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Message From The President

A Message From Mark



Mark Wessner

President, MB Seminary

If you were to describe your perfect Christmas season, what would it be like? Where would you be, who would be there, what would you do?

Stop! Don't just skip over those questions; reread them and answer them in your mind.

In the picture that you just painted in your imagination, where was Jesus? Was Jesus front and centre, on the periphery, or was he even there at all?

For the Magi, Jesus was the centre of everything: *When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11).*

For the shepherds, Jesus was the centre of everything: *"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child. (Luke 2:15-17)*

For Simeon, Jesus was the centre of everything: *"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32)*

We are so thankful to everyone who has given in support of MB Seminary this year. As you read stories about our students and faculty in the next few pages, know that everything we do, we do to reach *Canada and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Wessner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Wessner
President, MB Seminary

Looking Ahead in 2019

Launching Our New Online Campus

A New Online Campus

This year, we are very excited to lead the launch of the ACTS World Campus!

Our new online campus will allow students across the world to access the training and education they need to follow God's calling in their lives. By integrating online technology with theological teaching and community support, seminary education will now be available regardless of geographical location! We look forward to sharing more about the ACTS World Campus in the coming months.

Also coming up this

year: MB Seminary

is looking forward

to the growth and

development of

two new academic

partnerships. We

will be working with

both Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, and Horizon

Seminary in Saskatoon, to provide a rich learning

environment to more students who are pursuing

an education in ministry.



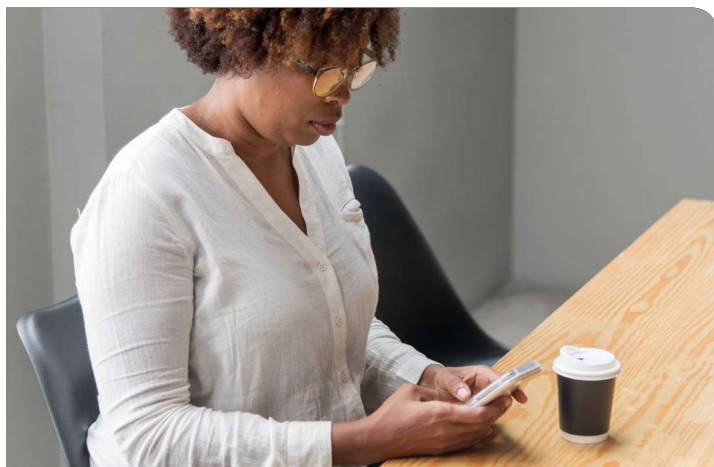
MinistryLift Update

A Pastoral Response to Legalized Cannabis

Now that cannabis is legal in Canada, pastors can anticipate new questions from the people they lead. Does the legality of cannabis change whether or not Christians choose to use it? How should pastors respond when they are asked for theological insights? MinistryLift has designed a video with responses to questions like these to help pastors equip their communities with wisdom.

The Impact of Screen Time on Children and Families

MinistryLift's next simulcast event, happening in February during the Renovated Parenting Conference series, will examine how screen time is impacting family dynamics. Parents will learn how screen time is affecting brain development and social relationships and also receive recommendations on how to implement internet safety. Thirteen churches hosted the previous simulcast event and we received positive feedback from many viewers.



These are just a few steps that we are taking to equip and support ministry leaders and church members throughout Canada and beyond—and it's all possible thanks to support from donors like you!



Sharing God's Greatest Gift

Paul's Seminary Story

As a young man, Paul felt a stirring in his heart for missions—a stirring which was first inspired by his parents who often opened their home to host missionaries from around the world. “Meeting these missionaries who had left what they were used to in order to share God’s love really pushed my view of what it meant to be a Christian,” says Paul. “I knew I wanted to live my life sharing the good news of Jesus.”

After attending Bible college, Paul felt called by God to pursue formal pastoral ministry. He took a position as associate pastor at Northside Church in Mission, BC. “At that time, the church was restarting with a small team. We grew from there,” says Paul. In this position, Paul was able to work in a wide range of roles, from youth ministry and music, to preaching and pastoral care. This unique experience led Paul to discover his passion for church planting, which also requires a great deal of adaptability and diversity. “I felt that God had wired me to look outward and see what could be for the church, to see new possibilities for growth,” says Paul.

