



# MARITIME MESSENGER

Volume 61 No. 4 - June 2023



# Give Thanks - But Don't Look Back

by Richard Jones, President

It is my pleasure to be writing in this edition of the Messenger. For Maritime Christian College (MCC), this season has an element of excitement to it.

For instance, we have students taking courses this summer in our Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership Program. We are actively recruiting new students for our MA and Certificate-level courses being offered in the fall 2023 semester. We are working with churches to support their efforts in disciple making by offering courses and consulting for their elders, ministry team leaders, and disciple makers.

This issue features our annual "dashboard" of the finances and student enrollment for Maritime Christian College. The past year has been characterized by the launch of several important initiatives at MCC. I am deeply thankful for God's provision and the Holy Spirit's guidance of MCC during the past year.

Some readers may have noticed that I am using a different byline for this article. For the past three years I have been using the title of "Chief Operating Officer" in my role at MCC. It was my suggestion to our Board of Directors that I use this title in 2020, even though I was taking on the responsibilities traditionally carried out by the President, to see if I was a good fit for the role. After three years in the role, it seems that now is a good time to adopt the title of President, and the MCC Board recently approved that transition.

It is a look to the future, though, not the past, that I would like to share now.

In 2022 MCC developed a vision for the next decade - you can read it at [www.mccpei.com/mcc-vision](http://www.mccpei.com/mcc-vision). I hope you will

recognize the high degree of dependency we have on the Holy Spirit to come even remotely close to achieving that vision!

There is a passage of Scripture in the New Testament where Jesus lays down a challenge to people who said they wanted to follow him. It is found in Luke 9:

*Luke 9:57-62: <sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup>To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup>Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." (ESV)*

These statements sound tough and harsh for people who outwardly said they wanted to follow Jesus. But Jesus spoke truth to people who wanted the benefits of following him without paying the price it takes to truly experience Jesus in a life-altering way. To use a modern equivalent, it is like someone saying, "I want to go from being physically out of shape to being very fit and athletic - but I don't want to exercise or change my diet". Let me be clear: rapid and profound change in our western society is upon us, and none of this change is aligned with a biblical worldview that we have embraced in North American society for the past few centuries. Other leaders inside the North American church are already sounding the alarm about these changes and their

impact on our communities and our churches. Unfortunately, many churches are not prepared to adequately respond to these challenges.

For the past four years, MCC has been on a path to re-imagine Christian higher education by focusing on the theology and practical application of disciple making. We need more disciples of Jesus who are committed to obeying Jesus' command to go and make disciples. To reframe what Jesus said in Luke 9:62, MCC is not looking back and wishing things in our society could be different. We are looking ahead at the work that needs to be done to make disciples for the Kingdom of God, and courageously addressing the challenges with the tools that we have available to us. We are excited about the future that lies ahead of us!

If you haven't looked at our website recently, I urge you to go there now at [www.mccpei.com](http://www.mccpei.com) and re-acquaint yourself with MCC. Make sure you read our vision for the next decade ([www.mccpei.com/mcc-vision](http://www.mccpei.com/mcc-vision)) and view the new video that will be used to introduce MCC to a new generation of supporters ([www.mccpei.com/meeting-the-challenge-campaign](http://www.mccpei.com/meeting-the-challenge-campaign)).

MCC has been training men and women for Christian service for the past 63 years, and we are continuing to direct our energy and resources to support individuals and churches to do what Jesus commanded us: to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father. We are inviting you to become a partner with MCC - either as a student or a financial supporter - on this journey as we boldly move into the future. 📧



**MARITIME**  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

# Meeting the Challenge Campaign

Jesus commanded his followers to "go and make disciples"

## Student Bursaries - \$40,000/year

Many students find the cost of higher education a significant financial burden.

As enrollment rises, MCC wants to increase the number of bursaries available so the majority of students receive some form of financial support.



**Donate today:**

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

The second of the three pillars of MCC's "Meeting The Challenge" Campaign is increasing the amount of funds the College is able to direct to students through bursaries. Many students taking MCC's online disciple making courses work in jobs connected to some form of Christian ministry. The cost of taking graduate and undergraduate level university courses can pose a barrier that may prevent them from taking full advantage of the courses being offered by MCC.

