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it does seem clear that most of God's direct will for the journey of our lives is connected to our relationship with Him and others, day in and day out.

We easily we miss opportunities to enjoy the journey because we're over-focused on the destination. For example, it's normal for my daughters to ask "are we there yet" on every road trip we take as a family. I'm continually encouraging them to look around and be aware of their surroundings, to engage in conversation and relationship with our family as we travel. These are ways to thrive along the journey.

Reflect on a day where you've been consistent in keeping in step with the Spirit. For me, it usually means I've begun my day in the Word, talked to God frequently, and keenly looked for His leading in varying situations. It's looked like seeking sensitivity in how God is nudging me toward conversations with people, or directing me to bring up questions, encouragements, or Scripture with them. When we look at the Bible,



Jason Elford President

In John 17, Jesus says to his Father, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ



whom you have sent."We weren't meant to live merely for a "future" eternal life while neglecting the reality of the present. We are to look with hope toward the future, while embracing the eternal life of knowing God now, in the freshness of walking with Christ each day.

It's fair to suggest if we don't do a journey well, it undermines getting to our destination or invites needless complications along the way. In life, we should come to recognize that growing in the consistency of a vibrant day-to-day walk with Christ is a worthwhile destination in itself. Our desired outcomes for NBC students are connected to the transformation God brings about in our lives as we grow in spiritual maturity. We implement specific methods into the structure of daily NBC life that best lead toward those outcomes.

Lindsay and I travelled to Edmonton with the OMP team in January. In some ways, everything that could go wrong the first hours of that trip, did. An accident, a wrecked minivan and trailer, stuck in the middle of nowhere, far from our destination! "But God, we aren't there yet!" This unexpected twist caused our team to look to God's sovereignty and remember a dependence on Him that should always be there. We saw His provision in those moments, and I think it was part of God's

way to set our hearts in a good place for what would come in Edmonton.

In their book "The Vine Project," authors Colin Marshall and Tony Payne define a disciple as a "Christ-learner," and thus discipling as walking with others in "learning Christ." OMP reminded me how important it is for believers to carve out time for relationships with people outside the church, and giving time and space to keep growing daily in our personal

and collective journeys of learning Christ as individuals and as a local body of Christ. We're only effective with

...growing in the consistency of a vibrant day-to-day walk with Christ is a worthwhile destination in itself.

discipling if we are growing as disciples.

There is a spiritual leader crisis in Canadian churches *right now.*¹ The stats on the current and looming evangelical pastoral shortages are staggering. Many churches have vacant spots for other qualified leaders like elders, deacons, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, and more. I'm suggesting that the vacuum in spiritual leadership can come back to the North American church having lost the desire to "learn Christ."

I know that's a large generalization, and perhaps it could even seem like a large accusation. But I'm convinced that reversing the trend of spiritual leadership shortage and dying Canadian churches comes back to each of us doing what is necessary in our own lives to affect our local church culture in the direction of an increasing appetite for ongoing spiritual maturity. What if, instead of struggling to carve out time and resources to invest in spiritual disciplines, living in fellowship with our church, and the mission of God to our neighbours and the rest of the world, what if we fully lived out the reality that in Christ is where we find fulfillment and significance (Jn. 10:10)? Instead we'd begin to struggle with carving out time for anything outside that. The "things of this world would grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace." What if we couldn't wait to wake up in the morning and meet with God in His Word and in prayer? What if we spent every moment we could going to God with our families, disciplers, and disciples? Are others seeing our personal desire and actions toward spiritual maturity?

Change in our Christian culture only comes as a result of collective change in multiple personal cultures. Maybe you'd find "The Vine Project" book a helpful tool. God allows the future of the church and spiritual maturity in Canada to be connected with each of us. What will we do with this opportunity!?! It will affect how we're able to be part of the Great Commission.



Statistics show the downward trend in Canadian churches' hunger for spiritual maturity, with some notable results biblical illiteracy, declining attendance, not living as the Body of Christ should, and more. Of course interest to attend Bible College would also wane as a result. We are searching for the best ways to partner with the local church to address growth toward spiritual maturity. More NBC

¹ https://www.horizon.edu/the-church-in-canada-is-in-crisis/.

graduates going back to churches to serve can help make an impact. Stats I compiled this summer showed 44% of our 3rd and 4th year grads since 2013 are currently in or pursuing full-time vocational ministry. Most of the remaining 56% are living lives of daily ministry through involvement in their church and community. Help us recruit students as we pursue this goal together!

