

CROSS ROADS

CLBI Newsletter

2024
SUMMER
ISSUE

V. 32 NO. 3
JUL-SEP 2024



clbi.edu

upcoming events



AUG 31

CLBI OPENING SERVICE

4:00pm at Grace Lutheran Church (5306 50 Ave, Camrose)
All are welcome for supper at CLBI following the service.
Please **RSVP to info@clbi.edu or 780-672-4454.**

OCT 26

CLBI AGM

2:00pm at CLBI

OPEN CLASSES

Visit **clbi.edu/open-classes/** to see what Open Classes will be offered this year. Classes will be added throughout the summer!

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



The 72 participants

from the president

Pastor Dean Rostad
CLBI President



"Jesus is on a mission. He is on a grand adventure to redeem and restore human lives to the kingdom of his Father. This is nothing new. Ever

since he broke out of the tomb on Easter Sunday, Jesus has been on the loose, pursuing his redemptive mission, messing with people, ripening people, preparing people to be drawn back to the Father he loves. It's what he does."

-Greg Finke (Joining Jesus On His Mission)

It is time to pay attention to the long game. CLBI exists to see people grounded in God's word, transformed by the gospel and equipped to disciple others wherever they find themselves. The reality is that many of CLBI's alumni struggle with outreach and discipleship for a plethora of reasons: people are not interested, society is too secular, I am afraid of looking weird, I don't know enough, Christians are seen as offensive.

For the first weekend of June, CLBI hosted a retreat called "The 72". Just as Jesus sent the 72 out to do ministry in Luke 10, Jesus sends us out today. The gathering was fabulous. Pastor Greg Finke, whose books are a core resource to CLBI, taught 30 of CLBI's staff, alumni and friends, how to overcome fears and obstacles in reaching out and beginning to disciple our friends and neighbours. What was most intriguing

was to see who came to the retreat. The group was mainly alumni that had been away from CLBI for a few years. They all came with firsthand struggles with how to apply what they learned at bible school in a society that can be hostile to Christianity, resulting in a group that was ready and eager to learn. I had expected to see mostly students from the past year, but none of them came. Then I had an epiphany: CLBI, to achieve its mandate of sending out equipped disciple-makers, takes multiple years, not 8 months. Ongoing training events are needed for support and encouragement. The best learners are those who know what they don't know. At the beginning of the retreat, Pastor Greg Finke succinctly said, "I am not going to teach you anything new, but even though we know it (outreach and discipleship), we don't know how to put it into practice."

Turns out Jesus knows what he is doing. Thanks be to God.

"THE 72 RETREAT HELPED ME TO GAIN NEWFOUND JOY & CONFIDENCE IN MY CURRENT VOCATION. IT WAS FUN AND SO REFRESHING TO CONNECT WITH OTHER YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE SEEKING TO SERVE JESUS."

-ELIN ENGEN (CLASS OF 2020-2022)

clbi over the years

Pastor Alvin Sorenson
CLBI Board Chair

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2a

While attending the CLBI graduation service in late April, I did some “quick math”, and discovered it had been 46 years since I (and my now spouse Lois) had been in that very same church for our graduation ceremony. Turning the calendar back a few decades more, I then realized that 46 years prior to that, my late father-in-law, Hans Knudtson,

had been in a similar place at CLBI (although I expect that there was no formal graduation ceremony at that time).

Over the past 92 years, CLBI has sent out over 4000 students like those from the class of 2024, my class of 1978 and Hans' class of 1932, as “salt and light” to the ends of the earth. Many, if not most of you reading this today, will be numbered in that 4000-plus cloud of CLBI witnesses.

Although the jokes regarding the Canadian “bridal” Institute still circulate, it's true that many people have found their spouses there. In the days before online dating (and even



now during those days), CLBI has been a great place to meet like-minded people who share core beliefs and convictions about Jesus and the Christian faith.

I did a bit more “quick math” at our last Board of Trustees meeting and realized that I was now in my 20th year serving on that board. Over those years, I and others have seen and experienced both the good and the bad regarding student numbers, balance sheets, and the prospects for CLBI’s future. Some of you may have read Dean’s last article about the student enrollment throughout our history. Those of us on the board in the mid to late 90’s felt this low student enrollment and resulting debt acutely, and wondered if in fact the school would even have a future? Being that a quarter of a century has passed since that time...it would appear that it did.

I brought my grandson, Jack, to the graduation, and realized that in 10 years or so, he and his siblings and cousins could very well be standing in that very place. At our last board meeting, a young mom brought her baby to the meeting (this btw was the first baby that I remember ever attending such a meeting). In 20 years, that little one might join that great crowd of witnesses that has come through our doors. At this point, God alone knows where CLBI will be in the next 10 to 20 years.

