

CLBI President's Report - Pastor Dean Rostad

In CLBI's 86-year history there have been many beautiful chapters of ministry. One way God shaped those chapters was through the CLBI staff. This past year some staff finished their chapter of service at the school. Join me in praising God for the blessings that came through Colin Hamm, Kelsey Mailer, Jeremy Osterwalder, and Dean Scrivens in their time at CLBI. May God bless these beautiful people in the next chapter of their service to God.

This past summer God revealed the colourful individuals He will be working through to brighten the canvas of CLBI's next chapter. Praise God for those who have responded to God's invitation to serve: Cullen Halvorson (Communications and Admissions Director), Pastor Ted Hill (Program Director), Hilary Kemp (Outdoor Ministry Director) and Tamara MacInnis (IMPACT Director). Mark Hagen, who is not new on staff, has shifted over to be our Director of Operations and Worship. Now that this new team is in place, it has been a joy watching God the master potter and painter help everyone on this team find their role in discipling at CLBI.

A Deep Question to Answer

When I was in England in 2013, an image that made a lasting impact on me was seeing trees growing out of an old church building. Unfortunately, I believe that in the not so distant future, we will witness scenes like this in Canada.



In my travels and visits with church leaders around North America, I have seen too many churches that cannot find or afford a pastor, and many are wondering how much longer their church will be around. Yes, some churches are thriving, but no denomination has been immune to the challenges of ministering in our increasingly secular culture. A note that I am sad to add is that in Canada the Lutheran church has especially taken a beating from the devil and his lies in the past 20 years.

The question the Holy Spirit keeps bringing to my mind is: "In this time in history, what type of disciple is Jesus calling us to form at CLBI?" What type of disciple is needed to shape thriving churches and

ministries that will be able to adapt to making disciples in this land?

I am praying that God will use CLBI (and our churches) to shape disciples who approach life in North America the same way cross-cultural missionaries do. As missionaries love the people around them through everyday life, the Spirit reveals how their unbelieving friends serve gods (idols) that can never give them what they truly need. Then through relationship and gospel proclamation, people are introduced to Jesus, the living water that meets their deepest thirst. I believe that this type of "missionary disciple" is what the Spirit of God is desiring to equip and send out through CLBI.

Three Key Objectives

1- Stronger Discipleship

As the Holy Spirit leads CLBI to become a stronger discipling movement, here are some adjustments that have been made to shift the missional trajectory of CLBI:

Time Alone with God and the Role of the Huddle

Each weekday from 10-10:30 am is known as "Time Alone with God" (TAG Time). This is a time when life on the CLBI campus slows down, takes a deep breath and waits upon God. On Tuesday mornings every student is in a Huddle group to process in community how God is shaping them. Huddles typically have four students and one staff member. In previous years the "D-group" was the primary intimate discipling vehicle at CLBI. This has shifted to the Huddle. For most students, their one-on-one leader is also their Huddle leader. I have loved hearing my Huddle support and pour into each other as they process the power of the life-changing gospel.

Watering Hole Ministry

Just as Jesus met the woman at the well (John 4), our second year students are developing their own watering hole ministry. Some of them are helping with a community children's program or playing on a community hockey team. Pray for these students as they are salt and light in the Camrose community.

WWOOCI - Willing Worker On Our Campus Initiative

Yes, this program with its crazy Star Wars themed name is only two months old, but it is already producing amazing fruit. This year we invited six recent alumni to be part-time staff members at CLBI. They are paid for 10 hours a week and then charged for room and board resulting in a revenue neutral program. Our six WWOOCI's help out with items such as program development, service practicums, food services, technological needs, miscellaneous jobs around campus, social media daily prayers, driving instructors to the airport, youth ministry, recruitment trips and team leaders for our IMPACT trips. Each WWOOCI is also in a weekly staff-led Huddle to encourage them in their growth as a disciple. Having these six amazing WWOOCI's living in the dorms also helps to raise the maturity level (which is important sometimes). They also come along students to build community and be an example of what a young adult believer can look like. Personally, I know that there are times when words that come from a WWOOCI can have a much greater impact than if they come from me (I am more of a dad figure and they are more of a cool older sibling).

Moving from D-groups to Missional Communities

For the past 17 years, Wednesday nights at CLBI have been known as D-group nights (Discipleship Group). The most radical change in our program is saying farewell to the title D-group and embracing the title MC night (Missional Community). For the most part the content of the night doesn't look that different (balancing UP, IN and OUT nights). The trajectory shift comes in being intentional with helping students plan outreach nights that are relationally connected to their service practicum or watering hole ministry. Now instead of giving out cookies to random strangers on an outreach night, the MC groups will go and connect with people they have been working with each week. Prayer times at the MC also will frequent focusing on people students are ministering to. One of the signs that will show that we are on track is when one someone from Camrose comes to know Christ through our missional communities and then is discipled by our students. If this doesn't happen, I believe that we are not being obedient to God's calling for CLBI.

