

Building Disciples

Jamie Azzoparde, board of trustees member and former student

Acts 8:30-31 "...Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him."

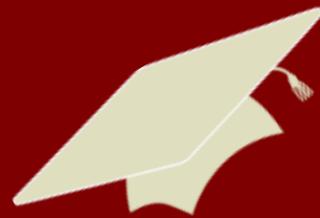
Like the Ethiopian eunuch, many of us find ourselves hungry for truth, diving into scripture with great zeal, awe, and enthusiasm. It's a double blessing when we can do this with others, sharpening one another's sword, and adding to our pool of knowledge. Sadly, if someone were to invite us to teach them for six hours a day, three days a week, most of us would likely find this an impossible endeavor to fulfill on any continual basis.

GLBC addresses this through having well equipped teachers engage with hungry disciples. Students learn, and have most often moved on to a life of service with great joy and zeal wherever they find themselves. Many of these students have landed in our own congregation, continuing to serve and lead as beacons of light to the generations.

Once a year Great Lakes Bible College holds a graduation and promotion dinner. Here we gather for a meal, listen to an address, and show our support as we watch students receive recognition and award. To me, the meal itself isn't important, nor are the secular formalities that surround it, rather what I see God doing through the people involved.

I see the wonder of the church community as they work to help make it all possible. I see souls changed as hearts are restored, and voids filled while people experience God's warmth as they've never felt it before. I see people with ears to hear hearing, disciples having lived on milk enjoying solid food, and the sword of the spirit in action as lives are changed and mighty servants rise out of the ashes to help church families in the fight against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms.

If only we could see beyond our worldly surroundings as to what God is accomplishing through such a school and pull together to ensure this opportunity is around for generations to come. April 25th I encourage you to set your time aside and plan to attend the graduation dinner. Your presence will make a difference as we join together in this unique work for the Kingdom, and as we strive to fulfill Jesus' great commission to go into the world and make disciples!



Please join us for the

Graduation and Promotion Dinner

April 25, 2015

Speaker: **Don Shackelford**

Registration 5:00 pm

Dinner 5:30 pm

Location: Bingemans
425 Bingemans Centre Drive
Kitchener, ON N2B 3X7

\$30.00 per person
RSVP by April 13

for tickets:
Call: 289-696-2538 **or**
Email: administration@glbc.ca
or go to www.glbc.ca



Great Lakes
Bible College

Stakeholder Newsletter

April 2015

Familiarity Without Contempt

You may have heard that 'familiarity breeds contempt.' While especially true of contemptible things, it is an apt observation when society continually defaults to boredom. Let me suggest instead, that familiarity is necessary for a great many things, both good and right. Real love is not possible without it. Intimate relationships would forever be out of reach. Nor could we enter or dwell within the mind of God without becoming ever more familiar with his word. Familiarity with the word of God is vital to spiritual life and wellbeing. This is the kind of vitality that we seek to foster at Great Lakes Bible College. We attend first to the word of God, exploring better methods of knowing it and more effective ways of doing it.

This September, students have opportunity to engage in three separate textual studies. They are, Genesis -Exodus, Gospel of Luke and Romans-Galatians.

Genesis - Exodus looks beyond our material origin to a spiritual cause. It grounds theology in ontology, so that while matter is not eternal, there is someone who is. Genesis wastes no time moving from eternity to history, and to the downward path taken in the rush to get away from God. Together, they tell a story of sin and redemption, punishment and

grace, yet with God's Messiah just over the horizon.

The **Gospel of Luke** is the first of a two-part work authored by a missionary companion of the apostle Paul. Grounded in history, it traces the things that Jesus did and said as he carried out God's plan to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. Culminating in the hopeful days just after the resurrection, it anticipates the rule of God on earth both in and through his church.

Romans and Galatians complement each other well. Romans is panoramic where Galatians is up close and personal. At some point, overarching principles must be applied to individual cases and that is just what you can expect in this study. Both are from the pen of the Apostle Paul who spoke to the church in his day yet has left us with God's abiding word.

We offer **Old Testament Survey** on the premise that a high-level overview of the Old Testament is crucial to establishing one's bearings in preparation for more in-depth studies.

The goal of **Spiritual Leadership** is to study and apply the principals and practices of Biblical leaders, and especially those of Jesus himself. This course combines Biblical insight

Dave Knutson, Principal



with application to a variety of leadership situations.

The Work of the Minister connects a Biblical model of ministry with the practical reality of service in modern churches. It explores motivation for ministry, the scope of ministerial responsibility, along with the tools, skills and resources needed to minister effectively.

History of Christian Thought surveys the flow of Christian thought from the Apostolic Fathers to the close of the Reformation. It seeks to trace and highlight major developments in the formation of Christian doctrine and practice.

As a comparative study of six major faith systems, **World Religions** seeks to understand these alternative faiths in the context of their respective world-views.

How GLBC has Changed My Life (for the Better!)

"See that Bible over there? It is more than just a book: it's a lifestyle, and if you don't want to learn more about it, dive into it, embrace it, take into your very heart, then your faith will fail. If Jim and Dave have only taught me one thing (and they have taught me way more than that), it is that there is always so much more that we can learn. There is no other topic that is so interesting, long-lasting, unique, and powerful as that of Christ Jesus and His story.

Some people, myself included, thought that this would be little more than a "glorified" Bible study. We were so wrong. For every book of the Bible, there are a thousand commentaries on it with a new look at it. The work load is massive, yet reasonable, with term papers, exams, and reports in each class. Attending here, I have gained a new appreciation for the Old Testament, the Law and Prophets especially. This quickly led into a zeal for the text, the likes of which I never had fully realized before.

