

MARITIME MESSENGER

Volume 62 No. 1 - September 2023



Aligned for Mission

by Richard Jones
President



Welcome to our Fall 2023 edition of The Messenger. Our theme for this edition is partnerships with local churches.

I want to start my discussion by emphasizing how interlocking the mission of Maritime Christian College (MCC) is with the mission of the local church. Let's start by remembering that Jesus himself commissioned every follower of his to make more followers (Matthew 28:18-20), and that the natural expression of how we are to do this is by being part of a healthy local fellowship of believers who "do life together" (see Acts 2:42 as an example).

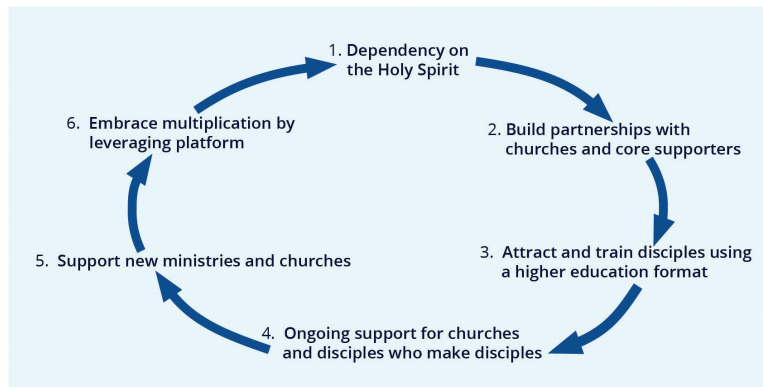
If you go to the website of almost every local Christian church, you will find some form of vision or mission statement about that church. While the mission of different churches can be expressed in different ways, I am going to offer a generic mission statement that should apply to every church: *The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit to the glory of God the Father*¹. This definition is from a book called "DiscipleShift" by Jim Putman, Bobby Harrington, and Robert E. Coleman that MCC uses in some of its courses.

Now let's look at the purpose statement of Maritime Christian College: *We exist to biblically educate and equip people to become disciples of Jesus who make disciples*. I've written at length in other editions of The Messenger about this purpose statement and our vision for the next decade that supports it, so I won't elaborate here, but I would encourage you to go to mccpei.com/mcc-vision to refresh your knowledge.

I hope it is obvious that the mission of the local church and the mission of MCC are fully aligned, because this alignment leads to the core of my message to you: *Maritime Christian College cannot exist without healthy local churches to help it complete its mission*. In fact, MCC is very open about stressing that our methods of achieving our mission

emphasize *biblical knowledge plus practical application* of that knowledge. This practical application is to be done in the context of a local church – whether it is 5, 10, 100, or 500 people in size.

I am going to finish my remarks by giving you an illustration of how MCC sees its mission intertwined with local churches. This graphic below is based on a concept called a "Growth Flywheel"², first introduced over 20 years ago by business author Jim Collins as he studied successful organizations.



This concept has been studied and proven in many successful organizations - including churches and ministries - around the world. At a basic level, it means doing a few fundamental things very well, and arranging these activities in a way that naturally encourages the next activity to take place. The first few times you do each element, it can be clunky or not executed well. But eventually, by focusing on steadily improving these fundamentals over time, the organization gains momentum and starts moving faster.

The point I want to make with MCC's growth flywheel is the importance and dependency on local churches. You should be able to easily observe this dependency embedded in many of the six elements on MCC's growth flywheel.

As you read through this edition of The Messenger, you will find several examples of how this growth flywheel and partnering with local churches operates in real life. I trust you will be encouraged at how these partnerships are helping churches make disciples of Jesus. ☑

¹ Jim Putman, Bobby Harrington, Robert E. Coleman "DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples", 2013, p. 32

² Jim Collins, "Good To Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...and Others Don't", 2001



MARITIME
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Meeting the Challenge Campaign

Jesus commanded his followers to “go and make disciples” – the three initiatives in this campaign will support MCC students in meeting this challenge.

Church Partnerships - \$60,000/year

Many churches are struggling with leadership, culture, and programs to be more effective at making disciples who make disciples.

MCC wants to partner with churches and leaders committed to disciple making.

MCC provides training resources, workshops, consulting and support for new and existing ministries across Canada.



