

The tone of life together

because of Christ

### Colossians 3:14-17 (ESV)

14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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# The P's of Progress



## Jason Elford President

**Oxford Dictionary's** definition of progress is, *"the process* of *improving* or *developing*, or of

getting nearer to achieving or completing something." The ultimate picture of progress at Nipawin Bible College would be that we create and maintain a space where core Christian outcomes can be developed and grown in our students' lives. We want to help students develop

consistency in grace-enabled methods of growth that set them on a trajectory toward these outcomes, that they may grow as passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve. (Read more about NBC's purpose and values at nipawin.org/about/ beliefs)

Additionally, there are 5 "P's" I am pursuing this year as NBC President. We simply can't

achieve progress alone. We desperately need God. And we definitely need you.

1) Pursue — NBC will pursue our constituency. A target for NBC is to increase clarity with those outside of the College. Who are we? What is happening here? Why do we exist? How are students' lives being transformed? We want to grow credibility, and countless reasons why someone would want to attend or support NBC. Because of this desire to pursue, we are going to step forward in a few additional ways to keep you connected:

a) Re-starting Alumni & Friends Connect Nights — these will be hosted around the prairie provinces, and will give you opportunity to meet (or reconnect with) me in person, to hear what's happening at NBC, to ask questions, etc. We're still finalizing if these will look similar to the last time we did these, or slightly different. Stay tuned!



b) Initiating Monthly E-newsletters — "The Pulse of NBC" will debut before Christmas as a monthly offering giving brief, in-depth tastes of what God is doing in students' lives and familiarizing you with staff. We'll highlight College values, and touch on

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things like upcoming events, needs, alumni stories, or more depending on the month. The Rivers Newsletter will continue as normal, and we will offer the monthly e-newsletter for those who want to sign up. God is at work

at NBC, and we want to share!

c) Personal Connections — I will continue to set aside time to reach out personally. Online mediums, email, phone calls, and connecting on the road are great avenues to pursue this.

2) Partner — NBC will partner with the local church. We desire to build up the local church, equipping students to

understand the scriptural directive to love the Church and be a vibrant part of her in service (think Ephesians 4!). We are seeing more and more churches reach out to partner with NBC, specifically looking for 4th year interns. Tragically, statistics show less and less students heading from Canadian churches to Bible College, which means NBC may have less students to offer, if or as we're affected by that trend. We want to partner with church leaders to promote hunger and investment in spiritual maturity, including good growth before and after a student spends time in a Bible College setting. We desire to assist church leadership in curbing a growing trend of many congregants thinking it is a waste to invest time, effort, and even finances into spiritual maturing toward leadership and influence. A desire to explore this with church leaders stirs my heart. We dearly need not only pastors and missionaries, but people qualified to be elders, deacons, youth leaders, teachers, and entire congregations of disciples growing as intentional disciplers.



So NBC will support and partner with the local church to explore ways of whetting an appetite for life-long spiritual maturing toward Christian leadership, including spending a year or more in a Bible College setting.

3) Plans — NBC will move forward with plans to establish a campus that best serves NBC's purpose of developing passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve in the present and the future. We are pleased announce plans to begin construction of а new dormitory sometime in 2024. We're seeing the Lord begin to provide finances to pursue campus improvement and

development like this and have created a 10-15 year vision for campus infrastructure including student housing, staff housing, and a new dining hall/chapel complex. We're also looking to create an outdoor pavilion in the centre of campus for yearround gatherings in the near future. Pray with us regarding the dorm construction as we currently pursue architectural drawings, contractors, and the most reasonable timeline for such a project. Here are some other ways to lend a hand:

a) Would you pass on to us your connections with people, organizations, or businesses who have an interest to bless and help Christian or non-profit organizations?

b) We need building supplies, contractors, and significant finances to pursue this. Perhaps God has enabled you to bless NBC in one of these ways?

