

anthem

The magazine of Ambrose University College

SPRING 2011

Pastoral Ministry

A Time to Prepare



AMBROSE







Alumnus Rev. Stuart Williams (cover) challenged the youth gathered at LYC 2011 with the theme En Route. Many of them will study at Ambrose joining Stuart and hundreds of Ambrose graduates in ministry. What will ministry look like and how will they prepare? In this issue of Anthem we seek to answer these questions.

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Spring 2011

PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Howard Wilson

CHANCELLOR AND ACTING VP EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Riley Coulter

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND EDITOR

Kim Follis

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wes Campbell

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND ASSISTANT EDITOR

Elly Wick

COPY EDITOR

Kathryn Olson

DESIGNER

George Toth

LAYOUT

Verge Design

PHOTOGRAPHY

Erich Wong

Daniel Yu

PRINTER

Rhino Pronto

Ambrose University College
150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary, AB T3H 0L5

General Inquiries 403.410.2000
Enrolment 800.461.1222
Website www.ambrose.edu

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A M B R O S E
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Partners in Ministry with the Local Church

Many [students] tell me that their experience at Ambrose was transformational in preparing them for their current ministry.



Howard Wilson


President

One of the real joys of my work in the past two years as President of Ambrose has been visiting the churches in our Nazarene and Christian & Missionary Alliance constituencies. I've been in churches from Victoria to Charlottetown and dozens of places in between, and have observed our graduates in action as pastors, missionaries, and a wide variety of other leadership roles. And, the local church is often where I encounter our graduates who are working in the marketplace during the week.

We're proud of the way they are putting their Ambrose education to use serving Christ and they're proud of their Ambrose training. Many tell me that their experience at Ambrose was transformational in preparing them for their current ministry. Sometimes it was the material they learned in class, but other times it was the personal attention from a professor or the character development from a student leadership experience that made a difference.

Each year denominational officials visit Ambrose to interview our upcoming graduates for ministry positions. At the exit interviews they tell me that they are impressed with our students, and see places where they will be effective in service in local congregations or on the mission field. We try to be responsive, too, when they tell us some of the new skills and knowledge that our graduates should have to be effective in our ever-changing world.

At Ambrose, our motto is "Ambrose is all about Jesus, and all about students." We believe that the bride of Christ is the local church, and that part of our role in the divine economy is to prepare servant leaders for that church. I strongly encourage our students to stay involved with a local church while they are at Ambrose. While we want to play a significant role in their spiritual development through the integration of faith and learning in the classroom, and through chapel and small groups, it is only in the local church that all the gifts and graces are present.

Almost all of our students have a strong connection to their congregation. Their church is their spiritual home. I would ask all of our churches to look at the young men and women in their midst, and to identify ones who may be ministry leaders some day and encourage them to consider Ambrose. 




Assistant Professor of Sociology Joel Thiessen Earns PhD

Joel Thiessen, Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Behavioural Science Program at Ambrose, earned his PhD in Sociology from the University of Waterloo in January, 2011. His dissertation is titled *Active and Marginal Religious Affiliates in Canada: Describing the Difference and the Difference it Makes*.

His dissertation is based on forty-two in-depth interviews with active religious affiliates (those who identify with a religious group and attend religious services nearly every week) and marginal religious affiliates (those who identify with a religious group and attend religious services primarily for religious holidays and rites of passage). With the goal of improving our understanding of how individuals subjectively understand their religious involvements, Dr Thiessen explored questions about what explains higher and lower levels of religious involvement, whether we might expect marginal affiliates to eventually become

active affiliates, and how we should evaluate the degree of religiosity or secularity in Canada.

Dr Thiessen argues that we can explain different levels of religious involvement among active and marginal affiliates by looking to their different *experiences* with the supernatural or with their local congregation, and the *social influences* that either encourage or discourage involvement in a religious group. With respect to whether we should anticipate marginal affiliates becoming active affiliates, marginal affiliates appear content with their current levels of religiosity and regardless of changes to the supply of religion in Canada (e.g., better music or more relevant preaching), most show little desire to pursue more involvement in a church. This finding, combined with the heightened cultural influence of individualism and relativism (consequences of a plural and diverse society) on people's religious attitudes and behaviours, and the subsequent growing percentage of Canadians who claim to have "no religion" (especially among Canadian teens) leads Dr Thiessen to conclude that it is likely that we will witness continued secularization at the individual level in Canada. More about Dr Thiessen's research can be found online on his Ambrose faculty biography page.

Dr Thiessen graduated from Ambrose's Behavioural Science Program and completed both his Masters and PhD work at the University of Waterloo. He returned to Ambrose as a faculty member in 2008. Joel Thiessen is among a growing group of Ambrose alumni who are going on to distinguish themselves in graduate programs at universities across Canada and around the world. The Ambrose community congratulates Dr Thiessen on his achievement and is proud to count him as part of our Faculty. 

