Getting On With It

MARK MAXWELL
PRESIDENT

It’s about time!” was the opening line on the email from Ed, a long-time friend of the school. Despite the “riveting” business meeting going on around me, I couldn’t help but keep reading.

He was cheering for our new school name “Prairie College” and was in total agreement that the name serves our mission “to know Christ and make Him known.”

Another similar note arrived within that hour: I have been pleased with the communication and intentionality in your leadership at Prairie, shown once again in your “What’s in a Name?” article in Servant. Great things are going on at the school and I’m proud to be an alum. May God continue to bless as you continue to put HIM first in all things! A day earlier, David had written: I applaud you and I will continue to pray for you and support the school. As long as Prairie continues to do this I will be in your corner. Thanks, Ed, Alan and David, for your encouragement!

Why are people in favor of what could be considered a wavering of our commitment to the Word by taking “Bible” out of our school name? Because they know we are doing it to stay on mission, to train ambassadors for Christ to meet the greatest needs of the world, even in countries that are difficult to access.

At our Global Connections Conference in March, Dr. Yaw Perbi, president of International Student Ministries Canada, spoke about the importance of mission and made the point that every company, from Toyota to Coca Cola, has one. The most successful businesses have a laser-like focus so that everything they do helps to fulfill their mission.

Being “on-mission” can become an over-used cliché. As followers of Christ, we need to be clear about our assignment and stay on course. That understanding:

- **Improves our Efficiency.** Resources, including time, are always scarce; therefore we must focus our assets on the activities that are the most relevant to our goals.
- **Enhances our Effectiveness.** Determining what we will or, perhaps more importantly, will not do, improves the likelihood of making progress on our mission.
- **Increases our Energy.** We are strengthened to endure, even in the face of frustration and exhaustion.

When we are sure of our calling, there is a fire in our souls that burns throughout the race and enables us to focus, laying aside distractions so we can drive through barriers. We are reminded in Hebrews 12 to embrace our mission, to lay aside every weight and distraction, and to run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to the example of Jesus who never lost sight of where he was headed, endured the cross, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

We’d better get on with it!

Prairie Bible Institute, in business as Prairie College, is totally committed to the mission we feel God has given us: To know Christ and make Him known to a needy world. We are grateful for you and cherish your prayers and support.
Looking Back
Matt Brouwer: a musical journey

Spreading the Word
Bible translator is Alum of the year

What it Takes
The highs and lows of missions

Deep Waters
Following God into the unknown

Phil Callaway
What My Dad Knew
Class of 1965
Returns to Campus

DURING THE GRADUATION WEEKEND MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1965 MET ON CAMPUS TO RECONNECT, SHARE MEMORIES, AND MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR GRADUATION FROM PRAIRIE. A MEANINGFUL MOMENT DURING THE CELEBRATIONS CAME WHEN THEY GATHERED AROUND THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015 TO PRAY FOR GOD’S BLESSING AND DIRECTION IN THEIR LIVES. IN A SPECIAL PROJECT INITIATED TO HONOR CLASS MEMBERS WHO ARE NOW WITH THE LORD, THE CLASS OF ’65 FURTHERED THE DINING HALL KITCHEN UPGRADE WITH A MUCH-APPRECIATED DONATION TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW STEAM TABLE.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Are you a recent graduate of Prairie? Have you applied to another accredited post-secondary institution since that time? Did you ask for transfer credit?

If so, we would like to hear from you. Please fill in our questionnaire (www.prairie.edu/registrar). It takes just a few minutes and will help us improve transfer opportunities for past and future students. Thank you!