With a desire to further develop his knowledge and skills, Paul enrolled in a Master of Arts in

Christian Studies at MB Seminary, with a focus on church planting.

“Being at MB Seminary was a special time in life when I could delve into the Scripture with renewed focus. To hear the viewpoints of peers and professors from different denominations, and wrestle through theological issues, was helpful for my faith and continued grasp of God’s sovereignty. It better equipped me to build his church and ultimately share God’s greatest gift and mission.”

In 2005, after graduating, Paul and his wife, Naomi, were led to Port Alberni as church planters. This was the beginning of an intense 9-year period of full commitment to service and leadership. “We were working full-on for almost a decade. There are unique expectations, challenges, pressures, and opportunities that come with being a church planter. At the end of this experience, we were ready for a time of rest,” says Paul. They moved to Langley and took two years to enjoy being ministered to. “It was a gift from God to take time to find healing. We were thankful for the opportunity to sit back, to learn and to listen to God through the ministry of an

established church,” says Paul.

“I’ve come to realize that my strength has to come from Jesus. More and more it’s become clear that I can only share with my congregation and my neighbours what Christ has taught me and poured into me. It requires me to abide more and more in him, and Christ fills me with his power, love, and affirmation.”

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taught me and poured into me.”
— Paul

Today, Paul is the lead pastor at Culloden Church in Vancouver, BC. His passion continues to be for missions. “Living in such a diverse city, it feels like the entire world is now at our doorstep. No matter where people come from, they are searching for hope and community,” says Paul, “and Christmas is a time when people are curious. They’re searching for meaning in their lives and wondering what the gospel is all about.”

This Christmas, Culloden Church is looking forward to hosting its Christmas Outreach Banquet, where the congregation invites friends, family, and neighbours to enjoy a big turkey dinner, lively music and an inspiring message. They also participate in providing Christmas hampers to families in need in their community. “We don’t just want to have a great Sunday service, we want to provide practical care and support in the community. We want to make sure that anyone who is seeking out God’s gift of truth, hope, and the renewal of Jesus, can find it.”



Paul followed his calling to become a church planter and enrolled in a Master of Arts in Christian Studies at MB Seminary.



Seminary helped equip Paul to build the church, and ultimately to share God’s greatest gift and mission, the good news of Jesus.

Please give today to support our leaders of tomorrow!

[MBSEMINARY.CA/DONATE](https://mbseminary.ca/donate)



Bringing Chaplaincy Home

Program Update from Gloria Woodland

Chaplaincy started as a Christian tradition but today, surprisingly, there are only two Christian institutions in Canada offering chaplaincy training—and MB Seminary (through ACTS) is one of them.

“I believe chaplaincy belongs in seminaries because it’s rooted in our theology. It’s a way that we can share the living witness.”
— Gloria

Five years ago, we started developing a chaplaincy specialization, and now offer foundational chaplaincy training for students in a variety of caring professions, such as pastoral counselling, grief counselling and crisis intervention. I believe chaplaincy belongs in seminaries because it’s rooted in our theology. It’s a way that we can share the living witness.

One of the things I’m most excited about at MB Seminary right now is that we are equipping those who might not be pursuing a full degree, but who are seeking to become equipped for faithful ministry in their community. Every student who

engages in the chaplaincy specialization gains a strong biblical and theological foundation, and also puts their learning into action through a supervised practicum. Students learn how to create adaptable spiritual care plans so that they can bring the love of God to secular places like prisons, hospitals, schools, and universities.

I feel blessed to see our students going into the world to deliver the message that we have a God who cares, we have a God who is active in everybody’s life. Many of our graduates continue to seek support as they face ethical dilemmas or just need a listening ear. No matter what, we as chaplains are called to come alongside those we serve and demonstrate the compassion of Jesus Christ. It is inspiring to see our students and graduates cultivate their spiritual maturity and theological wisdom to provide compassionate listening and immediate support to people in crisis.

