



Profile:

Winter 2011
Volume 21 No. 2

Our Corner of the Vineyard

Not far from the Montana Bible College campus is a community garden. Many cities and towns have established these municipally-owned, designated parcels of ground for residents who would like to grow a garden during the summer months, but who don't own enough ground to garden at home. The community garden space is divided among many participants, each of whom is given a designated plot which they cultivate, plant, irrigate and maintain. At the end of the growing season, the gardeners enjoy the produce they've nurtured.



Jim Carlson, President

Needless to say, a number of factors influence the success of the garden. Foremost is, of course, weather. At nearly a mile high there is no guaranteed growing season here in the Gallatin Valley. A late spring normally means marginal success in the garden, and the gardener is powerless to affect it. A second variable is the gardener. Degree of dedication, amount of available time, wisdom and experience: all these combine to determine whether a plot will be productive. Just a glance at the community garden quickly reveals who has the green thumb and who does not.

Scripture frequently uses imagery from the world of agriculture to make a point of timeless truth, largely because a great deal of Bible history was played out against a farming backdrop. In Isaiah 5.1-7 the

prophet portrayed the apostate nation of Israel as a vineyard that had never produced satisfactorily, despite the efforts and investment of the farmer, God Himself. Jesus expanded the vineyard idea to include a string of prophets who warned and exhorted God's people to surrender their hearts and return to Him, yet to no avail (Matthew 21.33-46).

We sometimes refer to the ministry of MBC as service in "our corner of God's vineyard." We see our role as training disciple-makers who are equipped to be leaders in churches. We are uniquely positioned and able to speak to the needs of the "town-and-country" community, and train accordingly. We offer those resources God has entrusted to us to churches and ministries in the northern Rocky Mountain region, knowing that the Head of the Church also will deploy our students to the "utmost parts of the earth."

While the community garden is a wonderful help to people, our "garden" work takes a different tack: what we have we don't intend to keep, but to give away. Whether it's filling a pulpit, ministering through ServantSong, providing a conference or sharing expertise, it's to be given away for the sake of God's Kingdom.

We're glad you're a part of what God is doing through our ministry in this corner of His vineyard!

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MBC is Hosting Two Momentous Events This Summer! All School Reunion – July 27, 2012



JESSICA AMB (CLARK) • DEMINA ANDERSON • BETHANY AZNOE (PERRON) • MICAH BARNHART • BRITTNI BELL • DANIEL BENFIELD • SETH BEVANS • BRITTANY BEVANS (HAMILTON) • JEFFREY BISSILL • NORA BOFF • JESSIE BOS • ALICIA BRACE • JESSICA BRENEMAN (PIPOLI) • JOHN BRENEMAN • SHANE BROSIER • ANDREW BROSSMAN • NIC BRYCE • LUKE BURGESS • RICHARD BURKE • TODD BURLEY • JENNIE BUSENITZ (BOS) • GORDON CAINE • BETH CAMPBELL • SCOTT CAMROD • BRITTEN CARLSON (LAMB) • LUKE CARLSON • SARAH CASEBOLT • CHRISTY CAUCUTT (DUTIEL) • MARIA CHALFON • DAVE CHAMBERLIN • PAUL CHAPMAN • JOHN CLARK • TIFFANI CLARK (EGGERT) • MARTIN COLE

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We invite all former MBC & MIB/BSBC students to MBC's first official all-school reunion!

Summer 2012 marks MBC's 25th anniversary of the Lord opening our doors and the 20th anniversary of our first graduating class. MIB is celebrating its 60th anniversary. What a year to unite for a celebration! A special ceremony is planned to distinguish MBC's connection with MIB/BSBC alumni. You won't want to miss this event, and we don't want to miss you either!

The reunion is scheduled for Friday, July 27, 2012, in hope that you and your family can stay for the MBC 25th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 28. Watch for an official alumni invitation and RSVP card in the mail. To be sure you receive an invitation, email your current contact information to Brooke Harwood at alumni@montanabiblecollege.edu.

