A long ago I heard a preacher ask his congregation: “How many of you want to go to heaven?” All hands shot up. Next question: “How many of you want to die”? No hands. No surprise.

In what might be the most well-known of all Bible passages, Psalm 23, is the remarkably confident declaration, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me” (verse four).

While there is comfort in this verse for the one in the valley, there is also a challenge to the Christian leader. The psalm describes the presence of God with the believer through this life and on into the next, as His Spirit indwells and accompanies each of God’s people through the ups and downs of life and, eventually, death. Let’s remember, though, that since the Good Shepherd (John 10.14) has physically departed this world for the next, the responsibility for shepherding through the valley rests with Jesus’ representative body, the church, and particularly with the “undershepherds” of the flock of God.

Believers are left with a dual responsibility when it comes to the “putting off of this earthly tent” (2 Corinthians 5.1-4): to minister tenderly to those scorched by the sting of death, and to trust Him when our turn comes. The first of these is the point of this October’s Church Leaders Conference at Montana Bible College.

If, in God’s view, the death of His godly ones is “precious” (Psalm 116.15), how do God’s people exercise sensitivity, care and comfort to one another in the midst of numbing sorrow, and the difficult adjustments to follow? Further, in light of the good news of Jesus to those who don’t yet know Him, how might we fill this shepherding role as responsible agents of truth and hope to a lost and dying world?

Our conference is entitled “Eventually Yours: Death, Dying and the Church.” Veteran author and Bible teacher Jerry Bridges of the Navigators will be here to help us appreciate what he has learned in this bittersweet arena.

This fall we will visit the ever-looming valley of the shadow, to seek perspective and to share ideas that will help both the churched and unchurched get from the valley of verse four to the villa of verse six: “the house of the Lord forever.” Please join us!

Bjorn Anderson heads up our Discipleship program, and he has retooled it to better serve and disciple our students during their time here at MBC. This is an exciting time because we have been blessed with a wonderful faculty, staff, and board ready to take on this task and invest in our students in order to see them grow in their walk with Christ throughout their college experience.

During their time here at MBC students will be discipled all four years. During their upper-class years they will learn discipleship from a more mature believer, and even have opportunities to disciple lower division students. We look forward to seeing how God uses this program to continue to grow our students and shape them more into His image. To fulfill the great commission we must do more than make disciples we must make disciple-makers.

“Eventually Yours: Death, Dying and the Church.”

Making Disciple-makers

In our world today education is often associated with the mind and how much information one can shove into his or her brain. Students take exams, write papers, read books, all in an effort to learn and gain more information. However, there is an element to learning that our culture often overlooks. Education is not just about shaping the mind. It also concerns the shaping of the whole person, to include the heart. This is where the Discipleship program at Montana Bible College fits into our curriculum.

As a school we are here to teach our students and help them gain a better understanding of God and His Word and, as a result, prepare for a life of future ministry. However, we don’t just want to have our students fill their minds with knowledge. We simultaneously want to help them take that knowledge and apply it to their lives in a practical way. We aim to help students grow both academically and spiritually.
Graduation Class of 2010

by Louise Turner, Registrar

The graduates in caps and gowns, fifteen one-year certificate recipients, faculty in their full regalia, the MBC choir singing beautifully, a faculty trio gifting the graduates in song and Marty Giese delivering an inspirational charge, together made up the MBC 2010 Commencement Exercises.

We were so blessed that many of you joined us for our graduation on April 30. There were well over 300 in attendance and it was a joyful evening of celebration for the students, their families and friends, as well as the board, faculty and staff of MBC.

Candles, flowers, linens and china beautifully transformed the activity center at Grace Bible Church into an inviting atmosphere for a delicious dinner, which followed the ceremony. The meal was superb and the guests enjoyed music following the ceremony. The meal was a delicious dinner, which fully transformed the activity center for the students, their families and friends, as well as the board, faculty and staff of MBC.

It was a joyful evening of celebration for the students, their families and friends, as well as the board, faculty and staff of MBC.”

Speech! Speech!

