Moses was stunned. The long-silent Mighty One had appeared in flames of fire and given him an incomprehensible assignment: lead my people to freedom. Moses’ immediate reaction was to remind God of how utterly unqualified he was for the job. Perhaps a warrior, an experienced leader of men, might have a chance of success. But Moses? A shy backwoods laborer, fearful and slow of speech? He simply didn’t have the right credentials.

God didn’t argue with the facts. He just asked Moses a simple question: What is that in your hand? It was only a stick, and a dead one at that. But it represented the skills of the desert shepherd and once he turned it over to God, Egypt’s days were numbered. With the only tool he had, Moses took on the impossible and the rest is history.

What God has built into us is exactly what we need to serve him and amazing things can happen when we offer it to him. It is tempting to leave the work of God’s kingdom to the pastor, the missionary, the theologian—the people with credentials. But whether we take ourselves off the hook with a sigh of relief or one of resignation, neither honors the Gift-giver.

In this issue of the Harvester, we’ll hear about Prairie’s newest program that allows those with practical skills to become equipped to use them as ministry, whether in the sacred or secular world. We’ll also meet a couple who used their unusual talents to bring aide to suffering people on the other side of the globe and some students who discovered spiritual value in the simplest of tools.

What has God placed in your hand? He can use it for his purposes. Will you lay it down and let him give it life?
Since the early 1950s, the Prairie Harvester has been keeping you informed on what's happening here on campus and around the world as our former students live out their faith wherever God has placed them.

The Harvester will continue to provide news and information for the Prairie family in a new, more compact format. We hope you'll find it enjoyable, informative and easy to take along in your purse or backpack. Prairie's Digital Media students will be gaining practical experience as they bring their design ideas and photos to a "real" project for the school and will be able to see their work in print from time to time.

We love hearing from you and hope you will be encouraged as you hear from us.

MARK MAXWELL, PRESIDENT  |  PAT MASSEY, EDITOR  |  PETER MAL, MANAGING DIRECTOR – COMMUNICATIONS  
ELAINE MAXWELL, MANAGING DIRECTOR – DEVELOPMENT  |  TWO 01 STUDIO, DESIGN  
Cover photo by RefugeRide
Marketplace Ministry

PRAIRIE’S NEWEST DEGREE OPENS DOORS TO GLOBAL VOCATIONAL SERVICE

PETER MAL

“God calls believers in all vocations to know him deeply and to live out their faith with depth, integrity and character,” says Dr. Glenn Loewen, Prairie’s Dean of Education. “Our culture needs followers of Jesus in every vocation who walk and work Christianly—agents of change who shape a kingdom culture.”

Prairie’s newest program will enable students to do exactly that. The Bachelor in Marketplace Ministry allows learners to transfer two years of a vocational diploma program, enabling them to complete the full degree in only two additional years. The Prairie courses can be completed either before or after the vocational diploma.

This program will benefit students who desire a biblical foundation before entering the North American marketplace, as well as those who have vocational credentials and plan to pursue second-career ministry training or are planning to serve in missions outside of North America where their skills can become a doorway to ministry or a platform for service.

Over the years, Prairie has expanded to include Aviation, Practical Nursing, Emergency Medical Services and Digital Media. These popular options have opened doors to young men and women who otherwise would not have considered our school. This new degree program allows students from many other vocational streams to take advantage of Prairie’s Bible and discipleship focus.

“This program is about flexibility and allowing you to use your skills and abilities for maximum impact,” says Kelly Steffen, program coordinator.

“If you are excited about learning in a tight-knit community where you’ll be prepared to step into the workplace with both practical skills and biblical understanding, then this program is for you.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT
www.prairie.edu/marketplaceministry

OR CONTACT
admissions@prairie.edu
Family Album

1940s

Buhler, Richard (BC’46) has been a Baptist pastor in Canada and the US for fifty years. He also served as Trustee of Sioux Falls College, SD, and Vice President of the National Ministers Council of American Baptist Churches USA. He and Janet live in Roseville, CA.