Donate today:

www.mccpei.com/meeting-the-challenge-campaign

The third of the three pillars of MCC’s “Meeting the Challenge” Campaign is increasing the amount of funding for the College’s work with local churches. Core elements of MCC’s strategy are building partnerships with churches, training disciple makers from local churches, and providing ongoing support to local church disciple makers.

MCC can help the leadership teams of local churches get aligned and focused on disciple making as a core focus, help leaders become connected to other disciple making leaders in North America through live events and leadership seminars, and provide consultation services for planning and supporting new ministry initiatives. 📧

“Being partners with MCC provides benefits for being Kingdom Builders as both are deeply interested in helping people become disciples of Jesus. MCC comes alongside Central in many ways including providing courses teaching how to become better disciples. MCC assists with facilitating clarity sessions to help us strategize, as well as to provide resources

to help with elder governance. This past year they helped us search for a pastor and have provided pulpit supply. Being partners with MCC has an increased benefit in that we are shown how to make disciples that make disciples.”

Central Christian Church Leadership, Charlottetown, PE



In Church Relations, I am blessed with the opportunity to travel to meet with churches from Ontario eastward. I typically start by meeting with the Pastor to better understand what is working well and where there is opportunity to improve. Next, I facilitate a clarity session where we meet with leaders of the church to look at where the church has come from, where they are today and where they want to go. We call these areas “WINS” and this stands for “what’s important now”. Once

the leadership of the local church determines the WINS, MCC offers to come alongside them and resource the WIN teams. In many cases, some of the best resources we have to offer are classes. For instance, we have three different churches who have WIN teams that are working towards shifting to a biblical model of elder governance. One of these



churches has six leaders taking P111 *Intro to Healthy Leadership* together. In this class they will work together to apply what they learn about this biblical model. Simultaneously we meet with the church to offer resources such as guest preaching, info sessions for the congregation, sermon series resources and other materials that help their WIN teams. In many cases we pray and fast alongside the church leadership. 📧

by Tim Cook

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

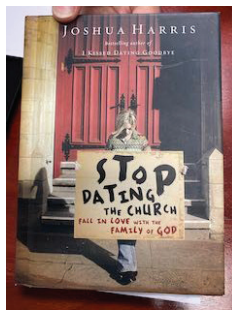
Healthy Financial Practices

by Tom Marshall with James Nicholson



I had an opportunity to sit down and interview James Nicholson, Senior Wealth Advisor at Scotia Wealth Management, about the upcoming Leadership Advance: Healthy Financial Practices for Individuals and Churches. He was kind enough to share a few thoughts about what he has learned over the years and what will be covered in the Leadership Advance on November 3-4, 2023.

One book that influenced me was, *Stop Dating the Church!: Fall in Love with the Family of God*, by Joshua Harris.



Our session on Friday night is seeing the church from heaven's perspective. Do we see the Church from heaven's perspective? This is about eternity and it's about eternal differences, for example how do we handle the temporal things in light of eternity. What do people see when they see the Church? What does God see when He looks at the Church? We are stewards of what God's given us. I call this leading a disciplined life. We'll look at these questions Friday night.

WHAT ARE THE TOP THREE THINGS YOU LEARNED ABOUT PEOPLE AND FINANCES?

I've been able to observe people for 36 years. I was 26 years old when I began financial planning. As I talked with older people, I'd ask them this question: what's your money for? Tell me about what you are accumulating this money for. It's an open-ended question because I wanted to understand where they were coming from.

1 First, almost 100% of them answered the same way. I've been doing this for 36 years, and it's always the same answer: "It's for my kids." I'm talking about the general population of people, not church people. They would answer: "It's for my kids."

I started putting this into practice in my life, but then I asked, "Well, James, is that what I want to say when I'm older? Is that going to be my answer for everything that I've accumulated—it's for my family? It's an honorable thing, but what if I've made provisions for my family and there are still resources left because God has blessed us?"

I was in my late 30s when I put in place an insurance contract in my life and how I funded it and where it is today. I thought if I become a total mess in my life—I have made provisions for my family. This gave me peace of mind to free up my other resources for other matters.