Through recent generous donors, NBC is in a position to match your donations up to \$450,000. A new dorm may be in the \$850,000 range, and we are excited to have you join us in pursuing this dream! We'll share options for contributing to this project elsewhere in this newsletter.



4) Presson—NBC will help our staff presson well. Even as I share outward goals, we have established building into, and supporting, a thriving staff team. We have implemented regular staff development days, and worked to provide greater clarity across our staff team helping us to press on toward accomplishing NBC's purpose together. I want you to know how amazing this team is. Pray with us for good overall staff stability in years to come.

5) Pray — NBC will saturate everything we do with prayer. The NBC staff leadership team (MLT) prays together through multiple Scripture passages each Monday afternoon. Our Wednesday staff meetings begin and end with focused prayer and each morning the staff begin our day in prayer. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

At the end of Ephesians 3, Paul shares that God is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think! The context of this verse flows out of a prayer for spiritual strength and transformation. Would you pray this for our students and staff? God invites us to be part of His Kingdom work in prayer, and to live in awe as He does His unfathomable work. Prayer reminds us of our dependence on God, and we cherish your prayer!

Three key verses I pray through with a desire to lead well are Titus 1:9, Isaiah 42:16, and Proverbs 16:9. Perhaps you want to add them to your prayer list as you seek God's direction in your own life. Amidst challenges that have faced NBC nearly every step of the way for 90 years (read "A Journey of Faith," the TRBI/NBI story — ask us for how to get a copy), there is plenty to be excited about here in 2023/24. Please pray for wisdom in implementing these "P's" of progress. Pursuing, Partnering, Planning, Pressing on, and Prayer.



Underlying all these "P's" will be a patient perseverance. We will persevere in faithfully serving our students, equipping them as passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve. We will patiently wait on the Lord, and trust Him for the things only He can do. I invite you to join hands with us in this journey.

## The Pulse of NBC e-newsletter

If you would like to receive this monthly e-newsletter to hear more of what God is doing at NBC, please send us an email:

## info@nipawin.org

or call us (888.862.5095).

NOTE: This newsletter will only be available by email or on our website.











### Come get a taste of life at NBC!

At Campus Days you'll meet our staff, spend time with our students, stay overnight in dorms, get a campus tour, and take in some classes. Campus Days is for any grade 11&12 student or any recent grad. For more information talk to Dana Willson (888.862.5095) or visit:

www.nipawin.org

## JANUARY MODULE COURSE

## January 4-12

Introduction to Bible Translation with Dave Brunn What does it mean to translate the Holy Word of God faithfully and accurately? 8:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

> FEES: Audit: \$200 - Credit: \$975

Registration Deadline is December 20, 2023. Please contact the registrar if you have any questions (888.862.5095).

Register online at www.nipawin.org



Note: Alumni receive one free audit course per year!

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## 2023-24 Theme

The theme of Harmony was chosen along with Colossians 3:14-17 because we wanted to emphasize the need for, and achieve consistent, loving unity within the student body. Being in close quarters with people is difficult, and some people may get on your nerves sometimes. Remembering this scripture is really valuable for these kinds of situations.

As well as this, we wanted to be a people depending on God, which produces prayer mixed with repentance, and a love for God's Word. The passage talks about this in more detail, but essentially, we wanted to see people in prayer this year. Having an elective course on prayer is helpful, but we wanted to encourage people to constantly be in prayer. Our vision was that we wanted people to walk into a room and have to quiet down



Marlow Masich StucCo President



because someone was earnestly praying for a fellow student.

The theme of depending on God was also really important to us. If we do not depend on God, how will we be pushed to pray? We are commanded to pray so many times in the Bible, yet the reason to pray is often overlooked. So emphasizing prayer this year was something we really wanted to do.

Repentance and a love for God's Word were also things that we wanted to emphasize. Repentance is how we walk in the light, and walking according to God's Word and His commands is the best way to live.

