In this issue:

- Regaining Ground: Accreditation Affirmed
- Prodigy College Days
- Farewell Good Friend . . . Professor Doug James
Greetings friends, and welcome to the spring edition of your Alumni Post. As you review these few pages, I ask that you think back to your own experiences during the many months of April you spent here (or in Toronto) on campus. Remember those days of hurried exam preparation, long evenings . . . even longer papers, and the eager anticipation of a semester’s end? Little has changed in that regard for the class of 2014. They are in the midst of their final drive.

This edition highlights several important decisions and a few key initiatives, which give rise to our collective appreciation and eagerness to work hard through the summer months which follow. Among these, we celebrate Professor Doug James’ service and the impact he has had on so many students and peers during his career; the ground-breaking news of our school’s ten-year accreditation and recruiting predictions stemming from Prodigy: College Days 2014.

As stated in December, your feedback is always welcome, and I stand ready to respond to any queries you may have. Thank you for your ministry, your service, and your ongoing support to the GREAT PURPOSE which transcends geography, personal preferences, and generations. It’s also not too late to attend Graduation 2014 and to participate in the return of the Hallelujah Chorus, on April 25.

Health, happiness, and a quickening thaw,

Nathan Flight, CD, BA(Econ), MPA
Director of Communications and Development
Nathan.flight@mcs.edu
613.217.2990
It is our distinct pleasure to communicate the tremendous news that the College’s full accreditation has been reaffirmed. For those who have followed our transition back to Peterborough, and witnessed the growth of the past half-decade, this is a milestone moment for the institution, its staff and faculty, and for current and future students.

For the benefit of our supporters who may not have seen the original communique, please find an abridged version below. It was originally released by our President on 20 February.

This letter comes to you with gratitude for the Lord’s continued goodness and blessing on Master’s College and Seminary! This past Monday morning, February 17th, we met with the ABHE (Association for Biblical Higher Education) Commission for our annual review. Linda Gibson, Robin Adair and I were delighted to hear the following words:

“Master’s College & Seminary, we reaffirm you for a 10 year period and whole-heartedly support your mission, vision and mandate to create a learning community that provides programs and services which equip Pentecostal leaders for effective ministry.”

Following a series of annual reviews, this was the news we all had been longing to hear! It was a moment I’ll never forget as MCS received this significant acknowledgement for our renewed and innovative learning community, and for having our financial house in order. Our district superintendents were each elated as they received the good news. These leaders have stood shoulder to shoulder with Master’s, committing to see this day come to pass by providing resources, credibility, publicity and personal time and energy . . . [moreover]

We are now firmly rooted at 780 Argyle Street in Peterborough with full accreditation reaffirmed. We are providing excellence in education and ministry training by equipping the next generation of Pentecostal leaders. Thank God for a strong and viable future!

MCS is worth believing in. My personal vision for Master’s College & Seminary is that we will be a diverse school for diverse students called to serve in diverse situations. In the days ahead, you’ll see us launch some exciting new initiatives that will continue to shape the face of theological education and ministry training in Canada and reflect the missional heart of God for this country and across the world. Not only has this been an exciting few days for us but I know there are many more ahead.

So I write this report with gratitude to my heavenly Father for each and every one of you and the role you’ve played in restoring Master’s College & Seminary to the vibrant school that it is today. Thank you.

I sign off using our theme phrase for 2013-2014, recognizing that I never knew at the beginning of the year that such a remarkable moment would take place . . .

Do Remarkable Things,

Rich Janes
President
This March Break, Master’s College and Seminary opened its doors to over eighty high school students for our annual Prodigy College Days, giving them a chance to investigate the call of God and how MCS could play a role in that story. Under the theme of DESIGN (based on Ephesians 2:10), a challenge was given to each prospective student by our guest speakers (all EPBC/MCS graduates) to know God’s voice and to protect the call given to them by the Lord.

It was great to watch our current students serve and interact with our prospective students through moments of worship, small groups, coffeehouse relational moments, joining in prayer walks, and more. I really believe that our students are the best recruiters for Master’s and you would be proud of each of them as they so well represented the legacy left by you, our alumni.

Another highlight was a luncheon for the parents of our visiting students, allowing them to experience a glimpse into their child’s future. It was a joy to watch them interact with one another and with our staff, and then to leave our campus convinced of the value and importance of what we are doing.

