Kingdom business “out of the box.”

In his World War II book *Citizen Soldiers* the late Stephen Ambrose develops his observation that key to American ground troops’ success in battle was their ability to adapt and improvise. Military strategists and tacticians universally affirm that very little ever goes as planned in battle, given the countless variables and surprises that occur in combat. For example, in order to break through the massive hedgerows that separated fields in Normandy, one G.I. who was a welder and another who had been a Chicago cabby created a bumper from salvaged railroad tracks and scrap iron. Once welded to the front of a Sherman tank their invention became a ram that enabled the Shermans to break through the hedgerows and advance against the enemy. Another savvy soldier noted that the dairy cows in Normandy would only graze in meadows which were not salted with land mines. This revelation not only helped indicate the best route for infantry, but the soldier even commandeered several cattle to carry boxes of ammunition and weaponry. Creativity and “out of the box” thinking on the part of can-do soldiers, sailors and airmen made a real difference in bringing that global conflict to a swifter Allied victory.

When it comes to the advancement of God’s kingdom on earth, “It’s a battlefield, brother, not a recreation room!” sang the old-time evangelist. The rising of God’s people to the challenge of proclaiming Christ and living as true disciples against the resistance of the world, the flesh and the devil is often best accomplished in unconventional, even unexpected ways. Have you ever wondered why God, when directing His people against the Ammonites, would whittle the Israelite forces to a mere 300 in number, then equip them with pots, torches and trumpets? (Perhaps because the use of trumpets had worked so well to bring down the walls of Jericho . . .) Remember how God went outside the norm by healing Hezekiah’s terminal infection with a piece of cake? And who would ever have thought to feed an Elijah-in-hiding by use of that bird least likely to share his food, the raven?

The newsletter you’re reading is about what God is doing here at Montana Bible College, and particularly about how He’s using creative avenues to train and deploy disciples a bit differently than ordinarily might be expected: “Man Day.” Other-college graduates who are now at MBC. Digging up dinosaurs for college credit. A wilderness race for Wycliffe.

Read on!

*Jim*

*Profile*

*MBC students and teaching faculty pose with their “Man Day” harvest during the 2015 Montana hunting season.*
2015 MBC Church Leaders Conference

One of the highlights in our fall schedule is the annual Church Leaders Conference hosted on our campus. It is a highlight for us because we invite excellent speakers to open Scripture and speak on relevant topics for town and country church leaders in our region. We are also privileged to spend time with many of you, whom we know, as well as meet new friends as word of the conference spreads.

This year’s theme was "Hiding in Plain Sight" and looked at cross-cultural gospel opportunities in our very own streets, neighborhoods and communities. To reflect on our conference this year, just listen to some of this year’s attendees.

Most applicable concept: “The focus on finding those different than us…native, Muslim, etc - and building friendships, a bridge to ministry in a much more informal sense but still true discipleship.”
-Returning conference attendee

“My heart was convicted regarding my attitude toward Muslims.”
-Pastor’s wife

“I want to ‘see’ the opportunities around me and seize them. Very encouraging topic! All around well done! Thank you!”
-Friend of MBC

Most applicable concept: “Dr. Jabbour talking about taking off our own lens and picking up the lens of other people. Overall, the whole conference was wonderful, a major highlight of my year. I always look forward to it and walk away deeply blessed!”
-MBC Alumna

“The facilities were superb! The lunches were a blessing. Nowhere else could one find such content, encouragement and hospitality at such a ridiculously low price.”
-Missionary, first time attendee

Most applicable concept: “Ministering to the disabled - truly an invisible subculture!”
-Montana Rancher

“Thank you…for putting together such an encouraging conference. I truly enjoyed it and was blessed by the sessions.”
-Director of Mission Board, first time attendee

Ryan Ward interviews missiologist Steve Saint via internet conference (top right). Dr. Nabeel Jabbour, expert in Islamics, teaches MBC conference attendees about the Muslim worldview (above). The MBC Church Leaders Conference attendees listen in during a main session (left). The annual MBC Church Leaders Conference welcomes church leaders from all around Montana and the greater western region.

