limit meeting sizes. But the Word of God is being taught and modelled! Isaiah and the Psalms. Theology and Ethics. Epistles and Church History. Nipawin Bible College continues to teach and train men and women to live victorious, vibrant lives despite the circumstances. While the world's hope is in vaccines to get us back to where we were before, we know that our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness—and our longing isn't for a return to the past but for a future glory that will not spoil or fade away.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer and financially. We look forward to partnering with you in training the next generation of church leaders, husbands and wives, parents, and missionaries.



This year God has been teaching me more about what it means to surrender to Him. I do not have to be experiencing something major in order for me to allow Him to have complete control of my life. He has called me to trust in and be faithful to Him in every moment of every day.

Makenna Haghighi 2nd Year





# Steadfast...in reaching out

An Admissions and Alumni Message from Jason Elford

This is my underlying goal with Admissions and Alumni Relations: to encourage and challenge people to take steps forward in their walk with God every day they are given, while pursuing daily faithfulness to God in my own walk.

It's my experience at NBC (10yrs) that most young adults don't realize how much time, effort, and cost it takes to live faithfully for God. Indeed, it doesn't mean just going to church on Sundays. It's growing in a direction where everything we do, we own, every thought and action, reflects a life fully submitted to Jesus Christ as King. It's a really high calling and it's easy to miss the mark any given day.

At NBC, our theme this year is "steadfast" from 1 Cor 15:56-58. We are walking with students toward seeing victory through our Lord Jesus Christ by growing spiritually and overcoming the snares of fallen fleshly desires. What a journey. We're learning to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord - knowing our efforts toward that are never in vain!

Reflect for a moment on your journey. Following God might cost you something here on earth in order to be steadfast in His work. May He give us a desire to build our treasure in Heaven, instead of North America!

We desire to see 25 freshmen join us this fall. The need for equipping in our churches is out there, the money for the cost of training is out there. If you know someone who wants to attend Bible College and money is the only thing holding them back, send me an email at jason@nipawin.org. We are praying that God will stir hunger in many to spend time, effort, and finances to take steps forward in their walk with God at NBC. Pray with us to that end.

# Steadfast...in God's provision

A Finance and Facilities Message from Kendall Willson



**Budgeted \$300,000** Year-to-Date \$205,500

Needed by \$94,500 April 30, 2021

4-Plex Project

Estimated Cost \$600,000 Pledged or given \$206,500 \*since project announced

Looking to Raise \$393,500

We are praying for a strong financial finish by our fiscal year-end of April 30th and to begin construction on the 4-plex this spring.

Will you prayerfully consider a gift to Nipawin Bible College to see our financial needs met?

As we have now finished the year 2020, it is a good time to stop and reflect on how "steadfast" the Lord has been. As I work with the finances at Nipawin Bible College I have the privilege of seeing God's faithfulness

on both the income side (donations & student account payment) and the expense side (bills, bills and more bills). There have been many times throughout the years when I have been able to witness first hand a generous donor calling in to help a student pay for their soon due or overdue payment. What a faith builder for both myself and the student in need. On the expenses side, there have often been times where my "human math" and "the Lord's math" have come up with 2 different numbers and I'm so thankful that the Lord's math is alway correct! He has a plan. He is faithful, steadfast and always able to provide all that we need.

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:31-33



The theme of "Steadfast" has been seen in my life in that I must remain steadfast no matter what comes my way, to not be broken by things that come at me, but to remain firm in Him and His words."

Micah Hildebrandt, 2nd Year



Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

God has been teaching me to trust him through everything, whether that is in easy times or times of trouble.

> Wolfgang Schmidt 1st Year





God has been teaching me how important it is to cling to Him in everything. He knows what I need and I need to trust Him with my whole being.

Julie Nelson 3rd Year

I am learning that God is the only solid anchor I can cling to. When things around me are uncertain, God remains steadfast and I can trust Him to work in all things for His glory. He is enough for me!

> Melisa Willson 4th Year





I've been reminded afresh that the work God is doing in me is <u>spiritual</u>, and that He desires to do good spiritual work in me through every season, struggle, or challenge in life. It is through my spiritual growth that He is reminding me that I can and will be steadfast and immovable as I am involved in <u>His work</u>, not mine. This has to be a matter of daily crucifying myself with Christ, so that I no longer live, but that He lives in me. **Jason Elford**, Staff



# Steadfast...firmly fixed

A Student Life Message from Bradly Lytle & Lorenda Friesen

Steadfast: firmly fixed in place; immovable.

One of the things we have been focusing on in student life is the preparation of the students for their life that follows their time here

at NBC. Our purpose is to develop passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve, and we know that this happens both in the classroom and outside the classroom.