MCC has been blessed over the past decades with donations from supporters that have been used to fund bursaries for students. Many of these donations have been set up in the form of an investment whereby the interest generated each year is directed towards bursaries. In the past year MCC was able to provide


\$25,987 directly to students in the form of bursaries to offset the cost of taking courses. Over 70% of students in the last semester were able to get some amount of bursary funding.

Like virtually everything in our society, the cost of developing and providing Christian higher education courses has risen over the past few years. MCC's tuition rates for graduate and undergraduate courses have been kept as low as possible to minimize the barrier for students to take courses. In fact, MCC has not increased tuition rates for undergraduate-level Certificate courses in the past four years. Likewise, even though MCC's tuition cost for our new Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership courses has been set to allow a student to complete their degree for about \$10,000 (Canadian),

this amount can still pose a significant financial challenge for students operating in ministry roles.

MCC is continuing to see growth in the number of students taking courses. While this is a great blessing, the overall amount of bursary funds available is staying about the same, with the result being less funding available for each student. Our vision is for every student to receive a bursary that covers at least 50% of tuition costs, and to have students finish their program with little to no debt.

One of the ways for supporters to increase the funds for bursaries is to support MCC's Legacy Fund. The donations and interest generated in this fund provides an opportunity for donors to support the concept of "giving in perpetuity". MCC can direct donors to legal, financial, and tax professionals to assist donors in planning a gift to the Legacy Fund.

Please contact Richard Jones at [rjones@mccpei.com](mailto:rjones@mccpei.com) or 1-902-628-8887 for more information. 



*The bursary helped me by knocking down the financial barriers of a masters program making it possible for me to take a course and help further my ministry!*

Nathan Shelton, Kentucky, USA  
Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership

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

# Graduation 2023

Maritime Christian College's virtual graduation went live on Saturday June 3, 2023 at 2pm on its YouTube Channel: [youtu.be/aYWcWI4pd3k](https://youtu.be/aYWcWI4pd3k). Nancy Lyn Jones, New Brunswick, Canada and Olanrewaju Michael Williams, Lagos, Nigeria both received a Disciple Maker Certificate 1. They completed five online disciple making classes.

The Disciple Maker Certificate will prepare you with the tools necessary to make disciples within your sphere of influence. The online format allows you to interact with other disciple makers who are reaching lost people where they live. Student interaction is essential in developing competency with disciple making.



In the graduation address, James Stevenson, Associate Pastor, Halifax Christian Church, NS stated, "...a disciple is often understood as a follower of Jesus Christ, who seeks to learn from his teachings, emulate his example, and



**Nancy Lyn Jones**  
New Brunswick, Canada



**Olanrewaju Michael Williams**  
Lagos, Nigeria

*live according to his principles."* In today's sceptical and antagonistic world of all things religious, it matters how disciples of Jesus portray themselves to the public. The task before us is challenging but if people emulate Jesus' example the Word of God will be proclaimed. 📖



David Nelson, Men's Discipleship/Sports and Outdoors Pastor at Real Life Ministries Texas, spoke at the 2023 KT Norris Lectures. The last Lectures were in March 2020 when Dr. Les Hardin shared on Prayer, Parables, and Power: Spiritual Vitality in Biblical Thought. The 2023 Lectures, titled Rooted and Established, zeroed in on types of soil a disciple maker should be in order to bless the nations. We have the Word of God and like the Apostles of old we must take it to the ends of the world.

Dana Ingersoll, Worship, Care & Connect Pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church, organized worship for the evening services with a host of volunteers. Wednesday evening had the highest number of attendees with 141 people present. \$8,218 was raised in offering with \$1,129 still required in order to break even now that all the bills are in. We are hoping to eliminate this shortfall with additional contributions. If you are able to help us cover these expenses you can send a donation and note it is for the lectures: [mccpei.com/donate](https://mccpei.com/donate).