Conference resources are available at www.montanabiblecollege.edu
The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), MBC’s accrediting agency, recommends that all its accredited institutions have their students take a Bible knowledge test.

Although we at MBC already have several ways that we monitor student learning unique to our mission, we decided it would be useful to have our students take this exam. All our full-time and degree-seeking students for many years have taken this test as they entered MBC as a freshman, prior to taking any Bible classes. Again, as graduating seniors, these same students take a comparable test. We are encouraged to see that all MBC scores exceed national averages! Our conclusion? **We are intentionally training students for a lifetime of dynamic Christian living and service**, which does not look very much like a Bible knowledge test, nor should it. However, we know that an essential part of that training includes knowing God’s Word well, and we are pleased to see that standard of excellence upheld when we compare our school’s scores with others’.
Wycliffe Bible Translators have undertaken a goal to translate the Bible into every known language by the year 2025. For the last three years Montana Bible College has been involved in their ministry through the Wycliffe Adventure Race to 2025. In 2013 MBC’s Outdoor Discipleship concentration assisted Camp BigHorn in Plains, Montana prepare for the race. This included both the logistic planning and execution of the race. The past two years MBC put together a team of students to participate as racers in the “Race to 2025.” Not only do the students use their love for adventure and the outdoors, but participate in the greater calling of Jesus in Mark 16:15 to go out into the world and proclaim the gospel to all creation.

The race is a two-day challenge which combines the adrenalin of adventure sport and Jesus’s challenge to His Church to make disciples of all nations. MBC’s coed team of four raced against other teams in physical and mental challenges to simulate different missionary life scenarios. These challenges included: memorizing verses in foreign languages, linguistic and translation training, teamwork and communication challenges, and other survival and logistics challenges.

The team from MBC placed third out of eleven teams this year! The various participants walked away with a bigger perspective on the need for the gospel in every language and the awakened desire to be more involved in any way they can. They also received a few material prizes. Our students were encouraged to pursue ministry in their future in a way they had not thought about before.

“The Wycliffe adventure race was a blast. It gave me a deeper appreciation for what it takes for translation, and the importance of relationships in ministry and cultural context. It corresponded very well with what I have been learning at Montana Bible College, ministry through relationship, and wisdom through understanding God's word the Bible.” – Joe Schneider

“I'm grateful I had the opportunity to participate in the Wycliffe adventure race. It really opened my eyes to the great need in the world - it hit me hard that there are people groups in the world that don’t even have the New Testament in their own language, something I too often take for granted. Being confronted with that need in such a dramatic way reminded me of my purpose here at MBC: to seek God's will for my life and find out where I fit in in His plan for us to "go and make disciples of all the nations.” – Stacey Johnson

John Kleinsasser, MBC Student, Wycliffe Race Participant

THE WYCLIFFE ADVENTURE RACE HAS REMINDED ME THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS THAT WE CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH. THE WORK WYCLIFFE IS DOING IS VITAL AND NECESSARY FOR EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP TO HAPPEN.
Recruitment Update
by Dan Hovestol

From Glendive to Glasgow, from Missoula to Miles City, and everywhere in between, the MBC staff were busy this fall beating the pavement in attendance at college fairs throughout the four corners of the state. Overall, MBC was represented at 18 college fair sites where an estimated 9,250 students were in attendance. Being our first year on the college fair circuit, we were encouraged by the initial response from the various locations we visited.

It’s exciting to see the Montana Bible College message of quality, Christ-centered education gaining traction throughout our region. While many would be offended when a prospective student says “I’ve never heard of you before”, our staff views this as a wonderful opportunity to introduce new people to the exciting things happening at MBC. Reaching out to potential students on “their turf” through the avenue of college fairs is just one of the many initiatives the admissions department has put in place to expand our enrollment reach.