I am grateful for an amazing student and staff DESIGN team who took some simple ideas and multiplied them to create an amazing event template for us to build on. I cannot wait to see what we DISCOVER together as we plan and present #Prodigy15!
His obvious love for God’s Word and his passion for teaching young adults have made Doug James a well-loved, well-respected teacher at EPBC/Master’s. For over 28 years, he has been in the classroom, influencing the lives of an entire generation of ministry leaders in our fellowship.

When we designed our FIRST YEAR program five years ago, it was the goal of establishing “a love of the Scriptures” in this foundational year that was most entrusted to Doug. And feedback from our students in Pentateuch and Jesus and the Gospels testified to this accomplishment. Not only did Doug so obviously know God’s Word, but he also so obviously knew the Author, and lived out that relationship for our students to see.

So, it was with no little sadness that we announced Doug’s retirement from teaching at Master’s, effective at the end of the fall semester, 2013. Increasingly, Doug’s health has been causing him concern and after much reflection, he felt it best to conclude his time at Master’s this past December. He has been, and continues to be missed.

Doug’s winter semester classes have been covered by adjunct faculty, and we have now begun to search for a new professor of Biblical Studies to join the Master’s community. We’ve extended the invitation to Doug to stay connected to us, and to teach as an adjunct once he feels well again. For this next season in his life, however, he is going to concentrate on his health. This was a courageous decision and we honour him and bless him in the days ahead.

I’m sure you will all join us in thanking Doug for his many years of service to EPBC/Master’s (since 1985) and pray God’s blessing and healing touch through this transitional time. Please feel free to reach out to him via Sue’s email (sue.james@mcs.edu) if you’d like to send along a class memory, a life-long lesson, or a profound “God-moment” that you experienced through Doug’s influence in your life.

Rich Janes, President
Linda Gibson, Academic Dean

I always remember him as a very kind-hearted, compassionate teacher. He was very approachable and never intimidating. He always saw the best in people, even when they didn’t see it for themselves. We couldn’t have had a nicer class sponsor.

Ruth Clermont Oliver

Who should get assigned to our boisterous class (Stratiotai) as the faculty class sponsor, but the quiet and unassuming Doug James! I’m quite sure we were given to Doug as his initiation into the school. Over the three or four years we were here, Doug slowly built relationships with students. Doug taught us by his words and by his heart to love the Word of God. He taught us to appreciate the depth of wisdom and insight found within those pages and to dig for hidden treasures while standing in awe of their beauty.

Donna (Stuckless) Haug
It is a privilege to honor Rev. Doug James upon his retirement from Master’s College and Seminary. I recall Doug first of all as a student at Eastern Pentecostal Bible College. After graduating from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Science degree, and spending a number of years in the oil industry, he felt a call to full time ministry and chose EPBC as the place for ministerial training. He went from there to Tyndale Seminary where he earned the degrees of Master of Theological Studies and Master of Divinity.

I was Academic Dean and then President during Doug’s time at the College and interacted with him in in a number of ways. I knew him as a diligent student, a conscientious professor, and a loving husband and parent. Doug was a great inspiration to me and I deeply appreciated his support in every way. The title used by the students was “Brother James,” which best sums up his relationship with them. All of us will remember his gracious manner, his gift of encouragement, his faithfulness in ministry, and his deep love for God. Doug and Sue were great friends of ours and we enjoyed many times together.

Rev. Carl Verge

Doug James began his Bible school ministry the same year our class arrived on campus. Brother James was chosen as our faculty class representative. We selected the class name Stratiotai (soldiers) based on 2 Timothy 2:3-4. Years later it’s still clear that our class representative personified what it means to be ‘a good soldier of Jesus Christ’ (v3) during his years of service to Eastern/Master’s. Doug has persevered during seasons of both blessing and challenge faced by our school.

As Doug’s ministry at the College has ended he must be honored and esteemed for his tenure. Hundreds of lives have been impacted since 1985, because of a teaching ministry trademarked by grace, dignity and Christlikeness. Indeed Doug James has ‘pleased his commanding officer’ (v4) in this ministry.

As soldiers of the gospel, from whatever class you were in, join me in saluting Doug and thanking him from the bottom of our hearts.

Dr. Richard Burton

While attending EPBC (1998-2001), I was privileged to have a number of inspiring classes with Professor James. Along with his wisdom, willingness to make time for others, and compassionate heart, one of the things I have admired most is that he always speaks to others with kindness and affirmation.

