



MARITIME MESSENGER

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WHY

Become a Student of MCC's MA in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership?

by Richard Jones
Chief Operating Officer



Welcome to our first edition of The Messenger for 2023. Maritime Christian College recently launched its new graduate-level program, the Master of Arts (MA) in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership, with nine students enrolled.

The development of this Master's program is part of our vision for the next ten years as presented in the Fall 2022 Messenger. Here are the key areas where the MA fits into our vision:

- MCC is producing high quality, impactful, and accredited online courses for Masters, Bachelor, and Certificate-level programs and is known around the world for its focus on disciple making.
- MCC has accreditation for its Masters and Bachelors Programs.
- MCC students are having a global impact on disciple making. MCC graduates are involved in disciple making movements around the world, where the Gospel is being taught, disciples are being made, and multiplication is happening through radical dependency on the Holy Spirit exhibited in the lives of disciple makers.

Tom Marshall stated in the Fall Messenger:

"Today's culture is riddled with tough questions, but is the church addressing them? Has the church become irrelevant? It's time Christians become creative and start innovating new ways to address these tough questions."

This Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership is one of the innovative ways MCC is tackling a big issue facing the 21st century church: how to make disciples who make disciples.

MCC designed the MA with elements that will provide students with critical knowledge and skills to help churches and ministry leaders make disciples who make disciples.

Element 1: this graduate degree is designed to be taken part-time by students who are already working full-time. We recognize the time pressures that ministry leaders today are facing. Students benefit from the disciplined learning environment that a Christian higher education format offers, yet they don't have to give up their paying jobs to do so.

The online nature of the courses means a student can schedule their study time around the other events in their busy schedule. Taking two courses per semester, or six courses per year, will allow a student to complete the degree in two years – a timeline that will appeal to a truly motivated student.

Element 2: this graduate degree is focused on disciple making. If you review the course listing for the MA, you will find that even the core theology courses are designed around discipleship. For example, the course description for MABT507 — Biblical Theology to Fuel Disciple Making is: An overview of the key teachings in the Bible. From the Grand Storyline through doctrines of Scripture,

God, the Fall, Israel, the Gospel, New Birth, Baptism, Saving Faith, Church, Disciple Making, Ethics, and Final Restoration.

Element 3: this graduate degree will build practical application of biblical disciple making principles into the lives and ministries of students. They will gain knowledge from world-class disciple makers and leaders who develop and instruct the courses, and assignments will provide opportunities for a student to put this knowledge into practice. Some examples of this practical application are:

- Foundational theology on how to become a disciple who makes disciples. Most followers of Jesus – including many ministry leaders – have never been taught a basic fundamental process of how to make another disciple. A student will be challenged to study the Scriptures to examine how Jesus made disciples, and will gain a biblical foundation in understanding the applicability of the relational discipleship model in modern 21st century society. Students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate how they will become an intentional leader who disciples other people that God puts in their path, create a relational

environment with others, and teach a reproducible process that a new disciple can use. This is the starting point for making changes in the student's own life as well as in their ministry – understanding the process Jesus used and how he applied it during his ministry on earth.

- How to use the message and methods of Jesus to learn and apply Jesus' model of intentional leadership in your own life as a disciple maker. Once a student understands the basic processes of the relational discipleship model, they need to build the proper foundation in their own life before they can effectively disciple other people. The MA will challenge students to adopt personal spiritual practices such as prayer and fasting to foster the right spiritual foundation for the work of the Holy Spirit to be accomplished in a powerful way through their own life and ministry.
- Insights and cutting-edge practical application on how to build unified ministry leadership teams with a healthy culture focused on making disciples. What is the underlying focus and methodology that your church or ministry is really using today? If it is not aligned with the true mission of the church – to make disciples who make disciples - how does the student start to make

organizational changes that will bring about this alignment. Every student's ministry context is different. The assignments are designed to address their own ministry context and the engagement with their online instructor will provide further input into the way a student implements relational discipleship in their specific setting.

- How to engage cultural issues facing the church in these precarious times. Diverse and forceful personal opinions on cultural issues threaten to overwhelm the Christian voice in today's society. What does the Bible – the primary textbook for all courses at MCC - actually say and teach about life, marriage, race, gender, and materialism? Students will learn how to discern what are essential, important, or merely personal elements of the Christian faith. Grounding on these critical elements will provide a disciple maker with knowledge of the how, when, and why of engaging with others around challenging cultural topics.