FRONT ROW (L-R)
Larry Sharp
Don Wicks
Rosemary (Gibbard) Wicks
Rosella (Schmidt) Willock
Fred Youngs

ROW TWO
Esther (Harrison) McCauley
Lavonne (Ball) McKerihan
Phil McKerihan
Nola (Strom) Meier
Don Nelson
Marlys (Cline) Prociw
Doris (Guderian) Rabuka
Lorne Rabuka
Marilyn Rossow
Judy Steele

ROW THREE
Larry DeVilbiss
Mary (Hicks) Ehmann
Bob Ehmann
Sharon (Bowdoin) Esau
Bill Faulkner
Judy (McComb) Faulkner
Glenn Flewelling
Ron Gartly
Faith (Tygert) Matsuoka

ROW FOUR
Jim Arch
Sandy (Slimak) Barber
Earl Brubaker
Shirley (Coon) Brubaker
Annita (Cole) Cole
Darlene (Howell) Corey
Bob Dennison
Mike DeRidder
Norma (Bauman) DeRidder
Hugs, tears and laughter were in abundant supply as the Ga’dang people of the Philippines welcomed Mike and Verna Walrod “back home.” The couple had lived among the tribe for eighteen years, analyzing their language and translating the Scriptures before relocating to Canada in mid-1989. When they returned in 2003 they were overjoyed to see the growth that had taken place within the Ga’dang church. Where there had been just one well-established congregation, now there were more than a dozen thriving churches.

A graduate of Prairie High School (’64) and Prairie Bible College (’68), Mike has a long history in the field of translation, having served with Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Summer Institute of Linguistics since 1969. Back in Canada, he helped to develop and was president and CEO of the Canadian Institute of Linguistics at Trinity Western University for twenty-seven years as well as being on the Board of Directors of Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada. He holds a Doctor of Christian Ministries from Trinity and an M.S. and Ph.D. in linguistics and humanities from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Through Mike’s efforts, many hundreds of cross-cultural missionaries have been prepared for work in Bible translation and related roles and he continues to encourage and assist the leaders of the developing churches among the Ga’dang people. In recognition of a life dedicated to the spreading of God’s Word and the recruiting and training of a new generation of linguists and Bible translators, Dr. Mike Walrod was honored as Prairie’s Alumnus of the Year for 2015.
1940s

**McNab**, Luke (BC’47) of Vega, AB, recently published *Portentous End Time Proph­ecies*. He has worked for the Alberta government and in oil exploration in Alberta, BC, Jamaica and Cuba. Luke is a preacher and teacher with a BA and MA in Ro­mance languages and litera­ture. Retirement has allowed him to travel and speak at conferences in both Costa Rica and Jamaica.

1950s

**Redinger**, Lauren (BC’57) and his wife Dorothy are the founders of the Christian Salvage Mission that ships Bibles and evangelical materials to mission groups, colleges, seminaries and churches around the world. The first shipment went overseas in 2001 and the mission has just celebrated the sending of its 100th container. Lauren and Dorothy make their home in Beamsville, ON.

1960s

**Barber**, Bob and Sandra (Slimak, BC’65) were in Scotland with the Bible Club Movement until their retire­ment. From their home in Emmaus, PA, they continue to travel in their role of overseeing and coordinat­ing BCM’s training programs and publications projects in Central/Eastern Europe.

**Guderian**, Ron (BC’64) and Eleanor (Corey, BC’64) live in Stanwood, WA, and Ron has retired from Medical Teams International. The project he began in 1976 has been completed and Ecuador is now free from River Blindness. Ron partners in an annual event that takes fresh water systems, health care and the gospel to Panama. Eleanor has had two hip sur­geries and recently published *Sticks, Stones & Songs*, the story of the Corey family (www.eleanorcorey.com).

**Sisco**, Ron (HS’58, BC’62) and Katie (McMurray, HS’59, BC’62) retired from TEAM in 2000 but have made nu­merous visits back to Japan since then. In February they left to pastor the Interna­tional Church of Musashino Chapel Center in Tokyo and expect to remain for one to two years.

1970s

**Mahlangu**, Charles (BC u’72) and his wife Delores and family are now back in
South Africa and teaching a Biblical Counselling course. They are excited about the men and women who will use their training to bless others in their churches. Charles and Delores have a grown son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Tay, Mark Cheng-Tee (BC ’74) and Tina (Ong, BC’74) live in Singapore where they serve the Sembawang Bible Presbyterian Church. They have six children and are thankful for the years of training and warm fellowship that they had at Prairie.