Lastly, we wanted students to realize that they are ambassadors for God wherever they go, and so going into the community and being a representative of Christ was important to us to be reminded of. Our lives should stay consistent between how we live at the college and how we live in the town of Nipawin, Saskatoon, Warman, etc. It should not matter where we are, we should always be ambassadors ready to represent the Creator.





- Co-Director of Ethnos Canada
- Games & Activities
- Worship through Song
- FREE to attend

#### MISSIONS CONFERENCE

For more information: https://nipawin.org

Nipawin Bible College Feb 9-10, 2024



#### Register now Alumni Weekend

November 17-19, 2023

Obah Night Theme: Camping in the Woods



Genuine Forgiveness and Relational Restoration Presented by Wes Fehr

loin us for a s for a weekend of pport the College, nnect with friends, d be encouraged in your faith.

www.nipawin.org

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## **COMING EVENTS**

Alumni Weekend A weekend for Alumni to reconnect November 17-19

> **Christmas** Cantata Mark your calendars December 8 & 9

**January Module Course** Introduction to Bible Translation January 4-12

**Missions Conference** Labouring Together in Harmony February 9-10

three60five For Grades 9-12 and recent grads March 8-10



## **NBC Board of Directors**

**Dean Block** Chairman Prince Albert, SK

**James Dyck** Director Meadow Lake, SK

**Mike Ginther** Director Prince Albert, SK

**Charles Schmidt** Director Davidson, SK

**Ben Thiessen** Honorarv Member - Alumni President Preeceville, SK

**Gary Brown** Director Prince Albert, SK

> **Jeff Friesen** Director Hebron, NE

**Kyle Larson** Director Prince Albert, SK

**Matt Thiessen** Secretary Nipawin, SK

**Jonathan Yanke** Vice-Chair Rosthern, SK

# NBC Staff & Students 2023

# STAFF TEAM

14

We encourage you to remove this page and use it as a prayer aid.

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**Back Row:** Michael Rowland, Richard Friedt, Jordan Bergen, Michael Toovey, Jason Elford, Isaac Verbruggen, Ben Buhler, Judah Braun, Isaac Parsons, Jacob Stead, David Noort, Timothy Dyck, Ronny Browning, Austin Dyck, Bradly Lytle, Josh Lees

Middle Row: Morgan Allen, Marlow Masich, Ryan Cameron, Caleb Neufeld, Zane Abrahamson, Simon Hildebrandt, Noah Emond, Sam Burns, Leigh Klassen, Kaleb Geddert, Skyler Knudston, Josh Bondoc, Samuel Harder, Jeremiah Odusanya, Angela Hutchison, Tina Kroeker, Andrew Miller

Front Row: Myra Schmidt, Taylor Dobson, Donovan Bennett, Lorenda Friesen, Natalie Driedger, Lauren Bueckert, Jenna Colwell, Dana Willson, Kimberly Bell, Sierra Langendoen, Jenny Kroeker, Rachel Marchbank, Katie Bueckert, Marla Bueckert, Afifa Stead, Olivia Knutson, Kaylee Reimer, Jolene Bueckert, Amy Driedger, Sara Lefthand Missing: Doug Harkness, Louise Leonard, Cameron Kroeker

### STAFF TEAM:

Back Row: Josh Lees (Dean of Men), Michael Rowland (Events Coordinator/IT Manager), Morgan Allen (Instructor), Doug Harkness (Campus Chaplain/Instructor)

Middle Row: Zane Abrahamson (Maintenance Manager), Jason Elford (President), Jordan Bergen (Academic Dean), Bradly Lytle (Dean of Students), Richard Friedt (Instructor), Josh Bondoc (Admissions Counsellor) Front Row: Myra Schmidt (Music Director/Admin Assistant), Angela Hutchison (Registrar/Admin Assistant),

Dana Willson (Admissions Counsellor), Taylor Dobson (Food Services Manager), Lorenda Friesen (Dean of Women), Tina Kroeker (Finances Manager), Louise Leonard (Cook/Tutor)

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## Campus Development Project: Women's Dorm Plans

# Why is NBC building a new dorm instead of renovating the current dorm?

**Thank you for asking.** The current dorms were moved to Nipawin Bible College from the Tobin Lake (formerly called "Squaw Rapids") dam site in the late 1960s where they had housed construction workers during the building of the dam. The dorms were brought to campus in pieces, then put together onto a framework of wooden blocks and large beams, with open air crawl space underneath concealed by siding.