Ambrose Signs Education Agreement with Province of Alberta

On Tuesday, February 2, Ambrose President Howard Wilson, Board Chair Alex Baum, and Dr Bernie Potvin, Associate Professor and Chair, Education, signed an historic and important Memorandum of Agreement with Alberta's Minister of Education, Dave Hancock. Under the Agreement, successful Ambrose education students recommended to the Minister by Ambrose are deemed to have met the academic requirements for an Interim Professional Certificate from the Province.

The Agreement attests to our ability to prepare teachers who can give evidence of competencies indicated in the knowledge, skills, and attributes identified in the Teaching Quality Standards. In a symbolic way as well as a real way, this agreement ratifies the trust placed in us by Alberta Education, through the Campus Alberta Quality Council to offer the excellent degree that we promised to offer, that was approved by the Minister of Advanced Education & Technology in January 2010. We will work closely with the Professional Standards Branch of Alberta Education to ensure that our graduates indeed meet all certification requirements in Alberta and other provinces. As a result of this agreement, Dr Bernie Potvin will sit on the Alberta Council of Deans of Education. This council serves an important function in Alberta, to ensure that all graduates have the very best teacher education program.

At the signing ceremony, which was also attended by representatives of seven other Education degree-granting institutions from the province, the Minister of Education spoke about the importance of the agreement and noted that such an agreement is unique in Canada. No other province has a memorandum of agreement

between a ministry of education and teacher development programs. Howard Wilson spoke at the signing to affirm our commitment at Ambrose to be full partners and to fulfill that commitment by offering the best teacher education program possible in order to meet the needs of Alberta's young people.

The signing ceremony was indeed an historic and important event for Ambrose. 📍

New Faculty Appointments

Dr Lynn Davis, BA, BEd, MSc, PhD, RPsych, will start as Associate Professor of Psychology on July 1, 2011. Dr Davis has worked in the education system as teacher, school psychologist, and counsellor, and has also worked in mental health and counselling fields. She is a registered psychologist with the College of Alberta Psychologists. Dr Davis' teaching and research are focused on special needs, learning and development, mental health,

narrative, and online learning. Areas of speciality in which Dr Davis has been involved include working with children, adolescents and their families with a variety of presentations such as school related problems, anxiety, and depression. Dr Davis lives on an acreage and raises horses.

Dr David Peat, BEd, MEd, PhD, will join the Education Program as Associate Professor of Education on August 1, 2011. He has been involved in the fields of education, rehabilitation, and health in various capacities since 1972. Responsibilities within school settings have included teaching in a number of subjects. He has also served as school psychologist, school administrator, district level Coordinator of Special Services, Associate Superintendent of Schools, and Executive Director of Research & Innovation for Rocky View Schools, Airdrie, Alberta. Internationally, he has worked extensively in the Middle East and

Asia in schools, university, government and mental health settings.

Randy Poon, BComm, MBA, PhD (ABD), will start as Associate Professor of Business Administration on August 1, 2011. For the past 18 years, Randy has worked for a variety of federal departments in Ottawa including the Department of Finance, Treasury Board Secretariat, Industry Canada, and, most recently in an executive capacity, the Department of Canadian Heritage. He also brings to the faculty a wide range of experience as a management consultant, lay pastor, and staff member with Campus Crusade for Christ. Randy enjoys running and all things digital, and is especially an avid Apple fan. As a native Calgarian, the move to Ambrose represents a homecoming for Randy and his family as they eagerly look forward to reconnecting with friends, both new and old, as well as becoming a part of the Ambrose community. 📍

Ambrose Seminary Announces Chinese Language Degree Programs

In light of the need for religious leadership for the Chinese churches in Canada, Ambrose Seminary is offering the Master of Divinity (MDiv), the Master of Arts in Leadership and Ministry (MALM), the Diploma in Leadership and Ministry, and the Certificate in Chinese Ministries in the Chinese language in partnership with the Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association (CCACA) and the Association of Canadian Chinese Theological Education (ACCTE). This partnership establishes the Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Ambrose Seminary (CCSTAS). The main language of tuition will be Mandarin, complemented by Cantonese or English. As with all Ambrose Seminary degrees, these degrees are fully accredited by The Association of Theological Schools (ATS). 📍

For more information on any of these programs, please contact Patricia Tam at 403.410.2000, ext. 8914, or ptam@ambrose.edu

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Theological Education for Ministry Today

Arch CK Wong, PhD

What does it take to prepare women and men for pastoral ministry today? It is important to understand what is happening in the North American religious landscape and the implications for theological education.

Changes in church attendance

Church attendance has changed significantly. In 1945, 65% of Canadian adults attended religious services regularly. Today, 25% of Canadian adults regularly attend religious services and 66% hardly ever or never attend religious services. Further, 16% of Canadian adults claim to have “no religion” compared to 1% in 1971. Data on church attendance suggest that regular attendees are attending less regularly. Even allowing for this decline in regular attendance, Canada still has one of the highest percentages of church attendance.

Changes in the centre of Christianity

Studies indicate that more than 20% of all Christians live in Sub-Saharan Africa. The number of believers in this geographical area has grown to almost 500 million, a growth of seventy-fold in the twentieth century. The growing influence of the Global South – defined as those countries that are not considered to be developed nations, mostly located in the Southern Hemisphere – is having significant impact on religious life, especially to those church bodies that have significant membership outside of North America. Thus, Christianity is finding new cultural homes and as a result Christian practices are being reinvented and beliefs take on a different form. As Daniel Aleshire, Executive

Pastors need to be able to deal with the questions their own church members will have about other religions.