1980s
Broers, Bill (HS’75, BC’80) and Elizabeth (Rashleigh, HS’77, BC’80) returned in April 2014 to northern Ethiopia where they work at the Mekelle Youth Center, offering programs for young people in ESL, computers, health and sports. They anticipate a three-year term.

Dana, Mark (BC’06) and Ruth Anna (Patterson, BC’81) have been with NCEM since 1981. They live in French Quebec and travel to assist NCEM missionaries in the Maritime, Labrador and northern Quebec. Mark is also a prison chaplain and does follow-up with released First Nations and Inuit inmates.

Tetreault, Frank (BC u’89) and Barbara (Sears, BC’89) live in Peachtree, GA, where they have taken a new position as Area Director with Biblical Ministries Worldwide. They do pre-field training and counseling of missionary candidates, encourage and shepherd those who are working overseas and assist local churches in sending and caring for the next generation of missionaries.

Lenihan, Frank (BC’95, ‘98, 2001) recently received his Master of Arts in Jewish/Christian Studies and was elected to the USA National Board of Bridges for Peace, a Christian organization supporting Israel and building relationships between Christians and Jews around the world. Frank serves as senior pastor of Lustre Mennonite Brethren Church in north-eastern Montana.

2000s
Gomes, David (BC u’13) married Taise Matos in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on March 6, 2015. Taise is studying nursing and David is working and studying law. He is the foster son of Judy Canfield (HS’60, BC’64) of Three Hills who served with UFM in Brazil for twenty-five years and was an honored guest at the wedding.

Mogler, Christian (BC’10) and Kristyn (Graber, BC’11) live in southern Germany where Christian runs a landscaping business with the goal of discipling employees through hands-on work and a family atmosphere. They are both involved in occasional teaching, counseling and leading worship at a nearby ministry center called Passion. Kristyn loves being a stay-at-home mom to 10-month-old Caleb.
THE NEWS BROUGHT STUNNED DISBELIEF.

Only days before James had shared a meal with his friend, an American doctor who had come to Liberia to care for pregnant women and chronically ill patients who were left without help because of the Ebola epidemic. Now the doctor himself had been stricken with the dreaded virus and James racked his brain: had they hugged, shook hands, touched utensils, drinking glasses? Was he about to become a victim? Would he die without ever seeing his family again?

Born in Liberia in 1960, James Ngenda found Christ in his teens at a youth center. A Canadian couple decided to sponsor him and James graduated from Prairie Bible College in 1989 with a BTH and BRE. Four months after his return to Liberia, the country exploded in a vicious civil war.

While at school, James had met Kathleen Bowden (BC’88) and their friendship led to marriage in Cote D’Ivoire in 1992. Unable to settle in Liberia because of the war, the couple returned to Canada and James continued his studies. Nine years and five children later, they finally arrived in Africa. Conflict was still raging and life was difficult—no power, limited food and the constant danger of violence and armed robbery.

“God told me very clearly when I came here,” recalls Kathleen, “that I needed patience and a willingness to endure; that we should not come with any great ideas of how we were going to fix Liberia, but that we should learn to live here and trust him. It was a choice and we knew it was where we were to be.”

A ministry of service to the poor began as the Ngendas fed the hungry, helped the displaced return home, taught and encouraged them and tried to show them what it meant to follow Jesus. The family was forced to flee the violence in 2002 but returned the next year when a peace accord was signed. Grassroots Ministry came into being, offering feeding programs, literacy classes, training in simple skills and agriculture and pastoral support. They were in Canada on a home leave in 2014 when the unthinkable changed everything: the Ebola plague broke loose in West Africa, defying all efforts to contain it.

By August the danger was so great that James returned to Liberia without his family and found the situation desperate beyond description. People were dying in the streets, fear was rampant, schools and hospitals closed. The once gregarious Liberians no longer hugged or shook hands. Households and communities had been decimated, creating a mountain of insoluble grief. Children were orphaned, survivors shunned, jobs lost and people left in poverty as prices skyrocketed and incomes vanished.