Snider Hall (named in the 2000's) was originally the men's dorm until 2006 when it was gutted and renovated. It has served the College well for 17 years since the renovation. By general appearance, much of the dorm appears to be in decent shape. However the "guts" of Snider Hall are increasingly revealing a different Some of the larger supporting story. beams under the dorm are rotting in places, and there are many areas of the floor itself beginning to rot, especially around bathrooms and the entry way. The dorm roof is in dire need of new sheathing and shingles. But more, the the entire roof structure needs a rebuild

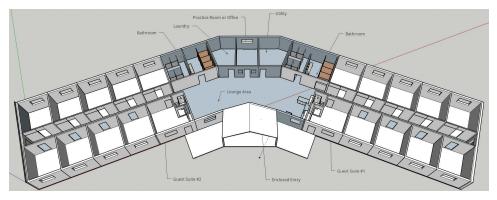


to remove an original tin roof underneath the current roof. This unique scenario has air circulation, moisture, and ice damming issues, which has led to neededsheathing and shingling replacement much more than usual over the decades.

A new dorm solves roof issues, addresses increasing maintenance becoming more time consuming and costly, and fixes the problems with the foundation and structure. Additionally, our new Snider Hall plans add two guest suites for campus, and eliminate stairs completely, making the building accessible to all. Modern and quality construction will allow the building to serve the needs of the College for many decades to come. We think this is a better option than sinking up to \$200,000 or more into the existing dorm to address the above issues and more.



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Raising funds for a large project can seem daunting. And yet, within the context of a broad constituency of friends who have been given varying portions of God's resources to steward for His Kingdom, we think this is an amazing opportunity for God to show His great provision toward NBC through the gifts of many.

Here's an example of a mix of hundreds of people contributing, as God has blessed them in varying ways, to raise a significant amount toward this project:

> 1 donor @ \$50,000 = \$50,000 3 donors @ \$25,000 = \$75,000 6 donors @ \$10,000 = \$60,000 12 donors @ \$5,000 = \$60,000 50 donors @ \$1,000 = \$50,000 310 donors @ \$500 = \$155,000 **382 donors = \$450,000** NBC matching donation = \$450,000

We will be presenting our own NBC staff



team with the opportunity to pray and consider if or how God would have them to make a pledge toward this project over the next 12 months. Would you also consider how God may be prompting you to contribute with a prayerful pledge or gift?

You will find a donor card on page 15 and information about how to donate to the campus development fund in raising money for the dorm. You can also use it to donate to NBC's general donation fund.



## **INVITE US OVER!**

Nipawin Bible College wants to connect with you and partner in your ministry. Whether it be a youth night, Sunday morning service, or another event, we would love to join you. Our student ministry music team, FaceDown, or youth ministry team, Access Team, are able to lead a youth group, Sunday service, or other event. There is also potential for us to offer pulpit supply or teaching workshops in your setting. Please contact the College at 888.862.5095 for more information.

## a message from the Alumni President

**Is God's forgiveness unconditional?** His love certainly is, as is showcased in Romans 5:8 where Paul writes, "but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (ESV)." Christ's sacrificial death was not made for a sanctified people, but for a hopelessly depraved people. In Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler in Mark 10, Jesus looked at this young man, and first "loved him" (v.21) and then revealed the sin in this man's heart. Christ's love for His creation is unconditional and poured out on people, even while they live in sin. His forgiveness,



however, comes with one single sobering condition.

