

MB SEMINARY NEWSLETTER

# CONNECT

WINTER 2019



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REPORT  
EDITION

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# Message from the President



**Mark Wessner**

*President, MB Seminary*

## MB SEMINARY BY THE NUMBERS

**1,800** participants in  
workshops/training

**300** students taught by  
MB faculty

**208** International  
leaders in Missional  
Leadership Training

Over **100** students  
enrolled

**85** in BC

**10** in Manitoba

**13** in Ontario

### Thank You for a Year of Strategic Expansion

In this 2018/2019 Annual Report Edition of Connect, I look forward to sharing how your gifts have been put to use. As you read our stories, updates, and financial report, please know that everything was possible because of amazing donors like you!

### We Reached More Students Than Ever in 2018/19

This year, overall national enrolment increased to over 100 students, and our faculty taught over 300 students through academic partnerships. Over 1,800 learners participated in non-credit training events. Our Missional Leadership Training partnership with Multiply was launched in the fall of 2018, and now has 200+ students. The ACTS World Campus (see page 3) has grown rapidly since its launch and enrolment numbers continue to rise. Also, MB Seminary's first church-based courses were offered in partnership with Tyndale Seminary in Ontario.

### Financial Challenges Met With Overwhelming Generosity

As you may have heard, MB Seminary has faced financial difficulties and in the spring of 2019 we had to make a number of staff and faculty cuts. No sooner had the decision been made to release two valued faculty members, when a group of loyal donors stepped up and pledged a two-year donation of \$250,000 for each year. This allowed us to rehire our faculty members and is helping create short-term stability in this time of growth. God is good.

### Still a Great Need for Ongoing Financial Support

There is still great need for increased ongoing financial support for the Seminary to avoid such a situation in the future. Today, however, please join us in thanking God for stirring vision, and for generous hearts throughout Canada! We look forward to continuing to work with our MB family to provide ministry leadership education and training in the years to come.

### Looking Forward to a Strategic Future

Looking ahead, I am excited about our strategic movement to become more integrated with churches in Canada and around the world. As we come alongside ministry leaders through traditional programs and innovative initiatives, many more lives will be changed through the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Thank you to everyone who has given so generously!

Mark Wessner  
*President, MB Seminary*



# Opening Doors to Seminary Education

## ACTS World Campus Update

### From 6 to 24 Courses in Just One Year

MB Seminary was thrilled to head up the launch of the ACTS World Campus (AWC) in January 2019. Since its launch, AWC has gone from offering six courses via our online campus, to offering 24 fully developed courses, with an additional six set to be developed this fall! And into those courses, we have already welcomed more than

*"I am far more knowledgeable about God and myself because of the coursework and this had made a tangible difference in my work as a pastor."*

—Dave Dixon

*"ACTS World Campus has allowed me to work in full-time ministry and study during a busy summer."*

—Priscilla Kim

100 students, and enrolment numbers continue to surpass our expectations.

### AWC Makes Ministry Learning Borderless

Over the course of the year, it has become increasingly clear how important online ministry education is. For so many people who feel God's call to ministry, attending seminary can be next to impossible—potential students may be held back by geographical barriers, work obligations, or scheduling conflicts.

AWC is making education borderless by providing an online education that can be accessed from anywhere. Students can now engage in graduate-level learning from their living room, local café or wherever they choose. Not only that, but they can earn an MA degree in just two years.

### Students Learning While Serving

AWC courses are designed to help students apply what they learn directly into their work, ministry and community. We truly value helping students to learn in the context to which they are currently serving, all while building deeper engagement on how the subject intersects with their ministries through online, forum-based communities in each class.

### Spreading the Gospel Through Technology, Teaching, Community

By integrating teaching, technology and a global community, AWC is allowing more people to gain ministry skills than ever before. Men and women who are seeking a stronger theological foundation for a life in ministry are now able to pursue their dreams.