We're wrestling with how to stay connected with constituents, so inundated with information and "junk" mail. It seems more people than usual are disconnecting from NBC, perhaps weary of mail or more information. We are exploring how to "poke through" the best, and answers aren't always easy. I'm in the process of booking Alumni & Friends Connect Nights over the coming months. Schedules seem busier than ever, attendance to those events can be low, yet these are great personal connections and I look forward to seeing many of you.

Amidst these challenges, we are excited by God's provision. In faith, we are continuing to move toward replacing the aging ladies' dorm with a new Snider



Hall, based on average historical student numbers since 1970. God has provided so much of the financing and other details already. Pray about remaining details, additional finances, and more students to fill our dorms so as to be equipped for spiritual maturity and leadership! There are more churches, missions, and ministry organizations asking NBC for spiritual leaders than we have students to offer. Our desired destination isn't to be full just for the sake of numbers, instead it is to have greater continued impact on the Canadian and global church for God's purposes.

We are grateful that there are good things happening at Nipawin in our students as they grow in Christ. God knows the details of what tomorrow and the next years hold.

unni & Friends Com Join Jason Elford, President, to learn more about the college and connect with other alumni and friends of NBC! Feb 20 - Nipawin Feb 21 - Melfort Feb 22 - Meadow Lake Feb 26 - Prince Albert Mar 11 - Waldheim Mar 13 - Osler Mar 14 - Saskatoon Apr 1-3 - Alberta Locations (TBD) Apr 16 - Canora Apr 17 - North Battleford Apr 18 - Humboldt May 6-9 - Southern SK/MB (TBD) May 21-23 - Central MB Areas (TBD) June 13/14 - Winnipeg/Winkler Areas (TBD) More details to come www.nipawin.org

The answer to "are we there yet" will be "no" until Christ comes and we are all made new. However, we are making every effort to be faithful in the journey of developing passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve, and we are seeing much fruit of that happening. We invite you to pray and partner with us in all these matters. May we not grow weary of doing good (Gal. 6).

0000 Nipawin Bible Collge Testimonies of NBC's Footprint Impact on Constituents

"Our son, Marlow, is in his third year at NBC. As parents, we have seen significant changes in his life throughout his time there. While Marlow was raised in a Christian home, made a profession of faith as a child...he seemed content to simply hold to an inherited faith. It wasn't until he became a student at NBC that he personalized his faith and really began to grow spiritually. The teaching, not just in knowledge of the Scriptures, but the training in spiritual disciplines greatly impacted his personal growth in the Lord. The faculty and staff at NBC spend countless hours with the students, not just in the classroom lectures, but in everyday life.

NBC creates many opportunities for their students to grow in their gifting, develop relationships, and become leaders. Whether it's the simple responsibility of their gratis chores, their engagement in the local churches, or their ongoing involvement in chapel through worship, testimonies, and even preaching, all of these things work together to fulfill the core value of NBC, which is 'developing passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve.' Marlow has grown from being a quiet boy who was happy to follow the crowd, to a maturing young man who is in a leadership position within the student body, and is also considering long term ministry."

Janet Harms Masich (NBI '85)

"I met a couple here in the Philippines who serve with Action International. While they have never been to Nipawin and know little about the school, they have heard of NBC. And the word they associate with NBC is "discipleship." I was encouraged to hear that and wanted to pass it along. May you guys continue to faithfully serve the Lord at NBC, that His name may be known among the nations."

Sharmyn Abrahamson (NBC '15), Ethnos Canada, Philippines

"I wanted to let you know of my recent impressions of being on your campus. Of course, the staff and faculty were helpful and friendly, but it was your student body that impressed me the most. It is not often that I find such a large number of students who are interested in future ministry, specifically, in the area of missions. Your tagline statement for the college is "developing passionate followers of Jesus Christ with a heart to serve." You and your entire staff are doing well at fulfilling that goal for His glory. May the Lord bless your continued efforts."