MIKE HARWOOD • MARK HASSLER • BRADLEY HOLIDAY • MEANIE HOLIDAY • NATHAN HUNSUCKER • KELLY JENNAWAY • DANIEL JOHNSON • KAITLIN JOHNSON • NATHAN KELM • RACHELLE KELM (SAMPSON) • NELLIE KING • LUCAS KLEIN-SASSER • LISA KLEMPER • LISA LANDIS • JOSHUA LANG • LISA LANG • TIM LEWIS • ESTHER LINGE • NICK MARKS • MARTIN MARTIN • KEVIN MATHAWSON • MCKENNA MIELKE • DANIEL MIKESH • OLYA MIKESH • DEE MILLIGAN • VIRGIL MORNINGSTAR • VERNICE MULLETT • DOUG NICKEL • JOE NOLLMAYER • SAMUEL O'NEAR • ROB ODERMANN • JACKIE PARKER • JANICE PARKER (STADNYKI) • JA-

NOTE! If you are a graduate and your name doesn't appear on this page, please email Brooke.

25th Year Anniversary Celebration! – July 28, 2012



The summer of 2012, marks the beginning of the 25th year anniversary of Montana Bible College! 1987 saw the doors open and God begin His work in and through the board, faculty, staff and students at MBC. We invite everyone who wants to celebrate this momentous occasion to an MBC birthday party on Saturday, July 28, 2012, in Bozeman, Montana. Activities are planned for the whole family, so watch your mailbox for an invitation with more details. Save the date now!

Email your current mailing address to Brooke to ensure you receive your invitation.
brooke.harwood@montanabiblecollege.edu

Fall Profiles: Graduates and New Degrees

Dave Barnhart, Th.D.



Dave Barnhart is in his 21st year of teaching at Montana Bible College. This year we applaud him for completing a Master of Theology degree program at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon—a teaching degree that is a bridge to a Doctor of Theology degree.

Dave's deep commitment to Montana Bible College has been evident for years. During the thirteen years he held a pastorate in Wilsall, Montana, he drove an hour to Bozeman once a week to teach two or three classes at MBC.

In addition to his current assignment of teaching Church History at MBC, Dave is fully engaged as the Global Outreach Pastor at Grace Bible Church. This ministry takes him to Russia, Ukraine, and Ethiopia to participate in the Antioch Initiative—training pastors and church leaders.

As a busy pastor, teacher, traveler, husband, father and grandfather, we wondered why he would take time to pursue another degree. Here is his response:

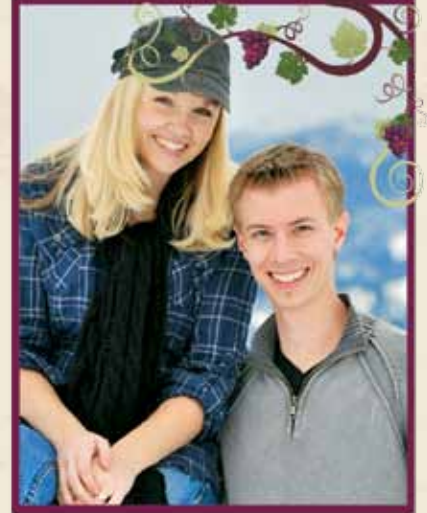
“Some years ago a friend asked if I thought a man had to have the gift of study or a love of studying to be a pastor. Though a gift of study isn't found in any of the New Testament lists, I can't imagine a pastor, teacher, or any follower of Christ not wanting to study, learn and grow. Early on I realized that the more I learn, the more there is to learn. It is a never-ending process. Specifically, I wanted to continue learning and developing my understanding of church history from 490-1300 A.D.

Returning to Western gave me the opportunity to grow and to do so with minimal disruption to my family and ministry. I also appreciated the fact that an advanced degree would contribute to MBC's accreditation process and enhance my future teaching opportunities.”

Congratulations and thank you, Dave.

Justin Gannon, B.A. Music Technology

Justin is the Information Technology Director at Montana Bible College. His fascination with electronics and computers started early on, as he taught himself the ins and outs of computers by regularly crashing his parents' system.



Justin also developed an interest in music and was fascinated with the connection between music and the computer world. He became involved in the high school ministry at Grace Bible Church and played the keyboard in the youth worship band. After playing in the band for a year, Justin transitioned into the role of bandleader.

In 2006, Justin enrolled in general studies at Montana State University Bozeman, but he was quickly drawn to the (then) brand new Music Technology major. He has since acquired a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Technology and is working primarily as the Technical Coordinator at Grace Bible Church, a major ministry partner of Montana Bible College. He started a home recording studio that he maintains as a side business.