**We are continuing to see higher enrollment numbers than expected. Please give to support the growing ACTS World Campus!**



## *Growing into Leadership*

### Matt's Seminary Story

Matt Ewert grew up in farm country in the Fraser Valley, attending an MB church. Like many of his peers, he decided to attend Bible college right out of high school. **Little did he know that this decision would set him on a 20-year ministry path, to eventually become a lead pastor and part-time seminary student.**

After graduating from Bible college, Matt got his first ministry job at his home church. *"They created a lot of room for us to develop as leaders. It was not about perfection, but rather, allowing people to try and serve,"* says Matt.

*"As a young leader, I was constantly learning something new. Sometimes I experienced success and sometimes failure, but it allowed me to grow in my faith and it lit a fire in me to the point that I knew ministry was my calling."*

Over the years, Matt took on different positions at his church, eventually becoming

lead pastor. **At this point, he felt he needed a foundation of deeper knowledge to better lead his congregation.**

Attending seminary seemed like a natural next step, but Matt also felt called to stay in the position he was in. He was unsure how he could juggle both. **When he discovered that MB Seminary offers multiple study options, everything fell into place.** *"The fact that I could fit seminary into the context of my life without having to quit my job was the determining factor."*

In 2017, Matt enrolled in the Master of Theology program, with a focus on the Old Testament. As a part-time student, he has been able to continue pastoring full-time, which has created a unique dynamic in his life.

*"It's uncanny the number of times that something I'm learning in class ties in directly with something I'm learning or teaching at church,"* says Matt.

**“I want to say thank you to the donors! Because of your support, I am a better leader and teacher, and I am better equipped to share Jesus.”**

— Matt  
MB Seminary Student

“My education and my practical vocation have become so interconnected that I now think of them as one experience, and I deeply appreciate that.”

**Seminary has also provided Matt with a place to delve deeper into his faith.** *“They’ve created a safety here that allows us to really explore our thoughts and ideas,” says Matt. “I feel invited to ask questions and think beyond what I thought before. There is a richness and a real connection.”*

As a working pastor, Matt has already experienced the broad reach this learning can have. *“It’s not just about the experience in the moment while we’re students, but also what it leaves us with moving forward,” says Matt. “MB Seminary is helping leaders strengthen their ability to think critically and hone their tools to work through issues as they come up in life. Those are skills we can use for the rest of our lives.”*

**“I want to say thank you to the donors! Because of your support, I am a better leader and teacher, and I am better equipped to share Jesus.”**

In the coming year, Matt is looking forward to bringing his knowledge to those he serves. *“I am excited to continue engaging in classes and seeing*



As a full-time pastor and part-time student, Matt is able to share his knowledge and learning with his congregation, in real-time.

*how they affect my ministry,” says Matt. “I want to share what I am learning about God in the hopes that it will bring change or inspiration to someone else, as it has to me.”*

Support from donors like you helps equip and educate leaders like Matt. As we enter another year, we hope you will join us once again so that more men and women can follow God’s calling in their lives.

**You can equip more students like Matt to share God’s love.  
Please give today.**

# A Year in Review

## 2018/2019 Financials

It has been an exciting year of ministry growth at MB Seminary, thanks to support from all of our generous donors! The work we do is only possible with your help and we are committed to maximizing the impact of your gift.

That's why we have made every effort to create a financial framework that is accessible and transparent, reflects high financial standards, and prioritizes the importance of a balanced budget. All of our Audited Financial Statements since 2011/12 continue to be available online at [www.mbseminary.ca/about-us/financial-statements](http://www.mbseminary.ca/about-us/financial-statements)

Your continued support enables us to come alongside men and women to educate, equip, and disciple them for life and ministry centred on Jesus and the Bible. Thank you for an amazing year!

