

CONNECCION SUMMER 2019

Building Bridges Between Nations: Amanda's Story Thank You for Supporting our Grads!



FROM THE PRESIDENT A Message From Mark



Mark Wessner President, MB Seminary

It has been a busy few months at MB Seminary, and I'm thrilled to share some new developments with you!

Before I do that, I want to say thank you to all of our supporters. Your generosity has been instrumental in helping many men and women become dedicated and passionate followers of Jesus. Our financial needs are still great, which means there will be upcoming invitations to support MB Seminary.

In January, we took a big step forward with the official launch of the ACTS World Campus. This innovative online-campus makes ministry education accessible around the world and is quickly becoming a vibrant community of learners and mentors who share a passion for loving and serving God.

On page 4, you'll read about how one of our current students, Amanda, is putting her training to work. Her story is just one example of the many amazing leaders that you have helped equip!

We have also started offering church-based graduate courses in Ontario, partnering with Tyndale Seminary, and in Saskatchewan later this year, partnering with Horizon Seminary.

One of the best parts of my job is being part of a ministry that embraces innovation and change. This flexibility supports a more effective mission and allows us to see our churches and leaders thrive in their ministry contexts.

Looking ahead, I am excited to watch MB Seminary continue to extend our reach and find new ways to educate and equip men and women throughout Canada. Your support along the way means so much.

I am grateful to all of our generous supporters! Thank you for catching the vision—for seeing the difference that leadership and theological training makes for our churches, ministries, and leaders.

Sincerely,

Mark Wessner President, MB Seminary

HOW WE WORK

Flexible Education Equips More Leaders

At MB Seminary, we are passionate about educating and equipping ministry leaders to share the transformative power of Jesus' love with the world—and sometimes that means taking an unconventional route. So often, we meet pastors and church members who are looking to further their ministry education but are unsure of what program might work with their specific circumstances.

That's why we strive to accommodate a variety of needs by offering a broad spectrum of training programs, both on campus and remotely. We are always happy to start a conversation and find the best option to support a person's ministry training goals. If they can't come to us, we'll go to them!



Graduate Training on Campus

MB Seminary's graduate programs and leadership development programs support healthy, vibrant church communities by training biblically articulate, Spirit-led, and mission-focused pastors and leaders. Our graduate theological programs (offered in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario) provide a diverse range of courses to prepare men and women for effective leadership and ministry.

Remote Graduate Training

Studying on campus is not feasible for everyone who wishes to further their ministry education, and the option to study remotely can be a huge relief. MB Seminary now offers formal, ministry education in partnership with teaching churches across Canada, and also through the new ACTS World Campus. Both our on-site and online graduate-level training options provide students with flexible programs that allow them to study no matter where they live.

Professional Development

In addition to graduate training, MB Seminary now offers formal ministry education in partnership with teaching churches across Canada. Whether a church leadership team would like to refresh their biblical knowledge with a weekend course, or a pastor would like to host a workshop event for their congregation, our church-based programs provide resources that help address key theological and practical topics relevant to ministry in Canada today.

Together, we can equip more men and women to lead the Church in reaching Canada and the world with the good news of Jesus Christ!



Building Bridges Between Nations Amanda's Story

From the Philippines and Cambodia to Morocco and Lithuania—Amanda* has travelled around the world a few times over, driven by her desire for social justice and a mission to share God's love. Those closest to Amanda would describe her as an adventurer who loves Jesus deeply and is passionate about seeing people find hope, and we would say the same!

Amanda grew up in a multicultural church plant and felt God's calling to missions at an early age. "I knew my future would include being a 'bridge builder' between nations," says Amanda.

After completing a degree in International Development at Simon Fraser University, Amanda went on to work with Food for the Hungry and joined Multiply (formerly 'MB Mission') in 2014. Her missions work has included church planting, working with immigrants and refugees, facilitating peace camps for diverse groups, and distributing biblical literature and hosting Alpha courses in countries where Christianity is either prohibited or not deemed acceptable.