Realizing that God was his nation’s only hope, James immediately approached pastors and churches with a
challenge: “As Christians we have a responsibility in times of crisis to pray first and then to help. As we began to pray and inform, our members became messengers, going out to teach prevention and encouraging people to report suspected cases. As a result they became more aware and began to change their behavior and attitude.”

In early May, Liberia was cautiously declared Ebola-free. James and Kathleen believe the call to prayer was instrumental in God’s miraculous intervention and played a critical role in reducing the infection rate. Kathleen joined her husband in March and Grassroots focused on those who had suffered through the crisis, reconnecting with people and reviving their ministry efforts. It was important to reach out to local pastors and help them build up a deeply wounded church.

“We went to Liberia because we love Jesus,” says Kathleen. “We stayed because Jesus loves Liberia. This is a country with many needs and without Christ to guide us we can easily be overwhelmed. The real need is the heart condition of the people. I cannot imagine the deep oceans that God took James through during this crisis but I know that without a willing heart and obedience to God’s call we cannot know the blessings of growing in our faith. The unknown of our lives is truly in God’s hand.”

James & Kathleen Ngenda are serving in Liberia with Grassroots Ministry (www.grassrootsliberia.com) under the Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission. They can be reached at Ngenda@grassrootsliberia.com
Looking Back

MATT BROUWER

A high-light of life on Prairie’s campus in the late 90’s was the weekly worship gathering on Monday nights where a young student by the name of Matt Brouwer and his friends made the music happen. “The energy that was driving me to write songs and share them with the world was a passionate expression of a new but relevant faith that was growing like a wildfire at the time,” remembers Matt. The spiritual content of his lyrics caught the eye of a Nashville record company and in 2001 Matt recorded his solo debut CD Imagerical. Under his own label, Black Shoe Records, he released Unlearning in 2005, Where’s Our Revolution in 2009 and Till the Sunrise in 2012.

Matt’s songs reflect his own spiritual journey through tragedy (the early death of his father) and hope. “I have learned,” he says, “that all things are made new by the power of Christ to transform the most hopeless and devastating times in our lives…This is how God works. It’s not always to swoop down and rescue us from all the pain and heartache of the human condition; sometimes it’s the slow but sure path to redemption that he leads us to day by day. It heals us slowly until, miraculously, we realize we are changed and the difficult journey has revealed a character and hard-earned joy we would never want to be without.”

His new album, Writing to Remember, features songs from over the fourteen years of his career as a solo artist. It includes two early versions of Lead and Breathe that were recorded during the Monday Night Worship sessions. There is also one brand new song, Waking Up, and past hits like Water, I Shall Believe, Sometimes and The Other Side, featuring Amy Grant and Vince Gill. Other guest artists JJ Heller and Jill Paquette make this an incredible collection for music lovers of all ages.

Brouwer’s work has won numerous awards, including a 2010 Juno (Canada’s Grammy equivalent) for contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year. In 2010 he married Hannah, whom he met while on a mission trip to Guatemala. Add the birth of their daughter Ava in 2013 and family has become a new priority for Matt. “Being a great husband and father is much more important to me right now,” he says, “than striving for a big career that takes me away from these precious gifts of family and community. I never imagined where this journey would take me but I thank God for an enduring vision and a love that captured my heart so long ago and continues to put a song of praise on my lips and in my soul. I believe in the power of God’s love transforming hearts through music and worship because I’ve experienced it and it’s something I’ll be pursuing my entire life.”

PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE CD “WRITING TO REMEMBER.”
Offer available until Sept. 30, 2015.
Close to Home

MAKING THE CANADIAN CONNECTION

Prairie’s 2015 Global Connections Conference in March focused on “Canada: A Broken and Beautiful Mosaic.” Speakers, including Temera Millar of NAIM, and Dr. Yaw Perbi, President of International Student Ministries of Canada, shared the story of our historical heritage through the eyes of the First Nations peoples and the Canada of today as new immigrants arrive from all over the globe. It was a reminder not only of where our country has been but also the current cultural landscape and the opportunities right on our doorstep.