We know that the <u>Father</u>, by the <u>Spirit of God</u>, works through the <u>Word of God</u> to change the children of God to be more like the <u>Son of God</u> when we are obedient to His Word. We are purposefully encouraging students to be involved in this sanctification by practicing the spiritual disciplines of daily Bible reading plus obedience, on top of their regular studies. We know that this habit of time with the Lord will be what keeps them steadfast after they leave this place.

We are challenging the students to keep thirsting, to keep coming, to keep drinking, and to keep believing day by day so that they can be a channel of blessing to others in our broken world.

"Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."" John 7:37-38

We long for steadfastness of heart in each student and pray to that end.

## <u> Steadfast…in serving</u>

By Dana Willson, StuCo Activities Coordinator, 2nd year



With this year's college theme, it was our vision that as students and staff at NBC we would be steadfast. The world is shifting and its desires are fleeting but God and His Word are immovable. In 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Paul says, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be

courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." Restrictions are continually changing but God's love for me and for us remains steadfast. And along with this comes God's call for us to love others.

Despite the many unknowns in planning events it has

been special to see what events are allowed and how we are still able to build and have community. It has been encouraging to see how as a student body we are still able to reach out to the town of Nipawin. Right before Christmas we made little ornaments with an attached verse for the seniors and those living in nursing homes around Nipawin. It is the little things that bring joy during this season and although it has required thinking outside the box, it is the simple efforts that provide great encouragement.



By Jordan Dudgeon, StuCo Spiritual Coordinator, 2nd year

Throughout the school year, we as students have met our fair share of challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Cancelling certain events, having to re-plan any events that we are able to have, and many other things. It's a very easy time to be discouraged, lose



heart, and ultimately fail to be steadfast, but it's my joy to report that this has not been the case with the students at NBC.

Our theme verse this year is 1 Corinthians 15:58 and for NBC students that has meant improvising our plans on the spot

with the new restrictions and finding creative ways to serve during the pandemic (e.g., creating Christmas ornaments for our elderly in care homes). It has meant encouraging one another daily, and resolving to do God's work for us the best we can given the circumstances, without grumbling (Philippians 2:14). It is our aim to continue this in Christ's strength, rooted in Christ's work for us, knowing that in the Lord, our labour is not in vain!



## NBC ALUMNI & FRIENDS PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- David & Nicole Guenther ('08)
   that they would have wisdom and the right words to say as they mentor students (David) and lead a ladies Bible Study (Nicole). Pray for wisdom for raising their children.
- Walter & Cindy (Sanders) Selke ('85) for grace as they change roles within Healing Hearts Ministries and continue to give leadership to NCEM. Also for their effectiveness in leading through technology during Covid.
- Colin & Miranda Meikle ('00)
   as they plan the WEC winter orientation using various platforms. For wisdom and boldness to share with those around them.
- 4. Abe & Debbie Koop ('67) and their co-workers as they serve in South America with Wycliffe in different church ministries and translation projects. Praise for how God is working and raising up new missionaries.
- 5. Bill & Janice Dyck ('79) as they seek to balance ministry in Bolivia via Zoom, increased contact with the CBM office and local expectations as well as interactions with family while they are in Canada (serving with Canadian Baptist Ministries).
- Carl & Brenda (Dyck) Ens ('83)
   as they continue to minister in
   Aylsham, SK with Healing Hearts
   Ministries.
- Sharmyn Abrahamson ('15) as she studies with Ethnos Canada in the Emanate program that she would be diligent to wrestle through learning and growing in Christ.
- 8. Isaiah Stetski ('19) that he would have wisdom to know what the Lord's will is and how he can be a part of what God is building.
- 9. Gordon & Carole Sawatzky ('71) as they serve with AIM in Kenya and wisdom to know how to minister to those around them who are affected by COVID-19.

- 10. Jennifer Enns ('10) as she serves at Torch Trail Bible Camp that she would daily seek the Lord in prayer, be refreshed by His Word and for much joy and wisdom in her day to day work.
- 11. Stephanie (Harder '15) & Jayden Rushoway as they deal with health issues and for wisdom to parent their 1 year old son well.
- 12. Michael & Sharlene McDonald ('95) as they serve in La Paz, Mexico. Pray for the School of Missions and Ministry: recruitment for both on campus and online students, building projects, and for the spiritual vitality for students and staff.
- 13. Destiny Sawatzky ('15) as she seeks direction for both the immediate future and long term as she processes her year serving in Uganda.
- 14. Denise (Young '00) & Darryl Rice as they seek wisdom for creative ways to continue meeting with their youth group whether in person or virtually.
- 15. Ferlin & Elizabeth (Lescheid)
  Abrahamson ('84) that they
  would have wisdom in leading
  Steeprock Bay Bible Camp as
  Ferlin serves as board chairman.
- 16. Unity in the church and that our focus would be on sharing the Gospel Christ's Good News and that our hope would be fixed on Jesus.
- 17. Quintin & Beth Giesbrecht ('92) as Beth waits for a second knee replacement and surgery on her arm. For their son, Zac, who is recovering from addictions at Teen Challenge in Kelowna, B.C.
- 18. Jason & Lindsay Elford
  (Admissions & Alumni
  Relations) who want to continue
  to share the gospel well with their
  children, and show them how to
  live in that light. Pray that God
  would work greatly through the
  varying mentoring relationships
  they have with NBC students and
  in the community.