We continue to covet your prayers and partnership as we look for additional avenues to share about Montana Bible College. If you know of a place or person that would benefit from hearing about MBC, we encourage you to let us know. Once we hear from you, it will be our pleasure to reach out to the contacts you have. Please know we value you and the significant part you play as a member of our team!
Financial Update

by Leota Fred

This is quite the school year! Last year we based our budget on 70 FTE (full time equivalence) and actual enrollment amounted to just over 65 FTE for the academic year (not good news!); this year we based our budget on 70 FTE and we are just over 80 FTE! The dorms are at 90% capacity this year, versus 60% last year. Montana Bible College is indeed a busy place, and we love it!

We are, however, down a bit in scholarship and general fund giving compared to last year. The difference of the $2,000 is significant to our scholarship availability for students. Two thousand dollars translates to four students able to take one more course for the semester. I know the students are deeply grateful for the scholarships, as demonstrated by Emma Stafford, a senior at MBC. She writes,

*Thank you for your incredible generosity in donating funds to help Bible College students achieve the goal the Lord has set before them! Ultimately I know that is it God who provides and that all good things come directly from His hand. That being said, I am so thankful that you have been generous with the gifts He has bestowed upon you. Your willingness to give is a significant blessing in my life.*

Would you consider giving to the general scholarship fund of Montana Bible College? You may give online at [www.montanabiblecollege.edu](http://www.montanabiblecollege.edu) or send a check to Montana Bible College, 3625 S. 19th Avenue, Bozeman, Montana 59718.

Emma Stafford, MBC senior.

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Passing on the Blessing...

When I have an experience that is a boon to my life in some way, I desire to share that with others. Perhaps it can be as simple as glimpsing a moose and calf when cross-country skiing or marveling at the rainbow of colors in Montana’s Big Sky sunsets. Sometimes it is more involved, such as sharing a wonderful book I have read. Perhaps it could even be the experience of Bible college. The alumni of MBC have a unique, firsthand perspective and ability to bear witness of and share the good work God is doing at Montana Bible College. Being an alumna myself, I certainly fall in this camp.

I speak now to you fellow bachelor degree alumni; who among us did not receive a scholarship of some amount while attending MBC? I venture to guess that would be a very small number of us. MBC works hard to keep their costs low as well as offer a variety of scholarships so that the many students headed into ministry after graduation can do so debt free. I am excited to announce a brand new Alumni Scholarship coming to MBC. Now alumni will be able to give back to the school financially in a very specific way. I hope to be one of the first to contribute and pass along the boon MBC was in my life to the future generations of students coming behind me. Keep an eye out for future correspondence with details on how you can donate to this new Alumni Scholarship!

Jenni O’Brien
Worship: Tuning the Tone-Deaf Bride

When it comes to music worship, there are so many expectations on churches. Churches feel caught between a rock and a hard place. We know what worship ought to be; we know how God judges our worship. But we also know what people are expecting. They are voting with their feet.

For our 2016 Church Leaders Conference we hope to provide church leaders (all leaders, not just worship leaders) with a healthy and biblical perspective of what worship looks like. Plan to join us October 13-14, 2016 as we not only learn about worship but also partake in it.

-Ryan Ward
Our Mission:

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.

CONTACT US: 406.586.3585 / www.montanabiblecollege.edu

Design/Photographer/Editor: Joel Carlson

STUDENTS SPEAK:

Katrina Schwab

“Are you a freshman?” A common question around the Montana Bible College grounds, but a difficult one to answer. I guess I am, but not in the conventional way. I’m a returner to the scholastic world after obtaining my undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Seattle University and working for three years as a civil land development design engineer at a private engineering firm in western Washington. Just today someone was asking me, why? Why give up a nice paying job, a stable career, a successful life and why Bible school of all things? My response is, why not? I see Bible school as one of the best investments I can make as a relatively young believer! If we, as the next generation, are going to lead in our churches, the workplace and our homes, how can we not study, prepare and train for the grueling life of faith ahead of us? If one year of my life can help focus my eyes on our Lord and Savior and my heart in serving, loving and following after Him for my remaining 60ish years, then it’s a no brainer why I’m here at school. A career can wait a year; for my home is not of this world. I have eternity on my mind!

Oh, and just as a disclaimer, the school didn’t pay me to say any of this!