To learn more about our Chaplaincy program, visit **MBSEMINARY.CA/DONATE** or call **(604)-513-2133**

Furthering the Mission

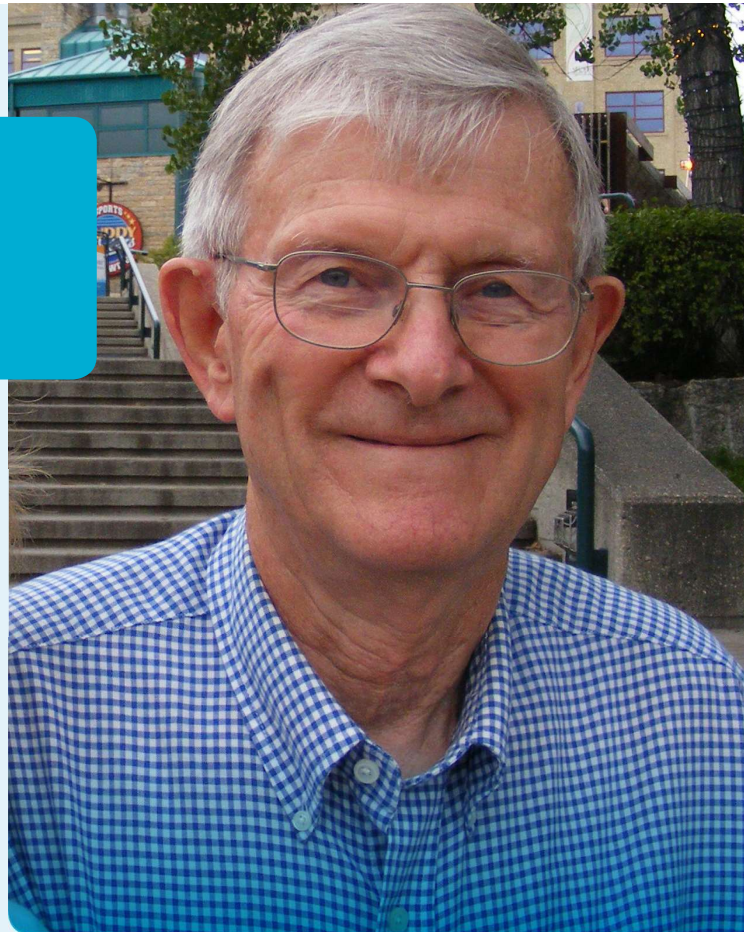
Harold's Story of Giving

Harold Jantz, from Winnipeg Manitoba, has devoted his life to sharing the good news. For 20 years, he worked as editor and writer for the MB Herald (1964 to 1985), and went on to create and write for the publication ChristianWeek, for the next 10 years. Harold technically retired in the late 1990's, but hasn't slowed down, continuing to write and publish books on Mennonite history and leadership, and work as an editorial consultant.

"My hope is that I can support leaders to get the training they need to do God's work and be a witness within the world."

— Harold

A strong desire to share God's blessings is woven throughout Harold's entire life. He and his wife, Neoma, make a strong effort to give back in any way they can. "We certainly do quite a bit of thinking at the end of the year about how we want to contribute to different ministries and causes," says Harold. "We also like to find ways



Harold has also been a dedicated supporter of MB Seminary for many years.

