

CROSS ROADS

CLBI Newsletter

2024
SPRING
ISSUE

V. 32 NO. 2
APR-JUN 2024



clbi.edu

upcoming events



APR 27

CLBI GRADUATION

10:00am at Messiah Lutheran Church (4810 50 Street, Camrose)

All are welcome for lunch at CLBI following the ceremony.

Please RSVP to info@clbi.edu or 780-672-4454.

MAY 31 - JUN 2

72 GATHERING

Along with guest speaker, Pastor Greg Finke, join us for an impactful weekend aimed at equipping young adults with the tools and skills to live a life as a genuine disciple of Jesus.

Register at clbi.edu/events.

For more info, contact info@clbi.edu or 780-672-4454.

For more info on upcoming events around CLBI, check out **clbi.edu/events** or call the CLBI Office at **780-672-4454**.

from the president

Pastor Dean Rostad
CLBI President



"Now what?"

That is the question I am praying God will help us answer. You see, CLBI not only exists to impart

excellent biblical knowledge and help people make lifelong friends, but also to enable students to take part in the transformative teachings and lifestyle of Jesus.

In recent years, a number of our CLBI alumni have shared that they struggle with reaching their unsaved friends and neighbors. This challenge is not new, but when we consider the global trend of people turning away from the church, believers must be able to live as gospel workers in their everyday lives. We read that in Luke 10, Jesus did just that; he prepared and equipped his followers with the skills, experience, and encouragement needed to join him in what He was *already* doing, and sent out 72 of them to represent Him in various communities. Fast forward to today and you will find that much has changed since the sending out of the 72. But the good news? Jesus is still in the business of transforming hearts, and the mission remains the same: see and respond to the everyday opportunities Jesus is placing in your path. Consider this your invitation.

On May 31-June 2, 2024, we will be hosting a retreat focused on helping young adults (aged 18-30) address the real-life challenges of living a life on

mission with Jesus. This event will be led by guest speaker, pastor, and author, Pastor Greg Finke.



Young Adults Retreat

May 31 - June 2, 2024 at CLBI (\$25 Registration)*



Pastor Greg comes to us all the way from League City, Texas, and is the founder of Dwelling 1:14, a non-profit ministry connecting Jesus-followers

for a missional movement in North America. His book "Joining Jesus on His Mission"* helps move people from merely *thinking* about being everyday missionaries to *launching*, and also provides insights into where Jesus is at work and how to join Him.



To make this event as accessible as possible (\$25 per person), we need your help. **Please pray that God will raise 10 donors to give \$500 each to cover the costs** (donors can include "The 72" in the memo of the gift to this event). Registration opens April 19, 2024 and capacity is limited to 72 participants. For more information, email us at the72@clbi.edu or visit the72.ca.

*A prerequisite to attending this event is reading "Joining Jesus on His Mission" or watch training videos (available on the72.ca).

being short-term staff at clbi

Sonja Rostad
Service Practicum Coordinator



My name is Sonja Rostad, and I have had the incredible opportunity of being short-term staff at CLBI this year.

As short-term staff, I work 12 hours a week in exchange for room and board on the CLBI campus. Personally, I think I'm on the winning end of this exchange because I not only get a place to live (including the amazing food), but I also get to be built up by the body of Christ every day.

While on staff, I am also completing my Bachelor's Degree in Cross-Cultural Ministry through CLBI at Augustana (U of A, Camrose). Thanks to my professors, I've loved learning at university and growing in my understanding of the world. At the same time, I've come to see that my values and priorities differ from many of my professors and fellow students. As such, there have been days where my focus has drifted away from the kingdom of heaven and onto my kingdom on earth; it is a constant temptation to focus on a career, money, accolades, or grades. None of these are inherently "bad", but when they become my main focus, I find myself distracted from God's work in my life.

On one particularly exhausting day, I was stressing about the future and felt burdened by the pressure of "making something of myself." I walked into the

CLBI cafeteria and immediately felt that weight lift off of me as I found myself surrounded by those who love me for who I am. As we ate together, I was overwhelmed with gratitude for how God has blessed me with a community that will point me back to Him every time I wander. I truly hope that everyone can be blessed by such a beautiful community in this way, whether at CLBI or elsewhere.