I feel that one of the most important messages Jesus left us in his earthly ministry were these words from Matthew 7:24-27:

²⁴*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice*

is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵*The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.* ²⁶*But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.* ²⁷*The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."* (NIV)

We need to obey Jesus when he tells us to not just hear his words, but to put them into practice!

So, why should a student take this Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership degree? To become a better disciple maker! This is where the true motivation should come from: a passion for reaching lost people and working with the Holy Spirit to make disciples who in turn will make disciples. This is the command Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18-20 – another example where Jesus expects us not only to hear his words but to put those words into practice.

Please pray that the Lord directs motivated believers to MCC who are looking for accelerated Christian education at a graduate level that fits their busy lifestyle and ministry focus of disciple making. 🙏

2020-2022 Yearbook

In the past we printed a Decade Book to look back at the memories, connections and experiences of that decade. Going forward we have decided to create an online Yearbook that anyone can view free of charge.

The first online Yearbook covering the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years is now available for viewing on our website: www.mccpei.com/yearbook.

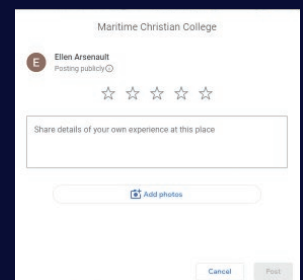


YOUR REVIEW MATTERS

Every Google review helps potential new students trust our programs, courses, and faculty.

We would appreciate you sharing your experience with MCC by leaving a review today!

<https://g.page/r/Cb9ZWJjhELMoEB0/review>



10 Things I Can Do to Become a Disciple Maker in 2023

An interview with Jim Nutt, Residency Executive Director, Real Life Ministries Texas.

1 How important my personal walk with God is.

My time with Him [God], my reliance on the Holy Spirit, my pursuit of the Holy Spirit in terms of listening, communing, and communicating matter because later if one is being led by the Spirit, I'm counting on Him to lead me to the right person, the right question, the right time, and how to handle situations I've never dealt with before.

You mentioned communing and communicating with the Holy Spirit. What does that look like?

I recommend, Sacred Pathways by Gary Thomas. The book talks about nine spiritual temperaments and how people communicate with God differently. I'm talking about my quiet time; my private worship time, my private connection with God. In what experience does a person feel close to God? I can intentionally be in the presence of God.

What does communing with the Holy Spirit look like?

It is intentionally taking time to do two things: 1) be in the presence of God—whatever that looks like for you, and 2) taking time to intentionally listen, to be still, to be quiet, to ask God questions. Learn to tune my spirit to His Spirit to hear Him. I don't mean audibly. Everyone will know it's from God. When I'm praying and asking God things begin to connect.



2 The whole salvation thing is not about me.

Very subtle in my language how I made myself the centre of God's plan. I am very much a part of God's plan because I choose to be. But God's plan and God's purposes have been moving before time began and it's not dependent upon me. It's about the kingdom. Like Esther I can choose to be a part of it or don't. God will save people a different way.

3 Discipleship is not something I have to do but it is something I get to do.

Because I understand the salvation thing is not about me, then I get to be a part of something eternal – something fantastic. The first three are the philosophical underpinning.

4 Who is discipling me?

I must be intentional in adding a discipling experience in my week. I currently meet about an hour or hour and a half once a week with someone. I identified somebody else that I need to sit at the feet of. He has a men's group meeting each week and I need to join that men's group. Or identify people and take them to lunch or coffee and ask what do you think about this? What do you think about that?

5 Discipleship is not hard; discipleship is being a friend.

I've looked for the lost puppy in the past, but it's you. It's the guy right next to me. I assume they don't need it. But they may want to spend time with me.

6

Do the people you're discipling know you're discipling them?

Brandon Guindon raised this. I then asked a guy I was meeting with for a year, "What do you think the purpose is of our meeting together?" He said, "To hang out." I said, "I owe you an apology because I have not been clear about my intentions. I don't feel good about that." Moving forward I said, "I want this to be a discipling relationship or stop meeting every week." He responded, "Dude, I'd love for you to disciple me." That changed the dynamic of how we spent our time. There is a piece of intentionality that I've missed on multiple occasions.