Director of The Association of Theological Schools, notes, “North American Christianity will be more influenced by Christianity in other parts of the world than worldwide Christianity will be influenced by North America.”

Changes in religious complexity

When I lived in Toronto I noticed that “the world was at my doorstep.” I find this more and more as I live in Calgary – people from different parts of the world immigrating to Canada and in so doing creating an increase in religious pluralism. But we need to be a bit careful here of the background of new Canadians. The fact is that 23% of immigrants come as Roman Catholics, followed by 21% who are “not religious,” followed by 15% who identify themselves as Muslim. The process of globalization has brought those with no religion into close proximity with multiple religions, which at times can bring about religious and social complexities.

What do these changes mean for preparation for pastoral ministry and what are the implications for theological education?

Preparing people for ministry will mean training that involves ministering in an increasingly multi-faith context. Pastors will need to be educated so that they can call their own congregations to be

faithful to Scripture and at the same time not alienate members of non-Christian religious communities nor nurture religious intolerance. Pastors need to be able to deal with the questions their own church members will have about other religions.

The Christian story is no longer the grand narrative and the outcome is that we live in a culture with no Christian memory. It seems that the most significant group that we ought to be attentive to is the growing “no religion” category. This means that pastors have to minister in a setting where there is really no religious preference and that they will have to learn to relate the Christian story to people who have no religious interest or commitment. Again Daniel Aleshire asks this, “What curricular support will prepare future leaders to serve as advocates for faith in a religiously neutral culture rather than as chaplains of faith that was privileged by culture?”

Theological education needs to pay closer attention to the knowledge and wisdom of practitioners, such as pastors. In the past, there were more pastors than academics in the theological education enterprise. Nowadays, this is reversed. I do not think that this is an either/or but more of a both/and situation. We need both the wisdom from the academy and wisdom that comes from pastoral work. In today’s world of theological education that prepares people for ministry this needs to be done in a flexible way that considers the learner: from traditional 13 week courses to other delivery formats such as on-line, week-long, weekends, and evening options. **■**

Dr Wong is Dean of Theology at Ambrose University College.

*I want to thank my colleague Dr Joel Thiessen for his assistance with some of the statistical data.



Brian Buhler seeks to lead his congregation into an Emmaus Road encounter with Jesus.

Brian Buhler Brings Preaching Experience to the Classroom


Brian Buhler, who graduated from Ambrose (CBC '79) is Lead Pastor of Pacific Community Church in Cloverdale, British Columbia. In February he was on the Ambrose campus teaching a course on preaching entitled *Preaching Christ: Reclaiming Preaching as the Christ Event*. Here is Brian's response to the question, "How is preaching changing?"

Personally, the biggest change in my preaching is that I try to preach Christ with every sermon. With every text I ask, "Where's the good news?" If my sermon would succeed in a Jewish synagogue, I know I've failed miserably! I am more sensitive toward my propensity toward moralism or "good advice." I try to hold

the Scripture in one hand and point to Jesus with the other. Our new reformers have brought a lot to the table to stimulate Christo-centric preaching.

I've also observed a shift towards less dogmatism on non-essentials and more open-handedness. (There are some unfortunate exceptions.) I think we're becoming more open to the possibility that there could be two or three interpretations of a challenging passage. I've become more "catholic" in that I try to borrow from 2000 years of church theology. I see our Alliance tradition as a tiny leaf clinging to a branch of a very large tree. I want our congregation to benefit from the whole trunk.

The biggest shift for me as a pastor in the last five years has been in relation to the pulpit's proximity to the table. My sacramental journey has led me and our congregation to a weekly Eucharistic encounter. Though it's still a huge mystery, I believe heaven and earth overlap when his people gather together for baptism and Communion.

My inspiration is the Emmaus Road experience: burning hearts through Christ-centered exposition and opened eyes through the breaking of bread. I often pray, "Lord Jesus, by your Spirit make this service an Emmaus encounter." If it is, I know that genuine mission will be the result, "It's true! The Lord has risen!" 

Blooming Where They are Planted

Ambrose alumni serve the Kingdom in many different ways, but a significant number of them serve in the local church. However, churches come in many shapes and sizes and, while there are certain facets of church life that are common to all, some settings bring their own unique challenges and rewards.

Megan Polowski graduated from Ambrose (NUC) in 2004 and has been serving in the Whitehorse Church of the Nazarene, Yukon, since graduation. With an overall congregation of around 70, this is a small church in a smaller community (Whitehorse is home to slightly less than 27,000 people) that experiences many of the disadvantages of the far north. Megan works primarily with the youth in the church and has seen the group grow from three members to fifteen in recent years. She describes many of the teens that attend the group as coming with "...broken hearts, broken families, broken lives, or a wounded combination of all three....These teens desire to be free from their vices and brokenness, but often do not possess the tools to become free." While working with these teens is extremely rewarding, it is not an "easy" task.