Interestingly enough, this blend of post-secondary education and Christian community is not only for short-term staff, but also through CLBI's Community Student Program. In this program you can attend university or college courses either online or at Augustana (in Camrose), all while living at CLBI and being part of a thriving Christian community. It is truly a blessing to be able to advance one's schooling while growing together as disciples of Christ (for more information, check out clbi.edu/csp).

My experience brings to mind 2 Cor. 4:18, *"...we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen... what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* In a world where young adults are being uprooted from their faith, it is essential to have friends who help us turn away from what is temporary and towards what is eternal. All the world has to give us will fade away, but what Christ has given us through his death and Resurrection can never be taken away. Thanks be to God for this!

a parent's view of clbi

Pastor Karl Johnson
Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church
(Edmonton, AB)

A few years ago, while talking with an American friend of mine, I mentioned that my daughter was attending CLBI. Intrigued, she asked what credentials CLBI provides its students for their futures and/or careers. I replied that while it *may* lead to some sort of church work, that was not really the purpose of CLBI. I mentioned its purpose was for students to live in an intentional Christian community, grow in their relationship with Jesus, deepen their knowledge of the Word, and set their life down a path of following Jesus. "Oh!" she said, "A gap year!"

This term was new to me. I was a bit put off by it, so I did what we all do these days: I Googled it. I found that the term "gap year" (aka "sabbatical" year) is defined as "... a period of time when students take a break from their studies, usually after completing high school or before beginning graduate school... (it may also include) a variety of educational and developmental activities, such as traveling, working, volunteering, or taking courses." Naturally, it was easy for me to see the connection to CLBI, particularly with the word "sabbatical". Interestingly enough, the word itself has its origins in the Bible (Gen 2:1-4a, Ex 20:8-11). In fact, much of our modern language shares the same Judeo-Christian roots.

Where I grew up, it was a lot easier to live as a Christian. It is not that everyone was a Christian, but more so that Christianity itself was more

prevalent. Many social norms resembled Christian patterns and there was (seemingly) less hostility towards Christians. Today, things are different. Not only are young people not encouraged to follow Jesus, they are actually being discouraged from doing so. Young people tell me that they have had to learn to self-censor their beliefs while feeling pressured to approve of what they know to be wrong. Simply put, it is harder to be a Christian today than it was back when I was young. We all feel it, but young people feel it even more.

This is why I encourage people to consider CLBI. It is where young people grow and learn to live out their faith, all in a supportive and loving community. It is where deep strength is formed for a life of following Jesus.

I'm often asked, "How can churches retain young people?" My answer is always the same: go to church with them routinely, help them be active in church activities (Sunday school, youth group, VBS, etc.), send them (or even go with them) to Bible camp, maybe even join them on a mission trip! But finally, send them to CLBI. In other words, steep them in a faith community so that they can be equipped to follow Jesus in a world that increasingly pushes Him to the fringes, yet remains a world He loves.

For what it's worth ...

Pastor Karl Johnsen

student bio

NAME:

Joel Froese

HOMETOWN:

Didsbury, AB

YEAR AT CLBI:

First Year Student ('23/'24)



WHAT LED YOU TO CHOOSE CLBI?

After several years of not living for God, I began searching for a place where I could learn how to build the Biblical foundations for my faith. In March 2023, I decided to attend a weekend youth event at CLBI called Youth Surge. After that, I was interested in learning more so I registered for a couple of open classes at CLBI (classes that are open to the public) and really found them to be helpful in my journey. That is when I decided I wanted to attend CLBI.

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE YOU'VE HAD AT CLBI

This past March, we had an instructor named Andrew Craig come and teach us a class called "Faith and Pop Culture." While he was here, he spent much of his time hanging out with us students, talking theology, showing us movies he liked, and playing video games with us. It was amazing to me how he (and other instructors) intentionally engaged with the students and cared about us, both inside *and* outside the classroom.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE APPLY TO CLBI?

I would encourage anyone who is thinking of applying to come and check out one of the open classes that the school offers. It is a really good way to experience the teaching styles of the instructors that teach at CLBI, and it gives you a glimpse into what it's genuinely like for students in both the classroom and community aspects of the school. It's a great way to see if it is something that would work for you (for more information, check out clbi.edu/open-classes/).

