



McMaster Divinity
College

NEWS LETTER

FALL
2015

Across Canada and Around the World

While most of our students need to work throughout the summer to save for their studies, we are very encouraged that many also use what they have learned to minister to others.



Lucas Burton,
MDiv, 2nd year

Lucas travelled to Braila, Romania, his second time to visit the church that his local church is partnering with. Lucas states, "We organized a gospel-centred day camp for children and focused our evenings on youth discipleship. Serving in Romania reminded me of the glory of God's work to build His church around the world, rooted in the truth of the gospel that transcends cultural, geographic, and linguistic boundaries."



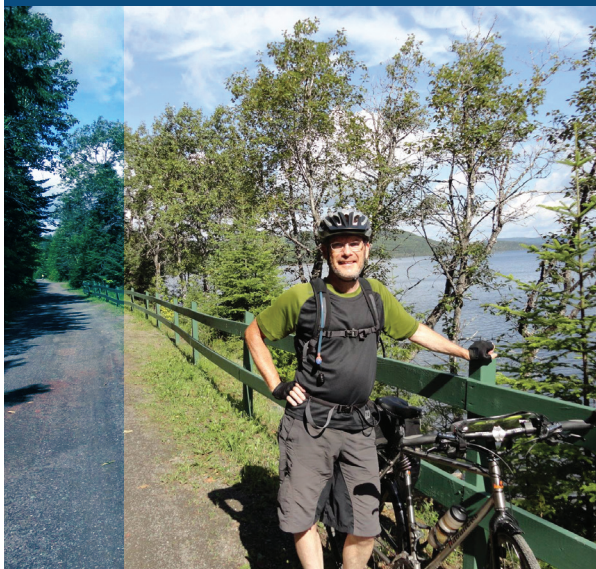
Thaddeus Maharaj,
MTS, 2nd year

Thaddeus spent his summer in Sao Paulo, Brazil, working with a local mission, ABBA, which ministers to children in situations of risk. ABBA's projects include creating safe houses in favela (slum) and running programs to minister to the homeless, drug addicts, orphanages, and pregnant teens who have experienced sexual abuse. ABBA's program to children, Casa Semeiar, "stands as a light in a dark place for them, an escape from the reality of favela life that they have to deal with. I can't help but want to give more of my time and money towards a work that I believe the Lord can use mightily!"



Justin Oblak,
MDiv, 3rd year

"Ever since I heard the words of Jesus in Matthew 25, I have felt called to the poor and marginalized people of this world. This summer I had the privilege to spend time amongst First Nations people in East Hastings, Vancouver. I came away with the knowledge that discipleship to the poor is always reciprocal. The poor can be our best teachers on humility, trust and dependence on God. Perhaps that is why Jesus calls them blessed! (Luke 6:20)"



Dr. Michael Knowles
Oshawa, ON to St. John's, NL – on bike!

"I enjoy the sense of adventure that comes from exploring new places, and there is something satisfying about meeting the physical challenge involved, but the deeper reason for bicycle touring is that it brings me closer to God. In one sense, cycling is a somewhat mindless activity – you simply turn the handlebars in the right direction and remember to keep your legs moving. For that very reason, your mind and spirit are free to listen for the voice of God's Spirit, to meditate, and to pray. I can't pretend that I actually 'pray without ceasing' all day long, yet long-distance biking is for me an exercise in conscious vulnerability, in trust, in developing inward stillness, and in waiting on God. It is, as I have told a number of colleagues and friends, my "monastic" time, when I turn from the complexity of teaching and research in order to practice simplicity in the presence of Christ. And yes, it's also a great way to lose weight!"

A note from Dr. Stanley E. Porter

Dear Friends,

We are very happy to announce that we have record enrolment this year - God is truly blessing us. We are humbled by the awesome responsibility that we have been given to prepare students in knowing the Word of God, being transformed into Christ's image, and doing the work of ministry. We are looking forward to a truly wonderful year as we seek to glorify God by training more men and women for leadership in the Church, society, and academy.

We constantly hear of the need all over the world for competent and educated leaders and are privileged to be entrusted with the task of preparing our students for ministry. You will have read how Lucas, Thaddeus, and Justin are using their training and preparation with us to minister to others and serve our Lord and Saviour in Canada and the world.

With larger student numbers, there is also a need for greater financial aid, as we seek to assist students in finishing our programs without incurring a lot of debt. We are asking for your help to partner with us in preparing students for what God has called them to do.

Our Fall Events

Some photos from our **Orientation Day** and **Student, Staff, and Faculty Retreat**.



Our family has grown!

Congratulations to our staff for two precious blessings!

Sabrina and Chris welcomed **Olivia Joy Dyson**, a little sister to Summer Faith on March 11, 2015.

Alison and Gerrit welcomed **Noah Cornelis Van Anandel** on April 16, 2015.