Being located in Whitehorse makes connecting with other Nazarene youth groups a significant logistical challenge. Travelling to a youth retreat in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, for example, necessitated a 32 hour drive, something a youth pastor in an urban area wouldn't even need to consider undertaking as there would be many other youth groups to connect with in their local area. Even though Megan sometimes finds that working and living in the north can be isolating, she is grateful for the very caring and supportive church family that she has around her.


In contrast to Whitehorse, Toronto is a city of over 2,500,000. Tim Heereabout, Lead Planter at Montage Church in the city, and a 2002 graduate of Ambrose (NUC) describes the city as having a "...strained relationship with faith, church and God." One of the questions the church is often faced with is the "So what?" question: "How does Christianity actually improve my world?" To try to answer that question the church serves the city by partnering with charities that help to raise awareness of how to make Toronto a better place. As Tim sees it, "Leaders need to lead by example. If the church is to serve then leaders need to serve first," and this is the rationale behind the partnerships. By not coming to the community with "church" – an institution that many people think has no meaning – the church has been able to bring together believers with those who are not yet following Christ. That provides opportunities for church members to share their faith, and for those who do not yet have a relationship with Christ the opportunity to move closer to Jesus by serving and asking questions.

South Edmonton Alliance Church, pastored by Ambrose alumnus Genghis Chan, has outgrown its current facility but is in the process of developing a welcome centre with church expression off-site at another campus that is just five minutes away from the church. With more resources the church is more able to embrace the vision of reaching out to serve the community. The neighbourhood that

the church is in is very culturally diverse and home to many new Canadians. This location affords the church the opportunity to serve those who are new to the city, and often new to Canada, in a way that is non-threatening but still allows opportunities to share Christ. Genghis graduated from Ambrose (CTS) in 1993 and has now been serving as an Alliance Pastor for almost 18 years. He still thinks of Ambrose as "his school," teaching as an adjunct and playing an active role in the Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Ambrose Seminary.

Steve Kerr, an Ambrose Seminary graduate (CTS '93), as Senior Pastor of Gateway Church in Caledonia, Ontario, has a congregation of close to 500 each weekend, and is overseeing two church planting efforts in nearby Brantford and Hamilton. The economic decline experienced by the area in 2008-09 has impacted the expansion but, rather than see this as a negative, Gateway used the

opportunity to instead become a full-service church hoping to be known more in the community for generosity in the areas of compassion ministry rather than "church." The location means that there is more opportunity for Kerr to interact with community members on a more personal level, with home visits, rather than just through church-based programs as can often be the necessary norm in larger urban areas.

Whatever the context, whether urban or rural, affluent or poor, isolated or surrounded by millions of people, every Ambrose alumnus serving in a church setting – and elsewhere – faces the challenge of bringing Christ to a population that is increasingly diverse and less inclined to interact with the church. However, they also experience the joys of serving God where He has placed them. We give thanks for every one of our alumni. 



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Practical and Enriching

Students on Their Theological Education



Theology students Richard Sampang and Shelley Potts reflect on how their experiences at Ambrose are preparing them for ministry.

Our Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministry programs are designed to prepare students to serve as committed, competent, and relevant leaders. By combining classroom teaching and field education, the program gives students the theological and practical tools they need to succeed in ministry.

Second year youth ministry student Richard Sampang calls his path to Ambrose “a total God thing.” Although he initially had a negative perception of “Bible College,” he felt God calling him to pursue an education in pastoral ministry as he served in his church’s youth group. During a tour of the Ambrose facilities, God began to open Richard’s heart towards getting a theological education, and after that, Richard says, “everything began falling into place including my acceptance, finances, and classes. As soon as I felt peace about attending Ambrose, I knew it was the right place for me.”

British Columbia native Shelley Potts, who is now in her second year in

the worship arts program at Ambrose, had a similar experience. Although she had planned to attend Trinity Western University to get a business degree, God had other plans for her. According to Shelley, the road to Ambrose was a lesson in “surrendering to God’s plan.” She finds it hard to be away from home, but knows that she is where she is supposed to be. “Ambrose is where God is turning me into the leader He wants me to be.”

Both students have found their experiences in the classroom to be practical and enriching. While Richard admits that it is humbling to realize how little he knows about ministry, he says that “Ambrose is an environment that accepts you as a learner. The professors are not distant, but personable and relatable people who not only teach you, but walk with you.” Shelley agrees by adding that at Ambrose, “the professors are worship leaders, not necessarily in music, but in how they teach and pour into the next generation of leaders.” Although she finds her classes on

theology, hermeneutics – and especially preaching – to be challenging and stretching, she knows that they are creating a solid foundation for her future ministry.

Their learning experiences are not confined to the classroom. The requirement for students to do a practicum in addition to course work allows students to get hands-on experience in ministry. Richard’s work with his church’s youth group has given him a realistic view of ministry. “I’ve seen that you have to be ready to make service your life and have it affect every part of you,” he explains. Similarly, her work with the Ambrose worship team and her practicum at Westside King’s Church (near Ambrose) has reminded Shelley that worship is a lifestyle. Whether she is singing on stage, sitting in the sound booth, or setting up chairs for chapel, Shelley sees all acts of service as worship. “Whenever you use your gifts to give glory back to God,” she says, “you are creating an atmosphere of worship.”