Lectures sessions will be available to view from our website at: [mccpei.com/ktnorris-lectures](https://mccpei.com/ktnorris-lectures) by July. 📖

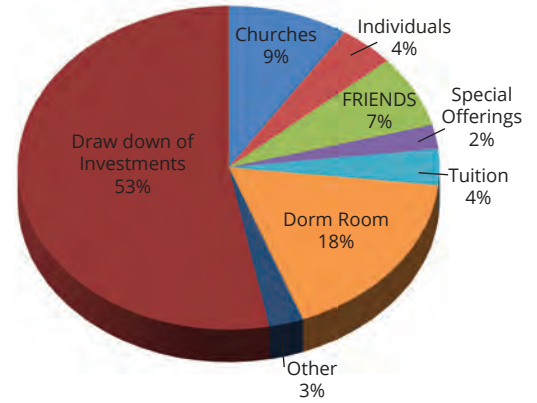


# ANNUAL Enrollment and Financial Reports

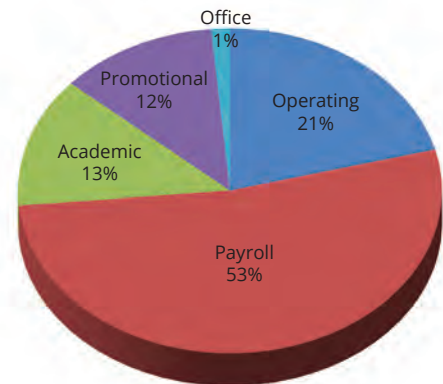
## Academic Program Highlights from 2022-2023

- A new online Master of Arts in Disciple Making & Ministry Leadership Degree was launched
- 44 students enrolled in online classes: 33 in undergrad programs and 11 in the master's program. Geographic location: from Canada-31 (AB-2, MB-1, NB-11, NS-5, ON-3, PE-8, QC-1), Ethiopia-1, Nigeria-2, UK-1, and USA-9 (IL-1, KY-1, OK-1, TX-5, VA-1)
- First students graduated in May 2023 from the Disciple Maker Certificate-Level 1, the first online courses started in September 2020
- The four-year Bachelor of Arts (Bible) Degree and one-year Biblical Studies Certificate were put on hold due to low enrollment
- The KT Norris Lectures were held in May 2023 after having to cancel for 2 years due to Covid restrictions; David Nelson, Real Life Ministries Texas, spoke on the theme "Rooted & Established"
- The first online MCC Yearbook was published and posted to our website covering the school years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 - previously Decade Books were published and sold in hard cover format
- The 503 University Avenue property was sold and the MCC office relocated to rented space inside Sherwood Christian Church in Charlottetown - this will allow MCC to focus on its mission to equip disciple makers using its online learning format

## 2022 Operating Revenue \$756,854

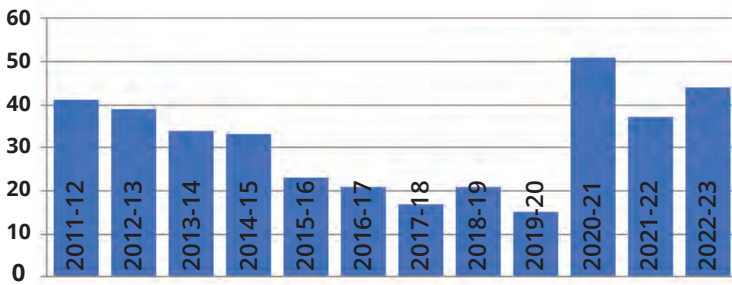


## 2022 Expenses \$770,122

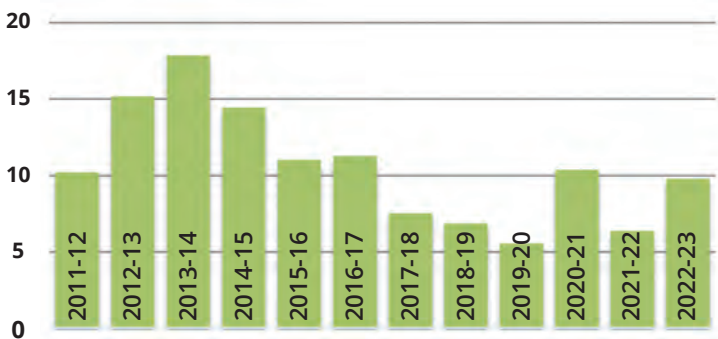


## MCC Enrollment

Headcount - full-time, part-time, and auditing students



Full-time Equivalency (FTE) - full-time students plus full-time equivalent of part-time student credit hours; no audit students