Perhaps what this has done in the most obvious and immediately usable way is forcing me into a role I never have had before: teaching. I want to be a minister when I finish, yet until I had started, I never really had taught anything. Since then, I have done so several times. It is an amazing feeling to share that new-found zeal and love for God and His Word with people. I cannot wait until next semester. And when the next round of classes comes about, I hope to see some of you there!"

Ron Sampson, full-time GLBC student

"My name is Charles Kippax from Woodstock, ON. I am a brother in the church in Stratford, ON. I have audited online courses for a number of years. This has changed my life by

giving me a greater knowledge of how much God loves us, and how His inspired Word has given a clear direction on how to live my life for Him. God wants a relationship with everyone which includes me. This relationship is shown throughout His Word and is consistent from the Old to the New Testament. I have changed from a book chapter verse person to seeing a bigger picture from the whole Word of God. I am not the same Christian I was five years ago because of a greater knowledge of how God wants me to behave as His child. I had to wrestle with this at times because I had to make changes in my life. I have a greater appreciation for the Old Testament and a deeper knowledge of the New. When I teach, I feel that I am much more prepared and as a result I have improved in my teaching. I have become excited again about God's Word and this has reinforced in me the thought that the Christian life is not a two hour a week box, but is a whole life commitment. I have met amazing fellow students younger and older and these brothers and sisters have been a big help to me as I see changes in their lives. This gives me hope for the future of the Church in Canada. My experience at the Bible College has been life-changing and I wonder why more brothers and sisters in this country are not taking advantage of GLBC in their walk with the Savior."

Charles Kippax, currently auditing Discipleship (online) taught by Jim Holston

"GLBC has given me opportunity to pursue a lifelong interest in the works of God and to deepen that relationship. Gaining academic credentials will open new doors to His service and equip me to better defend Christ to a world that is



increasingly hostile to moral living, truth and excellence."

Ken Burtch, currently full-time student on campus, in the past took course work part-time, online

"GLBC has been an incredible way for me to dive deeper into God's word with knowledgeable teachers who have a passion for the Kingdom. What a blessing it is to have the opportunity to enroll in such a wide variety of classes, and to therefore grow as a teacher, a parent and a member of Christ's body."

Bianca Azzoparde, currently auditing Theological Christian Education (for women) taught by Ashley Hibbard

"The courses I am taking with the school have greatly expanded my knowledge of the Scriptures. The ministry related courses broadened my understanding on the proper place of Christianity in the religious world and its uniqueness in the midst of all the confusion. The practical application of Christian principles is 'a lamp unto my feet' and the 'still voice in the cave'."

Moises Velasco, elder and full-time student.

Compiled by
Jim Holston

Leaving a Legacy with James S. Holston, former Director of Development for GLBC

The late Stephen Covey said that most of us want to "Live, Laugh, Love and Leave a Legacy." A part of "Leave a Legacy" is what you leave behind after you are gone. When contemplating a final bequest, what do you want your legacy to be?

Following are three points to consider as you contemplate your legacy and bequest. If you are younger or possess a young mindset, James 4:14 reminds us; it is never too early to think about your final bequest.

Note: The following is not (nor should it be taken) as legal or financial advice, and you should meet with a trusted lawyer and accountant to determine the best structure for your will.

First – Do not underestimate your ability to give. You may be thinking, "I'm not a millionaire and certainly won't die one!" Your donation, regardless of size, is an act of support. It may or may not be the largest gift you ever give. Yet, great or small, like Jesus and the widow (Mark 12:43), you will have contributed much for building the Church. With your final act, you are telling the world that you want to see the Kingdom expand! Your giving becomes an inspiration to others. In lieu of flowers, perhaps request a donation be given on your behalf to the Bible College. Multiply the blessing to impact the lives and eternal destinies of Canadians.

Note: Your giving may actually create a tax advantage, and in addition to helping the Bible College, help your heirs avoid burdensome estate taxes. However; specifics require professional financial advice.

Second – Determine how your gift is used. Will you leave your final gift to be used wisely by the board? Or do you desire to be more specific, such as contributing to the endowment fund for future students' scholarships? Or making provision for the full-time teachers required to train them? It's your bequest; you get to say how it will be used. Pray and consult with your family, trusted advisors, and people who know the Bible College. Proverbs 20 says "plans are established by counsel..." and Proverbs 24 tells us "... in abundance of counselors there is victory" (ESV). Once you make your decision, meet with your lawyer to make the necessary adjustments to your will.

Finally – Act now. Start by speaking to a loved one or loved ones about your intent and scheduling time with Art Ford to discuss your desires. However, you do not have to wait until you see Jesus to support GLBC! Write a simple note of encouragement to a teacher or student or board member. Better yet, treat yourself by taking a class online or in person.

The Bible College exists by God's power and grace through the hearts and generosity of people like you. There is no greater legacy than loving other people and helping them into a relationship with the Creator of the Universe.

With dozens of alumni across Canada and the US, next year celebrates the 20th year of GLBC's operations in the Waterloo Region. What a way to celebrate this anniversary and allow us to celebrate you!

"We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road ...
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey..."
–Zoe Group performed Steve Green - Find Us Faithful

GLBC Tributes October 16, 2014—March 15, 2015

In Memory of:

Kim Whitfield Brown
Morris & Goldie Whitehead

Eileen Dale
Marjorie Hoover
Evan & Barb Donley
Henry & Dorothy Boland
Steve & Becky Courson
Geoffrey & Doreen Ellis
John & Pat Sheppard

Merle Coulter
Randy & Lois Morrill

Roy Merritt
Paul & Margaret Birston

Harvey Parker
Wayne & Helen Parker

Harry & Edith Stevens
Wayne & Helen Parker

Lloyd Whitfield
Bernard & Shelda Hartung