Benjamin Thiessen Alumni President benjamin.thiessen.x19@gmail.com

When Jesus teaches His disciples about prayer, He introduces what has become known as the Lord's Prayer. In Matthew 6:12 we read, "and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." The plea for forgiveness is made after we ourselves have forgiven those to who have offended us. To erase all doubt that this is the case, Jesus adds "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (v.14-15). As C.S. Lewis observes, "There is no slightest suggestion that we are offered forgiveness on any other terms."

Further affirmation of this idea is found in the beatitude "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy," (Mt. 5:7), and most strikingly in the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35. In this parable we find, not simply that forgiveness is not offered, but that it is actually rescinded, and the offending servant condemned in accordance with his previous debt.

When I first encountered this idea in C.S. Lewis' book Mere Christianity, I have to admit that I pushed back against the idea. How could there be any limitation to God's forgiveness? This is where we find that there is a difference between a limitation and a condition While Christ's sacrifice on the cross can cover the collective sin of all mankind, His forgiveness is not offered to an unrepentant and bitter heart. In each of our lives, if we hold a grudge or despise a person for how their actions have negatively affected us, or seek revenge, however subtle, against an offending brother or sister or enemy, we withhold from ourselves the forgiveness of God. This heart of forgiveness towards others is something that we ought to pray diligently for.

Moving on to Alumni business, the 2023 Alumni Weekend is less than a month away! On behalf of the Alumni Executive I can say that we are very excited for this year's weekend and look forward to seeing and connecting with as many alumni as can make it. Please register today on the website (or call the College if online registration is not possible for you), and we'll see you there!

Ben has been the Alumni President since 2021. He was a student at NBC from 2013-2016, graduating with a Bachelor of Christian Ministry.

## prayer & praise NBC Alumni & Friends Please Pray For...

- Colin & Miranda Meikle ('00) as they serve with WEC. PRAY that they will keep near to God's heart, hearing what He has to say and will be obedient to His voice.
- 2. Sharmyn Abrahamson ('15) as she serves in the Philippines with Ethnos Canada. Pray for continued grace as she lives and works each day, learning and growing in various ways.
- Michael & Sharlene McDonald ('95) for discernment of the Spirit's leading and God's provision of their needs.
- 4. Jennifer Enns ('10) as she serves at Torch Trail Bible Camp, that she would live humbly and joyfully before the Lord and others. Pray for wisdom and strength as she continues to debrief from the summer and begins planning for next summer.
- Jason & Lindsay Elford ('95, Current President) in raising their daughters up in the way the should go (Proverbs 22:6). They pray for wisdom in godly discipline and reproof, yet steering away from provoking their children to anger.
- 6. NBC Admissions (Dana Willson, Josh Bondoc) that God would be softening the hearts of the students He would have attend NBC in the fall and that Josh and Dana would be wise as they interact with many high school students.
- 7. 7-24 Groups (Discipleship Groups) that staff and students would develop meaningful relationship and find joy in going deeper into knowing and loving Jesus through developing the spiritual disciplines of regularly engaging in God's word and prayer.
- 8. The Mission Leadership Team (Jason Elford, Bradly Lytle, Jordan Bergen) as they meet twice a month and desire to give good leadership to the different departments of NBC. Pray also that God would give wisdom as they seek to hire a Director of Operations.

- 9. Baxter Hall (Men's Dorm) that God would raise up faithful men who desire to worship God with their lives, and who work to build up and bear witness to Christ's work in them to one another, through dorm meetings and dorm life.
- 10. The **NBC students** that they will grow deeper in their love for Jesus while they diligently study. Pray that they will serve well in their student work and student ministry areas. Pray that they will grow strong friendships that challenge and encourage them in their walk with the Lord.
- 11. That the **ladies on Snider Hall** would grow in their ability to keep their eyes on Jesus, standing firm in Christ, and help others to do the same.
- **12. Each class period and assignment** that these would be times of worship as the students (and instructors) encounter the living God through His living Word.
- 13. NBC Student and Staff that we would not only be hearers of the Word, but also doers.
- Jason Elford (President) as he continues to grow as a leader in serving as NBC President. Titus 1:9; Proverbs 16:9; Isaiah 42:16.
- 15. NBC to be a good contributor to unity in the Body of Christ in Nipawin and around the province. Colossians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:14; Philippians 2:1-3; Ephesians 4:2-3; John 17:20-21.