1950s

Earl, Ruth (BC’56) is presently living in Abbotsford, BC. She writes that her time at Prairie changed her life and she is grateful for the many experiences in which God has allowed her to serve him in her 91 years.

Loewen, Irene (HS’46, BC’50) is now suffering from Parkinson’s disease and in long term care. She has been living in Chilliwack, BC. Irene is also a graduate of Wheaton College and served with OMF and TEAM.

1960s

Bates, Char (Kinvig, BC’66, staff) is now an Associate with TeachBeyond (formerly Janz Team). As Director of Lifelong Learning, she will oversee learning programs for their missionary staff in some thirty-five countries and assist in global educational situations. Dr. Bates resides in Three Hills, AB.

1970s

Groth, Doug (BC’80) and Lila are church planting in Poland. In 2011 they were able to legally register a new church in Rabka and are looking forward to a second one. Their children are Natalia and Philip.

1980s

Crouch, Michelle (HS’86, BC’90, staff) recently performed in Carnegie Hall in New York as soloist with the Ensemble Périphérie. Michelle has been teaching voice at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL.

1990s

Chan, Joshua (BC’06) was granted full-time missionary status with FEBCanada in 2012. He was married to Nit in December of 2012 and they are now living in Chiangmai, Thailand.
Clarke, Mathew (BC’04) and Ramie (Mills, HS 2000, BC’04) live in Spruce Grove, AB. Matt completed his Masters in Christian Studies and now works with the Christian Labour Association of Canada. Ramie is executive assistant for North American Construction Group. Their daughter Emma was born on June 25, 2013, and they have launched an online Christian ebookstore called MajestyeBooks.com.

Culp, Jordan (BC’06) and Rachael are serving at Black Forest Academy in Germany as resident assistants in a dorm for high school boys. They are excited at the challenge of loving and sharing life and Jesus with these young men.

Hull, Rich (BC’13) and Cindy, with daughter Kaely and son Joseph, are now living in Nordeg, AB. Rich pastors the Nordeg Community Church, a ministry of One Hope Canada (formerly CSSM).

Kikkert, Tim (BC’09) and Linn Mannegren (BC’10) were married in Sweden on June 1, 2013. They have been assigned to the Philippines with Samaritan’s Purse for the next year. Tim is Sr. Logistics Manager and Linn serves as Base Manager.

Leenstra, Brad (BC’08, DM ’12) married Jocelyn Maxwell (BC’12) on August 1, 2013, in Waterton, AB. Brad is a Graphic Designer for Prairie and Jocelyn has been working for the Mustard Seed. They are involved at Experience Church in Calgary and plan on exploring Europe and Israel this summer.

Lindskog, Karl (BC’05) and Kianna Swinborne (BC’05) were married on March 25, 2013, in Bemidji, MN. Kianna worked with Wycliffe Bible Translators and with the handicapped. Karl manufactures grain bins with the Edwards group. They are living in Nobleford, AB, where they share the gospel through balloon art.
Alumni Spotlight

RIDE FOR LIFE

PAT MASSEY

Photo by RefugeRide
Had they been naïve to think that they could take on this challenge and succeed? Could God really use them to make a difference to suffering people on the other side of the world? Only time would tell. After graduating from Prairie Bible College in 1997, Katie Sinclair earned a counseling degree and toured the US and Europe with the Frontline Continentals. Connections at an Urbana mission conference led to an invitation to join EPPIC pantomime ministries on a 2001 outreach to Turkey and Kazakhstan with OM Arts International.

She had just arrived in Minneapolis for training when she met a young actor who had been with EPPIC for five years. To her surprise, Dustin Kelm was not only an artist, but a world champion unicyclist whose one-of-a-kind performances incorporated inspirational messages with his amazing skills. It was love at first sight for both of them. Katie moved to Minneapolis and they were married in December of 2002. The next year, in a step of faith, she quit her counseling job and joined Dustin’s UniShow fulltime.