My first college-level paper for his Pentateuch class became a series of challenges and comedic errors; it’s a wonder he could make any sense of it! When it was returned, I quickly took it to my room, so no one could see the results. On the last page was a letter grade (which was more than fair) but, more importantly, constructive criticism and a word of encouragement that inspired me to do better next time! Expecting to feel discouraged, I was encouraged to work harder and improve.

When reflecting on Professor James’ influence on my life and the lives of so many others, Colossians 4:6 comes to mind: “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.” Whether he was answering a question in class, responding to an incorrect answer, or giving wise advice for a challenge someone was facing, Professor James’ speech was always gracious and edifying. Although I learned a great number of things through the classes he taught, I may have been impacted most by the way he loved, valued and respected others. Thank you for leaving a lasting impression on my life, and the lives of so many, for so long.

Rev. Mark Goring

Doug James is one of the most thoughtful, tender-hearted and sincere professors I have ever had. He is hardworking, authentic and truly focused on one thing - glorifying God. Doug has not only taught me about the Bible and theology, but he has taught me about a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. Doug is sensitive to the Holy Spirit and truly leads students where God leads him. Doug has taught me to interact with Scripture in a personal and relational way, meditating on God’s Word and allowing it to be the compass for my life and ministry. When I think of Doug James I think of 1 Corinthians 11:1: "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ." It is a privilege to have had the opportunity to follow Doug, both theologically and spiritually. I have learned so much from his teaching, his wisdom and the consistent way he lives out his unwavering faith. Doug, I’m honoured to be one of the students that you have taught, and I am blessed to be one of the many people that continue to benefit from your obedience and faithfulness to God.

Amelia Taylor
I have been personally involved with Master’s College and Seminary for two-years, and there hasn’t been a semester which has passed when I haven’t been astounded by the advancement that is occurring on campus. The same can be said of our supporters’ responses to various calls for financial support.

A large part of ABHE’s reaffirmation centred upon our positive, yet gradual, release from the burden of past debt. As evidence, it is remarkable that the districts, churches, and a few individuals have raised an additional $178,000 since November, and maintain a strong trend towards maxing out the $600,000 matching challenge by December 2014.

While this giving is exceptional by any standard, the strong emphasis on debt reduction has left our other flank, general operating expenses, somewhat exposed.

The Book of Joshua provides insight into the value of protecting and preserving all flanks. Chapter 8 tells of Joshua’s detailed tactical plan for the siege of the fortress-town Ai. In what would today be described in land warfare doctrine as a tactical feint, Joshua instructed his main column to advance towards the city and then deliberately retreat once the defenders were drawn out to pursue them. Flank exposed, Joshua’s reserve force captured the city from behind, with minimal opposition.

This tactical scenario, and many like it since then, gave rise to the common saying, “watch my six [o’clock],” which is a military metaphor for keeping an eye on one’s exposed position, typically behind us.

So that’s my simple request of you today as Alumni. Would you ‘watch our six?’

Would you ‘watch our six’ by helping keep our operating costs covered as we move into the summer season? It is predicted that the College needs an additional $40,000 in cash in order to transition to the summer while maintaining a reasonable degree of resource flexibility.

Our website (http://www.mcs.edu/AboutUs/donate.html) provides a number of tools to allow you to give from a distance. Alternatively, you may contact me at any time to discuss financial arrangements … or even tactics …

In His service,

Major (somewhat retired) Nathan Flight
It’s been 17 years since I graduated from Eastern Pentecostal Bible College. As an exchange student from Estonia, a smaller country situated between Finland and Russia, I was not quite sure why God led me to study at EPBC, but I simply knew that I had to go there.

Although I lacked confidence in my academic abilities, at College God showed me what I was really capable of doing. I began to enjoy every bit of the studies there. I also had the most blessed opportunity to be counseled by Dr. Valerie Stephens, our College’s counselor. Just like every professor, staff member, and peer, God used her in my life to extract my best.

I returned home after graduating in 1997 and God blessed me with a lecturer’s job at an academy of music and theatre. I didn’t know I had any teaching talent until the moment the job was offered, and I felt God prompt me to accept it. It was a wonderful opportunity to share my faith and to provide mentoring to those in need of encouragement.