Each fall seems to bring some changes—for the better—at MBC, and this year is no exception. In an effort to provide excellence in every area of education, the academic committee has decided to offer communication training at MBC instead of having our students take it off campus for general education credit.

What was formerly Research and Writing will now be called Effective Communication I and will consist of writing and introductory speech. Jeremy Sauskojus will continue with his class for the first half of the semester, and Louise Turner will teach rhetorical skills the second half. In addition, Jeremy will offer an optional writing lab the second half of the semester to give students an opportunity to receive input on their papers all semester. Students will receive two credits for this class.

Effective Communication II will be taught by Louise Turner as a sophomore class. It will be a two-credit class and will be a continuation of the mastery of effective and persuasive speech.

Focus on the MBC Board of Directors

Grahame Nicolson

Please join us in welcoming Grahame Nicolson as our newest member of the Montana Bible College Board of Directors. Having grown up in Australia, at age 19 Grahame boarded a ship bound for Canada, where he enrolled at Prairie Bible Institute. Grahame met his wife Karen at Prairie; Karen is a native Alaskan who was raised in a bush village. After graduating in 1967 the couple married and began a two-year Montana ministry internship. Grahame says, “It’s been a long internship; we’ve now been serving the Lord in Montana for 43 years!”

Grahame and Karen began serving the rural people of northern Montana’s “Golden Triangle” area, usually playing a key role in youth and children’s ministries. They were involved early on with the project that became C Bar N Camp and Montana Wilderness School of the Bible, and continue their involvement there to this day. Never strangers to hard work and creative ministry, in the early 1970s the Nicolsons established and operated a coffee shop in Great Falls, then moved to Big Sandy, where Grahame taught high school English while continuing itinerant pastoral and youth work. Beyond his teaching years, Grahame worked as a securities broker for D.A. Davidson and Company in Havre, all the while maintaining active involvement in area youth groups and church pulpits.

In 1987 the Nicolsons entered the world of vocational ministry when Grahame became pastor of the Conrad Mission Church, after which they established Intermountain Christian Fellowship. ICF is the official umbrella under which the Nicolsons continue their work, discipling young people and training leaders. Grahame and Karen are engaged in regional church and youth ministries, with a winter schedule that takes them each month to several youth groups, churches and special events. From time to time they are called on to minister overseas, and have fulfilled engagements in Italy, India and Australia. Grahame writes church leadership and youth leadership curriculum and regularly teaches leadership classes and groups, including monthly “Men’s Leadership Association” sessions and youth leadership groups.

The theme Grahame and Karen chose for their marriage from the outset was Psalm 48:14: “For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our God even unto death;” Grahame says that he and Karen want to “lay rubber all the way into heaven.”

“The Nicolsons continue their work, discipling young people and training leaders.”

India and Australia. Grahame writes church leadership and youth leadership curriculum and regularly teaches leadership classes and groups, including monthly “Men’s Leadership Association” sessions and youth leadership groups.

In addition to raising three sons, the Nicolsons have been used of the Lord over the years to touch several generations of Montanans in the name of Christ. We’re delighted to have Grahame serve on our board of directors!
Finding the right ministry in which to serve can be a daunting task. Likewise, ministries seeking pastors, leaders, volunteers, and interns are often overwhelmed with how to get the word out about their needs. Montana Bible College is excited to introduce a new service to our students, alumni, friends and supporters across the country: the MBC Ministry Web Directory! This directory is a web-based service that is designed to match individuals seeking ministry opportunities with organizations that provide them.

Whether you are a church seeking a pastor, or a pastor seeking a church, this service can be a great resource. Students and alumni will be able to locate information on thousands of opportunities available around the globe. Mission ministries seeking individuals will find MBC’s new Ministry Web Directory to be a great tool, and it’s only a click away!

How to get started:
If you are interested in exploring potential jobs or internships, go to our website, www.montanabiblecollege.edu and click on the button labeled Ministry Web Directory. You will arrive at our MWD home page which features a welcome message from Jim Carlson, MBC president. Once you register you will have access to our MWD and be able to view current postings listed on the MBC directory. We join a list of other colleges and universities that are also connected to this service such as: Multnomah University, George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Western Seminary, Faith Evangelical Seminary, College of Biblical Studies, Trinity College of Florida, and Biblical Seminary. Once registered in the system, you can also view opportunities listed on their directories.