What is next for these students? While Shelley can see herself organizing major worship conferences for large churches like Hillsong, she asserts that “God has got something incredible for me – whether it is big or small. I’ll go wherever He wants me to go.” Richard hopes that his upcoming trip to the Philippines as part of the OnSite program will give him some direction for the future: “All I’ve ever known is serving in the Western world. I’m listening for God’s call to see if he wants me to work overseas or at home.”

When asked what advice they would give to future Ambrose students interested in pastoral ministry, Richard says, “Get involved! Take what you learn in the classroom and apply it in a practical way.” For Shelly it is, “Go for something you love, because God put it in your heart for a reason.” **A**

After Evangelicalism



Dr David Fitch delivered the 2011 Murray W. Downey Lectures on the Ambrose campus in February. He is on the pastoral team at Life on the Vine Church in Chicago, and holds the B. R. Lidner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary, where he heads up the Master of Arts in Missional Church Ministry program. He is the author of several books, including his latest book *The End of Evangelicalism* (Cascade Books, 2011).

Anthem Editor Kim Follis interviewed Dr Fitch as part of our focus on pastoral ministry.

KF Why do we need this new “missional” model for doing church?

DF The habit of doing church was one of attraction and authority. This approach worked because Christianity was resident in the culture. As the church lost position in the culture and could no longer depend on its authority to engage people it turned to entertainment and a CEO model of leadership that depended on results. Attraction and authority just don't work anymore.

KF In your 20s you walked away from evangelicalism. Where did you go and what brought you back?

Modernity has run its course. Reason is no longer the guide. We need to look for truth in the long proven history of the Church.

DF I walked away from the church and sold my soul to Wall Street. I went into the world of corporate finance and was very successful. I did encounter the darkness of money and power which led to a second crisis experience that was as powerful as my conversion.

I didn't take communion for a year after that experience because I believed that God was going to force me back into ministry. I had to deal with myself.

I ended up at Willow Creek Church but met Jim Poole who was planting a church off Moody Memorial (Church). Instead of a long commute to church I got connected locally. Six months later I was leading the church.

After getting my PhD it was time to get ordained. I ended up going back to my roots in The C&MA. They took me back and asked me to plant a church.

KF Why do you think that after an emphasis on relevance we are seeking to rediscover roots that reach back beyond the reformation?

DF Modernity has run its course. Reason is no longer the guide. We need to look for truth in the long proven history of the church.

Evangelicalism is rooted in the individual. There are so many ugly forces that assault the individual – money, job, image, and sexual confidence.

We need traditions that shape us toward God. We need to come together to encounter the living God. We need the silence to get clean and clear and open a pathway to God.

KF What about doctrine?

DF At Life on the Vine we ask people to learn the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer and Romans 6-8. These are ancient expressions of faith.

People don't care any more about theological debates over pre-millennialism or second crisis. They want truth that unites, not divides. We need to work off what we hold in common like the Apostle's Creed.

KF Are people still lost or just in need of guidance on their journeys?

DF Without Christ we are lost. But it is God who is already at work. I must be available by being in relationship. When the time is right for a person to respond I am ready. It's a way of life.

KF What would you say to pastors in an established church that has a history of using the attraction model of evangelism rather than a relational approach?

DF The church needs to be in crisis to change. Churches will come into crisis if we use attractional modes of church. Existing churches can plant communities that will grow.

We need to ask our people – how does God reveal himself? We need to see God anew. We need a wider understanding of the gospel. Where is the kingdom of God? The kingdom is breaking out all around us. We need to sculpt a new imagination.

KF In the 3rd century Cyprian wrote, “No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother.” Are you agreeing with that statement?

DF There must be a continuous form of the church. We must avoid an unmediated mystical experience. The traditions of Christianity have each had an emphasis: Catholics – Eucharist Reformed – proclamation of the Word Anabaptists – the gifting of the community

We need all three. Jesus is present and real through the Eucharist, preaching and the gifting. Through these three emphases we do receive a personal and direct encounter. ☒

Note: Dr Fitch's opinions are not necessarily those of Ambrose University College, but we believe that they should be considered by those who care about the future of the church. To learn more about Dr David Fitch and his understanding of the missional church visit him online at www.reclaimingthemission.com

BOOKS



A.B. Simpson and the Pentecostal Movement: A Study in Continuity, Crisis and Change

by **Charles W. Nienkirchen**

Wipf and Stock: Eugene, Oregon: 2010
(previously published by Hendrickson, 1992)

When it first appeared almost two decades ago *A. B. Simpson and the Pentecostal Movement* broke new ground in its investigation of the complex relationship between A.B. Simpson, the early Christian and Missionary Alliance, and the modern Pentecostal movement. At the time the book drew attention to previously unstudied sources including Simpson's never-before published Nyack Diary. It unearthed evidence which shed new light on the underappreciated theological and spiritual influence exerted by the entrepreneurial founder of the Alliance on Pentecostalism which, in turn, attracted some prominent Alliance personalities into its ranks.