Dr. Frank Roe, Director of Mobilization, Crossworld Canada

"Here are my reflections about my last visit to Nipawin, early October 2023. It was my 4th stop of a 10-day trip. At the brunch I mentioned an informal meeting at 7 pm that day. Around 10 students showed up, mostly guys. Four of them filled out a contact card. The next day I spoke at chapel with a focus how the LORD calls folks into mission with examples from my own Bible school. I had copies of "Priority One" by Norm Lewis. All the copies and other books went out to students. Like never before I sensed a hunger for global mission. Now these students must take the 2nd step."

Christoph Koebel, OM Canada

"We just received the October, 2023 edition of Rivers. And is it ever impressive. So informative and so attractively and professionally done. It suggests that something important has happened at NBC. It certainly suggests that NBC is going to be very transparent with its constituency and treat it as a vital, worthy partner in this faith work for God. And it exudes a beautiful humble trust in God to guide and to accomplish this great, inspiring vision that God has laid on NBC's heart, something that also ties it beautifully to NBC's past. May it always be so. To God be the glory. And due recognition too, to NBC's current admirable leadership at all levels, it appears."

Clifford Maier (TRBI '52)

Introducing Steven Friegen



Director of Operations

Steven Friesen attended NBC from 2001-2004 and came back for a 4th year in 2008-2009. His wife Andrea (Driedger) attended for two years beginning that same year.

Steve & Andrea married in 2020. They have three young sons, including a set of twins born this past October.

The Director of Operations encompasses the former Facilities Manager role, along with some other big picture oversight that we envision Steven growing into well over the coming years. The Friesens are familiar to many in the NBC constituency, and they are excited by God's calling in their lives, even with the unknowns that come with such a transition. We look forward to walking with them.

For the past 6 years Steven has served as a journeyman electrician in the Valley area

just northeast of Saskatoon. Steven grew up on a farm and has a good start on many of the important skills that will be a benefit to this role.

Please pray for the Friesens as they make the transition to NBC and for Steven as he takes on this role.





SPRING TOUR

FaceDown - Manitoba Access Team - Alberta April 15-26, 2024 www.nipawin.org for details!



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FMP 2024: Freshman Ministry Practicum



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Dana Willson Admissions Counsellor uring FMP we did some inner-city ministry and put on a winter camp for youth from a few northern communities. Serving

in soup kitchens, touring the psychiatric hospital and visiting with prison inmates were some of the ministry opportunities we had in Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

In my personal devotions I have been reading through Acts and the day after we were at the penitentiary I read about the earthquake while Paul and Silas were in prison. On that morning after visiting the prison, I was hit with the magnitude of what God did for Paul and Silas. Today you have to go through so much security, screening and many locked doors to get to where the inmates are; I can only imagine the chaos that would occur if a way of escape was suddenly made available. God opened my eyes to see the inmates as broken people who need a Savior just as much as I do. It was a blessing to be able to share Christ's love with them in the short time we were there to visit.

The second half of our trip consisted of serving at winter camp. Some of the students had served at Torch Trail Bible Camp before, whereas others were completely new to camp ministry. It was sweet to watch the students come together to serve the youth who came. The week did not come without challenges but all you had to do was look out at the kids during chapel, watch them do the actions for the songs, as they sang about Jesus, and it was all worth it. The youth had the opportunity to hear about Jesus

and it issuch a blessing that the Lord allowed us to be a part of this ministry.



OMP 2024: Dutreach Ministry Practicum

MP was nothing like I expected it to be, but God used it in my

Kimberly Bell Second Year Student

life to teach me more about Himself and the people around me.

We served in a variety of places, and we were exposed to different ministry opportunities, such as street ministry, working with international students and youth ministry. There were many difficult moments, but God used them to teach all of us something about Himself and the people around us.

One of the biggest things God taught me throughout OMP is how hopeless we are without Him. As we served in each of these different missions I was struck again and again by the hopelessness of the people we served. They were lost and trying to fill that void

with whatever it took. It was an eyeopening experience because I realized that if I did not have Christ I would be just as lost as these people. Christ is our hope, and He brings life and light to the broken and lost in this world. We, as believers, are called to share the hope and invite others into this hope. It is a hope that will not leave us empty, a hope that will not lead us to ruin, rather it's a hope that leads to everlasting joy.