Prairie students are finding many opportunities to experience missions worldwide. The Discover program served in Mozambique in January and February and in May the Digital Media and Wilderness Leadership teams travelled to Asia. Also in May the Sports Management program focused on an athletics ministry in El Salvador and second-year nurses did their international practicum in Mozambique. In its nine-month circuit of Africa and Asia, Prairie’s GlobeTREK team experienced ministry in a combined total of seventeen countries.

DOUBLE, DOUBLE

Two Exciting Opportunities to Multiply your Investment

A generous donor has offered to DOUBLE all donations made by June 30, 2015, to Prairie’s Education Fund, to a maximum of $250,000. Many of you have responded and we are excited to increase the number of scholarships that we can award to students this coming year.

An additional offer to match donations to the Campus Rejuvenation Fund to a maximum of $200,000 has been extended through the summer of 2015!

We are presently focusing on completing the transformation of the former Faculty Building into our new Music and Worship Arts Centre and urgently need to complete washrooms, stairwells and electrical work in preparation for the start of classes in the fall. In addition, carpets are being replaced in our married student residence.

We encourage you to DOUBLE THE VALUE of your gift to Prairie this summer.
With the Lord

**Berck**, Linley (BC’62) passed away on October 2, 2014, in Aurora, NE. He worked as a school janitor and bus driver and founded the Bible Club Mission, serving for many years as director for their Joy Club ministry.

**Berg**, Ella (Reddig, BC’52) of Hillsboro, KS, died on January 29, 2015. She is survived by her husband Elton, four children, fourteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

**Cash**, Arthur (BC’57) went to be with the Lord on February 23, 2015, at the age of 91. His wife Nancy (Johnson, u’57) resides in Loma Linda, CA.

**Cochran**, Evelyn, (Westover, HS’63) of Scottville, MI, passed away on November 6, 2014, at the age of 69 after battling cancer. She had been an insurance underwriter, held clerical positions and ran a food service business and daycare.

**Crawford**, Jean (Leaver, BC u’34) passed away in Linden, AB, on February 11, 2015, the day before her 101st birthday. She is survived by her five children and their families.

**Cummings**, Forrest (BC u’60, former staff) of Three Hills, AB, was a missionary in the Canadian north with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission and served as a tradesman at Prairie from 1957 to 1989. Forrest passed away on September 26, 2014, and is survived by his wife Minnie and family.

**Davis**, James (BC’52) of Black Diamond, AB, was a pastor and teacher of special needs children and had numerous interests including woodworking and the outdoors. He went to be with the Lord on November 15, 2014.

**Dick**, Amy (Smithers, HS’42, BC’47) passed away on October 16, 2014, in Edmonton, AB, at the age of 90.

**Fister**, Gale (HS’48, BC’53) went home to his Savior on February 18, 2014. During his career as a missionary and pastor with the Rocky Mountain Bible Mission he planted twenty-eight churches. His wife Elsie resides in Missoula, MT.

**Golden**, Dean (BC’57) passed away at the age of 85 on November 1, 2014, after suffering a stroke. His wife Lynda (BC u’57) is living in Clinton, MS.

**Graham**, Donald (HS’48, BC u’49) went home to be with the Lord on May 30, 2014. He had farmed, worked in the oil patch and was a security guard at the Mendel Art Gallery. Don had a passion for people and sharing the gospel. His wife Leona resides in Medicine Hat, AB.

**Hart**, Elizabeth (staff) of Washougal, WA, passed away on February 4, 2015 at the age of 87. She was on Prairie staff with her husband Lowell from 1969 to 1984 and taught piano.

**Head**, Gordon (former staff) taught in the Fine Arts department for twenty-six years, directing the High School, Bible School and Ambassador Choirs as well as teaching voice, conducting and theory. He was an active volunteer in his retirement and was 89 at the time of his homegoing on November 14, 2014. He is survived by his second wife Kathleen (Sandeaver, BC’55) of Three Hills, AB.

