RUN TO WIN
Weightless

MARK MAXWELL
PRESIDENT

The email popped up and I groaned. It was from one of our partners, alerting me to the fact that they had just been warned about the risks of working with Prairie. Someone seemed intent on undermining our key ministry relationships.

Immediately I felt the weight of wondering what this might mean for our school, how I should respond and the time and effort it would take. I also recalled a recent conversation with my wife Elaine where we agreed that we have just experienced our best semester since coming to Prairie five years ago. God is noticeably present and working among us! Programs are solid. Students are thriving. Staff and faculty are working in harmony and donors have joined with us whole-heartedly.

I had to ask myself: Am I going to let this email derail our efforts to continue on the mission that God has for us?

The athletes featured in this issue of the Harvester symbolize the greater race that we are all called to run, whether in ministry, career or home life. God lays a particular path before us and asks that we travel it with humility, excellence, and purpose.

In 1924 a young Scot named Eric Liddell thrilled the world with his extraordinary achievements at the Paris Olympic Games. Even more extraordinary, however, was his single-minded dedication to Christ and determination to live for the glory of God at all costs. Liddell is remembered as an outstanding athlete, but to him, that moment of glory was only a minor event and not the goal of his life. He laid it aside to pour out the rest of his days in service to Christ as a missionary to China, dying there as a Japanese prisoner of war in 1945.

Paul reminds us in I Corinthians that we are to “run to win.” That requires discipline and a focus on the essentials. Here at Prairie we have trimmed our spending to reduce waste, maximize our impact and further our mission. More than that, however, we also need to lay aside the spiritual and personal distractions that would turn us aside from our God-given calling. It is tempting to carry extra weight, which usually results in unnecessary busyness and unproductive effort, or, as Paul would say it, “beating the air.”

What is our focus? We want to be a healthy community that is obedient to God and purposeful in prayer. As a school, we want to be known for excellence in Bible and theology and create programs that will allow our students to move confidently into ministries and careers after graduation.

Thank you, Father God, for the race you have given us to run!

And thank you, our alumni and supporters, for joining us—we could not do it without you. Together we are partners in a miracle—preparing young people to meet the world’s great needs. May we lay aside whatever hinders and look to Jesus alone for the approval that truly matters.

COMING EVENTS

March 4-5
Equip/Apologetics Conference
www.BeReadyAlberta.ca

March 5
Campus Preview Day

March 17-18
Global Connection Conference

April 10
Steve Bell concert with Brian Doerksen

April 22-23
Graduation weekend
14
The Winning Team
Latin American journey

04
New Degree Program
Compassion meets action

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Phil Callaway
Where hope floats

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Rocky Mountain Challenge
Explore on the move

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Right Time, Playing the Game
A dream fulfilled Athletics at Prairie
Prairie Launches New Degree Program

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk Humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8 (ESV)

On July 7, 2015, delegates from leading Christian justice and humanitarian organizations gathered on Prairie’s campus for a one-day consultation. “The purpose of the gathering was to gain a good understanding of the world’s greatest social justice needs,” says Prairie’s president, Mark Maxwell, “and then define a course of studies that will prepare the next generation to address those needs.”

The biblical mandate of Micah 6:8 resonates at the heart of the program set to begin in September of 2016 with the goal of connecting timeless truths with current issues. The program intentionally includes biblical, theological and intercultural studies and is geared to produce servant-hearted, Christ-focused, culturally intelligent workers who can effectively solve problems and facilitate ministry in areas of conflict, despair and disaster.

A highlight of the four-year degree, featuring topics such as project management and leadership skills, is a nine-month international experience during which students will observe a variety of ministries before immersing themselves in a six-month internship with a Christian NGO at a location of their choice.

Consultation delegates strongly agreed on the need for both spiritually and professionally-trained workers and Allison Alley of Compassion Canada urged Prairie to develop servant leaders who are passionate advocates for the poor and marginalized, eager to further God’s mission on earth and equipped to respond to issues of compassion and justice.
A new Sound

According to Director Brian Doerksen, it has been gratifying to see the talent in Prairie’s new Worship Arts program and how students are using their music to enhance the spiritual and community life of the campus. Applications continue to come in as the first class looks forward to graduating this spring. Particularly exciting for current students is the opportunity to perform with Brian at Breakforth in Edmonton this January.