Jim Carlson is excited about the potential of the MWD stating, “I know the challenges of filling ministry needs in a town or country church. This is the reason we at Montana Bible College are alert to ways to serve the church and their ministries.” Churches and ministries that want to post positions on MBC’s directory can do so online for a minimal fee. If you have questions please contact Billie Orr at 406-586-3585 or email her at advancement@montanabiblecollege.com to request more information.

MBC Presents Our Ministry Web Directory
by Billie Orr, Advancement Director

Register now Online at the Montana Bible College website for MBC’S Church Leaders’ Conference featuring Jerry Bridges! October 28-29

Jerry Bridges
Speaking at Montana Bible College’s Annual Conference!

Jerry Bridges, well-known evangelical Christian author, will be the keynote speaker for MBC’s Church Leader’s Conference in October. A native of Tyler, Texas, Jerry has written numerous books including The Pursuit of Holiness, Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate, The Gospel for Real Life, The Discipline of Grace, Holiness Day by Day, and the book on which we will focus our conference, Trusting God. He has been on staff with The Navigators since 1955 and continues to serve as a resource person to their Collegiate Mission. Jerry and his wife, Jane, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Register now! www.montanabiblecollege.edu

Montana Bible College is committed to glorifying God through Biblical higher education by training men and women for a lifetime of dynamic Christian living and service.

Fall Semester Calendar 2010
August 27 Registration & Orientation Day
August 30 Classes Begin
September 6 Labor Day Holiday (office closed)
October 28-29 Church Leaders’ Conference
November 24-26 Thanksgiving Holiday
December 4 Christmas Banquet
December 13-16 Fall Semester Finals
We continue to try and connect to our former students across Montana, the country and the world! Currently we are working with some talented web designers to develop an alumni page on our website and hopefully we will have an alumni page up and running this fall. For the time being, get connected via Facebook with other current and former MBC students. Join the Montana Bible College Network on Facebook!

Jim Carlson, MBC president. Once you register you will have access to our MWD and be able to view current postings listed on the MBC directory. We join a list of other colleges and universities that are also connected to this service such as: Multnomah University, George Fox Evangelical Seminary, Western Seminary, Faith Evangelical Seminary, College of Biblical Studies, Trinity College of Florida, and Biblical Seminary. Once registered in the system, you can also view opportunities listed on their directories.

Jerry Bridges
“‘We believe it is important that former students who love this college and believe in our mission stay connected and form a unique relationship, not only to MBC, but also to each other!’”

If you are interested in exploring potential jobs or internships, go to our website, www.montanabiblecollege.edu and click on the button labeled Ministry Web Directory.
We as believers don’t have to be afraid of the areas of paleontology, geology or, for that matter, any science!

Dinosaur Dig 2010 is now history. On May 9th a group of seven students and one professor jumped into a car and headed east from Bozeman for five-and-a-half hours to Glendive, Montana, the sight of Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum and the Foundation for Advancing Creation Truth (FACT). MBC paleontologists-in-training included Kaitlin and Dan Johnson, Anthony Summitt, Gabe Stevens, Sam Swirsky, Cole Heine and Alex Mansfield. After arriving at the Glendive campground, our home for the coming week, we proceeded to set up camp and head to bed, knowing it was to be a long and tiring week. Our week of class began promptly at 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning when Otis Kline, the founder of the FACT, arrived at our campsite in his blue and white pickup with a four-wheeler in the back. It was at this time that we also met our lecture speaker, Aaron Judkins, from Glenrose, Texas. Aaron is a researcher and author in the field of creation science and paleontology. We proceeded from the campground to the Dinosaur and Fossil Museum just down the road, where we received an amazing tour, looking at full-sized skeletons of these ancient creatures, hearing about God’s creation, and discussing the fossil record. The tour was an amazing start to our class as it inspired further confidence in the truth of God’s Word. We as believers don’t have to be afraid of the areas of paleontology, geology or, for that matter, any science! From here we were taken to Otis’ property, where we would end up spending a majority of our week playing in the dirt and digging for dinosaur bones. Each of the following four days Otis would arrive at our campsite promptly at 8:00 a.m., and we would get into our vehicles and head out to the dig site about ten minutes down the road. Following a 10-15 minute hike through the hills and coulees, we would come to the dig site and start our class work, slowly moving back the hill layer by layer with screw drivers in our hands, all the while hoping to uncover the dinosaur bones present underneath it all.