2 Second, you must distribute your wealth at some point. The biggest lesson learned was that people were accumulating great sums of money and trying to figure out how to take it with them; they know they can't take it with them but there was one guy in particular who had a beautiful casket and steel container for the casket to go in. It was the best attempt I have seen to take it with him. But in the end, he couldn't take it with him. We as humans work and drive hard but at the end of the day, we can't take it with us. We have to distribute it to others.

3 The third thing is how we create choices and freedom by leading a disciplined life with our finances.

I've noticed that people who have provisioned for their family then think about their legacy. They ask themselves, what is my legacy when I'm gone? So, they've shifted from the question of caring for the family to their legacy. That's when buildings are named after them, or they made large scholarships in their name.

Anyone can submit financial questions before Friday night. Send your questions to info@mccpei.com.

Saturday morning we're going to have a fireside chat about estate planning like distribution of assets, the appointment of key individuals as executors, the right of power of attorney, and intergenerational wealth transfer of money. It's advanced planning. What should I be doing today while I'm alive?

It will be a fireside chat with an estate and trust consultant, an accountant, and I'll moderate the chat. We're going to have a discussion and we are all going to bring our own personal reflections from our individual practices. This will be right after breakfast for about an hour and a half on Saturday morning. There will be a Q&A time.

The last session will be about the practical and biblical application of our finances. We'll explore the five steps to generosity and how money works with the Rule of 72 and the Rule of 115. I'll be using a second little book titled: *The Solomon Portfolio: How to Invest Like a King*. The book is based on the principles Solomon raises in the book of Ecclesiastes. It's about asset diversification and dividing your wealth in seven areas because you don't know where trouble may come from. It's written by Robert Katz who took the discussions surrounding the seven distinct asset classes that keep your rate of return the best while keeping your volatility as the lowest possible.



BUILD A LEGACY

The second pillar of our “Meeting the Challenge” Campaign is Student Bursaries, which we talked about in the last Messenger. You can meet the challenge by donating to the Student Bursaries goal of \$40,000/year to aid student enrollment through financial support. Or consider donating to MCC’s Legacy Fund which empowers the spirit of generosity by

keeping alive the legacy of those who have made a difference in our lives. Both methods are an excellent way to leave a Legacy that makes a difference for the future.

Contact MCC for additional information or donate today at: mccpei.com/meeting-the-challenge-campaign. 📧

Bursaries Awarded for September 2023

The John and Lillian Bergman Recruitment Fund

Patrick Afum	Carlos Medrano
Bonita Burnham	Victor Meye
Britton Clay	Rolando Rongo
Megan Davies	Nathan Shelton
Sarah Macdonald	Michael Williams
Jillian McCann	

The Central Street Christian Church Bursary

Robbie Sevilla

The Christian Church at Breadalbane Bursary

Britton Clay

The Christian Church of Moncton Bursary

Robbie Sevilla

The Burtis M. Crouse Memorial Scholarship

Stephen Weatherby

The Louis H. Herring & J. Hubert Beck Memorial Bursary

Nathan Shelton

The May Herring Memorial Scholarship

Megan Davies

The Montague Christian Church Bursary

Darlene Ulvstal

The New Brunswick Bursary

Jillian McCann

The Marilyn J. Norris Memorial Award

Sarah Macdonald

The President’s Bursary

Madison Willows

The Michael Richard Smith Memorial Award

Larry MacLaren

The James Jarvis Stewart Memorial Bursary

Danielle Munro

The Westport Church of Christ Bursary

Yangyi Will Wang

The Tuition Scholarship

From funds donated in memory of Edward P. Benoit, Neil Burt, John E. Carew, Dorothy J. Lord, Garnet & Gertrude McIntyre, Earl Ohl, Gordie Ohl, Alvin Rowledge and Della Murphy, Donald F. Stewart, Neil W. Zimmerman; endowments from Grape Grove Church of Christ, Rodney Christian Church, Truro Church of Christ; and other one-time donations for bursaries.

Joel Cormode

Rae Peter Ejtel

Grant MacDonald

Victor Meye

Danielle Munro

Jardine Soriano

Rinarose Soriano

Michael Williams

Fall 2023 Students

Maritime Christian College's fall semester started September 5 with 30 online students registered. Fourteen of the students who registered are taking a course at MCC for the first time.