Although God alone knows the future, He calls each and every one of us to do our part here and now for His Kingdom, and for CLBI in particular. Whether that be supporting CLBI regularly through donations, serving on the Board of Trustees, teaching

and/or working as support staff, encouraging and sending students, or holding CLBI in your prayers, all of us are needed, and all play an important role in the life and health of this school.

As the graduation service came to an end, students returned home or and/or to summer jobs. Staff will take a much-needed break (for a few days at least). The Board of Trustees have had our spring meeting and drafted a budget with hopes of 30 students attending in the new year. Again, God alone knows if such will be the case, but in the interim between now and the next school year, many of us will be doing what we can in praying and supporting this discipleship-training Bible school so that, should our Lord tarry, our grandchildren and even great grandchildren will be able to count themselves in this great cloud of CLBI witnesses.

Your partner in the ministry of CLBI,
Alvin Sorenson (Class of 1978)
Chair of the Board of Trustees



student bio

NAME:

Avey Osterwalder

HOMETOWN:

Camrose, AB

YEAR AT CLBI:

First Year Student ('23/'24)



WHAT LED YOU TO CHOOSE CLBI?

I really wanted to have a Christian community before I went out into the real world. I come from a Christian family. My Dad used to work at CLBI, but to be honest that had nothing to do with my decision. I knew that whatever I chose, my parents would love me and support me. I chose to go to CLBI because ever since I was a kid, I wanted to know what it would be like living there. I loved the Christian environment and all the classes I could take with my peers.

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE YOU'VE HAD AT CLBI

A meaningful experience I have had at CLBI is how much I have changed. When I first came to CLBI, I was this anxious girl who had no control over her panic attacks and was so afraid of the future and of how people looked at her. Now after being at CLBI for eight months, I have seen myself change. I am now a young woman who has overcome so many things this year. I have been able to take on hard things, as well as know if a panic attack is coming. CLBI has changed my life for good; I will never regret going to CLBI.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE APPLY TO CLBI?

From my meaningful experience, as well as those from many of my friends, CLBI can be a place where you find who you really are. It's not everyone's thing, but even just coming for a semester can help you find what you want to do in life, or help you if you are just stuck. Yes, I would choose CLBI, because despite its expense, it is worth it! You can have friends for life and experiences you might never have had.

Start your CLBI application today at clbi.edu/apply

financial update

Pastor Dean Rostad
CLBI President



Jesus, Our Only Hope!

“Jesus, master have mercy on us!”

While on the road to Jerusalem, Jesus was interrupted by ten lepers crying out to Jesus for

mercy. They knew Jesus was their only hope.

In my Easter letter, I shared heavy words regarding the viability of CLBI. Fiscally speaking, CLBI is starting to take on water due to a low season of enrollment. The students we have are amazing, and our approach to teaching and discipleship is incredibly impactful. The rub is that we need 30 students to break even, and God is sending 20. Our cry went out to Jesus and

God responded through His generous people (Thank you). We are now only \$50,000 away from meeting our donation budget.

“Lord Jesus, we cry to you for mercy. Please provide all of the students and funding needed for CLBI to continue!”

In Luke 17, we read that of the ten lepers that were healed, only one turned back to Jesus to give thanks for this divine gift. We need to do the same.

“Lord Jesus, we praise you for 92 years of provision for CLBI. It is only because of you, that 4000+ people have been grounded in the word and equipped for service through CLBI. We fall at your feet with hearts full of praise for all you have done.”

donations report

July 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024

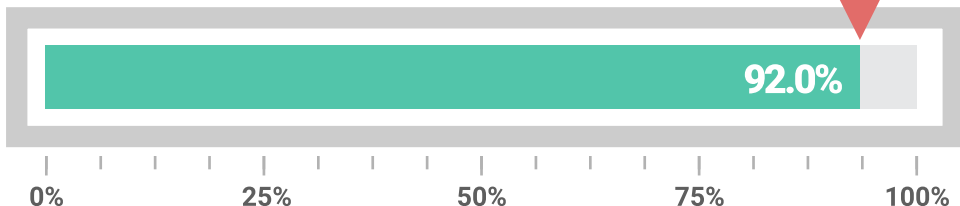
As of 05/31/24 (11 months - 92% of the year)