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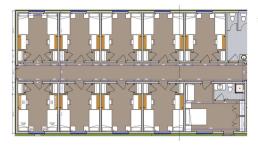




New Snider Hall Plans

NBC Finances & Facilities Update

e continue to take steps toward the new Snider Hall! Pray with us in this sizeable task. Currently, we're working on getting engineered structural drawings and finishing electrical/mechanical plans. We are pleased to announce that alumnus (and current board member) Matt Thiessen will be the supervisor for this project. There will be varying paid trades people overseeing most aspects of the job, and some who've expressed interest to volunteer time this summer to help. We hope to begin with ground-breaking in late April/early May and plan to have the shell fully enclosed by the fall so we can continue to finish the inside in months following. Perhaps your church has a group of men who would be interested to come serve for a few days or more? We'll feed and house you! Please reach out to NBC Director of Operations, Steven Friesen (steven@nipawin.org), if you would like to help.





2023/24 Charitable Donations budget:

GENERAL DONATIONS

e want to be open about the NBC finance and facilities picture, not to guilt or pressure you into giving, but to make sure you are aware of our realities as a valued constituent. We all have varying parts to play in God's kingdom depending on how He enables, gifts, and nudges us. With a mailing list of roughly 2,000 constituents, there is a lot of potential in our NBC family for big things as we look to God and He works through us.

We invite you to pray with us for this important area. Consider how the Lord may be leading you to be part of this team. As you've given, we praise Him for the many ways you have already blessed the College! Roughly 25% of our annual budget comes from your giving. I'm humbled to give alongside you.

\$305,000 Received to date (January 30th): \$145,000 Additional need by Apr 30th: \$160,000 Please pray with us as we pursue ending another year in the black. **SNIDER HALL PROJECT Specified Donations toward project:** \$27,000 Matching donation amount (matching up to \$450,000): currently **\$27,000** Amount NBC is still seeking to raise: \$423,000 Target Project cost: \$900,000

Jason Elford President



A monthly email newsletter to give subscribers a more personal connection with NBC staff & students. Sign up at: www.nipawin.org

March 24-25, 2024

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A Message From The Alumni President



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

> ith a new year comes new

expectations, new things to look forward to, and, for some, a fresh start with resolutions to change their ways. The end of the old year also gives us opportunity to observe the year we left behind, with all the mix of good and not-so-good things that we experienced. I want to spend a moment looking back before we look forward.

The Alumni Weekend of this past November was a great experience, with about 190 alumni and kids in attendance. The Executive had a great time planning and pulling the weekend together, and enjoyed a few days of visiting with all the alumni that were able to attend. God has shown His faithfulness to NBC through the excellent support of the Alumni who attend this weekend each year, and this past year was no exception with over \$17,000 raised for the college. We were able to purchase a new window package for house #11 and alsoput money toward lounge furnishings for the new girl's dorm scheduled for construction this year.



The annual Alumnus of the Year Awards were presented to commend the service and faithfulness of two alumni couples. Stan Masich and Janet Harms Masich received the award for Distinguished Service to Nipawin Bible College. Tony and Janet Ens received the Distinguished Faithfulness in Ministry Award. Their respective responses for these awards are available on the NBC website at www. nipawin.org.



Julie Fehr ('15) finished her second term on the Alumni Executive, and Shaylynn Hildebrandt ('19) was voted in to join. Melisa Willson ('93), who finished her first term, let her name stand to be voted back in and will be continuing for a second term. The Alumni Executive consists of myself, Melisa, Shaylynn, Jeralee Hamata ('18), and Tim Block ('14). Michael Rowland ('05) is the NBC staff liaison on the Executive.

Looking forward to 2024 brings mixed feelings for me. Personally, there will be some big decisions this year and pretty important transitions for our family. We also have an election year before us. Throw in a few wars, heightened global tensions, and a continued cultural shift towards godlessness and a person begins to feel pretty uncertain about things. But

this brings to mind the Almighty God that we serve, and His continued sovereignty in our universe.

Evidence of this sovereignty is seen in the lives of many people. In the book Peace Child by Don Richardson, God breaks into the lives of a headhunting cannibalistic tribe. In the account of Barney Lacendre in The Bushman and the Spirits, a man turns from witchcraft and the worship of evil spirits and submits his life to Jesus Christ. In The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom, God shows that His never ending faithfulness reaches even to the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp. And Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."