The opening chapter serves up an adept, nuanced narrative of the the Fourfold Gospel as it emerged within the context of Simpson's spiritual pilgrimage. Simpson is subsequently interpreted as both a forerunner and a critic of Pentecostalism with detailed attention given to the conflicted dynamics arising from the numerous contacts of the Alliance with Pentecostals across the continent during the critical years of 1905-1912 when the tension peaked. Biographical vignettes enhance the reader's understanding of the underlying motivations and consequences of decisions made by Simpson and some

of his better known followers regarding Pentecostal doctrine and experience in an era of adventurous spiritual questing.

The provocative conclusion suggests some abiding effects of the Alliance's encounter with Pentecostalism on its organizational development and spiritual ethos. Despite its age, the book, with its new preface for the reprinted edition, remains an informative, revealing read for those interested in a controversial, much debated, period of early Alliance history. **A**

Dr Charles Nienkirchen is Professor of Christian History and Spirituality at Ambrose.



Sacred Space for the Missional Church – Engaging Culture Through the Built Environment

by **William R. McAlpine**

Wipf and Stock: Eugene, Oregon: 2011

In his newly published book, *Sacred Space for the Missional Church*, Dr Bill McAlpine examines the strong link between the theology and mission of the church and the spaces in which and from which that theology and mission are lived out. He demonstrates that the built environment is not incidental or even subservient to mission. Rather it is a key player in the fulfillment and communication of that mission.

The book begins with a working definition of the missional church, underscoring the connection between God's mission (*missio dei*) and the church's mission. Dr McAlpine presents the reader with historical and theological frameworks for sacred space, and with reminders of the pivotal role of the built environment in the

fulfillment of the mission of the church.

Dr McAlpine shows that the design and construction of sacred spaces are fundamentally a theological exercise and not solely a matter of function, pragmatics and budget. He questions the uncritical application of blanket statements such as "form must follow function," and challenges the conviction that it does not matter *where* worship occurs, only *that* it occurs. The book addresses genuine concerns such as legitimizing the cost of church buildings and concludes with practical suggestions and essential questions that must be considered in posturing the built environment within the missional praxis of the Church. **A**

Dr Bill McAlpine is Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Ambrose.

Bookstore Hosts Ambrose Authors

Ambrose Bookstore hosted "A Night With Ambrose Authors" in March, featuring not one but four authors: three Ambrose professors – Dr Charles Nienkirchen (*A.B. Simpson and the Pentecostals*), Dr Bernie Van De Walle (*The Heart of the Gospel*), and Dr Bill McAlpine (*Sacred Space for the Missional Church*) – plus a special guest author, Barbara Howe (CTS alumna) (*Forgotten Voices: Women in Ministry in the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada*).

The focus of the evening was on Christian and Missionary Alliance themes with summaries of their work from the three faculty authors. Barbara Howe's work is a collection of short biographies of women in ministry in The C&MA. Mrs Howe delighted the group with an artistic surprise when Kelsey Ranshaw delivered a dramatic soliloquy as Dorothy Plomp (Undheim).

A panel discussion brought questions from the audience, with serious considerations along with some very funny moments as the speakers shared microphones and perspectives.

The event was well attended, and we were delighted to have the opportunity to showcase these authors. **A**



Legacy Youth Conference 2011, themed En Route, was a defining moment in the lives of over 1000 participants.

Legacy Youth Conference

Kalie Eeles
Ambrose student

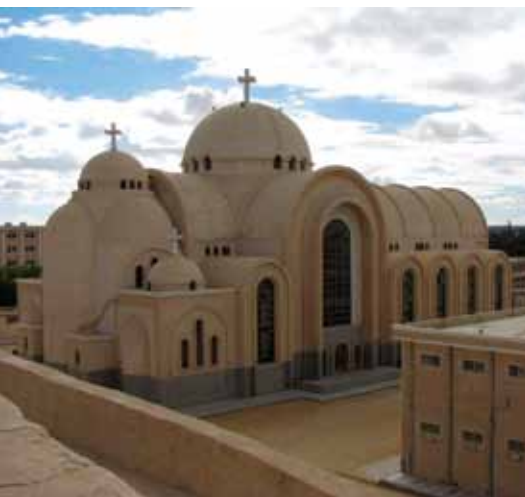
From March 18 to 20 Ambrose hosted over 600 youth and delegates for Legacy Youth Conference (LYC) and it was a blast! Our theme, *En Route*, captured the idea that we are all on a journey toward the infinite God. Our main speaker, Stuart Williams, shared his heart over the weekend, with rallies entitled *Stop, Detour, U-Turn, One-Way, and Destination*. Along with our speaker, rallies included incredible worship time lead by the very talented Scott Cyr and Kevin Borst, along with an entire band and choir filled with a passion for worship. MCs Karlie Silcock

and Scott Wilms helped direct the flow. Noteworthy rally events included spoken word by a member of the Legacy One crew, an offering to Free the Children's Brick-by-Brick cause which raised over \$2,000, and an incredibly moving rendition of the *Everything* skit.