Contribution
Goal

\$573,000

Current Total
Raised

\$527,285



Scan to **donate today!**



Or go to **clbi.edu/give.**

weekly prayers

JULY 2024

- July 4: Silas Engen's Birthday (second year student)
- July 7: Rachel Thiessen's Birthday (second year student)
- July 11: Donald Davis' Birthday (staff)
- July 14: Evan Sherbanuk's Birthday (second year student)
- July 19: Dean Rostad's Birthday (staff)
- July 21: Claire Halvorson's Birthday (daughter of staff)
- July 25: Julia Rostad's Birthday (daughter of staff)
- July 26: Harriet Halvorson's Birthday (daughter of staff)
- July 28: Cullen Halvorson's Birthday (staff)

AUGUST 2024

- August 14: Tyler Pelsey's Birthday (first year student)
- August 22: Deb Hill's Birthday (wife of staff)
- August 27: Second year students arrive on campus
- August 31: Opening Day

SEPTEMBER 2024

- September 4-11: Fall Hike
- September 11: Victor Ocampos' Birthday (husband of staff)
- September 12: Class-Psalms as Our Prayer Life (Instructor: Heidi Osterwalder)

- September 23: Gemma Halvorson's Birthday (daughter of staff)
- September 24: Class- Introduction to the Old Testament (Instructor: Nathan Pollock)
- September 25: Class- Leadership Principles (Instructor: Matt Wilks)
- September 27-29: Wander Beyond the Wifi
- September 30: Truth and Reconciliation Day
- September 30: Class- Life as Community (Instructor: Ted Hill)

general prayers

CLBI COMMUNITY

- The health, safety, and well-being of our staff and students
- Students discerning what to do next school year
- Students during 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
- Pray for instructors, that their classes will be impactful

STUDENT ENROLMENT

- Students to finish applying for the fall
- An increased enrollment for next year
- 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!

sponsor a class

Jaime Ocampos
Office Administrator



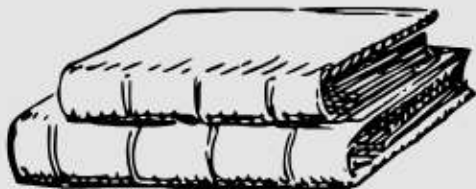
CLBI is a beautiful program that has week-long classes, for our first and second year students. That means that

CLBI has an average

of 45 different classes offered a year, with many different instructors from all over North America, and sometimes even overseas. Each time we bring in an instructor to teach a class, it costs \$1500 for their honorarium, plus travel. Now, before people think that it would be cheaper to just hire staff to teach instead, let me break it down. It

costs a total budget of \$57,000 to pay instructors for the year, with much variety in teaching and material. This cost is less than hiring one full time faculty teacher. Why am I telling you this? Because CLBI is starting a new initiative! We want you, the body of Christ, to help sponsor our classes! We ask that you as an individual, or your church congregation, would consider sponsoring a class for \$1500 here at CLBI. If this is something that you are interested in, please email info@clbi.edu to get more information on how to make that happen.

SPONSOR A CLASS



EST.

1932

CLBI

EMAIL INFO@CLBI.EDU

announcements

BIRTHS:

Kate (Bishop, former staff) and Colby McFeely had son Matteo Daniel on April 10, 2024.

Cullen (2006-2008) and Emily (Faltin, 2007-2009) Halvorson had son Finnan Henry on May 23, 2024.

Tannin (Zinger, 2019-2020) and Josiah Schindel had daughter Lydia Daughn on June 9, 2024.

MARRIAGES:

Aimerance Ngalula (2016-2018) married Charles Kabasele-Costo on March 24, 2024.

Sara Chappell (2008-2011) married Grant Mack on May 25, 2024.

MEMORIALS:

(April 1, 2024-May 31, 2024)

Annemarie Haerdi, Rudolf Haerdi, Bill & Anna Lapenat, Evelyn Marzolf, Viva Hansen, Laverne Hoveland, John Sytsma, Harry Hjorth, Ella Schmidt, Doreen Walline, Garfield Vikse, Jens Kaack, Peter Skretting

Total Memorials: \$15960

Crossroads CLBI Newsletter

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"SOMETIMES AMIDST THE REGULAR RHYTHMS OF LIFE, JESUS IS INVITING US TO INTERRUPT THE VALUABLE TASKS, SERVICE AND CARES IN WHICH WE ARE DEEPLY INVESTED. TAKING ONE OR TWO OPEN CLASSES AT CLBI, TO EXPERIENCE THE RENEWING WORK OF GOD'S PRESENCE IN HIS WORD, CAN BE ONE OF THE WAYS JESUS STRENGTHENS YOUR ENERGY AND LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE AND TASKS YOU CARE ABOUT IMMENSELY. VISIT CLBI.EDU/OPEN-CLASSES/ TO SEE OUR LATE FALL AND EARLY SPRING OPPORTUNITIES." -TED HILL
(PROGRAM DIRECTOR)

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