Master's Program

8 students:

- 4 – Canada (1-ON, 3-PE)
- 3 – USA (1-KY, 1-OK, 1-TX)
- 1 – Ethiopia

- 7 – male
- 1 – female

Undergrad/Certificate Programs

22 Students:

- 20 – Canada (1-AB, 1-MB, 4-NB, 2-NS, 8-ON, 3-PE, 1-QC)
- 2 – Nigeria

- 12 – male
- 10 – female



ENROLL FOR JANUARY 2023



Master of Arts in Disciple Making and Ministry Leadership

MABT509 - Apologetics

Explore making a defense of the faith by examining common attacks against Christianity and by discerning how best to answer tough questions while seeking to make disciples.

MAPR517 - Intentional Disciple Making

Examine the biblical reasoning and motivation behind making disciples, assessing progress as a disciple maker, and equipping students to make disciples who make disciples.



Disciple Maker Certificate

P15 - Mission Perspective

A course designed to study disciple making methods within missions, examining concepts used within indigenous churches and the methods and principles being used on various mission fields.



Youth Disciple Making Ministry Certificate

C111 - Preparing for Launch

An overview for creating a youth and student ministry that will help the students establish what is needed to launch a disciple making movement. The cornerstones of a biblical foundation, becoming an intentional leader, creating relational environments and building a reproducible process will be introduced.

C117 - Healthy Environments for Healthy Growth *(Prerequisite C111)*

Learn how to build an environment for healthy growth. A deep understanding of how a relational environment is critical to the process of disciple making and being a disciple is "not what you do but who you are". The student will learn how to establish this environment and connect youth to God and each other in a life changing way.

Courses begin
January 8, 2024

All courses
are online

For more
information:
mccpei.com



Apply by
December 15

mccpei.com/apply-online

In Loving Memory

June 16 - September 21, 2023

- CHUCK CASWELL – Halifax, NS Jim & Donna Lavigne
- BURTIS M. CROUSE – Burt’s Corner, NB Hollis & Donna Grant
- RAYMOND & HILDA HAINES – Douglas, NB Frank & Beverly Haines
- BLANCHE W. LEWIS – South Range, NS Vivian Wright
- MARSHALL R. LEWIS – South Carolina, USA Vivian Wright
- ANDREW LEWIS – South Carolina, USA Vivian Wright
- GARTH PUGH – Burt’s Corner, NB Hollis & Donna Grant
- MURRAY & GRETA SPENCER – Burt’s Corner, NB Hollis & Donna Grant
- AVARD J. WRIGHT – Digby, NS Vivian Wright

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.

Please update our address:

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9 Lilac Avenue
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Maritime Christian College
 9 Lilac Avenue
 Charlottetown, PE C1A 6L1 Canada
 Phone: 902-628-8887
 info@mccpei.com
www.mccpei.com

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www.mccpei.com/usa-donations

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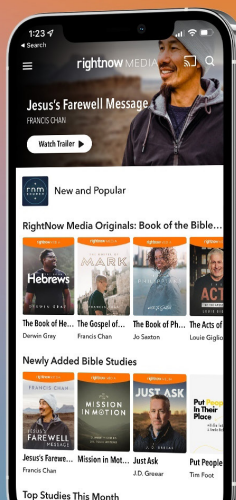
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Stewardship Policy:

“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.”



Leadership Advance

Healthy Financial Practices for Individuals and Churches

November 3 & 4

Friday 6 - 9pm *(supper included)*

Saturday 8am - 12noon *(breakfast included)*

9 Lilac Avenue, Charlottetown, PE

Session 1

Fall in Love with the Church and Develop Eternal Principles with Our Finances

Session 3

How Do We Create Financial Margin in Our Lives

Session 2

**Fireside Chat
How Do We Leave a God-honouring Legacy with Our Assets**

James Nicholson

**Doug Ezeard, CPA, CA, Partner
Arsenault, Best, Cameron, Ellis**

**Kerri Seward Carpenter
LLB, B.Sch, TEP
Estate and Trust Consultant
Scotia Wealth Management**



Speaker:

James Nicholson, BBA
Senior Wealth Advisor
Scotia Wealth Management



Register at:
mccpei.com/leadership-advance
or call 902-628-8887

Cost: \$48 per person
e-transfers@mccpei.com

Registration and payment due by October 27



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