Concurrently, I was so full of fire to get involved in some kind of ministry in my home church. Having experienced children’s ministry prior to my studies at EPBC, I felt drawn to translation (Finnish, Estonian and English), as our church had many foreign visitors, both permanent and temporary. And then it happened. Loneliness set in, and I was tormented by the routine of sitting down in the interpreter’s box Sunday after Sunday without having any opportunity to worship. I was also experiencing struggles in my personal life. My soul was crying out for help.

I had not really understood the meaning of God’s grace and mercy until I earnestly looked to Him in the midst of my turmoil. It was then that I realized the truth of Psalm 139: 9-12, ‘If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light you.’

Strange as it may sound, God brought me back to Canada to bring me back to ‘Life.’ I found work at a farm in Calgary, cutting metal pipes and building fences, cutting down trees and repairing roofs. In my humility, He asked me to give up one thing after another: family members, academic employment, even sports. Many other things happened to me during that pivotal time, all of which confirmed one simple message - God wanted my heart so I would have more of Him and less of me.

I returned to Finland to do some farm work, again, a marked contrast to working in a stable university position. Yet, God always reminded to me of His bigger plans for my life so I would not give up. Most notably, I was awakened in the middle of the night and told to proclaim the salvation of Jesus to my brother, on his death bed, and he was transformed in such a mighty way that all witnesses were astonished.

So many of us may often ask why we have to go through so many hardships and troubles, problems and hurts. As in Amos 9:9-15, the ‘sifting’ needs to take place. I have been going through it myself all these years, and am sure He will not stop with me until I am closer to His ultimate design for me, ready for His return. Despite past hardship, there has always been food on my table, bills paid, and the best of clothes from second hand shops. More importantly, there has been enough to continually help the poor around me.

Obedience and faithfulness are what God has been looking for in me. Just last month, I was privileged to accept a teaching job at a language school here at home.

Thank you, my dear professors, all EPBC staff and fellow students. Each one of you was part of God’s work in my life. . . a portal to His restoration and healing. Few will truly understand the impact you’ve had in my life.

Wishing everyone loads and loads of blessings and wisdom from our Heavenly Father.
Save the Date!

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 25, 2014
GRADUATION 2014
Please note change of venue -
Global Kingdom Ministries
1250 Markham Road, Scarborough

Join us and enjoy our traditional “Hallelujah Chorus” presented by the Alumni Choir.

June 2014
Call for Nominations: Election of Alumni Association Officers

Friday, August 29, 2014
Submission Deadline for September 2014 Alumni Post

Saturday, September 27, 2014
HOMECOMING 2014: 75th Anniversary Celebrations
(details coming soon)
& Election of Alumni Association Officers

CALLING ALL EMISSARIES!

Friday, April 25, 2014 marks the anniversary of our graduation. We won’t be gathering at Massey Hall, as we did forty-five years ago (has it really been that long?), but we would like to renew our friendships over dinner. We’ll be meeting in Burlington at Spencer’s on the Waterfront in Burlington, Ontario then going to Ralph Hodgson’s home in Burlington for dessert and a gab fest. Please email Diann Thompson Butt at diann04@hotmail.com. (Even if you aren’t able to attend, she would like to hear from you.) Closer to the date, an email will be sent out with the specific time.
Rose McCormick Brandon, rosebrandon1@yahoo.ca. Thanks so much for you help in our making our reunion a success.

EVANGELS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Plan now for Friday, September 26, 2014 at Peterborough, Ontario at Master’s College & Seminary - good ole EPBC - for the "EVANGELS" 50TH Anniversary and Testimonial Dinner of our great class! (Time and place to be announced closer to the date.) Come and share God’s goodness over 50 years!! On Saturday, Sept 27 attend HOMECOMING 2014 and visit the Hall of Fame with class pictures of 75 years, take a walk in Pioneer Park or down by the Otonabee River or the Filtration Plant. How about a drive up Armour Hill to view the lights of the city? Is Kirby’s still there? Or the Miss Diana? Come! Come! We must get together for the 75th year of EPBC/MCS! Spread the news, bring your news! See you there!

Please contact Florence (Chatterton) Way or Lindahl Faulkner
by Facebook or e-mail (florenceway@gmail.com; lindahl2@gmail.com)

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH -

If you move and/or change your e-mail address, be sure to send your updated info to:
rosemary.assels@mcs.edu
800-295-6368
or 705-749-0725

@mastersPTBO