## Fiscal Highlights

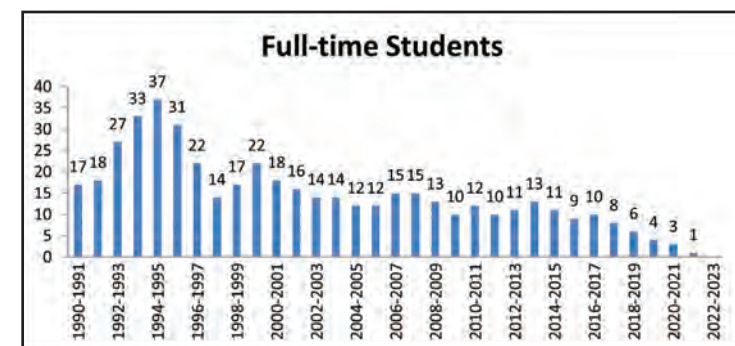
- A decrease in donations from churches and individuals of -11.5% caused a higher draw on investments
- An increase in dorm rentals to full capacity helped offset building costs
- A sustained increase in furnace oil prices nearly doubled the cost for 2022 from the previous year
- Received \$20,000 for the Legacy Fund (not shown in Operating Revenue)
- An increase in payroll due to an increased number of online courses delivered by adjunct professors
- An increase in promotion costs due to online marketing; and travel to churches and events now that Covid restrictions have eased
- Hurricane Fiona caused \$25,000 damage - most of it was repaired through insurance, the provincial disaster relief fund, and a church donation.

# MOVING TOWARD THE FUTURE



May 1, 2023 was the closing date for the sale of the Maritime Christian College property at 503 University Avenue. This property had been purchased in 1993 to realize the dream of being adjacent to the University of Prince Edward Island where numerous students could attend classes in MCC's facility and live in the dorm while completing their ministry degree. At the time it appeared MCC's enrollment would continue to rise like other Bible colleges throughout Canada and the United States.

Nobody expected the drop in student enrollment which colleges have faced within the last five years. For example, MCC's full-time student numbers have been on a downward trend since the 1995-1996 school year.



## Changing Educational Landscape

Paul E. Boatman in the August 1, 2022 *Christian Standard* article identified several areas of impact which have brought about changes in biblical higher education:

- Financial management problems – Lean financial pockets.
- Education has become costly – [In the US] Title IX (1972) requirements in a fluid culture of interpretation may lead to no government support.
- Cultural trends have devastating impacts on schools – Bible education is not considered a viable option for future employment.
- Megachurches have impacted Bible colleges in negative ways – some megachurches partner with Bible colleges while others have walked away.
- Administrative mistakes lead to closure – spending one's way out of debt.
- Higher education trends challenge Bible colleges – low-cost community colleges with practical certificates with jobs waiting for students pull students away.
- Digital revolution has transformed all education – digital education is growing.<sup>1</sup>

Because of the areas of impact above, Lincoln Christian University (LCU) reorganized its education model and dropped all non-ministry related degrees from their undergraduate program in 2022. The remaining two undergrad degrees are ministry

related. LCU is returning to its roots of *The Preachers are Coming*. Financially they sold half of their campus and removed a major portion of debt. These drastic steps are a means to have a future.

Likewise, St. Louis Christian College (SLCC) saw a dramatic drop. Terry Stine, former President of St. Louis Christian College, stated, "43 out of 100 students decided not to come to SLCC, canceling their registrations just two weeks before the start of class."<sup>2</sup> Declining enrollment, campus location, and financial challenges led St. Louis Christian College to merge with Central Christian College of the Bible. Earlier Central Christian College of the Bible resurrected Cincinnati Christian University into the Christian Church Leadership Foundation (CCL) with the Russell School of Ministry and the CCL Network after it closed in 2020 because of financial decisions and accreditation concerns.