Renovations recently completed on the second floor of the former faculty building have provided the Worship Arts program with a fresh new space and room for innovation and growth. With the completion of the recording studio, second-year students have been able to start producing their personal EPs that range from three to five songs, most of which have been written during their time here at Prairie and represent their very best work.

The studio is based around the industry standard, ProTools, whose software is complemented by a variety of microphones, keyboards, guitars and percussion instruments. It is housed in an intimate environment that is conducive to the creativity of student, engineer and producer and is capable of achieving professional results. We are excited to have Prairie grad Mark Troyer (BC’06) from Evergreen Sound in Calgary sharing his experience and expertise with these budding songwriters.

Learn more about Prairie’s Music and Worship Arts program at www.prairie.edu/worship

GLOBAL CONNECTION CONFERENCE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REFUGEE CARE

March 17 & 18, 2016
Speaker: Dwight Lagore, SAM Ministries
1960s

Egli, Ben and Rita (Ryburn HS’60, BC’64) have retired after over a decade of ministry to Iranians in BC. They are very grateful for a godly couple who will take over leadership in the church and they plan to move to Alberta to be near their daughter.

Thompson, Daryl (BC’68) and Earlynne (VonEhrenkrook, BC’68) have just completed forty-five years of ministry in Chile with Gospel Mission of South America. That is their home now and as health permits, they hope to retire there. They have three married daughters living in Chile and one son in the US.

1970s

Robinson, Leigh (BC’71, staff) and his wife Irene (Jensen, BC’75) live in South Africa. Leigh is the Senior Pastor at Rosebank Union Church in Gauteng and has had over forty years of pastoral, counselling and teaching ministry. Out of his personal experience of loss he has recently published the book “Journey with Grief.” For information contact Irene@ruc.org.za

Thompson, Terry (BC’70) and Carol (Jespersen, BC’69) were missionaries to Argentina, Chile and Uruguay for forty-two years. They are presently in Florida where Terry is the General Director for Gospel Mission of South America and they hope to return to full-time overseas service once again by January of 2018. Their three children are now missionaries in Chile and they have twelve grandchildren.

2000s

Mosselman, Morgan (BC’07) has been working as a Translation Consultant In-Training advising local translators in Isiro, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He plans to return to Canada this year.

Wood, Andrew (BC’13) married Deborah Maxwell (BC’13) on June 27, 2015, in Meaford, ON. After completing the Explore program, they transferred to Intercultural Studies and spent last year travelling with GlobeTREK. Their six-month internship took place in Moshi, Tanzania, where Deborah taught in a primary school and Andrew worked at a home for street children. They are currently in the last year of Prairie’s BA in Intercultural Studies and living in Three Hills.
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RE-UNITE

Twelve alumni of the High School Class of 1965 returned to Prairie for a 50-year-reunion from August 2 to 4, 2015.

Former students came from as far away as Georgia and Arizona to share memories and life stories, to laugh and grieve together, and to visit familiar places on campus and witness the changes. Highlights of the celebration included joining a worship service with the Prairie Tabernacle congregation, exploring the old high school building and visiting Mr. Adolph Pauls, who taught math and physics at PHS fifty years ago.

LIVING OVERSEAS?

Are you living in a restricted area? Does your mail from Prairie take months to arrive?

Alumni living outside of North America now have the option of receiving a simple email notification when new issues of SERVANT and the Prairie Harvester are posted to the Prairie website (www.prairie.edu).

As overseas mailing is becoming extremely costly for Prairie, you can help lower expenses for the school by allowing us to send your magazines electronically. Contact us at alumni@prairie.edu if you would prefer this method.
Stars twinkled above and the lights from my boat nearby created stars beneath me. I was swimming through the stars.

Could anything be more glorious than this moment? Bethany Bosch stroking her way across the English Channel! My life to this point had felt like one long cycle of unfulfilled dreams and failures. I recalled my younger brother racing in a swim meet one summer. He thrashed at the water, expending every ounce of energy—but basically going nowhere. If ever a moment perfectly foreshadowed my life after high school, it was that picture of energy and futility.

