

# Change...



McMaster Divinity  
College



The change from fall to winter is one of the most obvious as we watch the vibrant colours fade and snow appear. From one day to the next it seems that all the leaves have fallen from the beautiful trees in our courtyard! Students are busy writing exams and final papers, and we are all preparing for the winter semester. Please pray with us that this time goes well as we also take time to pause and celebrate the birth of our Saviour. You can always find our latest news at [mcmasterdivinity.ca](http://mcmasterdivinity.ca)



## Paul Bates

We are very pleased to announce that Paul K. Bates is joining our faculty as Assistant Professor of Leadership. A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), Fellow of the Society of Management Consultants (FCMA) and Certified Management Consultant (CMC), Paul is a veteran of Bay Street, who brings an immeasurable wealth of experience and knowledge of the finance and business world. His most recent positions as Special Advisor to the President of McMaster University and Dean of the McMaster University DeGroote School of Business have created significant personal relationships among the academic community at large. For the next few months, as Paul completes his Master of Theological Studies degree, he will be developing courses that will assist our students in strengthening their Christian leadership skills.

## Spotlight on Alumni: Erin Wildsmith



Erin is the artist who created our 2013 Christmas card. A Master of Divinity grad (2013), Erin is Associate Pastor at Highview Community Church. She has always felt called to be a pastor and is blessed to be able to work on building deep and lasting relationships with the people in her congregation. "MDC opened my eyes to engaging in the question, 'Where is God in all this?' from the lessons of church history, to the wisdom of Scripture, to the richness of other Christian traditions. We don't always find easy answers, but we find hope for the journey; that's what I want to share with my congregation." Erin is enjoying a huge change in her life as she and her husband Dave welcomed their son Eli on August 26, 2013.



# Dear Friends,

About ten years ago, we significantly changed our program offerings by adding the Doctor of Philosophy (Christian Theology) stream. Some questioned whether this was the type of program that a traditional seminary should offer, but we have seen our Ph.D. grow and flourish. Allow me to share with you the story of David Tarus, one of our Ph.D. students.

David grew up in a Christian family in Eldoret, Kenya. At the age of 15, David became convinced that God was calling him to be a pastor. He completed a B.Th. at a Christian college in Kenya and looked forward to returning home to become a pastor. However, two weeks before graduating, he was asked by the president of his college to consider becoming a teacher of theology in a college plant in his hometown. David's first response was that his church had supported his studies—he must go back and be a pastor. However, the leaders of his church were convinced that David should help with teaching at this new college.

After teaching for a few years, David knew that he must become more educated if the African Inland Missionary College would achieve the goal of offering a B.Th. and perhaps even a Ph.D. "We want to train pastors to reach their city. We have started an intercultural studies program, as well as a peace and reconciliation program," says David. After receiving a M.A. in theology from Wheaton College, helped by a Billy Graham scholarship, David has now come to MDC to earn his Ph.D., after 1 ½ years of waiting to receive a visa to enter Canada.

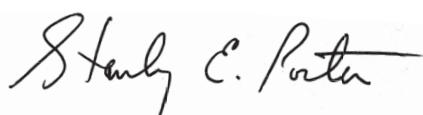
However, David's family has been refused entrance to Canada, and he has had to leave behind his wife and 1 ½ year old son in order to faithfully pursue the call that God has placed on his life—"to bring higher theological education back to my home town, to see lives transformed, and students rise up as leaders."

As I write this, I have learned that, once again, David's family has been refused entry to Canada, but he will continue to study here to prepare for his mission of training pastors to influence the country of Kenya.

What an honour it is for us to be a part of David's journey, be firsthand witnesses of the sacrifices he and his family are making, and to realize that many Kenyan pastors will ultimately be influenced by his time here. Friends, each one of our students has a story to tell of why they are at MDC and how God has called them. It is our responsibility to assist them in every way possible. Please prayerfully consider partnering with us to achieve our mission of supporting our students so that we can help change lives in Ontario, Canada, and the world.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ during this Christmas season, may we be reminded of the hope and salvation that we have in Him, and be inspired to do all that we can to share His message, changing the world around us.

In Christ,



**Stanley E. Porter, Ph.D.**  
President and Dean



## Save the Date

**President's Dinner**  
Thursday, April 10, 2014



**Convocation**  
Tuesday, May 20, 2014



Remember - your donation before December 31 provides you with a charitable donation receipt for the 2013 tax year.