In 2008 the Kelms became part of OM Arts International, an arm of Operation Mobilization that encourages artists to use their creative gifts to share the gospel. After a performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland in the summer of 2012, Dustin met a young boy whose parents had been killed in the civil war in Syria, a heart-breaking conflict that has taken the lives of an estimated 120,000 Syrians. More than two million have fled to neighboring countries where they face cold, hunger and separation from loved ones and millions more are displaced internally. Deeply touched by the situation, Dustin and Katie asked God what they might do to help.

When they learned that OM was working to provide physical and emotional aid to the desperate refugees, it seemed the answer was right there in front of them. God had given them a unique vehicle: could he use it to bring hope and help to the people of Syria?

Katie’s cycling experience was limited to riding her antique Raleigh bike to the grocery store and some casual experiments on a regular 20-inch unicycle. Dustin, after thirty-one years of performing and three surgeries, had nearly worn out his knees and had to be extremely careful with them. Was it an impossible goal to try and raise money and awareness by riding unicycles...
across the Unites States? They began to pray, and step by challenging step the dream took shape.

As they prepared for the journey, Katie struggled to master the challenge of a much larger wheel. Then, during a spring training accident in Minnesota, Dustin suffered a broken arm and the ride was delayed for six weeks. But on June 21, 2013, the Kelms donned their helmets and bright, reflective outfits, mounted their 36-inch “big wheel” unicycles and set out across America. The RefugeRide was underway!

Wanting to identify as much as possible with refugees who were fleeing their homes with only the clothes on their back, the couple travelled light and carried just one change of clothing and some gear and emergency equipment. They had not anticipated the focus it would take to stay up on a single wheel for forty or fifty miles every day, especially on busy roads or rough surfaces. Uneven terrain, severe cross winds, cold weather and lack of sleep, along with debris and ruts that could easily spell disaster, were constant challenges.

“Our worst days were so much better than what the refugees experienced even in their best circumstances. We had good equipment, a roof over our heads every night, more than enough food, loved ones cheering us on. When things got discouraging, we tried to remember that displaced Syrians had no preparation for this crisis and many fled with nothing, not even knowing the whereabouts of their family members.”

The travelers were amazed by the generosity and kindness they experienced. Restaurants and hotels donated food and rooms. People stopped to pray for their safety and success. Cold water handed out a car window, friendly smiles, attentive cows, amazing scenery, support from family and friends—all helped to keep them going.

“The best part of our journey,” remembers Katie “were the people who got it. When they heard what we were doing, they would dig deep without hesitation and give generously for the refugees. Most often they were the ones who did not necessarily appear well-to-do, as if...
because close to $19,000 worth of services had been donated free of charge.

Living with the bare necessities and focusing on one goal for so long made the return to normal life challenging. Requests to perform and share their story began coming in from all over the world, but the couple’s perspective had changed. They had offered their talent to God and seen him multiply it beyond their wildest dreams.

“After completing the RefugeRide,” says Katie, “we knew we didn’t want to live small ever again. When we started out, we had no idea if we would be able to make it one week, much less across the entire country. But we experienced God’s strength, provision and presence like never before and one day at a time, the dream became a reality. We pray that our journey will help the Syrian people experience his love in tangible ways.”

Understanding how God can use things outside the box of traditional ministry has been a challenging journey for the Kelms. It has taken faith to trust that their talents and Dustin’s world champion title could open doors for ministry around the world.

“Amazing adventures definitely follow our surrender to him,” they believe, “and the privilege of seeing lives changed for eternity with the truth of the gospel makes it all worth it.”

they understood what it’s like to be in need.”

The journey from the coast of Georgia to the shores of the Pacific finished on October 9 when Dustin and Katie rode beneath a welcome banner in Yachats, Oregon, to the cheers of media, family and excited locals. After cycling 3,511 miles (5,659 km) over three and a half months, they were mentally and emotionally exhausted. Their’s had been an undertaking of super-human effort and determination, making them the first couple and Katie the second female to cross the American continent on unicycles. The RefugeRide had raised $38,700, in part because close to $19,000 worth of services had been donated free of charge.