In 2002 I arrived at Prairie College to pursue my dream of becoming a pilot. I wanted to make a difference and help change the world. Then I learned that my loans wouldn’t apply to a Canadian flight program and my dream came crashing down. Determined to pay back those loans, I returned home to Rutland, Vermont, and was soon working several jobs, including one at the local airport where I was able to take flight lessons. But the week after I earned my pilot’s license, the flight school closed and the plane was sold. The one thing I had pursued for so long was finally mine, but it was useless.

Less than six months later the economy took a downturn and I lost my remaining source of income. Shortly after that, a perfect storm enveloped my personal life. In that dark time I had nothing to offer God except a desire to love him and trust him with all of me. He, in turn, showed me

“My life had felt like one long cycle of unfulfilled dreams and failures.”
that I was loved, not for my achievements, but just for who I was. As my hurting heart began to heal and my lost job was transformed into a stable career, a new contentment and strength took over. I began to swim, simply for the joy of it and to celebrate the peace inside. To my surprise I found myself drawn into the world of marathon swimming and back to a childhood dream: to swim the English Channel.

Preparing was difficult without a year-round swimming facility in Rutland. Getting up at 3:00 am and driving over an hour to a training center brought home to me very clearly the lack of good, affordable recreational facilities in my home town.

Furthermore, Rutland, Vermont, has been called “America’s heroin city” and has come to symbolize the corruption of picturesque, small-town America with drugs and violence. My passion to make a difference in the world was re-ignited, not for people in huts in Africa, but for those in need in my own back yard.

I realized that my success could empower others with hope and determination and I knew God had created me for this time, in this place. My swimming opened up a media platform to draw awareness to the needs in our community and a campaign began to build an aquatic center in Rutland.

Finally, on the morning of August 31, 2014, I stood ready with the cliffs of Dover behind me and the shores of France ahead. Three years of hard work had prepared me and my faithful crew. I wouldn’t focus on the cold or the pain, but on my goal, on the people who had loved and inspired me.

Hours later, darkness fell but I kept on. When the tide turned just miles from my goal, it swept me back out to sea. My nose and throat burned from the salt water and I became violently ill. But I wasn’t done. I am not leaving this Channel, I thought, until I have given everything I have to give.

At 4:30 am, the sand moved under my fingers. I stood and walked onto the beach, lifting my arms high in unspoken gratitude, fulfillment and joy. For 17 hours and 39 minutes the tides had pulled me over 41 miles in water averaging 63 degrees, but I had realized my dream.

When the celebrations died down, it would be time to ask: What’s next? The details might be uncertain, but the answer would not be. I knew now that I could persevere toward the new vision that was taking shape. God had been guiding my life all along and would continue to do so as I made his name great in the place I call home. The seeds had been planted and in God’s time, the harvest of change would be great.

Alumni Spotlight

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Bethany at Dover Harbor: realizing the dream. Follow her at www.intrepidathletics.org
Louis Harrison served as a hospital corpsman in the US Navy from 1958 to 1961. During his service in the Philippines, he was lovingly welcomed and discipled by missionaries with the Overseas Christian Servicemen’s Centers (OCSC), a relationship that would have life-long ramifications. Following his discharge, Lou studied at Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, Canada, graduating in 1966. With his new wife, fellow Prairie alum Linda (Bruce, HS’60, BC’65), he himself became a missionary with OCSC, now known as Cadence International. For nearly fifty years, the Harrisons have shared their lives, their home and the gospel with the military community in Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, Germany, Italy and the US.

The past fifteen years of ministry have been especially focused on those who have carried the burden of combat on behalf of our nations. Out of this experience of listening and learning, Louis has written a book called *Tending the Warrior Soul* as a resource for soul-damaged warriors and those who care for them.

“The war-harmed soldier,” says Harrison, “may be helped back to his feet physically and emotionally, and restored to the fight, or to his home community, while a hidden battle still rages irreconciliably within him. I believe that the deepest and often the most devastating result of war is the spiritual struggle that is kindled within the soul of the combatant—a trauma that cannot be healed by even the most excellent psychological care, medical intervention or official support programs. The mission of this book is to advance understanding of this soul damage and to provide support, encouragement, biblical counsel, spiritual challenge, and helpful resources to our wounded warriors and those who care for them.”