- 19. Irvin & Mari Penner ('93) for the growth of their Bible study, for prayer and financial partners, and for the relationships they are building in the community to strengthen.
- 20. Joel & Barb (Buhler) Goertzen ('96) and their sister-in-law Melissa as they grieve the loss of Barb's brother Isaac due to cancer.
- 21. Terry & Rosanne (Dyck) Banman ('88) as they serve in Papua New Guinea (Ethnos) and for wisdom to know how to walk alongside people struggling with many different situations.
- **22. Edward & Lorna Funk ('72)** and healing for Ed's eye after a serious injury to it in the summer.
- 23. Ted Siddons ('16) that he would follow the Holy Spirit's leading to share the Gospel with his coworkers, for wisdom as he works with two youth groups and that he would daily make his faith his own.
- 24. Adam & Susanna Yadlowsky
  ('01) for wisdom and insight to
  walk in God's love and will, to lead
  their family well and how to serve
  and lead at Lost River Bethany
  Church in Lost River, SK.
- 25. Timothy & Charity (Chretien)
  Johnson ('03) as they serve the
  Shuswap people in B.C. with
  NAIM, for finances and the ability
  to minister to and encourage the
  youth and families to know who
  God is.
- 26. Myra Schmidt (Admin Assistant/
  Music Director) as she teaches
  piano lessons, that she would
  be an example of Jesus to those
  students who don't know Christ
  and to encourage her Christian
  students to worship the Lord.
  That she would be balanced and
  organized in her roles and time.
- 27. Brooklyn Diamond ('19)
  for diligence in comparing
  everythings she's learning at the
  U of R with what the Bible teaches
  so that she keeps her opinions
  biblical.

We invite you to submit your requests throughout the year by calling NBC or by visiting the Praise & Prayer page under "get involved" on the Alumni tab on our website.

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NBC....

- 1. The students that they would be listening for the Holy Spirit's voice in class, their homework, and personal devotions and be willing to make the changes that God calls them to make in order to continue to grow in their faith.
- 2. The instructors (Dr. John Loge, Dr. Peter Barber, Dr. Paul Smith & Jordan Bergen) for wisdom and clarity as they prepare and teach their courses and grade assignments, Pray that they would continue to teach God's word faithfully and carefully.
- 3. Kendall Willson (Finances & Facilities) and others involved in the planning and building of the new 4-plex project for wisdom and discernment and for God's provision of finances.
- Graduation for wisdom in making preparations. Pray that restrictions would allow us to celebrate our grads with family and friends.

- 4th year students: Josh Bondoc, Kelly Fehr and Melisa Willson that they would finish well in their ministries and studies this semester.
- 6. John Loge (President) and MLT that they will have wisdom in order to teach the Word effectively while navigating the changing guidelines and restrictions due to COVID-19.
- 7. Jason Elford and Jordan Bergen (Admissions) as they aim to do NBC Admissions work at a time where it's a lot harder to connect with people personally, especially in churches and youth groups.
- 8. For Bradly Lytle and Lorenda Friesen (Student Life Deans) as they walk alongside students - that they would have wisdom to know how to encourage and mentor the students to look to God's word and Spirit for guidance.

- 9. The 7-24 leaders as they intentionally get involved in the students' lives, talking through hard things and striving to apply the Word of God to their lives.
- 10. Pray that God would stir hunger in Canadian local churches for knowing and loving God and His Word, and a willingness to invest resources in such a pursuit.





### **NEW: Online course**

April 21-June 23, Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

#### **END TIMES & THE CHURCH**

with a study of the book of Revelation

Dr. Paul Smith
Instructor
Nipawin Bible College



## **MARCH 21-22, 2020**

Do you want to grow in your relationship with Jesus? Do you desire to know God and His Word better? Do you want to make a difference in this world for Christ? Nipawin Bible College can help you grow in these worthwhile, challenging, and God honouring goals for your life. Come and spend a couple days with us! We're confident that you will see God at work here, and will sense NBC is a place with tremendous value for your life and walk with God.

## REGISTER ONLINE www.nipawin.org

Individual Study: Audit fee - \$200

For credit: \$900

this 3 credit hour course is designated TH3013 Theology III: The Church & Last Things • an independent study portion will be required

#### Register as a Group! \$500/group

Would you and members of your church like to study this topic together as a Bible study? Register as a group of 3 or more people.

(For audit only)

Registration Deadline is a week prior to the start of class. Please contact Julie Fehr at 888.862.5095 if you would like to register or have any questions.



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All photos used in this publication were taken before Saskatchewan Health Regulations required masks and/or social distancing.