We invite you to submit your requests throughout the year to 888-862-5095 or info@nipawin.org. Find more requests at www.nipawin.org/praise-n-prayer/

#### NBC extends sympathies to the Jake Rempel family on the passing of Eva on October 24th.

The Rempels served at NBI from 1976 to 1990 when Jake served as President. Eva served in varying support roles including the kitchen, in addition to being a faithful mother. We praise God that Eva's faith is made sight.

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## Saying Goodbye to House #12

Work has been underway to demolish one of the campus homes. The Baxter house, or what is now known as House #12, was built on the original Two Rivers Bible Institute site in the 1940's. Due to extreme flooding of the site near Carlea, SK, the difficult decision was made in 1954 to explore relocation. It took several years for varying locations to be considered and to raise necessary funds. Flooding in subsequent years made the decision even more urgent. Nipawin Bible Institute officially began operation on the current site in 1958-59, with several buildings (mainly homes) having been moved to the new site.



John & Pearl Baxter lived in this house both at the original TRBI site and then at Nipawin until they resigned in 1962. Many staff have lived in House #12 over the decades including: Lloyd & Eileen Peters; Larry & Gloria Rempel; Larry & Sharon Hurst; Bryan & Lynda Driedger. It even served as a men's dorm for a short stint in the 1960's. The last residents (Kaleb and Cherise Geddert, married students) moved out in December 2021.

Much upkeep has gone into the house over the decades. However, overall age, flood damage from TRBI, and different construction realities in the 1940's led to the reality of extensive renovations being necessary for the home to remain usable. Effort was made to give the house away, but after 2 years with no takers, it was decided that tearing down was the best option.



We want to thank those who have given of their time to help with the demolition: Stan Masich, Dean Block, Ken Leonard, Calvin Friesen, and Jordan Lepine; NBC maintenance staff, Zane Abrahamson and Kaleb Geddert, as well as Jason Elford.

At this point, the work remaining is to remove some concrete, cap sewer and water lines, and fill in the hole. We hope this area of campus will be filled with an outdoor pavilion and gathering place sometime in the next couple years.

There is still one building on campus from the original TRBI site which is the Art Linsey home (currently occupied by the Michael & Katrina Rowland family). It is still in reasonable shape, due in part to an extensive renovation in the late 1990's.

If you would like to read more about the relocation of the college or other historical facts about TRBI/NBI, contact the College to get a free\* copy of the history book "A Journey of Faith: The NBI Story" by Clifford and Eleanor Maier. (\*Shipping charges may apply)

I want to help with a gift of:         \$50,000       \$25,000         \$10,000       \$5,000         \$10,000       \$750         \$500       \$200         \$100       other: \$         This is a:       NBC General Donations         Campus Development Fund	<ul> <li>In prayerful response, and by God's provision, I pledge to give \$ toward the campus development fund between now and Sept. 1, 2024.</li> <li>I would like to make a one time donation.</li> <li>I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ over  months.</li> </ul>
Name & Mailing Address:	(see below for payment method options,
Name & Mailing Address:	
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TO DONATE: • Send an e-transfer to giving@nipawin.org. • Return this form with your donation. • Click "Donate" at www.nipawin.org to give thro • Call 1.888.862.5095 to donate by credit card.	bugh CanadaHelps or PayPal. Bible College. Designated contributions will be used as designated until the mpleted. Any surplus funds will be used for other NBC ministry needs. Gifts rose. October 2023

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