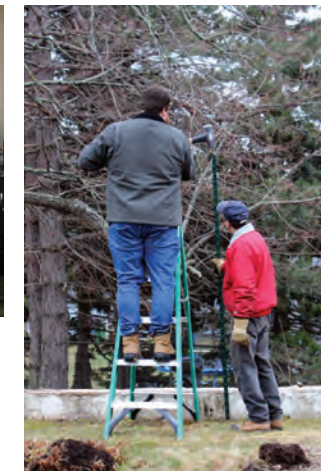
"David Fincher, president of Central Christian College of the Bible in Moberly, MO, [stated,] '... Much of the 20th-century history of the Restoration Movement is tied to the training on that campus and the work of its graduates ... Having these resources ensures their stories and legacy can continue to inspire and inform future students, scholars, and ministers for our churches.'"<sup>3</sup>

May 31, 2020, Hope International University closed their Nebraska Christian College campus following a merger to save the school. The declining enrollment and financial constraints led to the Board of Trustees decision to close the campus.

## Moving Toward the Future

Maritime Christian College faces similar challenges as other Restoration Movement schools. Starting in 2019, MCC addressed these challenges by:

- Reorganizing its educational model from in-person to online,
- Hiring an online education specialist,
- Focusing on disciple making as a priority,
- Establishing partnerships with disciple making emphasis,
- Switching the target audience from 18-22-year-olds to adult education,
- Creating a masters in disciple making,
- Pausing non-performing programs,
- Setting up a MCC office in a new location.





The last bullet point required over a year's worth of preparation and is still ongoing in some areas. The first question was how large of a space would be required? Would there be in-person classes? Would we move the whole library? How many offices would be needed?

MCC decided to minimize its office footprint, and leverage what was learned from following Covid restrictions, where working from home became the norm. It was determined one large open-office concept for multiple uses was the best approach. The College is now located at 9 Lilac Avenue in Charlotetown, renting office space inside Sherwood Christian Church. Office hours are Wednesday 9-4, and staff work from home the rest of the week.

Penny Ching, Director of Finance and Administration, and Ellen Arsenault, Administrative Assistant, organized the packing and moving of all MCC College records and their offices. A second room at Sherwood Christian Church houses the College records, storage, and network equipment. Tom Marshall, Academic Dean, organized the packing and moving of the College library along with the College archives which is now located in a third room of the MCC offices.

Stephen Weatherby was hired part-time to assist with the office relocation. Throughout the moving preparations, whether at the old building or the new offices, Stephen acted as the hands and feet for a lot of the packing, electrical, and manual tasks involved within the move. Stephen also oversaw the posting of items for sale the College would not be taking to the new office space. Sam St. Coeur, Building Supervisor, assisted Stephen throughout the move. President Richard Jones, Nancy Jones, and Greg and

Pat Nicholson cleaned out rejected library books in preparation for the move. Tim Cook and Joel Crouse cleaned up the fallen trees left by Hurricane Fiona in the fall and a local company was hired in April to remove the tree debris.

The greatest challenge was on April 30, 2023 which was the official move-out date for MCC and it's UPEI residents. Hours of hauling, vacuuming and mopping were completed that day. Every room from the top floor down to the furnace room was emptied and cleaned by the May 1, 2023 closing date.

The new offices needed flooring, painting, doors, and lighting. Shelving and cabinets needed to be set up for the books, College records, office supplies and equipment. The completion date was planned for the week of the KT Norris Lectures to allow supporters to view the new facilities.