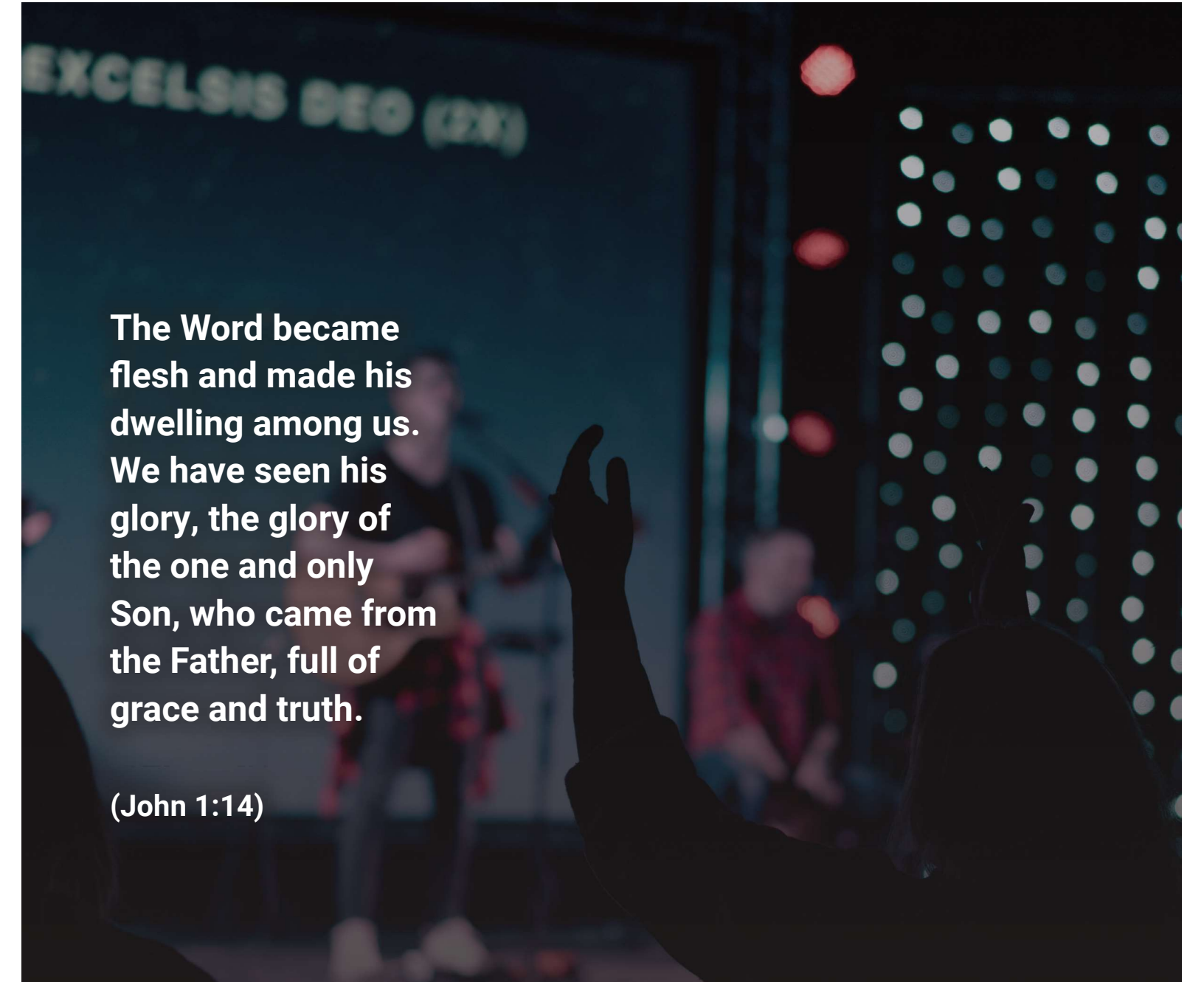
to bless and care for seniors. My wife and I are both around the 80 mark, so we're not young people any more, but we do things that can be an encouragement to other seniors."

Harold has also been a dedicated supporter of MB Seminary for as long as he's known about its existence. "Anything we can do to further the mission of God is extremely important," says Harold. "We live in a difficult time, and a very conflicted world. My hope is that I can support leaders to get the training they need to do God's work and be a witness within the world."



Please give today to support our leaders of tomorrow!

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The Word became
flesh and made his
dwelling among us.
We have seen his
glory, the glory of
the one and only
Son, who came from
the Father, full of
grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

Your support helps educate and equip
men and women to share the gospel in
Canada and beyond. If you'd like to support
our church leaders this Christmas, visit:
[MBSEMINARY.CA/DONATE](https://mbseminary.ca/donate)