Start your CLBI application today at clbi.edu/apply

financial update

Pastor Dean Rostad
CLBI President



Jesus was so determined to declare, "Peace be with you," that he was willing to walk through walls. You know the scene after the resurrection:

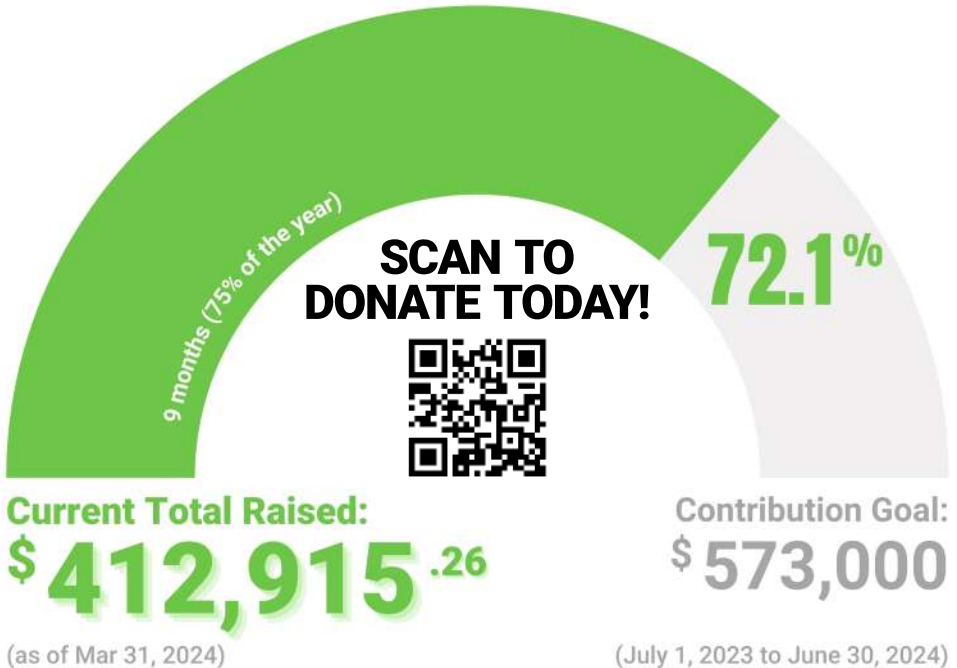
The disciples, out of fear, are in a locked room, and Jesus appears in their midst. At that moment, the disciples had let fear direct their lives. In John 10:10, Jesus declares that He has come so that we may have life to the fullest - a life not directed by fear.

Join me in thanking God for bringing together a large group of supporters who enable a financial foundation to make CLBI possible. As students study

the scriptures for eight months in a rich Christian community, they all come face to face with the peace of Jesus; the growing fruit of which are glorious: peace over anxiety, love over fear, and compassion over selfishness.

God has enabled CLBI to lower its break-even enrolment number to 30. Currently, CLBI has 23 students (10 first-year students, 9 second-year students, 1 community student, and 3 interns). I see the Spirit stirring a healthy interest in future students, but first, pray with me that God will raise up more donors so that CLBI can finish this year in the black.

Peace be with you.



weekly prayers

APRIL 2024

April 2: Jodi Bogstie's Birthday (staff)

April 2-5: Class-Life in the World
(Instructor: Ted Hill)

April 8-12: Class-Speaking Faith &
Meaning into Grief & Suffering
(Instructor: Russ Lackey)

April 15-19 : Class-Long Obedience
Towards Home (Instructor: Ted Hill)

April 18: Tabitha Francis' Birthday
(wife to Tom, staff)

April 19: Becca McKibbin's Birthday
(volunteer staff)

April 20: Jonas Osness' Birthday (first
year student)

April 21: Grace Davis' Birthday (staff)

April 22: Steven Belau's Birthday (staff)

April 22-23: Dwelling Retreat

April 27: CLBI Graduation Day

MAY 2024

May 1: Luka McKibbin's Birthday (son
to Becca, volunteer staff)

May 2: Tamara MacInnis' Birthday
(staff)

May 5: Ian Umphrey's Birthday (first
year student)