QUEST 2014
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOD DOING?

July 3-6, 2014
Speaker
Dave Martin, World Team
Registration
www.prairie.edu/quest
With the Lord

**Anhorn**, Melvin (BC’66) of Chilliwack, BC, went Home on November 7, 2013, after battling Alzheimer’s. He served in Christian ministry in Georgia, Saskatchewan, and BC and is survived by his wife May, two daughters and six grandchildren.

**Carrell**, Joyce (BC u’52, staff) taught at Prairie High School from 1952 to 1973. She was 89 at the time of her passing on January 7, 2014.

**Danielson**, Jeppa (HS’46, BC u’54) passed away on December 27, 2013. A long-time farmer, he also worked in construction and was known for his craftsmanship.

**Doell**, Ben (BC u’49) earned a degree in Civil Engineering from the U. of Saskatchewan and worked in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Alberta and the Caribbean. He died on August 28, 2013, after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. His wife Artrude lives in Edmonton, AB.

**Dubisz**, Alberta (Gibbs, BC’47) went to be with the Lord on November 16, 2013, after suffering with Parkinson’s disease. She was a retired missionary with SIM. Her husband Edwin resides in the SIM Lodge in Sebring, FL.

**Dyck**, Frank (BC’55) passed away suddenly on October 2, 2013, at the age of 86. After retiring from teaching in 1987, he began a second career with European Christian Mission in the Ukraine, helping to build churches and establish Zaporozhye Bible College. His wife Nettie lives in Calgary, AB.

**Elliott**, Velma (Yontz, BC’42) worked in several missions with her husband Harold (BC’46) before they joined Prairie staff where they served from 1958 to 1980. Velma went to be with the Lord on January 3, 2014, in Linden, AB.

**Enns**, Cornelius (BC u’48) was a member of the Janz Quartet that travelled for Prairie with L.E. Maxwell. In 1960 he and Kay (Rempel, BC’49) joined the Janz brothers in post-war Germany as missionary evangelists and remained there until their retirement in 1990. Cornie passed away on December 2, 2013.

**Friebel**, Helen (Wittman, BC’44) went in 1948 as a missionary to India where she met her husband Reinhard. They served there together until 1980. She was living in Three Hills, AB, at the time of her passing on September 10, 2013.

**Goertz**, Nick (BC’49) went home to be with the Lord in 100 Mile House, BC, on August 30, 2013. He loved singing and spent several summers touring with PBI quartets. Nick is survived by three sons and two daughters and their families.

**Gradin**, Denny (BC’68) served under Avant in Colombia and Ecuador and was involved in a Hispanic church in Portland. He also helped develop Northwest Technologies. Denny’s battle with cancer ended on December 31, 2013. His wife Diane (Engevik, BC’68) lives in Gresham, OR.

**Gray**, Donald (u’36) and his wife Christine were missionaries to Ethiopia under SIM. They moved to Nigeria after the Communist overthrow in 1977. Don passed away on September 30, 2013, in Calgary.
Haverland, Clarence (HS’46, BC u’47) of Turner, OR, died on May 22, 2013. He retired from the State Highway Department in 1963 and was married to Yvonne for sixty-one years.

Hodges, Doreen (Robbie, BC’59) served as a nurse in Nigeria. She and husband Roy were also in Niger and later became SIM reps in Canada. Doreen passed away on October 4, 2013, in Lethbridge, AB.

Johnson, Eunice (Oman, BC’50) went to be with the Lord on November 25, 2013. She had been living in Minnedosa, MB.

Liner, William (BC’51) was a pastor, evangelist, missionary and farmer for many years. Bill passed away on October 22, 2013. He is survived by his wife Gladys (BC u’50) in Little Smoky, AB, and four daughters.

Lohr, Bert (BC’52) went home to his Savior on December 27, 2013, at the age of 90. He had been active in the VFW and a chaplain in the American Legion for twenty years and was buried with his fellow vets at Culpeper National Cemetery. His wife Hazel resides in Manassas, VA.