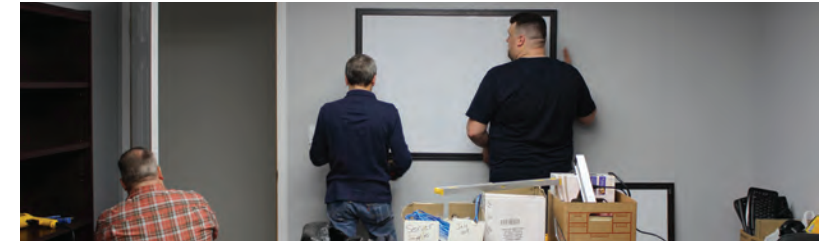
MCC faculty and staff are excited for this new chapter in the history of MCC, despite the many challenges facing Bible colleges today. MCC will continue to fulfill the mission to biblically educate and equip people to become disciples of Jesus who make disciples because the founders were accurate when quoting John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth" (NASB).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Boatman, P. E. (2022, July 26). Christian College Closings & Mergers: The search for answers. Christian Standard. <https://christianstandard.com/2022/08/christian-college-closings-mergers-the-search-for-answers/>.

<sup>2</sup> Moon, C. (2022, March 28). CCCB-SLCC merger nearing completion. Christian Standard. <https://christianstandard.com/2022/03/cccb-slcc-merger-nearing-completion/>.

<sup>3</sup> Moon, C. (2021, April 7). Former CCU campus to become a charter school site. Christian Standard. <https://christianstandard.com/2021/04/former-ccu-campus-to-become-a-charter-school-site/>.

<sup>4</sup> A.J. Holman. (1977). John 17:17. In New American Standard Bible.



# From the Archives



So far 827 students have answered God's call by attending Maritime Christian College either on a full-time or part-time basis because they wanted to serve God. The call remains the same today, God asks, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah responded, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8, NIV). The only answer for a world filled with trouble is Jesus, and we need people to carry this message to others. Please pray that God will raise up workers for the harvest. 🙏



**Our Name**  
**M. C. C. Trip to Georgia**  
 On Thursday, October 18, at 5:00 a.m. two cars carrying the students and faculty of M. C. C. left Charlottetown bound for Decatur, Georgia. We had been invited on an all-expense-paid trip by the Mount Carmel Christian Church. That first night we stopped at a motel in Hartford, Connecticut about 10:00 p.m.

The next morning at 7:00 we were on the road again. By 3:00 p.m. we arrived in Washington D. C. where we spent two hours sightseeing. We saw briefly the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial and the White House. We stayed that evening in Richmond, Virginia.

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 For Youth Leaders  
 Poetry



## The Islander Weekend

### Dedication from all involved turns *The Promise* into a hit

Director pleasantly surprised with production's success

By Iris Phillips  
 Patsy Basting is feeling somewhat in awe these days.  
 Demanded for tickets for Maritime Christian College's musical production, *The Promise*, has been overwhelming. In fact the college had originally scheduled for Saturday night only and Sunday matinee, but the demand was so great that on Sunday night as well. On Wednesday these tickets were sold.  
 "I don't know how to react. I'm surprised," says Ms. Basting, who is the director of the one-act play.  
 "I don't know how word got around. We don't pretend to be a professional group, and I hope no one is disappointed."  
 This far the show has gotten a good response.  
 "The Promise, based on an arrangement by Jan Durgata and Gary Rhodes, recently released from a 10-day tour to Ontario, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It follows the story of Jesus, from birth to the Crucifixion and the Resurrection."  
 "On tour we had good crowds, and it was really well-received. We got a lot of letters and they spread them around the communities. We were very pleased with the audience." But selecting a suitable show was difficult.  
 "I looked at different musicals in the summer, and this seemed like the one that had the most meaning."  
 "I mean, none of the others seemed sort of superficial. This one seemed the most worthwhile."