To understand, believe, accept that I do have something to offer to share to teach with someone younger, or my age, or older.

I have been guilty of false humility. It is easy for good hearted people to say, "I'm not good enough." Well, that is dysfunctional language saying it's about me. It's not about me.

7

To understand the implication it's not about me.

The teacher will always learn from the student. Disciple making goes both ways. I've got to be comfortable with the unknown. I don't know what to do? I don't know what to say? I don't know how I can help you? Your situation right now is beyond me. I have to become comfortable with that. It's okay. It's not about me fixing their situation. It's about me being there emotionally, spiritually with them. I can go ask somebody or bring someone else in. Before if I couldn't help then I wouldn't do it. But now we're coming back to the reliance on the Holy Spirit. Ask God what to do? He'll bring it to mind.

Boundaries - I can't do it for them.

I used to try to do it for them. But now I won't. I can't do it. If they're not motivated, if they're not pursuing it, then it's time to move on. Not to give up on them but move on.

9

10

Go through a book or some set curriculum.

I've learned to go through a book because it gives you and the person an on ramp or an off ramp in order to move on. I found Wild at Heart by John Eldridge to be good.

This is about relationship. Relationships go through different seasons. Use common sense. Get to know them and let the other stuff come up organically. Gauge the relationship. 📧

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED

Two individuals have departed from the Maritime Christian College family since the beginning of Covid-19, and we would like to recognize them.

Merle Wallace Zimmerman (Jan. 8, 1934 - Dec. 9, 2020)



In 1957 Merle Zimmerman left Western Canada to minister to several churches within the Maritimes. Since Maritime Christian College's inception, Merle laboured to train young men and women for ministry. Merle was one of the MCC Founders and served on the MCC Board for several years. In April of 1996 he became the 4th President of the College. His first message as President stated,

"In order for the work of God to succeed we must remember: 1. We are 'workers together with God.'... 2. We need to develop a strong attitude that WE are the hands, mind, and feet of Jesus. This is OUR work under God! If only we Christians spoke more than using the terminology THEY are doing this or that, great achievements for Jesus could be realized."



Merle's proudest achievement centred around MCC becoming debt free on Thanksgiving Day 1998. His favourite saying, "God will provide" captures best his trust in God. Merle received an honorary doctorate degree along with Vida Cass for their service during the 50th Anniversary of the College.

Robert Clarke Crockett (Apr. 16, 1943 - Dec. 27, 2022)

Bob Crockett served on the College Board under four College presidents: Stewart Lewis, Merle Zimmerman, Fred Osborne, and Jared Johnson. During Stewart's term they worked to move MCC from Kent Street to 503 University Avenue. Bob championed a capital campaign for building renovation and the continued growth of the College.



Bob summarized, "We've been passed the torch by men of vision who had a strong desire to provide an institution of learning for young men and women to carry on the Lord's work."

KT Norris Lectures presents

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Evening Sessions 7:30 - 9pm



David Nelson
Real Life Ministries Texas



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Tuesday Morning

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

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

Tuesday Evening

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

Wednesday Morning

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

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

Wednesday Evening

Therefore Go... (MATTHEW 28:19)

Thursday Morning

The Good Soil (MATTHEW 13:23)

Throughout All Generations (EPHESIANS 3:20-21)

Thursday Evening

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

In Loving Memory

October 22, 2022 - January 31, 2023

HATTIE ARMSTRONG – Burt’s Corner, NB.....	Heather Jones
GAVIN BELL – Murray Harbour, PE	Elva Bell; Gregory & Laurie Bell
GEOFFREY CONLEY – Leonardville, NB.....	Darrel Stewart
ROBERT (BOB) CROCKETT – Charlottetown, PE.....	Mary Hickox; Gordon Weatherby
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Memorial gift donations will be published in the Maritime Messenger and a card sent to the next of kin if the name and address are included with your donation.

In Honour of donations will be recognized with a card sent to the honouree if the name and address are included with your donation.



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Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership

Next courses offered in May 2023

- Jesus Christ and The Gospels
- Becoming a Disciple Maker



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by April 15



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