Justin and his wife Justine married in 2008. They continue to be active in the high school ministry at Grace Bible Church.



Crushed in the Cr

Speakers



Jim Carlson, MBC President



**Gerry Breshears, Professor of Theology
Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon**



Ryan Ward, MBC Instructor

Church Leadership Conference – C

The corner of our vineyard at Montana Bible College burst with activity as people streamed here from Montana, Wyoming, Washington, and Idaho. A vibrant group of 175 church leaders gathered this October to attend our annual Church Leaders Conference. MBC students, instructors, and staff also participated in the conference.

The very title of the conference, *Crushed in the Crucible*, alerted attendees that the conference was crafted to address difficult issues that individuals and, by association, the church also faces—issues we would rather ignore. We often sweep them under the rug or reluctantly deal with them hurriedly and move on. Unfortunately, unresolved issues cripple an individual's effectiveness in the vineyard and harms the God-given ministry of the whole Church. More often than not, it takes time for healing to occur when an offense has been perpetrated.

General sessions led by Jim, Gerry, and Ryan provided the foundation for dealing with tough issues in the church. If you missed the conference this year, you can still benefit by listening to the general sessions. Log on to www.montanabiblecollege.edu. Click the link to *Crushed in the Crucible* and then Download Conference Media. There you can access the seven general sessions. Note Download Principles and Plan PDF. Use this comprehensive map, developed by Ryan Ward, to navigate tough situations.

*Come to our corner of the
vineyard next year.*

Theme: Judea, Montana—Christ Close to Home
Keynote speaker: Art Azurdia, Pastor and Associate Professor
of Pastoral Theology, Portland, Oregon.

Dates: October 18-19, 2012

You have been invited!

Musicible

October 20 - 21, 2011

“Each case study brought home the awful nature of sin. ‘Let him who thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall,’ means a whole lot more to me. It is helpful to have more compassion for the terrible pain sin brings.”

small groups



“My goal was to be refreshed, refueled, and rekindled. I can confidently say that all three were met. I came to the conference with some questions and struggles on various things. I don’t know why I am surprised, but God resolved some of those things for me through the sessions.”



Jeff MacPherson and T.C. Richardson, MBC board members, provided delightful music as conferees awaited the general session.



“We explored redemptive biblical principles that apply to the offended, the offender, and the crowd of observers.”



“My expectations were met in abundance—relevant, pertinent, timely, candid, and vital information, interactions and discussions.”



“How do we deal with problems in a deeper way?”



Montana Bible College 2011 Board of Directors	
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Focus: MBC Board of Directors T.C. Richardson



According to the Westminster Catechism, the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, but too many Christian testimonies serve the creature rather than the Creator. My life began in wickedness and sin, but one day in the summer of 1954, I recognized what Jesus had done for me by dying on the cross. I claimed Him as my Savior.

In God's time, I fulfilled the desire to learn more about Him. My college career made a right turn—the conglomerate of art, earth science and small business management was now dominated with Bible. With the three kids of my lovely wife, Louisa, God saw us through a pay-as-you-go, four-year Bible college, while I worked full time. Somewhere squeezed in this 1964-1970 span, I began my military commitment.

As a lifelong Christian with an official Christian education, it was only natural that I would have a career as a church staff member. As such, a staff member is expected to be good, to tithe, pray, preach, teach, to be at every opening of the church, and to have a "life verse." I chose Matthew 5:16: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.* It took me years to understand *let*.

Church failed me—at least my understanding of church let me down. It was full of hypocrites! I witnessed "Christians" from the inside—church members and church leaders living in direct opposition to God's Word. This is not how it is supposed to be!

By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast is a truth to cling to. However, understanding that I was created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them, took some time to internalize. After ten years as a Christian schoolteacher and administrator, a brief political career, and fourteen years in the Air Force Reserve Aeromedical field, revival came down on me as the world watched the U.S. TV version of Desert Storm raining down missiles in 1991. It was then, for the first time, that I realized the impact of Jesus as my personal Savior—that old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Over the years, God has shown me that Christianity is a journey, not a destination. It is NOT all about heaven, though heaven is a wonderful place. Christianity is not church; it is made up of church. Unfortunately, not all who attend church are in the Kingdom, and they will not go to heaven. That's why Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom. This is why MBC must be about teaching and preaching the cross, which is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. This mixed audience of them that perish and the saved is found in the church.

