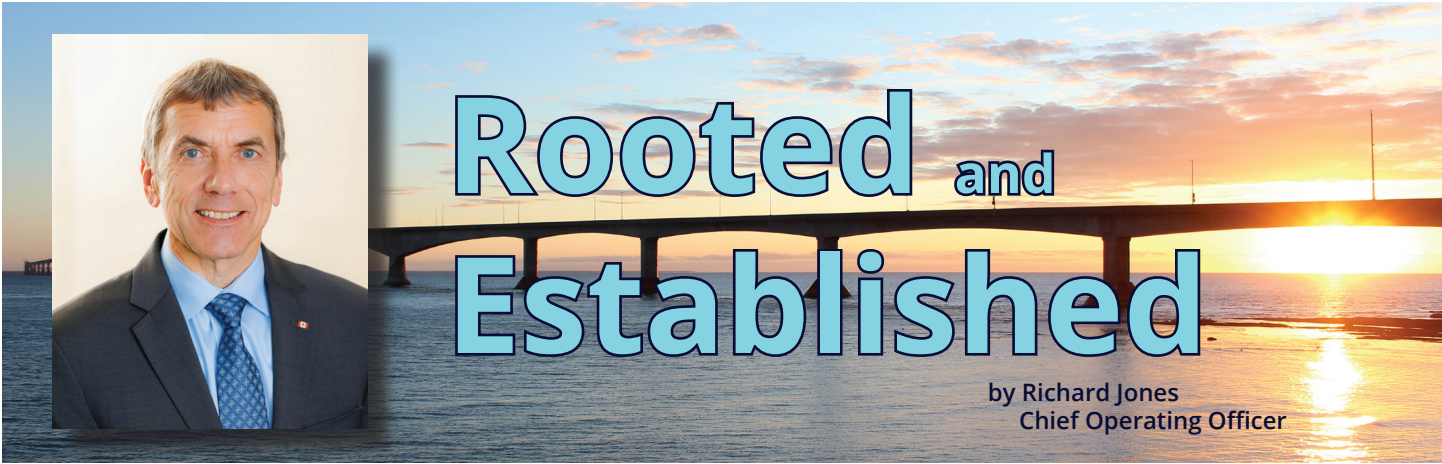




# MARITIME MESSENGER

Volume 61 No. 3 - April 2023





# Rooted and Established

by Richard Jones  
Chief Operating Officer

On May 9-11, 2023 Maritime Christian College will host the KT Norris Lectures. We have held these Lectures every year since 1962, with the exception of the last two years.

I doubt that any of us who attended the KT Norris Lectures in 2020 were aware of just how severe the impact of COVID-19 was going to be on the fabric of our society.

In my role as Chief Operating Officer at MCC, I am frequently in discussions with pastors and elders from various churches, especially those in eastern Canada, as well as other Christian universities in Canada and the United States. Many Christian churches have been experiencing an ever-increasing number of challenges from our secular society in the past decade, but the global COVID-19 pandemic caused massive disruption in our society and in our churches.

Three years after the pandemic, while our North American economy has recovered from the pandemic shutdowns and is growing again, people have probably never been more divided over social issues, environmental issues, and even the role of religious faith in our society. It has become acceptable to make up our own "truth" to reflect our own personal opinions on every topic – and generally our opinions are not formed from doing our own research, they often come from us accepting the voice that is shouting the loudest on social media. While some churches are now thriving, the majority have not rebounded after the effects of COVID-19 restrictions and their leaders and members are now realizing that their church won't be returning to the

way things were in 2019. It is easy to fear that the decline in attendance and vitality we are seeing in our churches across the country is going to continue until churches are forced to close their doors.

Reflecting back on the events of late 2019 and early 2020, it is clear to me that the Lord was guiding MCC towards discussions with other church leaders and organizations who would play a critical role in many important decisions we took at that time. Empowered by those discussions and lots of prayer and reliance on the Spirit to guide our work, we remained rooted in our mission to train men and women for Christian service based on the truths revealed in Scripture. But in order to remain true to our mission, MCC recognized it needed to change its methods and to focus on meeting the greatest challenges our churches and individuals were facing. So MCC moved to an online learning path, with a focus on the theology and practical application of disciple making. As followers of Jesus, it is our responsibility to be obedient to the authority of King Jesus in the way we live out our faith. We are not to be fearful or timid when confronting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The early church in the first century faced even more challenging circumstances – and under the power of the Holy Spirit, it not only survived but grew to influence all of the society around it.