**Heinrichs**, Dave (BC’55) and Amanda (Reimer, BC u’54) were missionaries with the EFC of Canada in Germany and Austria from 1962 – 83.
Despite poor health, Dave continued his ministries as District Superintendent and by pioneering the work in Eastern Europe as Mission Director for the EFCC. He passed away on July 27, 2014, in Steinbach, MB.

Hulbert, Edwin (BC’58) went home to be with the Lord on October 1, 2014. His wife Linda resides in Zephyrhills, FL.

Jack, William (BC’48, former staff) passed away in Calgary, AB, on January 15, 2015. He had been a missionary with UFM in Brazil and served in Prairie’s administration from 1960 to 1973, then managed a real estate office in Three Hills. He was predeceased by his wife Siri (Wallgren, BC’47) in 2011.

Jesperson, Harvey (BC’42) of Wetaskiwin died peacefully on March 13, 2015, at the age of 97. He was the founder, superintendent and director of Bethany Homes for Children until his retirement, serving many children in need of a home.

Lancaster, Lillian (Schreiber, BC’50) passed away on July 13, 2014, in Bellingham, WA. She and her husband Bill served in Japan with Baptist Mid-Missions for over forty years. After retirement they focused their ministry on teaching and visitation in their home church.

MacKenzie, Beth (BC’77, former staff) ended her battle with cancer to meet her Lord face to face on December 16, 2014. After graduation she joined Prairie’s Music Department where she capably oversaw a multitude of organizational and scheduling details. She later became Assistant to the Academic Dean of the College and left a legacy of faithful service to the Prairie family.

Nelson, Oscar (staff) passed away on March 16, 2015, in Three Hills, AB. He farmed for twenty years before joining Prairie staff as a night watchman, then in shipping and receiving for the Book Room. Oscar was a long-time member of the Gideons.

Nolan, Jean (BC u’78) of Temecula, CA, became a missionary with Gospel Recordings in Los Angeles, CA, where she worked in the accounting office for thirty-five years until retirement. She died of cancer on October 8, 2014.

Pegg, Reta (BC’66) was released to heaven on September 15, 2014, after a difficult journey with Alzheimer’s. She taught school with SIM at Bingham Academy (Ethiopia) and Kent Academy (Nigeria) and in the public school system in Alberta for twenty-five years. Her faith in Jesus remained strong in spite of her dementia.

Schafer, Doris (BC’52) of Wessington Springs, SD, passed away on October 31, 2014. She served as a medical missionary (nurse) to the African people in Kenya and Tanzania for thirty-six years, returning to the US in 1989.

S Steele, Laura (BC’48) died on March 3, 2015, in Etobicoke, ON, at the age of 93. She had been a missionary to Egypt with SIM.

Vandervalk, Timothy (HS’88) died on March 15, 2015, at 45 years of age. He was helping to build a home for a missionary couple in Papua New Guinea and contracted a serious case of malaria. His family is thanking God for the godly example of his life.

Wilson, Ruth (Graham, BC’57) went to be with the Lord on August 26, 2014. She and her husband Jack (’57) served with RBMU International/World Team in Indonesia for twenty-five years.
After a whirlwind tour of seven countries in just a matter of weeks, my Prairie GlobeTREK team and I were headed for the airport in Cambodia. We had met the most amazing people and had incredible experiences like worshipping with a homeless church in Mongolia and seeing the first government-sponsored Bible college in Vietnam. From here it was on to Nepal and India before starting our individual six-month internships. The floor of the open-air taxi was crammed with luggage so I moved the bag containing my passport and valuables onto my lap to make more room. Suddenly a man on a moto pulled alongside, snatched the bag and disappeared into the traffic.

Things went downhill from there. My friends had to leave without me, my phone was stolen the next day and the embassy informed me there was no way I could replace my documents.
language study and waited—for a new passport, visas, whatever it took to allow me to be in the country legally. It was the loneliest feeling I have ever experienced and gave me a real taste of the frustration that international workers so often face. I would learn much about being faithful when tough things happen and finding joy regardless of circumstances.