"I travel to a lot of closed countries and meet many believers who have to keep their faith a secret. In some cases, they could be killed by their families if discovered," says Amanda. "People in these places really struggle to get their hands on biblical teachings because it's so unsafe to do so."

After meeting many people who were thirsty for biblical knowledge, Amanda wanted to do more. "I felt God press on my heart to pursue further theological training. I personally have the freedom to go to school and to take classes. I can share that learning with others who don't have access." In 2014, Amanda enrolled in MB Seminary's Diploma program. With the help of flexible study options, she has been able to continue her missions work while taking classes online and on campus.

"MB Seminary has become a very supportive community for me," says Amanda. "I love seeing people from different ministry areas come together to learn, and then go back into the world to serve in our various roles. It's a beautiful picture of how the body of Christ can function."

"I travel to a lot of closed countries and meet many believers who have to keep their faith a secret. In some cases, they could be killed by their families if discovered."

- Amanda MB Seminary Student

As Amanda continues to passionately follow God's path, she is preparing to step into the unknown this summer. "I am entering into a time of transition. I feel God is calling me into a new season, but he has not yet revealed what it is."

Faithful support from donors like you helps equip and educate leaders like Amanda. Thank you for supporting passionate men and women who are following God's calling in their lives.

*The subject's name has been changed to protect her identity as she continues to travel to closed countries for missions work.







If you'd like to hear more stories and updates, sign up for our email list at MBSEMINARY.CA! GRADUATION

Thank You for Supporting our Grads!

Alumni and recent grads share what seminary has meant to them...

When men and women follow God's path, our churches benefit from the teachings of well-equipped, dedicated leaders. Your generous gifts supported our graduates of 2018/19 and will pave the way for the class of 2019/20. Thank you so much for your contributions.



"It is a gift to watch students transform as they study scripture and learn how to bring that knowledge to others. I see their confidence grow, as well as their passion for ministry."

Pierre Gilbert Associate Dean (Winnipeg), Associate Professor of Bible and Theology

"For me, the biggest takeaway from seminary has been my own personal growth. I have felt so supported in integrating my faith and theology with my life. It's been a really challenging experience for me, and I feel like I've grown a lot."

Jacquie Boschman Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy, Class of 2019

"I managed to work full time while completing my certificate. It was intense, but one of the best things was that I could take what I was learning and apply it to my job. Seminary gave me the tools I need to help our young adults grapple with some hard theological questions."

Janessa Nayler-Giesbrecht

Certificate in Graduate Studies Class of 2016

"At seminary, I was challenged to look at myself and my faith more closely. It was a gift to learn from professors who are steeped in God's word and have years of ministry experience—to get the perspective of those who have run the race before me."

Dave Heinrichs

Master of Arts, Christian Studies Class of 2018

"The deep learning and fellowship at MB Seminary have meant so much to me. I'd like to say a heartfelt thank-you to the faculty and everyone at seminary. Now, I hope to bring my new knowledge back to Paraguay and teach in the Bible college that I studied at before."

Fernando Abdala

Master of Theological Studies 2nd Year Student

"When I needed advice or was seeking direction and prayer, I was grateful to be able to call on my colleagues and professors. I really appreciated this sense of community, which continues to be a key source of support in my development and growth as a ministry leader."

Craig Thiessen

Master of Arts, Christian Studies Master of Divinity Class of 2018





Gearing Up for the 2019/2020 School Year

It has been an exciting year at MB Seminary, and this season of growth and development continues! Even in the summer months, there is much work to be done. We are busy planning and developing our theological and leadership training programs so that we can equip even more future church leaders around the world.

As we prepare to welcome new and returning students this fall, it is as evident as ever—we could not do this without you. On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff at MB Seminary, we want to say thank you to each one of our amazing supporters. Thank you for helping to build a healthy, thriving church body for years to come. Thank you for joining us for another year of effective, transformative theological education.

Our faculty is already looking forward to our next academic year! We hope we can rely on your continued support to develop the next generation of church leaders in our community.



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