2 - Fully Funded and Sustainable

Thank you all for your generous support of CLBI. Without the the amazing support base of CLBI, the school would not exist. This past year God provided great donors and a thrifty and creative staff to turn what started out as a \$200,000 deficit into a \$61,000 surplus, and that is nothing short of a miracle. Here

are some of the initiatives that we are praying that God will use to create a fully funded and sustainable bible school for future generations:

Monthly Automatic Giving

In the past year God has grown CLBI's automatic monthly giving from \$1,100 a month to \$2,650. The long-term goal is to increase this amount to \$8,333 a month (\$100,000 a year). If the Spirit is prompting you to give in this way, please contact the office or visit clbi.edu/give.

Partnership with WMPL

All of the LBI schools have had a long history of working together with the World Mission Prayer League. This past year WMPL Canada decided to provide one of their workers to be CLBI's IMPACT Director - Tamara MacInnis. The long-term partnership of CLBI and WMPL have and will continue to yield excellent fruit.



ARC Shelter

This past summer the CLBI courtyard received a massive overhaul to prepare it for the construction of the Annelise Rust Campfire Shelter (The ARC Shelter). The purpose of this beautiful timber frame structure is to bring students together, provide an outdoor space for community events and attract summer guest groups. It is the perfect place for your next family reunion or wedding.

Retreat Centre Planning

The CLBI facility sits mainly empty from May to August. Over the next few years, here are key projects that will make CLBI an attractive and functional retreat centre:

Completion of the ARC Shelter - Once we see that the budget is on track to be met, we will start fundraising to build the \$10,000 stone fireplace to complete the structure. Watch the Crossroads for news of a dedication event for May of 2019.

Overhauling Rooms in the Vinge Centre - This winter (as long as the budget is on track), we have plans to transform one of the rooms on the top floor of Vinge (guys dorm) to have two gorgeous sets of bunk beds. One of the bunks will have a double bed on the bottom. This design will work for students as well as families in the summer months. This finished room will be a show room to inspire individuals, families or churches to sponsor a room to complete.

Vinge Top Floor Bathroom - Plans are in place, but we are waiting on the right timing and budget to complete this overhaul. The plan is to create two bathrooms on the top floor of Vinge so that there can be a men's and women's available for guest groups.

The New Shop - Currently there are donor specific funds set aside to complete the shop. We are currently in the designing stage and hope to build this shop in the summer of 2019.

Friends of CLBI Dessert Nights

Watch the Crossroads for a Friends of CLBI Dessert night coming to a location near you in 2019. This will be an opportunity to connect with our support base and introduce new people to the ministry of CLBI. If you are interested in helping to host an event in your area email drostad@clbi.edu.

3 - Healthy Networks

CLBI has been blessed with a solid theological foundation through its Lutheran roots. I love to see how Jesus is continuing to transform lives through CLBI's bold proclamation of the gospel.

Kingdom Diversity

Many of the historic sources of students for CLBI are drying up. Many churches are grieving the lack of young people in their churches yet are still powerful prayers and supporters of CLBI. It is vital that we keep a strong connection to these churches. The Covenant church, the Church of God and the Baptist church in Alberta are grieving the loss of their denominational schools in the past 20 years. As I visit with congregations and share the good fruit God is producing at CLBI, there is a longing for their young people to be grounded in the gospel and prepared for a life of ministry. Pray that God will continue to bless these new relationships and bless the CLBI staff with wisdom as we make kingdom disciples while being faithful to our rich theological identity.

Minnesota is still Lutheran land

This past month Mackenzie Jack (one of our WWOOCI's) and Maren Engen (a recent alumni) traveled to Minnesota on a connecting trip. Through youth events and coffee times they were able to make many new connections with Lutherans who are still grieving the loss of the LBI movement in the USA. I love this quote from a mom they met: "If I would have known that CLBI existed I would have sent my children." It is amazing to know that even though we have had many students from the USA in recent years, there are still many that do not know of CLBI. Pray for God's blessing on these new connections.

In Conclusion

Jesus states in Luke 10:2-3 "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves." Friends of CLBI, hear the call to petition God to send out equipped workers to bring in the harvest. As we and others respond to this invitation, the road ahead will not be easy, but it is the only one that makes sense to the believer. If I am a follower of Jesus, then I will follow Jesus wherever He leads me. Jesus is building His church and His call to us is to focus on making disciples. Let us pour into that calling with great enthusiasm, and love and live with great curiosity as to how God will shape our world through these disciples.