In light of this, the theme for the 2023 KT Norris Lectures is "Rooted and Established". Our speaker for the series is David Nelson, who MCC has had the privilege of getting to know over the past year through his contribution to MCC's online learning programs focused on disciple making.

I believe you will be encouraged and inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 28 that will be referenced in David Nelson's messages at the KT Norris Lectures in May. I am going to close my comments by quoting a different passage of Scripture that emphasizes the same command Jesus gave his followers to make disciples. This passage is found in Acts 1:3-8:

*<sup>3</sup>He (Jesus) presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (ESV)*

Just as Jesus gave his disciples this charge to be his witnesses "to the end of the earth", so we today have that same mission, and the same Holy Spirit to empower that mission. It is my hope that you will join us at the 2023 KT Norris Lectures on May 9-11 to be encouraged as disciple makers that our hope and our truth is truly being "rooted and established" in Jesus. 📌



# Meeting the Challenge Campaign

Jesus commanded his followers to "go and make disciples"

## Online Programs - \$233,000/year

MCC wants to expand our online course offerings to reach a wide demographic of students who can access courses from anywhere.

MCC started a Masters program in 2023 and plans to pursue Accreditation.

**Donate today:**

[www.mccpei.com/meeting-the-challenge-campaign](http://www.mccpei.com/meeting-the-challenge-campaign)



One of the pillars of MCC's "Meeting The Challenge" Campaign is the continuing development and teaching of online courses. MCC is offering a Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership Degree as well as six different undergraduate-level Certificates. In total, there are 40 different online courses in these various programs. Completing the development of these courses and updating ones that have already been delivered is an ongoing exercise that requires a significant amount of time, effort, and funding every year. MCC has a distinctive online education approach that is embedded throughout each course and program we offer.

MCC selects course developers who are not only experts on the theological information but are living out what they are developing in their personal and professional lives. In other words, they have practical theology where they "walk the talk". Each course developer follows our interactive and engaging course development process led by our team of curriculum design and theological experts. It generally takes several months and numerous iterations before the curriculum meets MCC standards for quality.

MCC is selective about who teaches courses. Each potential instructor is screened to ensure they meet the formal education requirements, but also the practical theology of disciple making and ministry leadership qualifications. Once an instructor is selected, they go through an instructor training program which provides up-to-date online instruction techniques, learning management system navigation, strategies to actively engage students in the class discussions, grading policies, etc.

When MCC applies all these learning strategies to their courses, the result is exceptionally well designed and instructed courses that exceed the students' expectations leading to proactive disciple makers and ministry leaders throughout the world.

The cost to develop a five-course Certificate and deliver it the first time to 12 students per course is \$50,000. The core of what MCC does is developing and delivering online courses to students, and this effort is the major reason for this target of \$233,000 in our "Meeting the Challenge" campaign. 📧



*As my first time enrolling in a fully-online program, I was not sure what to expect, but I have really enjoyed the experience. The course content is excellent, and the discussion has been very engaging.*

*As someone serving in full-time ministry, flexibility is key to success. It is clear that the MA program has been hand-tailored to work within the confines of a busy life like mine. MCC's online MA program gives me complete freedom to schedule my course work around my regular responsibilities, even when my week takes an unexpected turn.*

*I would highly recommend this program to any ministry leader who is considering pursuing an MA, but isn't sure they would have the time in their schedule to balance the work with their ministry.*

Stephen Weatherby, Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership

**3 year goal: \$1 million in additional operating funds**



# Ten Coaching Techniques to Make Disciples

by Tom Marshall  
Academic Dean

David Nelson leads the Men's Discipleship/Sports and Outdoor ministry at Real Life Ministries Texas. He is also this year's KT Norris Lecturer. David is one of many staff who contributed to Brandon Guindon's next book titled, *Intentional: Applying the 8 Practices of Disciple Making to Everyday Life* which will hit bookstores in September with Zondervan Publishing. I had an opportunity to interview David about 10 Coaching Techniques to Make Disciples he uses within his ministry.