Following each rally, the church youth groups took part in breakout sessions where they got together to discuss Stuart's messages as well as grow closer as a group. Afternoons at the conference provided delegates and sponsors with the opportunity to take part in ministry options, recreation options, and seminars.

Above all the fun, late nights, good speakers, fantastic music, and fun options

however, is the fact that God moved during the weekend. He touched and changed lives. To quote one youth pastor, "I know that this weekend has been a defining moment in the lives of my youth. For some, this weekend may be a weekend that will serve to shape the rest of their lives." As a team and as a school, this was our heart for the conference. The prayer team was constantly available, praying over every aspect of the conference and for the delegates, and through them and everyone involved, delegates left seeing life differently. We are so thankful to God for the work he did during LYC, both in the hearts of the delegates and all who were involved. **2**



The Church of St. Bishoi in the Monastery of St. Bishoi in the Wadi al-Natrun

On the Trail of Ancient Christians in Egypt

Dr Charles Nienkirchen

Professor of Christian History and Spirituality

In late December 2010, during the Twelve Days of Christmas, 25 lifelong learners participated in a Down Ancient Paths travel study venture to Egypt where Pharaohs, pyramids, temples and mosques have long dominated tourist itineraries. In recent decades, however, the more hidden Coptic Christian tradition which hails Mark the Evangelist as its founder, has begun to attract the attention of western travelers. Egypt, in fact, claims a prized, though small, share of the Holy Land as the temporary exilic home of the Holy Family after its post-Nativity flight, briefly mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew (2:16) but embellished in an apocryphal wealth of Coptic stories and legends. Twenty two places are associated with the Holy Family. The precise length of their exile is debated.

Accompanied by local security personnel, we abandoned the well traveled, tourist track to follow the route of the Holy Family through the Nile Delta where pre-modern, labour intensive, peasant life still goes on as it has for millennia. The site of Tell Basta, once a centre for the orgiastic veneration of the cat goddess, Bastet, is now a field chaotically strewn with hieroglyphed stones. The Coptic version of what happened here tells of a dramatic power encounter between the Holy Family and the enshrined Egyptian deities. Mary entered a local temple with the Christ Child in her arms causing the granite statues to collapse and shatter in fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 19:1. We continued to Mosterod where a desperate Holy Family, hounded by Herod's soldiers, may have sought sanctuary in a cave. Night had fallen by the time we arrived at Ma'adi on the banks of the Nile south of Cairo, where Jesus and his parents may have embarked by boat to Upper Egypt.

The flat stoned passageways of Old Cairo, once Roman Babylon, took us through a police-controlled, Christian enclave in the heart of Egypt's capital. The renovated Coptic Museum reinforces the Copts' vibrant sense of their own antiquity. Cairo is nicknamed "the city of a thousand minarets," however in this confined district of the city, richly iconographed churches dating to the 5th century control the sacred space. Their histories are interwoven with the trans-generational memories of saints, martyrs and the extraordinary feats of male and female religious heroes.

Beyond Cairo, in the great deserts of Egypt, we engaged an invigorated, monastic spirituality with roots back to the 3rd century. At the females-only Convent of Al Azab in the Fayoum Oasis, Sr. Irene, a theologically astute nun-physician with cell phone in hand, evinced a radiant

fortitude. She spoke passionately of the necessity of a "psychological martyrdom" which prepares one to make whatever sacrifice necessary for the sake of being "a Christian." The integrity of her heart was evident in the pure, inescapable gaze of her eyes. More desert conversations followed. On Coptic Christmas Day (January 7) at the massive, fortress-styled Monastery of St Macarius in the Wadi Natrun, Fr. Mercurios, an architect by training, introduced us to the history of the desert fathers and spoke intimately of Christ's companionship in difficult life crises. His presence exuded the tranquil joy which emanates from a life of ceaseless prayer.

Martyrdom is never far from the minds of Coptic Christians. Their calendar is known as the "Era of the Martyrs" which begins in 284 CE when Diocletian became emperor and subsequently unleashed a bloody, ten year "Great Persecution" on the church. Later would come centuries of Islamic occupation. On Christmas night, before leaving the desert, we visited illuminated, fresh graves inside the Monastery of St. Menas (named after an ancient martyr) to pay our respects to the "Alexandria Martyrs" killed recently in the New Year's eve bombing of a Coptic church. Present day Copts, who bear crosses tattooed on their wrists, are no strangers to the high price their faith has historically exacted of their ancestors. ■

Business and Behavioural Science Offering Cross-Departmental Travel Course to Latin America

This spring the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and the Bachelor of Behavioural Science (BBS) students and faculty will travel to Latin America to see first-hand how international development impacts individuals and communities in Latin America. Senior students in both programs will travel under the leadership of professors Jeff Huebner (BBA) and Peter Doell (BBS).


BBA students are taking the course as Microfinance and Economic Development

in Latin America in conjunction with BUS 461 International Microfinance while the BHS students are enrolled in International Development in Latin America BHS 404. Student are doing preparatory class work in order to understand the issues that they will encounter.