What happens tomorrow in "church" locally, regionally or globally (Acts 1:8) is not just left up to Jesus. He wants his people to participate. Jesus knew how the story would end, but that does not exclude Christians from participation. For some reason, Jesus told His disciples twice to cast their nets, and they did. Did He need them to catch fish? Does He need us to be fishers of men? Even if we, like Peter, will fall down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord," He won't!

T.C. and Louisa Richardson

MBC Financial Update

by Brooke Harwood

One person can make a difference. For example, if one MBC graduate disciples just two people, and the next year each of those disciples two other people, and this “doubling” continues for the next 25 years (approximately one generation), the world would be populated with almost 17 million more mature Christians—and that’s just one graduate throughout one generation!

Montana Bible College is all about glorifying God by making disciple makers who will be leaders in churches. We want the work that God does here to be as exciting for you as it is for us! Your partnership has an impact we can’t measure. Through one person, one donation, one prayer, God can (and does!) ignite a life. By giving to MBC, you are partnering with us in the work God has given all of us to do: changing lives through life-on-life discipleship and training men and women for a lifetime of dynamic Christian living and service.

Income from students accounts for 62% of MBC’s operating budget. That leaves 38% to be covered by other sources, such as investment income and donors.

Any amount you contribute to the work at MBC will be used carefully. Thank you for your partnership!

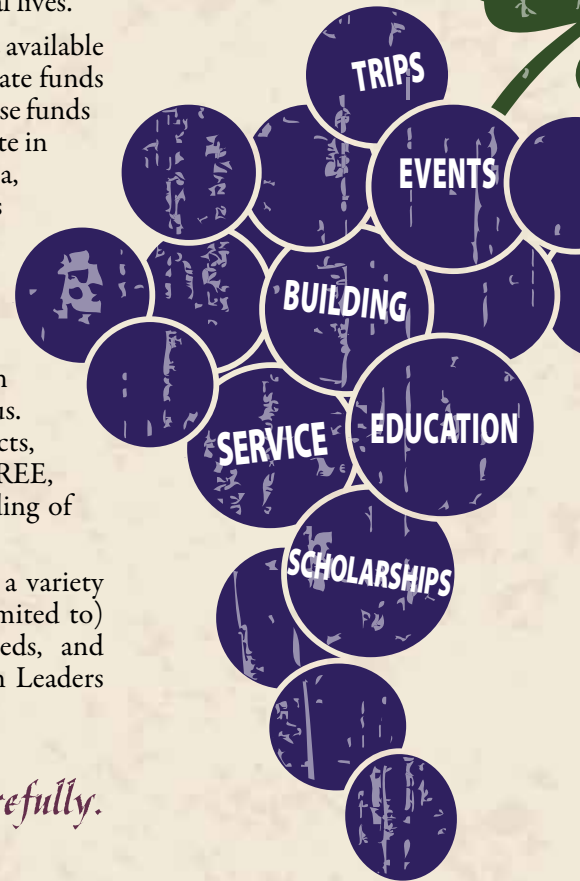
Specific needs to consider supporting are:

Scholarships: 100% goes to students in need or to those who have achieved honorable success in their studies and personal lives.

A NEW scholarship opportunity is available for those who would like to designate funds for the *Dino Dig* next summer. These funds are used for students who participate in the excursion to Glendive, Montana, where they learn about God’s creation while digging for real dinosaur bones!

Building Fund: MBC plans to build a new residence hall to provide our married students with an affordable place to live on campus. As with our past building projects, this will be accomplished DEBT-FREE, so your donations speed the building of this exciting new residence!

General Fund: This fund covers a variety of expenses, including (but not limited to) recruitment, catalogs, library needs, and special events, such as the Church Leaders Conference and graduation.



In God’s Crucible: A Personal Witness

Eileen Pollinger

God’s crucible takes on many forms. The purpose of each trial is to make us into the likeness of His Son, Jesus. At the recent Church Leaders Conference, we explored instances in which the crucible involves more than one person. Sometimes God’s crucible may involve an illness that arrives in our corner of the vineyard without invitation. Such is true in the following account and the response to it.

And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested (Zechariah 13:9).

