

For more than 75 years, Bethany College has been *Nurturing Disciples and Training Leaders*, with a primary strategy of developing disciples who lead as Paul related in I Corinthians 11, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ."

Mentoring leaders: Discipleship is the soil in which leadership develops. By focusing on character formation, leadership education, and training through practical experience, we continue to develop our intentional mentoring program in which one-on-one relationships are built with students to help them reach their God-given potential.

Stretching our limbs... The Bethany Players will bring their drama ministry to various Alberta churches in Medicine Hat, Coaldale, Calgary, Gem, Linden, and Edmonton, while the Chorale will minister to churches throughout Manitoba April 21 – May 2.

Bearing fruit: We wish to share with you a snapshot of how God is working in the lives of our students. The following is an excerpt from a letter we received after a basketball tournament attended by our teams at Taylor University College on the weekend of January 31:

"This is just a brief note to let you know my appreciation for your basketball teams. In a day when many athletes are out for glory for themselves and show a 'cocky, see-what-can-do' attitude, your guys' and girls' teams showed a very Christ like spirit of humility but also skilful play. Both they, your coaches and Athletic Director are to be commended... Near the conclusion of the last game, I asked for help from our students to clean the gym... your guys helped me put the chairs and tables away and asked what else they could do." – Pete Wright, Athletic Director, Taylor University College.

Producing the harvest: This year's Missions Conference focused on Micah 6:8: "*What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" Again this year, our students left in February for short-term mission assignments. Freshmen students will partner with MB churches and parachurch organizations in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary and Kelowna. Bethany's junior students trekked north to work on First Nations reserves near La Ronge, Saskatchewan in a variety of children's, youth and adult programs, while our seniors headed to Peru for a three-week venture that includes ministry with MBMSI in several main Peruvian cities as well as exposure to Bible translation in the Andes mountains with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

God's provision: We were thrilled to dedicate the new men's common area during this year's Convention. Thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers and donors, we were able to include renovated dorm washrooms, an efficient lounge and east court heating system, and twenty new west court windows - all for less than the original budgeted amount! Praise God.

This joy can now buoy us toward several major challenges ahead, including frozen student fees for 04-05 despite an increase to capital spending, and increasing student debt load. Only as churches and individuals donate to Bethany can we reduce the overall costs borne by our students. We also pray for continued growth in numbers for our student body.

Welcome to new faculty: This fall, Bethany welcomed Gil Dueck to their faculty team. A 1997 Bethany grad himself, Gil returns as Associate Dean of Students (Men) and Instructor in Theology. Gil says he counts it a privilege to walk with students during this formative time in their life.

Gil received a Bachelor in Christian Ministries from Bethany, and a Master of Arts in Theology (Dean's Honours) from Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, Fresno. He has served as pastoral intern at his home church of Coaldale MB, and worked with l'Arche, an international organization supporting people with disabilities. He and his wife, Shelley, have an infant daughter, Julie.

A view of the horizon... The Bethany Vision Banquet 2003, held at Coaldale MB Church on November 22 was a mini-convention of sorts. Advancement Director Dave Pauls, as well as Gil Dueck and Randy Klassen, both formerly from the area, shared our vision and God's direction for the school. Phil Siebert and the Bethany Chorale ministered through music. This was a very successful way to connect with our supporting churches, and we hope to further expand upon 'bringing Convention to our constituents' in the coming years.

Please continue to pray for our interns and recent grad placements, currently serving in the following areas:

Interns:

- **Dana Barrant**, with MCC Saskatchewan
- **Simon Friesen**, with Foothills Community Church in Pincher Creek, Alberta
- **Amy Forrest**, with Moment of Truth Ministries, Queensland, Australia
- **Erica Ray**, with TREK, Germany
- **Stephanie Schroeder**, with MBMS/I, Thailand
- **Jonathan Klassen**, with TREK, Indonesia
- **Karina Dyck**, here at Bethany College

Graduates 2004

- **Tim Metz**: Associate Pastor, Asquith Bible Church, Saskatchewan
- **Jason Dyck**: Associate Pastor, Dalmeny Community Church, Saskatchewan
- **Alex Suderman**: Interim Pastor, Flin Flon, Manitoba
- **Phil Wiebe**: Full time ministry with South Mountain Church, Draper, Utah
- **Matt Wall**: team member with Wycliffe Dinner Theatre, Portland, Oregon

Nurture Disciples – Train Leaders

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight, to help you determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” - Phil. 1:9-11. This is our theme verse for the 2003-04 academic year. The powerful servant spirit witnessed in this year's student body is another example of the College bearing fruit, as we watch students serving passionately right where they are to help others experience a personal relationship with God. This is no doubt due in part to great servant role models on the faculty and staff at Bethany. At our November Convention, Martha Schultz, Food Service Director, was recognized for ten years of service, and President Rick Schellenberg was recognized for 15 years with the College. We pray that our students will gain credibility in their churches, communities and cultures as they are tested by time and life, being directed by the Spirit of God.

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