JEHUS CHRIST, right, played by Mike Burns. Saint-Jean in Hillsborough Park. The play, which will open last night at the Carrefour De L'Isle. Saint-Jean recently returned from a 10-day tour, continues Saturday and Sunday nights.  
 Basting with a smile.  
 The first four months were spent on shape and learning the songs. The students, faculty members and their wives all pitched in to costume making, props and set design. The details of travel and bookings.  
 "The students made everything, including the lighting equipment. It really worked hard - some had never been on a stage before."  
 She says they surpassed her expectations and "it was very rewarding to be able to see the difference just in terms of the students."  
 Ms. Basting says she hadn't planned on the show becoming as

### African books project wins Hillroy Fellowship for Souris high teacher

Patsy MacAulay makes most of trip

By Nancy Willis  
 High school teacher Patsy MacAulay's trip to Lenocho, Africa last year turned out to be much more than a summer vacation.  
 Her weeks as an English instructor with the Lenocho Teachers' Association brought her an unparalleled experience and resulted in a project of her own that recently won the national Hillroy Fellowship of \$2,500.  
 This annual award is sponsored by the Hillroy pencil and scribbler company, a Canadian business among Canadian teachers.  
 Ms. MacAulay won the fellowship for her Basotho books project that brought relative and meaningful literature to the children of Lenocho.  
 "Most books were British, and they were completely inappropriate for their age and cultural background," she explains.  
 Retiring home, she organized her Grade 11 class, and they worked through slide presentations and discussions of Basotho children on topics that would mean something to the Basotho children, they divided into 10 different groups, and each illustrated and content that reflected the African reality.  
 Ms. MacAulay is currently on a two-year leave of absence from Souris High School and is working as executive director for the P.E.I. Association for Community Living.  
 She recently returned from a Bermuda Holiday which absorbed a bit of her fellowship. She did a computer to help assist her to work. The rest of the money went to Africa where she shared the award with her Lenocho teacher friends.





# Courses for September 2023

Current students register by August 15  
[mccpei.com/next-courses-available](http://mccpei.com/next-courses-available)

## Disciple Making Church Leadership Certificate



### P115 – Intentional Leaders Become Healthy Leaders (Prerequisite P111)

This course examines the life of Jesus Christ and how intentional He was with all He did. Students will learn to become more intentional with all they do in the life of ministry. A deep dive into “Disciple making is not what you do but who you are”.

## Youth Disciple Making Ministry Certificate

### C115 – Intentional Leadership (Prerequisite C111)

In this course students will learn how to become a much more intentional disciple maker. How to invest in your key leadership to develop a team that makes disciples. During the 13 weeks you will establish the tools necessary to build a much more intentional youth ministry that raises up not only volunteers but students that can go and intentionally make disciples.



The next scheduled intake of new students for the Youth Disciple Making Ministry Certificate is January 2024.

# In Loving Memory

## February 1 - June 15, 2023

HATTIE ARMSTRONG – Burt’s Corner, NB.....	Heather Jones
GEOFFREY CONLEY – Leonardville, NB.....	Darrel Stewart
BURTIS M. CROUSE – Burt’s Corner, NB.....	Sandra Crouse
MARLENE DUNPHY – Nanaimo, BC .....	Heather Jones
DAVID ESTEY – Duncan, BC.....	Heather Jones
LOUIS & CARRIE HERRING – Murray Harbour, PE.....	Ida MacKenzie
CHERYL STEWART – Fredericton, NB .....	Darrel Stewart
GERALD STEWART – Fredericton, NB.....	Darrel Stewart
LORETTA STEWART – Fredericton, NB .....	Darrel Stewart

Please Note:

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.



**MARITIME**  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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 Memo: MCC, Fund # 1103649  
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**ACCREDITED MEMBER**

Stewardship Policy:

“Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for a program or project will be used where needed most.”

Apply by August 15 for  
**September 2023**



## Disciple Maker Certificate

### **P19 – Disciple Making and the Local Church**

Includes the core purpose of the church, shifting to a disciple making focus, the roles of leaders, reaching lost people, development, and church planting.



## Master of Arts in Disciple Making and Ministry Leadership Degree

### **MABT505 - Acts of the Apostles: Disciple Making**

A study of the book of Acts, setting forth the establishment of the church and the beginning of Christianity.

### **MAPR515 - Disciple Making and the Local Church**

Practical and proven methods for creating relational environments to facilitate disciple making in the local Church.

**New Students – Apply Online**

[mccpei.com/apply-online](http://mccpei.com/apply-online)

**Current Students – Register Online**

[Next Courses Available](#)



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