*"Unfortunately, the audited 2018/19 financial statements were not available by the time of printing. They will be posted online at [www.mbseminary.ca/about-us/financial-statements](http://www.mbseminary.ca/about-us/financial-statements) as soon as they are available."*

### ENROLLMENT NUMBERS BY PROVINCE

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA:

75 students in 2016/17

68 students in 2017/18

85 students in 2018/19

#### MANITOBA:

14 students in 2016/17

11 students in 2017/18

10 students in 2018/19

#### ONTARIO:

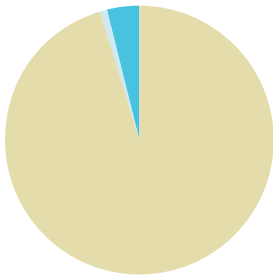
0 students in 2016/17

0 students in 2017/18

13 students in 2018/19



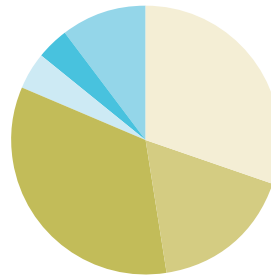
### Financial Aid



2018/2019

	<b>2018/2019</b>
● FINANCIAL AID - ACTS	\$27,610
● BENEVOLENCE	\$1,121
● FINANCIAL AID - CMU	\$192

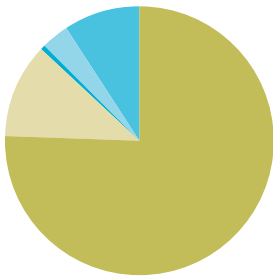
### Revenue Streams



2018/2019

	<b>2018/2019</b>
● TUITION	\$382,015
● GENERAL DONATIONS	\$343,215
● CHURCH DONATIONS	\$197,848
● INVESTMENTS & MISC	\$116,272
● CONFERENCE - CCMBC	\$52,148
● CONFERENCE - MBCM	\$41,152

### Cost of Equipping and Educating



2018/2019

	<b>2018/2019</b>
● ACTS	\$1,016,712
● CMU	\$153,856
● EQUIPPING	\$122,179
● OTHER GRADUATE LEVEL EDUCATION	\$42,600
● TYNDALE	\$7,084

### 2018/2019 IN SIX NUMBERS

<b>100+</b> Students enrolled with MB Seminary	<b>300+</b> Students taught by MB Seminary faculty
<b>208</b> International leaders in Missional Leadership Training	<b>1,800</b> Participants in seminars, workshops, retreats, and training
<b>33</b> Percent of expenses that tuition covers	<b>4</b> Academic partnerships across Canada

# What Inspires Me to Give

From Donna Vollet

*Board Member, Chair of the Governance Committee, Vice-chair of the Seminary Board*

## From Board Member to Donor

When I was asked to serve as a member of the MB Seminary board in 2015, I realized that I had a lot to learn about seminary! I'd always been aware that the seminary existed but I thought of it more traditionally as a place where people go to study full-time to become pastors. After learning about everything they are doing, it was an easy decision to lend my support both as a board member and a donor.

## Inspired by Leaders Being Developed Globally and Locally

I have been particularly inspired to see all of the ways that MB Seminary is removing barriers to ministry training. Students can now take classes part-time while they continue to work in ministry. Courses are accessible from anywhere in the world through the online campus. And leaders are being developed globally and in the local church.

Looking back at my own life and the ministry roles I've held, I wish I had known more about the resources available through MB Seminary—instead I learned a lot through trial & error, plus a whole lot of prayer!



Donna was inspired to give after learning about MB Seminary's borderless ministry education options.

## Blessing Others As You Are Blessed

I deeply believe in what MB Seminary is doing. That's why I always encourage people to take the time to find out more and become a partner. For me, it was a natural decision to give my support financially. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways. Why shouldn't I share the blessing with others?

It has been amazing to be part of this journey over the past 4 years, and I am excited to see what the future holds!

If you would like to learn more about how you can support MB Seminary, visit [mbseminary.ca](http://mbseminary.ca)



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