May 7: Emily Halvorson's Birthday
(wife to Cullen, staff)

May 9: Ivar Osness' Birthday (staff)

May 13: Myles & Jodi Bogstie's
Anniversary (staff)

May 18: Cullen & Emily Halvorson's
Anniversary (staff)

May 20: Ethan Sherbanuk's Birthday
(first year student)

JUNE 2024

June 3: Myles Bogstie's Birthday
(husband to Jodi, staff)

June 3: Dave & Elsy Russell's
Anniversary (volunteer staff)

June 5: Thomas & Tabitha Francis'
Anniversary (staff)

June 8: Dean & Beth Jarrett's
Anniversary (volunteer staff)

June 13: Leigha Hansen's Birthday (first
year student)

June 21: Dean Jarrett's Birthday
(volunteer staff)

June 23: Megan Semmen's Birthday
(second year student)

June 24: Donald & Grace Davis'
Anniversary (staff)

general prayers

CLBI COMMUNITY

- The health, safety, and well-being of our staff and students
- Students discerning what to do next school year
- Students discerning what to do for the summer
- God's provision of finances for CLBI
- Growth and commitment of faithful CLBI supporters
- CLBI's connections to continue to grow with youth groups and churches

STUDENT ENROLMENT

- Students to finish applying for the fall of 2024
- An increased enrollment for next year at CLBI
- Newly graduated high school students following God's call in their lives
- Provision for students wanting to attend CLBI (tuition is \$14,210 CAD for the '24/'25 year)

Thank you for praying for CLBI and for your continued support of this incredible ministry!

**Set up
Automatic
Monthly
Donations
today!**

For more info, check out
clbi.edu/give

how do I set up auto donate to CLBI?

So easy.
clbi.edu/give

select "donate monthly"
fill it out, submit & done

Done.
That was quick thx!

announcements

BIRTHS:

Eloise Ruth was born on November 17, 2023 to Chris and Victoria (Iverson, 2010-2012) Davenport.

Francis John Wiens-Schlein was born on December 8, 2023 to Natasha Schlein (2010-2012) and Bryson Wiens.

Bowen Theodore was born on December 24, 2023 to Monika (Thygesen, 2012-2014) and Keith Nelson.

James was born on January 2, 2024 to Tyler and Lila (Gaertner, 2010-2013) Nielson.

Tilda Birgitta was born on January 13, 2024 to Kara (Sorenson, 2007-2009) and Nathan Pederson.

Solveig Esther was born on January 29, 2024 to Jesse (2005-2006) and Autumn Sorenson.

Antonella was born on March 6, 2024 to Nathan Iverson (2008-2010) and Cecilia Rios.

Thorin William was born on March 9, 2024 to Jeremy and Tara (Salt, 2011-2013) Cupples.

HONORARIUMS:

(November 1, 2023-March 31, 2024)

Vern Raaflaub, Ella Thompson, Alice Haldorson

Total Honorariums: \$140

MEMORIALS:

(November 1, 2023-March 31, 2024)

Marie Atkinson, Annelise Rust, Ken Wold, Glen Vollmer, Margaret Dempsey, Owen Giebelhaus, Allan & Esther Danielson, Evelyn Marzolf, Art Adam, Beatrice Kvemshagen, Linda Odegard, Jennifer Heiberg, Evelyn Lucille Adam, Sandra Miller, Richard Roth, Gerald Olsen, Vivien

Carlson, Edith Sitler, Annelise Westby, Delores Bruce, Lorna Miklusek, Patricia Rostaing, Jackie Burke, Evelyn Lovrod, Ervin & Ella Schmidt, Doreen Hovde, Harry Hjorth, Olga Buma, Harold & Dorothy Engen, Clifford Lae, Bernd Halwass, Ruby Lamprecht, Jim Holmberg, Audrey Nielsen, Gary Voss, Jane Treleavan, Anna Kaardal, Joyce Raaflaub, Harold Borge, Wesley Engen, Gordon Knudtson, Sonja Roberts, Gayle Haugen, Harold & Dorothy Engen, Letha Knudtson, Sylvia Wold, Ed Thompson, Gerald Roberts, Viola Lae

Total Memorials: \$29795

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