The book has been heartily endorsed by senior military chaplains and combat leaders like retired Colonel David Hale, U.S. Army: “I have PTSD and have received superb treatment (physically, emotionally and spiritually) that allows me to be highly functional and happy,” he says. “I believe this book will be a help to psychiatrists, chaplains, counselors, pastors, lay people and family members who labor to enable a warrior to heal successfully.”

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*PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE BOOK “TENDING THE WARRIOR SOUL.”* 
*Offer available until May 31, 2016.*

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**SAVE THE DATE**

The events of Re-grad and QUEST will now be combined into a new event taking place in September. Details for 2016 will be coming soon.
In the Game

IMPACTING THE WORLD THROUGH SPORT
RANDY STEWART, PRAIRIE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

From an early age my passion for athletics led me to believe that one day I might make a career in the arena of sport. That dream has taken many twists and turns. From 2002 to 2005 I attended Prairie College where I competed on the basketball team and was among the very first students in the Sports Ministry & Management program. Along with my training, I discovered the huge potential of athletics and all the different paths that were open to me.

After a time on staff as Prairie’s Athletics Director, I became the Recreation Program Supervisor at the YMCA in Toronto. The skills I gained at Prairie served me incredibly well in a community that was very diverse, both culturally and spiritually.

Now I’m back on campus as Athletics Director and coordinator of the Sports Ministry program. I’ve been privileged to go on several international trips where sport development and ministry were the primary focus. I have seen countless doors open around the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ through the medium of sport.

From children using a wad of plastic bags as a soccer ball at an orphanage in Nicaragua to the custom basketball courts in El Salvador, the thrill of the game provides a connection between people where Christ’s love and message can naturally flow.

The Sports Ministry & Management program provides students with the opportunity to study God’s Word and its application to their lives within the realm of athletics. They also receive specific tools and certifications that will equip them to address the deep needs of the world both at home and abroad. Through practical, experiential learning climaxed by an international practicum, they will be able to broaden their horizons of ministry with eternal goals in mind.

ATHLETIC CENTRE TO UNDERGO UPGRADE

Named in honor of former Prairie president Rick Down, himself an avid sports fan and enthusiastic supporter of Prairie and community athletics, the Rick Down Athletic Centre, with its three full-sized courts, is a vital center of campus life.

Home to the Prairie Pilots college basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer teams, the RDAC is also the site of summer sports camps and community intramural leagues and is transformed on a regular basis into an auditorium for conferences, concerts and graduations.

After over twenty-three years of continual use, the hardwood floors are showing their age and need to be sanded down and refinished in order to provide a safe playing surface. As funds come in, the bleachers will also be replaced.

We want to begin work this summer in order to maintain the RDAC’s reputation as one of Central Alberta’s premier gyms. Will you help make that possible? Please see the insert to donate.

Learn more at www.prairie.edu/sport
Axelsen, Colin (BC u’97) and his infant daughter Madeline of Wetaskiwin, AB, suffered a fatal car accident on July 12, 2015. Colin was a teacher and athletic coach at Pigeon Lake Regional School. He is survived by his wife Leanne and sons Emmett and Benjamin.

Bauman, Carol (Park BC’51), former missionary to Japan with Japan Evangelical Mission, passed away in May of 2015. Her husband Elmer resides in Greer, SC.

Berk, Donna (BC’62) served as a missionary in Alberta for thirty years under the Canadian Sunday School Mission (One Hope Canada) and was known for her love for children. She died of kidney failure in Aurora, NE, on October 31, 2015.

Bradley, Earl (HS’65, BC’69) died in his sleep on September 5, 2015, at his home in Cochrane, AB. He had worked as a purchaser with major oil companies and loved the outdoors, his family and his church. He leaves behind his wife Marjorie, two daughters and their families.

Commys, Bill (BC’84) went to be with Jesus on February 13, 2015, after a fall playing hockey. He had pastored Emmanuel Baptist Church since 1989 and is survived by his wife Cathy of Nipawin, SK, two daughters and their families.

Dueck-Barkman, Margaret (BC u’87, former staff) passed away on January 4, 2015, in Abbotsford, BC, at the age of 96. She was predeceased by her husband Peter.