Seeing my older siblings go on short-term missions had given me a thirst for adventure and travel. When a hoped-for trip to Africa was cancelled, I promptly signed up to go to the Yukon. It turned out to be life-changing as God began leading me away from my career plans and toward service for him. When I learned that Prairie offered the opportunity to travel to fourteen different countries and spend nine whole months in international ministry, I was hooked. GlobeTREK seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn whether or not I had what it took to become a missionary.

The story of Cambodia is one of unspeakable pain. Anyone over the age of 45 is haunted with the tragedy of the ‘70s and struggling to recover from memories of mass slaughter and cultural destruction under the Khmer Rouge. But the people are amazing, loving and hard-working. I love the sound of their laughter and am privileged to be among them. A small NGO called Empowering Cambodia has allowed me to work with the children at their creative learning center where I teach English and do sports with the kids. The million hugs I get every day encourage me to try and communicate with my limited Khmer.

I know this experience is changing me. My identity has become more centered in Christ and I’ve had to learn to rely on God for everything from food to safety in the insane traffic, to the strength to love and live outside of my comfort zone and away from my family. I’ve also learned how much work it takes to learn a new language. At times this experience has been crushingly lonely, frustrating and culturally isolating. But there has also been love, intense joy, wonder and adventure and it will break my heart to leave. Do I have what it takes? No, but he does and I can trust him.

“My passport and phone had been stolen and my friends had to leave me behind. I had never felt so lonely.”

Since Cambodia was where I had planned to work, I would have to stay and start my internship early. I began in time to re-join the team.

NINE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS WILL EMBARK ON GLOBETREK THIS FALL.

Learn more about this and other Intercultural Studies options at www.prairie.edu/globetrek
Three Hills Chapter Hosts Alumni Event

Good things happening at Prairie” was the focus on March 29, 2015, as the Three Hills chapter of the Prairie Alumni Association hosted a campus gathering to update alumni and community on current developments at the school. About 150 visitors heard students from different college programs tell what their time at Prairie has meant in both their training and their personal lives and Mark and Elaine Maxwell unfolded plans for the future. These included the change of name for PBI’s educational division to Prairie College, expansion of Bible content, the move of the Explore program from Montana to the Canadian Rockies, potential partnerships, and numerous upcoming events.

The evening ended with the presentation of the 2015 Alumni Association project, the purchase and installation of a new oven for the Dining Hall. Over $10,000 was raised, adding to upgrade funds that have already come in.

PRAIRIE RADIO

For Prairie College chapels, local events, interviews, sports and the best in praise and worship music, choose Prairie Radio. Streaming live all day, every day at www.prairie.edu/radio

Address questions or comments to:
dan.callaway@prairie.edu
403-443-3017, ext. 3689
Church Ministry Programs

YOUTH AND PASTORAL OPTIONS PREPARE CHURCH LEADERS

With fewer Christian colleges offering undergraduate church ministry programs, Prairie’s Bachelor of Arts options with Youth and Pastoral majors provide unique opportunities for students.

“Our churches need leaders who know the Lord and are clear about what they believe,” shares Cody Wilkinson, third-year youth student. “I think Prairie is a great place to equip people to know Scripture well and then to go out and tell others about Jesus.”

Al Mertes, Professor of Youth Ministry agrees. “We are graduating top-quality students who are prepared to step into important roles and be effective, right from the get-go.”

In addition to ensuring that every book in the Bible is covered in every four-year program, both Youth and Pastoral students take practical courses that address the needs and challenges of being in ministry today. Their ten-day ‘course on the road’ is a good example.

This past May a group of twenty future church leaders, led by Al and Kelly Steffen (Pastoral Program Coordinator) visited twenty-three churches in Alberta and British Columbia. Along the way they observed a variety of approaches and contexts, an experience that provides a helpful perspective for students as they step into ministry roles.

“For better or worse, we all have our own church experiences,” says Carey Willis, second-year pastoral student. “Seeing what does or doesn’t work reminds me that a cookie-cutter approach won’t be effective, but rather we need to understand local needs while keeping the gospel of Jesus at the centre of our ministry.”