**1 Pray over who you might disciple.** Jesus stayed up all night and prayed about who it is he would disciple. One of the barriers in the world of 7 billion people is which one am I to take on? It's like walking down a cereal aisle and not knowing which cereal to choose. We can help ourselves a lot by asking God to identify and put those people in our life he wants us to take on. Some would say, "I have one." I'd ask, "Have you prayed about it?"

**2 Identify the disciple relationship up front.** Before discipling someone, the other person needs to know it is a discipling relationship. It's not a discipling relationship if you're baiting and switching them. Let them know how over time you've begun to care about them before asking them to participate in a discipling relationship. "I know you may not be a Christian," David said. "The way I believe there is eternal life. And for me I can't hate you enough not to tell you about Jesus. Would you be open to discussing that with me?" Like Paul and Timothy's relationship in the New Testament, they understood who they were as mentor and mentee. Paul did not surprise Timothy later about serving churches but let him know up front what he was doing. Avoid the bait and switch. We're super good friends and I'd love you to know more about Christ. It's about turning them into converts who make converts.

**3 Listen with the intent to understand.** Brandon raises this in his upcoming book *Intentional*. As a disciple maker, we want to have all the answers. But the reality is the better disciple maker understands God has already been working in the other individual's life. They already have the answers for the direction they must go. The Holy Spirit is at work in them. The disciple maker's role is to listen and understand the individual's struggle—listening to their hurt and hearing why they are empty. Once the disciple maker understands the other person's hurt, then they can point them to biblical answers.

In all David's years he has never seen the dude in the airport with the megaphone ever be effective for Jesus. Jesus modelled, "I must go to your house today, Zachaeus." Jesus wanted to get to the heart of the matter with old Zachaeus. Salvation came to his house because of it. Our discipling should not be about us

getting a crown. Our concern should be about them and never about how brilliant we are as a disciple maker.

**4 Seek the Holy Spirit.** Brandon writes about this in his book *Intentional*. We put ourselves on the hook about the person accepting Jesus into their life. We can only do our part by sowing seed and listening. Discipleship is so important it's worth doing poorly. We cannot mess it up. We need to ask the Holy Spirit what our part is, then what is the Holy Spirit's part, and what is their part. We are not alone in the disciple making process.

**5 Develop potential.** Church is a team sport. Everybody has abilities. It's like a coach finding something they do well and developing that into something they can contribute. It is helping young Christians (someone can be 80 and still be a young Christian) to forget thinking of themselves and to start thinking of others. We help them identify their abilities and help them develop those abilities to use within the church. How can we equip them? I try to meet with every man who comes through the door over lunch or a conversation. I'd ask them, "If you were to dream what could you do for the church? What would it be?" Then help him develop that to his potential to help others within the church. Discipleship is so important it is worth attempting poorly.

**6 Take someone with you.** The idea of going is from the Great Commission—as you go and are going. Our biggest barrier is claiming we don't have the time to do that. But we do. We go to lunch. We go to sporting events. Start taking others with you wherever you go to these events. It's not, "Let me look at my schedule," but "I do lunch every single day and you're coming to lunch with me on Wednesdays." We ask them about their celebrations or about anything in their life we need to work through together. I have six men who lead other groups that I take with me.

**7 Be interruptible.** You cannot schedule time to be interruptible. In a discipling relationship we should expect to be interrupted. As they grow closer to us, the more they will lean upon us. There will be times when they need us that are not exactly convenient for us. There are things we can do to help in that process. Overcommunicate with them. If you overcommunicate then they will have fewer questions. It will allow you more margin for something else that may come up. If the Holy Spirit is not shouting from the mountaintop that you should do it, say no. That way you do not fill up your schedule with unnecessary things. In disciple making you should expect obstacles, even with the individuals you are discipling. See interruptions like a game. Okay God you are intersecting with my path, please open my eyes to see it.