Elliot Gren, Elisabeth (Howard, BC u’49) entered the Lord’s presence on June 15, 2015. She had been a missionary in Ecuador among the Quichua and Auca Indians and was a noted speaker and author throughout her lifetime. Her influence on the lives of many at Prairie is recognized in the Elisabeth Elliot Prayer Chapel on campus (see page 3).

Hodges, David (BC’71) and his wife Rosalie served the church in Ethiopia under SIM from 1987 to 1994. They returned briefly after Dave was treated for a brain tumor and then moved to Edmonton, AB, to work with international students. He died on September 4, 2015, at the age of 66.

Jacobsen, Morris (HS’45, BC’49) served from 1949 to 1997 in Japan where he invested his life in the training of pastors and building up the church. He passed away on March 23, 2015, and is survived by his wife and ministry partner Betty who resides in Minneapolis, MN.

Odland, Dorothy (Powell, HS’71, BC 75) went home to be with the Lord on July 20, 2015. She and her husband Paul loved the Rocky Mountains and raised their four children in Banff, AB.

Payne, Eleanor (Anderson, BC’47) went to South Africa in 1948 under TEAM. She and her husband Geoffrey spent many years ministering in Swaziland, Zululand and throughout SA. Eleanor was living in Renton, WA, at the time of her death on April 19, 2015.

Percival, Dorothy (BC’57) had a long-time ministry in Brazil, including 29 years of pioneering work along the Amazon. She returned to Canada at age 70 and was active in the Three Hills community. She went home to be with the Lord on May 6, 2015.
Phibbs, Paul (HS’59, BC’61) was a member of the Calgary Police Force for 29 years and had keen interests in photography, history, trains and criminology. He passed away on May 20, 2015, and is survived by his wife Miriam (Maxwell, HS’59, BC’63) and extended family.

Porritt, Byron (HS’93), son of former staff members Stan (BC’71) and Donna (Lindahl, BC’73) Porritt, completed a courageous five-year battle with cancer on September 4, 2015. He is survived by his wife Caroline and children Jackson and Katherine of Calgary, AB.

Powles, Ruby (Webster, BC’48, staff). After forty years on Prairie staff, Ruby and her husband Jack retired in Three Hills before moving to Abbotsford, BC, where she maintained an active correspondence with missionaries around the world. Ruby passed quietly into the Lord’s presence on April 20, 2015.

Reimer, Eric (BC’51) was a missionary with SIM to Nigeria where he met Laura, his wife of 46 years. In 1958 they returned to Manitoba where Eric ran several small businesses. He was an able handyman and remained active until his sudden passing on March 14, 2015.

Seely, Art (BC’49) and his first wife Florence were career missionaries with TEAM in Japan. He was one of the founders and long-time General Manager of the Pacific Broadcasting Association. Art passed away on November 10, 2015, and leaves behind his children and wife Carolyn of Abbotsford, BC.

Snyder, John (BC’61) and his wife Marlene went home to be with the Lord together in a fatal car crash in February of 2015. After attending Columbia Bible College in SC, they worked with a mission in Kentucky and then moved to Alaska to help plant a church in Kenai. They were retired and living in Michigan.

Strom, Dorothy (Carmack, BC’46) served under TEAM in Japan with her husband Vern. They returned to Canada in 1987 and eventually retired to Calgary, AB. Dorothy passed away on April 25, 2015, in Surrey, BC.

Verhagen, Adrian (BC’72) and his wife Pamela (Campbell, BC’72) worked with Gospel Recordings for several years. Adrian lived a positive life despite suffering from a debilitating brain disorder. He was living in Oshawa, ON, when he died suddenly on May 1, 2015.

Westfall, James (HS’75, BC’80) enjoyed a ministry in publishing and design with different missions in several countries and in multiple languages. He and his wife Ruth (Mountain, BC’80) made their home in Carlisle, England, where he died peacefully in his sleep on April 9, 2015.

Wilson, Elizabeth (staff) was a missionary for many years in India where she married John Wilson in 1967. After retirement she became an active volunteer and enjoyed the ministry of hospitality in Three Hills. Elizabeth passed away on July 6, 2015, at the age of 93.