Kelly knows that this course, while exhausting at times, is invaluable for them as they make the jump from student to pastor. “Over the past four years, 100% of pastoral program graduates who have sought ministry positions are employed full-time,” he says. “That tells me that students here are being equipped well and that the churches who hire them are recognizing it.”

Learn more about Prairie’s Church Ministry Programs at www.prairie.edu/programs
“Thank you so much for the important role you played in my mom’s last years,” read the letter from a grateful daughter. “The annuities she had with you supported her in all the care she needed. My mom and dad had a special interest in Prairie and so I trust that it was a blessing to you as well. Thanks again, Dianna.”

As followers of Christ, many of us have practiced tithing, lived carefully within our means and invested thoughtfully in order to see God’s kingdom increase. Planning how to leave something behind requires careful thought as well. Fortunately, however, the opportunities to provide for our loved ones and enable Christian charities like Prairie to continue impacting the world are many and varied.

Prairie is pleased to be partnering with Link Charity Canada Inc., a company whose expertise is helping Canadians make the most of their “planning to give.” A representative will be at our upcoming Quest conference, July 2 – 5, 2015. Simple and reasonably priced changes to your estate can care for your family, benefit your favorite charities, minimize taxes and allow you to live at a comfortable financial level in the final stage of life.

Like Dianna’s mother, you can prepare now to ensure a regular income in retirement years AND be a blessing to others even after you’re gone. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you in planning ahead.

TO LEARN HOW YOUR ESTATE CAN HAVE A LONG TERM IMPACT, CONTACT ELAINE MAXWELL AT 403-443-5511, ext 3730
My wife grew up in a household of mostly girls, so when our two boys came along, she was unprepared for little orangutans running about the house, sliming door handles and wearing little more than smiles. They stuffed jello in the toaster, mud in their diapers, and peanut butter sandwiches in the VCR. I wasn’t surprised. I had been a boy. In time, my wife would learn seven lessons from her sons:

1. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42-pound boy wearing ski goggles and a superman cape.
2. It will, however, rotate a birthday cake fast enough to leave icing on all four walls.
3. Garbage bags are very useful, but not as parachutes.
4. Peas are easily removed from a three-year-old’s nose; crab apples require more work.
5. When you hear a flushing sound followed by the words, “Uh-oh,” it’s rarely a good sign.
6. Kids should never throw baseballs upward when the ceiling fan is on.
7. A single-pane window will not stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.

My own dad was one of the wisest men I ever met. From raising five little hooligans, he knew some things too. He knew that ceramic ducks hanging from the living-room wall of a home in Prairie Heights would not survive more than two games of indoor football played by energetic boys.

He knew that a glass of milk spilt on the back floor of a station wagon without being reported can stink up an entire vehicle for two summers.

He knew to check inside the oven before turning it on.

He knew that the fire department in our town had a nine-minute response time.

Dad knew more important things too. He knew that kids spell love _t-i-m-e_. That thirty years later, they won’t remember how much money you earned, but they will recall the time you invested telling Bible stories at bedtime.

Like other Prairie staff families in those days, we had no television, so he didn’t sit much in the Lazyboy. But he knelt often and prayed for his kids. He didn’t spend much time on Facebook, but he read the Bible each day and, as much as possible, obeyed what it said. Dad loved my mom. I never doubted it. For the most part, he lived what he preached.

Dad took God seriously. Himself? Not so much. I suppose that’s why he was the one who taught my children about ceiling fans.

**PHIL CALLAWAY** now plays football outdoors. He is the author of *Tricks My Dog Taught Me* (Harvest House) and host of Laugh Again Radio. Check it out at philcallaway.com
Last year, nearly a quarter of our student body took part in missions trips and international practicum placements. Equipped with a biblical foundation and practical skills, students from Sports Management, Digital Media, Practical Nursing, Intercultural Studies and Outdoor Leadership programs saw God at work in over fifteen countries around the globe.

Learn more about Prairie College programs at www.prairie.edu/programs.