

Prairie Bible Institute Annual Meeting

Report to the Board of Directors



October 23-25, 2024



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

President's Report October 2024

PUTTING A DENT IN THE GREATEST NEEDS OF THE WORLD

As I write this report, thinking of all that we have to celebrate and the plans we are making for the future, I am very aware that we are also a community in mourning. On September 6, Katrina Webb, one of our fourth-year students, was tragically killed in a car accident while driving home to Sedgewick for the weekend. We mourn deeply with her family and her friends over this tragic loss.

While we recognize our loss, we also recognize the sovereignty and love of our Almighty Father. In faith, we believe that in all things, even in times like this, He is working for our good and for the good of all who love Him. Personally, I believe that He mourns with us in our loss...He knows death was never meant to be.

In July, we gathered on our campus to mark the beginning of the building of a new residence. That building is on schedule for completion next summer, allowing us to have occupancy in the fall. Eagle Builders has been a delight to work with, providing full-suite "design-build-furnish-finish" services, giving us solid confidence in their timeline and budget for completion.

In September, we gathered to mark the expansion of Prairie Aviation Training Centre (PATC), a timely build that will help accommodate the growing number of new students coming into the program each year. We simply need more capacity for the number of students.

(Let me take this opportunity to once again express our appreciation for Mission Aviation Fellowship Canada (MAFC), our partner at PATC. They raised the standard of professionalism, improved our team by bringing their own experts, expanded our fleet with airplanes and simulators, and enlarged our reach and reputation...more people know about our college because of the places MAF goes and is known. We are grateful to MAFC for their partnership.)

These buildings are not just functional monuments marking this point in history, these are pieces of a puzzle that we believe God is putting together that will become **"a Bible university for the world:"**

- a school that has stayed true to its created purpose to teach Bible, providing a full reading of the whole Canon of Scripture, all 66 books in seven courses, in every four-year degree program,
- a school that provides world-class training in many of the disciplines found on the campuses of universities, with professors from world renowned universities

- providing premier training,
- a school that is as relevant today as it has been at any time in its short one-hundred-year history,
- a school that is in-tune with the world, responsive to its needs, preparing people with career-training, community, and life-skills, as well as providing a spiritual bedrock that will help set their trajectory for productive, vibrant lives.
- In short, a school that is anchored in the ancient ways of our faith and relevant to the world.

Prairie: where students, alumni, staff, and faculty have a heart for the people of the world and are determined to put a DENT in the greatest needs of the world. The foremost of needs in humanity are soul-needs, the need to hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ from credible, faithful, and humble lovers of our Father-God.

Prairie is all about this Gospel: We are preparing the messengers who will be faithful couriers of the message of the love of the Almighty.

Over a century ago, the Three Hills community invited LE Maxwell to come here to open a Bible training centre...that centre quickly turned into Prairie Bible Institute, a college that has grown into Prairie College and now has multiple programs, such as aviation, digital media, and nursing. These are the professional tools that open windows into the hearts of people, who, when cared for, are open to deeper conversations that center on the reason for life, abundant life, eternal life.

For a century, Prairie has been preparing and sending young people to the unseen corners of the world to share the love story of a Creator God who longs to dwell with humanity.

To continue to achieve this vision that started in the hearts and minds of this rural farming community, we need to build a great university that is built on a solid foundation, rooted in the Scriptures.

We are building programs that will provide leadership in various professions, programs that will aspire to set the standard for excellence in practice, whether aviation, nursing, business, leadership, or church and ecclesiastical ministries.

We are building all of this on a foundation of healthy community, a community that has a deep-seated love for the Creator of the universe and for the Scriptures that show us the way to the Creator, a community that shares the high value of living well together, in harmony. This is a community that is determined to help address the needs of the world, not just for the sake of stopping pain and injustice, but for the glory of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, and for the establishment of His kingdom on earth.

We have a unique role to play in the world of academics. We are an excellent complement to the colleges and universities that are part of our greater community. We are delighted to live in a country that is genuinely pluralistic, a country that lets us serve our constituency well without needing to move to conformity with others, especially on issues relating to our core values and our core moral fabric. In fact, this is a country where diversity on these fundamentals is not only welcome, it strengthens the fibre of our nation.

This is a plan that is rooted in our past and stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. As we build this school over the next 50 years, we must aim to be exceptional citizens in our community, good neighbours in every way, contributing to a better country and world. We aspire to be good citizens who walk humbly on our streets and before the Creator God.

I believe God is not only here among us, ***I believe He is pleased to be here among us.*** I can imagine people from all over the world coming here for training because of the quality of our community, the excellence in our classroom, and the foundation of Bible that impregnates every program.

Given the remarkable success of our Capital Campaign, I feel compelled to recognize and thank Gordon Dirks, our Capital Campaign Consultant, who has provided elegant leadership marked with godliness and humility (although his humility may be under attack by his success, smile).

Gord would be quick to give credit to God. We all agree, above all of the many to whom we owe gratitude, *we want to thank the Almighty for what He has done, is doing, and is going to do through Prairie.*

This is my one request, especially of you, our Governors. Let us determine to stay the course on our commitment to teaching the whole of the Bible in every program, let us not waiver from our Foundational documents (like our Statement of Faith), let us guard our hearts to ensure the love of God is burning within us and remains our primary motivation, and let us walk forward in faith with courage. Let us ensure that we do not drift from our primary motivation—to love God and our neighbours, the multi-cultural people of the world, in the name of Jesus and for the sake of drawing all, through our work and our words, toward God.

Thank you for your courageous leadership. You are a critical component of the work God is doing at Prairie.

Let me take this opportunity to say, "THANK YOU!" to each of you for making time to be part of what God is doing here. Thank you for the various ways you have helped us, lending your good favour toward us. Thank you for your generous support of the Capital Campaign. You are an exemplary group of Governors who have shown

great faith in our plans, generously sharing with us your time and talents, wallets and wisdom. I am personally grateful for each one of you. I thank God for you and pray His overwhelming blessings on you, so that you (and we) can continue to bless others.

We can do this together; together we can make a **DENT** in the needs of the world.

Mark

Mark L. Maxwell
President

To know Christ and make Him known.