Muddle, Mary Jane (Vert, BC u’68) of Pine Lake, AB, passed away on September 12, 2013. Mary Jane enjoyed hospitality and travel. She leaves her husband Dave, two children and two grandchildren.

Rausch, Paul (staff) directed the Bible School orchestra and brass choir and arranged music for Prairie’s choir and orchestra from 1967 to 1982. He also founded Eternity Music Corporation in Colorado. Paul went to be with Lord on September 21, 2013. His wife Margie lives in Honesdale, PA.

Rist, Merle (Hawton, BC’49) was diagnosed with cancer and suffered a fall that led to her passing on November 7, 2013. She had dedicated her life to missionary work and her church. Her husband Stanley is in care in Toronto.

Robinson, Matilda (Goertzen, BC’45) went to Nigeria with SIM in 1947 to teach school. Later, she and her husband Grant took on teaching, hosting and medical duties. Tillie passed away on October 20, 2013.

Silversides, Bertha (BC’31) went to China in 1931 under the China Inland Mission, serving there for twenty-two years. After the Communist takeover she moved to Malaysia and then returned to Canada in 1966. Bertha passed away at the age of 104 on November 13, 2013.

Steele, Mabel (Olson, former staff) taught at Prairie Elementary School from 1961 to 1977. She was 101 at the time of her death in Linden, AB, on September 23, 2013.

Unruh, Linden (HS’50, BC’53) and his wife Melba did evangelism, began a seminary, and started a church in Monterrey, Mexico under Evangelical Mission Ministries. He became president and field director and received a “Lifetime Commitment” Award from the Association of North American Missions. He died on July 27, 2013, in Pharr, TX.

Wittman, Mabel (BC’43) of Three Hills, AB, passed away on March 26, 2013. She worked in the Prairie Overcomer mailing department.
Pastor Tome was a gentle man of God and a faithful friend of SAM Ministries, serving his people and leading churches in central Mozambique. When he became seriously ill, the crops that meant life to his family sat unattended as his distraught wife tried to care for her dying husband. Their precious livelihood was in danger of being lost.

Then a team of students from Prairie’s Discover program arrived. Previously, the school’s one-year intercultural program had offered its practical experience in Guatemala. But in January and February of this year the students journeyed to Mozambique and South Africa looking for opportunities to serve. Evangelistic trips or preaching in the local church might have felt more “spiritual,” but right then there was a far more pressing need. Thousands of weeds in Pastor Tome’s two and a half acre field needed to be uprooted before they choked the crop.

“Every morning,” recalls team leader Kendi Dyck, “we gathered for devotions with all of the SAM staff and missionaries and they actually commissioned us for our work. We were each handed a hoe and told how it is the tool that keeps the country going, used for almost everything. They explained that each time we used it, that hoe would be a blessing to someone.”

With the powerful realization that what they were about to do was, indeed, God’s work, the team headed for the fields with nothing to offer but simple tools and willing hearts. But to a grieving family it was a declaration of the love of Jesus that could not be ignored.

Did it have an impact? One local African expressed his conviction that a group of white North American young people showing up and working in the hot sun to hoe a poor pastor’s field would never be forgotten in that community. The ground was being prepared for the seeds of the gospel—and a harvest of hope.
Building Community

KITCHEN RENOVATIONS MOVE AHEAD, THANKS TO DONORS

Community life and spiritual growth often flourish in the kitchens and lounges of the student residences. In the Spring 2013 issue of the Prairie Harvester we presented a project to help bring a fresh look to these vital areas.

You responded and close to $10,000 in donations came in—thank you! A shipment of ten new stoves, eight microwaves and four refrigerators recently arrived and the installment of these very welcome appliances is underway. The remaining $2000 will go toward the much-needed top-to-bottom renovation of the Memorial Hall 3rd floor kitchen in the men’s dorm.

According to Darryl Elliot, Managing Director of Physical Plant, “Fixing up the kitchens and lounges is a great way to increase student morale and make them excited about their campus. If people want to donate further toward this project, we would love to continue doing upgrades of floors, kitchen cupboards and countertops.”