Wong, Richard (HS’77) died suddenly on September 29, 2015, while working out at the gym. He and his wife Christine lived in Sai Kung, Hong Kong.

Yeo, Naomi (BC u’2013) was born in Kenya and adopted to Canada at the age of nine. She studied at Red Deer College and the U of A until a brain tumor was diagnosed. Naomi met her Savior face-to-face on April 19, 2015.

Thank you to so many who have included Prairie in their estates.
At the beginning of May, Prairie’s former Athletic Director James Fraser and students from the Sports Ministry & Management program embarked on a journey to Santa Ana, El Salvador. There they linked up with the More Than Conquerors Church and Pastor Melvin Vasquez who reaches out to his communities by teaching sports and biblical values in local schools. Over a two-week period, the Prairie athletes visited eight different schools, putting on clinics, teaching gym classes and competing against local teams as they shared their skills and the gospel with over one thousand students. Unlike in North America, they were invited into the classrooms, even in non-religious schools, to share their faith and found the opportunities to speak about Christ seemingly endless.

The team was challenged by the depth of worship services in the church. Even without the language, they could still sense the passion and excitement of local believers.
“We often didn’t understand what was going on,” said one student, “but there was no shortage of the presence of God. It was unbelievable how the Spirit could still move and work in your heart.”

Learning to be flexible when plans were changed, playing on small outdoor cement pads with very little equipment and adjusting to the different pace of El Salvadorian time as well as the hot, humid weather all made for an intensive time of learning and growing and understanding things from a new perspective.

Not only were the students experiencing the possibilities of sports ministry first-hand but they were learning how to accomplish it in a cross-cultural setting. “Doing this outside of their own culture,” says James, “shows them how their passion for sport can be used around the world and how God can work through them in different places. It was a real blessing as well to see the small but important impact we were able to make in that church by encouraging their ministry and also by opening new doors for them and strengthening relationships that they had already been building.” It was a win-win situation all around.

Two months after returning from El Salvador, the team received a vivid reminder of the importance of giving God our best in the place and time he allots to us. On July 29, 2015, their friend and teammate, twenty-year-old Grace Harken, was struck by a car and killed while biking near her home in Iowa. As a student at Prairie, in her personal life and on mission overseas, Grace lived her life to the full and was passionate about letting others see the beauty of Jesus reflected in her. As the trip drew to a close, she had written in the team blog: *Even after we leave, God is still very present here and very real. He’s the reason we came and just because we’re leaving, that doesn’t mean he is. His work will continue long after we’ve gone home.*

*Even when we didn’t understand what was going on, there was no shortage of the presence of God.*
Explore Program on the Move
DENNIS LANDON

After seventeen successful years at Camp Bighorn in Montana, Prairie’s Explore Outdoor Leadership program is off to a great start in its new location at Frontier Lodge in Nordegg, Alberta. The fall semester activities included rock climbing, mountain biking, canoeing and going deeper into each student’s relationships with God and each other.

The concern in this major transition was that the heart of what made the program so meaningful in the lives of its students would be lost, but the opposite appears to be true. “The heart of our program has been strengthened by this move,” says Director Dennis Landon, “because it has forced us to deeply evaluate our training and make sure it is conducive to the type of growth we want to see in our students. This was made possible because of a great team at Frontier Lodge and also because of an amazing intern team who helped carry the vision for the program to this new location.”

Explore has just begun its first winter semester in the Canadian Rockies. “It can be challenging,” Dennis admits, “but God often teaches us through our challenges if we are open to learn.” Students will experience Wilderness Advanced First Aid, backcountry skiing, ice climbing and winter survival as they learn more about God, community and effective leadership in this upcoming term.

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
The 2015 Story in Numbers

How You Gave

2014 | $2.09 MM
2015 | $2.87 MM

37% Increase

What We Did

OVER $300,000 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID DISTRIBUTED

18% OF OUR FRESHMEN RECEIVED THE ALUMNI REFERRAL BURSARY

UPGRADES

Recording Studio
Bathrooms
Oven
Painting Projects

The Big Picture

Revenue
$8.45 MM

Expenses
$7.59 MM

= $859,857

48% Education
34% Donations
12% Facilities
6% Other

74% Education
16% Facilities
5% Scholarships
4% Fundraising
1% Other

Thank you for your support

Full Annual Report available online at www.prairie.edu and by request.
Plugging in
PRAIRIE EXPANDS ONLINE EDUCATION

Twenty-two-year-old Theo Devries of Courtney, BC, leads the junior high and young adult ministries as a staff intern at his church and volunteers as a hockey instructor at a local high school in his spare time. He is also a part-time college student. While working with Youth for Christ, Theo began studying for a Youth Ministry degree through Prairie Distance Education because he saw it as an opportunity to learn and apply that knowledge directly to his ministry.