God’s Crucible—the phrase popped into my mind the other day. I don’t know where it came from. I’ve never seen a crucible—an actual one. My dictionary tells me it is a heat-resistant container in which ores or metals are melted and refined.

The raw metal is placed inside, then the crucible is lowered into intense heat—heat hot enough to reduce the contents to a molten stage. The dross floats to the surface, where it can be skimmed off. What is left is pure and worthwhile, usable.

I think the definition that fits my God’s-Crucible phrase is “a place or set of circumstances where people or things are subjected to forces that test them and often make them change.

I’ve been dwelling in God’s Eileen-shaped crucible for a long time now—three years, almost to the day, as I write. It’s not a pleasant place to be. It hurts. It discourages. It often brings me face to face with fear. It recognizes my mortality, my weakness, my absolute inability to climb out and escape.

Surprisingly, most of the time, I don’t want to be rescued from the crucible God designed for me. For it is a place where God shows his magnificent, unchanging, everlasting love, kindness, grace, and mercy—just to mention a little of what I’ve found in my personal crucible. God’s purpose is to purify and refine, to change me and make me into the likeness of Christ, to produce pure gold in my life. I pray He is growing me to be more like him.



3625 S. 19th Avenue • Bozeman, MT 59718

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events

January 28, 2012

Evangelical Free Church in Bozeman, Montana is sponsoring a hands-on conference for Christian educators and home school parents. Contact Kenje at 406.587.3337 or email fehlberg@efcb.org for more information.

July 27, 2012

All School Reunion

July 28, 2012

Montana Bible College 25th-Year Anniversary Celebration

CONTACT US: 406.586.3585 • www.montanabiblecollege.edu

Editor: Barbara Hanno • Printing and Design by Executive Services

Student Stories:

ANTHONY SUMMITT:

This summer God showed me the importance of ministry. My pastoral internship course required that I deliver three sermons to a congregation and teach six lessons in an adult Sunday School class. I was immediately aware of the seriousness of the tasks. As a leader in ministry, I could NEVER say to the congregation, "Pardon me for my lousy message. I didn't feel like working hard on my sermon this week." I would discredit Christ and fail the congregation. I see the pastor as the doctor of people's souls—what more important job in the world can there be? NONE. What a responsibility and privilege at the same time. Praise God!!!

JENNI O'BRIAN

An encouraging part of my summer came through serving in a ministry with my sister in Christ. Before I left for summer ministry, God had to humble my heart and get my focus back on Him. The night before I left town, I returned to Wal-Mart to ask forgiveness from a stranger in the automotive department for my earlier attitude and words toward him. The ministry was a wonderful time to bless and to receive blessings. I was thankful that God prepared and humbled my heart before I left

Last summer MBC's corner of the vineyard expanded as students streamed to many parts of the world. Here is a brief glance into the experience of a few of them.

so my focus was back on Him. He faithfully draws our hearts back to Him.

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2:1-3

LARISSA AMUNRUD

Last summer, I was a counselor at Clydehurst Bible Camp in Montana. One of the many ways God worked in my life, and consequently the lives of my charges, was to show me the importance of leading by example. I love the girls I worked with and wanted them to take sin seriously. I realized that if I was asking them to take sin seriously, then I had to do the same. This was only accomplished by the grace of God. One of the hardest things I have ever had to do was ask for their forgiveness, but God used that in all of our lives to build relationships and trust.

ELLIOT HEUMIER

I was anxious as I headed to Kenya this summer—a place where I knew absolutely no one. The knowledge that I was going to work with the Church gave me confidence to go. I

prayed that God would send the right people at the right time to encourage and strengthen me. He answered by sending me Meshack. He is my age and one of the godliest men I know. He was with me all summer, often serving as my translator. It was a privilege to talk with him for hours about the Lord. I can't thank God enough for the wonderful encouragement and fellowship He gave me through my dear friend Meshack!

JENNY WIELENGA

One of the most exciting ways I have seen God at work is in the opportunities to meet with people for discipleship and encouragement. I tell people I can't wait until I'm done with school, and these meetings with people are the reasons why. I love it! It is humbling, faith building, and at the same time incredibly encouraging. It is humbling, because these people are asking for wisdom—wisdom that I only have in the Lord. It is faith building, because I have to be walking with the Lord in order to bring others closer to Him. It is encouraging, because I get to see God at work in very obvious ways. If that doesn't make life worth living, I don't know what does.