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS ONGOING PROJECT, PLEASE SEE THE DONATION FORM ON PAGE 19.
Computer Upgrade Project

ADAPTING TO CURRENT EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

This past year we were able to purchase brand new Macbook Pro laptops for our full-time faculty, a move that has assisted them in class preparation and delivery and enabled them to create iTunesU courses and Distance Education materials with greater ease.

Our next priority is to upgrade both the computer lab located in the T.S. Rendall Library as well as our staff computers. We hope to install Windows-based PC’s in the lab as well as several iMacs in other areas in the Library. Having access to reliable computing technology will allow students to complete assignments and stay in touch with family. We are excited that the Class of 1964 has pledged $10,000 towards this $17,000 project.

Prairie staff last saw major computer upgrades in 2009 when a campus-wide software system was installed. Our goal is to provide fifty desktops, ten laptops and five tablets that will equip our staff to do their work more efficiently.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE TECHNOLOGY ON OUR CAMPUS, PLEASE SEE THE DONATION FORM ON PAGE 19 FOR GIVING OPTIONS OR VISIT

www.prairie.edu/givingprojects
Making Connections
MAXWELLS SPEAK AT HAITI CONFERENCE

In the early weeks of January, Mark and Elaine Maxwell travelled to warmer climes to connect with Prairie alumni. In Sebring, Florida, they were welcomed by friends from the SIM retirement community. “It was encouraging,” says Elaine, “to meet former students who have spent their careers serving God and wanted to tell us how their years at Prairie guided their lives.”

From there the Maxwells went on to the Independent Christian Alliance Church conference in Haiti where they spoke on the “I AM’s” from the Gospel of John. Their host was Pastor Andre Louis, a Prairie grad of 1971, who has started forty-two churches and founded many schools and an orphanage. Now 73 years old, he continues to help his people in every way possible. “In spite of the heat and the cultural challenges,” says Mark, “we were truly honored to be able to serve the beautiful people of Haiti.”

Mark and Elaine’s travels also included the city of Dallas, as well as Edinburg, Texas, where they visited Prairie grads who are now serving at Rio Grande Bible Institute.

IF YOU’D LIKE TO HAVE MARK AND ELAINE VISIT YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT US AT

presidentsoffice@prairie.edu
WHEN YOU GIVE TO PRAIRIE, you allow us to equip students with a biblical foundation and practical skills to share the gospel and help meet the greatest needs of the world. Thank you for your generosity!

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE ( )

I'D LIKE TO RECEIVE PRAIRIE'S EMAIL UPDATES □

FIND MY ENCLOSED GIFT IN THE AMOUNT OF $ □

PLEASE APPLY TO:

☐ PRAIRIE’S GENERAL FUND
☐ COMPUTER / IT UPGRADES
☐ DORM KITCHEN RENOVATIONS

PLEASE CHARGE MY:

☐ VISA
☐ MASTERCARD
☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

CARD # / EXPIRY DATE (MM/YY)

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE MONTHLY, PRE-AUTHORIZED DONATIONS TO PRAIRIE’S GENERAL FUND.

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE PRAIRIE BIBLE INSTITUTE TO WITHDRAW $ CDN/US ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING: / (MM/YY)

FROM MY:

☐ BANK ACCOUNT (please attach a blank VOID cheque)
☐ CREDIT CARD (complete information above)

SIGNATURE

We cannot process your monthly gift without your signature here. This automatic withdrawal can be cancelled anytime by contacting our office in writing prior to the end of a month before withdrawal.

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO BE ON ANNUAL RECEIPTING

Both Canadian and US contributions to Prairie are fully tax deductible.
Giving With Great Purpose.

Whether we look overseas or in our own backyard, it is clear that the life-giving message of Jesus Christ is the greatest need of the world. Your gift to Prairie allows us to continue equipping students with the biblical foundation and practical skills to *Know Christ and Make Him Known*—wherever they go next.

Learn more about our giving options at [www.prairie.edu/giving](http://www.prairie.edu/giving).