“I’d like to be a pastor one day,” he says, “and I hope to adequately prepare myself intellectually, mentally and spiritually for this task as I work through my studies.” Thanks to the world of remote learning, Theo is getting an education without having to leave his current employment or relocate.

Prairie has offered “college without boundaries” since the early 1960s.

He is not the first. Prairie has offered “college without boundaries” to non-campus students since the early 1960s. Paper-based, mail-in correspondence courses have gradually given way to online education that makes it possible to watch videos of the instructor in action and listen to audio clips about foundational concepts. Multi-media curriculum creates the opportunity for relationship and dialogue, not just assignment submission and grading. In some courses, students can participate in discussion forums and engage with the thoughts and ideas posted by other classmates as well as their instructor.

Eight media-enhanced online courses are presently available and the college hopes to produce twenty more in this academic year to flesh out the Certificate in Bible (Encounter). The goal is to mirror campus curriculum and eventually have the Associate of Arts in General Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Ministry (Pastoral and Youth) and Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Studies available online as well.

No matter what your age or location, learning can be a life-long journey. Why not get started today? See www.prairie.edu/distance for available courses, including our free Theology 100.

ISRAEL TOUR 2016
Experience an in-depth two-week study tour of Israel in partnership with Prairie College, CREST leadership and Jerusalem University College.
Open to Prairie students, family and friends. Can be taken for credit.
For additional information, contact Dr. Dan Reinhardt at dan@crestleadership.ca
In November I helped lead a group of 130 pilgrims to Israel together with my friends at Back to the Bible Canada. As we swam in the Dead Sea I remembered George Burns' famous joke: “When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick.” But nothing lived there, even when George was a boy. You’re surrounded by desert, floating along at 1,400 feet below sea level.

“Hope floats,” I said as my wife tried in vain to push me under. “Lowest point of my life,” I laughed. But in truth, it was one of many high points on this Holy Land adventure.

How can you read the Bible the same way after watching a storm rise in seconds while you’re sailing the Sea of Galilee? Or enjoying the shade of a 2,000-year-old olive tree (still bearing fruit) in the Garden of Gethsemane? The only disappointment was the Church of the Nativity where a gaudy star marks the spot of our Savior's birth. Our guide, in a hurry to be elsewhere, employed his commando voice: “There's the baby, there's the manger, out!” No nativity set prepares you for this.

We had just arrived at the Jordan River when I heard someone call my name. It wasn't the Lord, but it was close. Joel Freeman and I grew up together in Three Hills back in the '60s. We've stayed in touch by phone, but hadn't seen each other in twenty years. In the winter of '71 Joel started hitchhiking around North America. Charged with vagrancy in Portland, Oregon, he did a three-week stint in Juvenile Hall, then stuck out his thumb again and headed south. But before long, God got ahold of Joel in Maine.

“I'm a certifiable Maine-iac,” he says. But he's also a successful writer, speaker and entrepreneur. We ran into each other again twice—one at the traditional site of Golgotha and again at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in cave number 4 (pictured above, just behind my left elbow).

Not far from Golgotha, we visited the Garden Tomb. A sign on the door reads: “He is not here. He is risen.” Each year 300,000 people come to see something that isn't there. Nearby are two signs. One says, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.” Less than a foot away is another sign: “Water not for drinking.” But it is for drinking. And those who drink deeply are filled with peace and hope.

In a dark world where fear seems to be winning, I think often of that quiet spot in a garden where a revolution of love began. Where hope shone through. In a world where we push past the Baby and hurry on with our lives, he is still to be found. And he is still changing lives, like Joel's and like mine.

**Phil Callaway**

is the host of Laugh Again Radio. Check it out at philcallaway.com
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