The Bible makes it clear that this light is Jesus Christ, and Him alone. Christ's

presence and words vanguish lawlessness (2 Th. 2:8), His presence strikes mortal fear into a legion of demons (Mark 5:6-7), He commands legions of angels (Mat. 26:53), and He is the Son of Man, "seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mark 14:62). He was crushed to make an offering for our guilt, and brought peace and healing (Isa. 53:4-10), He presented Himself as an offering to purify us that we might serve the living God (Heb. 9:14), and He offers to take our burdens and give us rest if we humble ourselves and come to Him (Mat. 11:28-30).

I could go on quoting Scripture, but then I might as well just recommend



you read the entire Bible cover to cover, which I do. God's faithfulness is known by those who know Him, and we know Him by immersing ourselves in His Word. Whatever this new year brings, it is encouraging to know that God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8). When 2025 rolls around and I look back at this coming year, with its mix of good and not-so-good things, my prayer is that I will see the unchanging faithfulness of God present in everything, and thank Him for it.



Prayer & Praise NBC Alumni & Friends Please Pray...

- for Sharmyn Abrahamson ('15) as she serves in the Philippines with Ethnos Canada. PRAY as she continues in language studies, for humility to learn well and diligence to work hard, with a heart soft to the Lord and committed to Him above all.
- 2. for **Terry & Rosie Banman ('88)** as they praise God for His work in the the hearts of this generation as they share about Ethnos and missions. PRAY for more laborers. PRAY for the many upcoming events they will be involved in in the new year sharing about Ethnos.
- 3. for **Nathan & Tasha Enns ('02)** as they serve in the home office for Ethnos. PRAY for good relationships with their neighbours and coworkers. They want to point people to Christ.
- 4. for Michael & Sharlene McDonald ('95) as they transition to the culture and life in Tagaytay, Philippines serving with Commission to Every Nation: language, driving, food, different amenities, etc. PRAY as they mentor and teach at a Bible college there, supporting the kid's ministry, and as Michael delivers sermons on Wednesdays and Sundays when needed.
- 5. for **Colin & Miranda Meikle ('00)** as they serve with WEC. PRAY they will be a blessing to the local team, old friends and any whom God puts in their path to minister to.



 for Noah & Naomi Wahlstrom ('14) as they serve with NCEM in Nipawin helping plan trips and communicating with those interested in going. PRAY for wisdom as Noah seeks a good balance of work, studies and family time.

- 7. for Ted Siddons ('16) as he serves as an intern with P2C (Power to Change) on the UofS campus. Pray for God's guidance, wisdom, strength and perseverance as he navigates added and changing roles. PRAY as he prepares and raises funds to go on a missions trip to Honduras in February.
- for NBC students to want Jesus more than all else and that they will be dependant on Christ and obedient to Him.



- that NBC student life department (Brad Lytle, Lorenda Friesen, Josh Lees) will have the wisdom needed to help the students be wise in their decisions.
- 10. for **Steven & Andrea Friesen (NBC Director of Operations)** as they settle into life on campus and as Steven begins his new role on staff.
- 11. for **Doug Harkness (NBC Campus Chaplain)** to be able to work out details, schedules and finances for a full summer schedule of missions-related trips and activities for himself and several NBC students who will be going to Missouri, Brazil and the Philippines.
- 12. for **three60five youth retreat** March 8-10. PRAY that God would cause the youth that come to see that Jesus Christ is the only Way, Life and Truth, and that it is worth everything to follow Him despite what the world is saying.
- 13. for the new **NBC women's dorm building project**. PRAY for the funds needed to come in and wisdom for planning timelines and working with contractors.

We invite you to submit your requests throughout the year to 306-862-5095 or info@nipawin.org. Find more requests at www.nipawin.org/praise-n-prayer/

\$50,000 \$25,000 God's \$10,000 \$5,000 \$ \$1,000 \$750 devel \$500 \$200 Sept. \$100 Other: I wou This is a: donations NBC General Donations I wou	rayerful response, and by 's provision, I pledge to give toward the campus elopment fund between now and t. 1, 2024. build like to make a one time ation. build like to make a monthly
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