**8 Speak truth.** Be able to speak grace and truth. Sometimes we need to hear the truth. But if it's all truth without grace then it can be acerbic and unpalatable. If we are modeling Jesus – he came with grace and truth. That is 100% grace and 100% truth. It was not 50% grace and 50% truth. There are times when the rope we throw around them might look more like truth or it might look like grace depending on the circumstance. Like Jesus confronting the woman caught in adultery he extended grace by not condemning her, but he also told her truth—this type of behaviour must stop. We must be grace and truth and assess the situation for which is needed.

**9 Stand firm.** As we get into discipling relationships we desire to go with the flow. But we must stay on the path. There are times when they will test us, and we must be a hard edge to their challenge. As Jesus reinstated Peter, Jesus remained a hard edge because Peter needed to know the full extent of forgiveness. We don't want our discipling relationship to become such a friendship that we stop being a boundary for the faith. This becomes harder to do the longer the relationship goes on. At any point during the discipling

relationship if they test it we must be the hard edge. Like Paul sending Timothy to Ephesus. Paul tells him to fan his faith into flames. Would young Timothy have been able to do what he did in Ephesus if there had not been a Paul? Things break down when they test the boundary, and you give in and then they don't know where the boundary is anymore. We must abide in Christ.

**10 Release them to go.** We should release them before they think they're ready. We often want them to be perfect before we let them go, but we should really encourage them to make a disciple themselves before letting them go. It's about them and not us. Jesus sent out the disciples two by two. He called them back and asked them how it went. We must let go of our own egos. Even when the outcome is good, we should not put ourselves on the hook for what they've done.

Everybody can do these coaching techniques within their context. View these techniques as an important resource to disciple making because Jesus has called us to do it. 📌





# KT NORRIS LECTURES - May 9-11, 2023

# ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED

## David "Coach" Nelson Bio



David Nelson loved to coach the "X's and O's" of American football, but even more than that, he desired to coach the "hearts and souls" of young men. Even after winning a Texas state championship in 2016, he was quoted as saying that he would not know for another 10 or 15 years if the season was successful until he sees what kind of husbands, fathers, and men his players will become. To Coach Nelson, football was a ministry, and he was always looking for ways to give his program an edge over his competition so he can increase his global impact by coaching more young men in the way of the Lord. Coach Nelson's philosophy of "how you do anything is how you do everything" proved to be true because he now uses his coaching ability to serve as the men's pastor at Real Life Ministries Texas, a church rooted in relational discipleship.

When Coach Nelson isn't leading men, he can be seen dancing with Tamara, his wife of 26 years, being a "girl-dad" to his four daughters, working out, leading men's retreats, or soaking up God's love in nature.

## Sessions

### DAY 1 - Tuesday

**MORNING**  
SESSION 1:

"Along the Beaten Path: Ignorance and Disobedience" (MATTHEW 13:19)

SESSION 2:

"The Manifold Wisdom of God" (EPHESIANS 3:1-13)

**EVENING**  
SERMON:

"All Authority Has Been Given to Me" (MATTHEW 28:18)

### DAY 2 - Wednesday

**MORNING**  
SESSION 1:

"Rocks and Thorns: Fatigue and Distractions" (MATTHEW 13:20-22)

SESSION 2:

"The Fullness of God" (EPHESIANS 3:14-19)

**EVENING**  
SERMON:

"Therefore Go..." (MATTHEW 28:19)

### DAY 3 - Thursday

**MORNING**  
SESSION 1:

"The Good Soil" (MATTHEW 13:23)

SESSION 2:

"Throughout All Generations" (EPHESIANS 3:20-21)

**EVENING**  
SERMON:

"I Will Be with You Always..." (MATTHEW 28:20)

## Special Events

**Ministers Lunch**

Tuesday, May 9  
12:30 pm

\$15 / person

RSVP by May 2  
earsenault@mccpei.com  
902-628-8887

**Pancake Breakfast**

Thursday, May 11  
8:00 - 9:00 am

by Donation

**The Basics of Good Estate Planning**

Thursday, May 11  
2:00 pm

Free Event

RSVP by May 9  
earsenault@mccpei.com  
902-628-8887



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KT Norris Lectures presents

# ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED

May 9-11, 2023

**Sherwood Christian Church**  
9 Lilac Ave, Charlottetown, PE

Morning Sessions 9:30am - 12pm

Evening Sessions 7:30 - 9pm



**David Nelson**  
Real Life Ministries Texas

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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