



# NEWS LETTER

WINTER  
2014



We know that you will join with us and fellow Christians around the globe to thank God for his most precious gift of all—Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas! ...but God's gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (CEB)

# The gift of nutrition

in June of 2014, where Michael and his crew now offer “a place that we could serve every day, that wasn’t an institution, but a beautiful place that all walks of life would want to enjoy. We’re a church, a body of believers that serves, cares for, and loves one another.” The Pay-It-Forward program uses buttons as currency to give the gift of daily nutrition to 20% of their customers. 541 is also an exchange—a place where ideas and stories can be shared along with facilitating community initiatives. They have since opened a Homework Club. Michael says, “It would appear that over my eight years at MDC I took **Knowing, Being, Doing** to heart.”

**Save the Dates**  
**President's Dinner**  
Thursday, April 9, 2015  
**Convocation**  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Remember—your gift postmarked by December 31 provides you with a charitable donation receipt for the 2014 tax year!

Please find a special message from Advancement Advisor, Paul Bates, on the additional card enclosed.

# A Note from Stanley E. Porter

It is hard to believe that we are once again in the Christmas season. At MDC, we enjoy this time as we take a break from work and studies to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour. I thought it appropriate at this time of gift-giving to tell you about a special gift. Our Registrar related to me that she is often the intermediary for students who wish to give gifts of money anonymously to each other. One such occasion arose earlier this year when a student, who had been given a portion of a fellow student's financial aid since he was in greater need, told her that God had put

on his heart that this sum should really go to another student, with even greater difficulties. Friends, all the students in this story are in significant need of funds, but they trust God to provide and obey Him as they lift up and encourage each other, in prayer and practically. I would ask that you search your hearts, as well, to listen to God's prompting of what He calls you to give. May God bless you richly during this Christmas season and in 2015.



We asked a variety of our current students what the most important gift that being at MDC has given them. Take a moment to read their responses and how their experience here will reflect in life after graduation.



## Grant Hyndman

M.Div. Student

"Opportunity. There is no shortage of opportunity to try new things, push limits, and theologically reflect and make it ultimately possible to attend school by making scholarships available. After graduation, I intend to continue to question, reflect and push—finding and creating opportunities for others in my pastoral ministry."

## Andrew Dhanipersad

M.Div. Student

"A sense of community and helping me build my relationship with Christ. I plan on becoming a pastor focusing on pastoral care and counselling."

## Alexandria Barbera

M.T.S. Student

"A greatly enhanced understanding of Scripture. This has proven enormously beneficial for my faith, but it has also given me the opportunity to enrich the faith of others by sharing information with them about the contextual world of the Bible. After graduation, I hope to establish a career in writing where I may continue helping the body of Christ improve their knowledge and understanding of the Bible."

## Andrew Dyck

M.A. Student

"Finding my passion for the discipline of Hebrew Bible linguistics. The professors have kindled a passion within me for this area of scholarship that I never knew I had. Immediately following graduation, I will prepare for the next leg of my academic journey. In fall, I will begin my Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible at either McMaster Divinity College or Stellenbosch University. I am very excited and grateful that MDC has set me up for success in this regard."

## Jessica Ricker

M.Div. Student

"The friendships I have found. Life is worth living for the relationships with others, and at MDC I have found some amazing friends to walk this journey of life with. After graduation, I plan on doing children and youth ministry."