And, what do you know, but it was successful! From day one we found many pieces of fossilized dinosaur bone, mostly from a triceratops, but also from a few other kinds as well. We found many pieces of rib, a couple huge leg bones, and a few of their rather large vertebræ, some of which were about the size of volleyball. These were truly large animals! We had so much fun out on the site, and every day we would emerge dirty and tired, but with smiles on our faces as we had spent the day doing something that most people will never get the chance to do: discover, unearth, and handle dinosaur bones that have been buried under the ground for thousands of years since the days of Noah and the Flood (Genesis 11:11)! What a fantastic opportunity! Every day after leaving the site we got a little time off in the afternoons to relax, get cleaned up, and have dinner before heading back to class, but this time at our indoor location, where we would spend about an hour-and-a-half listening to a lecture by Aaron Judkins addressing topics of creation science, the Flood, the fossil record, and other areas of apologetics. After a full week of learning and being encouraged, we headed back to Bozeman, after which the students split and headed to all corners of the nation where they will be spending the summer. Dinosaur Dig 2010 was a success! The students were blessed and encouraged, and grew in their love for the Lord and their confidence in His Word. They came away understanding that God’s Word isn’t only about spiritual things. It faithfully and accurately explains what we see in the World around us! God’s Word can be trusted!

Music has a unique ability to touch the heart. And ServantSong exists to enhance MBC’s encouragement of and relationship with the regional church. Our philosophy is to give and to serve, which means we charge no fee and focus on a ministry of strengthening rather than self-promotion. ServantSong is a six-voice ensemble with the voices in praise of your King: “There is a hand whose touch creates all beauty - the snow-capped heights; the river’s quiet flow. And that same hand which fashioned all the universe, calms troubled hearts and soothes the wounded soul. Thanks be to God, whose mercy knows no measure...” You are engaged in worship with the music ministry of Montana Bible College - ServantSong. Your spirit and mind resonate with truth expressed in beauty.

Dinosaur Dig 2010: by Bjorn Anderson, MBC Instructor in Bible and Languages

ServantSong
by Ryan Ward, Recruitment Director

W orship washes over you in harmony. Your heart swells. Your eyes close. Your soul unites with the music has a unique ability to touch the heart.”

accompaniment. We sing a variety of music carefully selected to honor Christ and lead His people in worship. We give personal testimonies of the work of Christ in our lives. We often lead in congregational worship and bring the preaching of the Word. It’s not even close to possible for ServantSong to sing in every church in our region each year, but we’d love to if we could! Some of the places we visit haven’t hosted a special group during the oldest grandmother’s lifetime. They aren’t on the main thoroughfare. We drove over 200 miles of eastern Montana gravel roads in a single day during our tour this May! We do it because we love the church. God has His special people scattered all around our region. And we want to be part of what He’s doing in them and through them. Six o’clock a.m., in the dark, on some blustery Sunday morning we will often find us packing into a suburban in response to the invitation of a church. We welcome your church’s invitation!

MBC Students Serving in India!

Ricehaws, curry, chai, temples, spices, saris, people, people, and more people...these are just a few of the multitude of sights, sounds, and smells a group of students from Montana Bible College are experiencing this August halfway around the world in the country of INDIA! Bjorn Anderson is leading this group of six students who will assist an Indian ministry in New Delhi serve college students, care for kids in the slums, and teach English. This will be a fantastic growing experience for our MBC students as they will be stretched to adjust to a new culture, talk with people from other religions, eat strange food, and more. Please support these students through your prayers that God would use this opportunity to direct their lives as a few are seriously considering overseas ministry work in their future. Look for a feature article and pictures in the fall Profile this November!

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