BBA students are focusing on the provision of small loans to the working poor. Students will visit microfinance organizations in The Dominican Republic (Hope/Esperanza International, www.esperanza.org/us/) and Nicaragua (Micredito, www.micredito.com.ni) to learn about their field operations. They will visit microenterprise loan recipients and their businesses to see first-hand the impact of microcredit. They will also meet local community and church leaders to learn about the economic, political, and cultural context of each country.

BHS students are working this year with Hope International and Careforce International, two Christian humanitarian organizations helping those suffering from poverty in Canada, Africa, and Latin America. Their focus is on sociology and community development in Latin America and the Caribbean.


This unique joint travel course will expose BBA and BHS students to a range of issues relating to international development and poverty alleviation, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and abuse.

The travel portion of the courses runs from May 1 to May 15, 2011. 

Business Students in Europe Spring of 2012

The BBA program is offering the course Business in the European Union spring 2012. This two-week travel study course to Europe focuses on economic and political integration in the European Union, allowing students and business leaders to see first-hand how deeper integration and the forces of change are impacting businesses, member states and citizens across Europe. Topics include: history and development of

the EU, adoption of the Euro currency, Canada-EU relations, conducting business across cultures in Europe, and future directions of the EU.


Students will visit international banks and foreign exchange firms in London, attend briefings at NATO headquarters and tour the EU Council and Parliament in Belgium, attend meetings at the European Central Bank in Germany, and discuss trade with officials negotiating Canada-EU trade agreements. They will also tour businesses, manufacturing plants, churches, and community development projects in Central and Eastern Europe. 

Contact Professor Jeff Huebner (jhuebner@Ambrose.edu) in the Business program for more information about specific destinations and dates for this travel course.

English 404 Literary Landscapes: Travel Study in Great Britain

From May 5 to 22, Dr Tim Heath will be in England, Wales, and Scotland teaching his travel study course on English literature origins and landscapes. The course accommodates fifteen travellers (capped by coach size – one small enough to navigate British back roads and villages) and is now full. Highlights of this year's course include a paleography study (deciphering handwriting to discover how a manuscript becomes a book) of William Wordsworth's poetry at the Jerwood Centre, two live performances of Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre, as well as a visit to Oxford's Bodleian Library to view the 400th anniversary exhibit of the KJV Bible.

Students on the course will also travel to Dumfries, Scotland, where the eighth-century stone Ruthwell Cross resides. Runic characters inscribed on this cross feature lines of Anglo Saxon poetry about the crucifixion of Christ.

The Brontë parsonage, Lord Byron's historic home of Newstead Abbey, Tintern Abbey, and many other literary sites too numerous to mention form the itinerary and course content. English 404 is offered biennially. 

Please contact Dr Tim Heath theath@ambrose.edu for details.

Down Ancient Paths Scholarship Fund

Down Ancient Paths is a government award-winning Christian Studies travel study program at Ambrose University College. Since its inception, it has enabled participants to probe the historical and spiritual depths of the global Christian heritage by offering customized, educational travel ventures which explore both the oldest Christian traditions in the world and the biblical landscapes of the Middle East.

Hundreds of travellers, both Ambrose students and lifelong learners from the wider public, have taken part in these reasonably priced, professionally serviced, life transforming, educational experiences. Many have testified as to how they have benefited from travelling Down Ancient Paths.

Three years ago the Down Ancient Paths Scholarship Fund was established to assist deserving students with some of the travel expenses associated with such travel study experiences. These scholarships average \$850 CAN and are awarded to eligible, participating students.

Several generous donors have already contributed to the fund which has made the annual awarding of these scholarships possible. The month-long Summer School in the Holy Land/2012 is the next Down Ancient Paths venture with a specific focus for Ambrose students. Already, many have expressed serious interest in participating. Please consider a tax-receiptable gift to help give Ambrose students this great experience.

Thank you for giving your consideration to this invitation to invest in students' futures at a time when the consciousness of the Christian heritage is slipping away in most Western countries, including our own.

To donate to the Down Ancient Paths Scholarship Fund contact:
Scholarship Manager Velma Warnock
403.410.2938, vwarnock@ambrose.edu
Down Ancient Paths Director
Charles Nienkirchen
403.410.2000 ext. 5905,
cnienkirchen@ambrose.edu



Alanna Wycoco was the winner of a research award presented by the Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers.

Education Student Wins Nazarene Sociology Research Award

Alanna Wycoco (*née* Brost), 2010 graduate of the Ambrose Behavioural Science program and student in the inaugural Bachelor of Education after-degree program, has been named the 2011 winner of the Harold Young Research Award (HYRA) of the Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers (ANSR).

Alanna's research project, entitled *The Relationship Between Religion and Gender Role Attitudes Among Young Adults in the Canadian Context*, was originally presented to the Ambrose Student Research Conference in March 2010. The paper was then submitted to ANSR where it was awarded the first place prize which includes a \$1000 scholarship, a trip to the 2011 ANSR Conference for Alanna and Dr Doell, her primary advisor, and a plaque commemorating her accomplishment.

The study examined the relationship between religious involvement and gender role attitudes. The sample group for the study was comprised of students from Ambrose University College and the University of Calgary.

Major findings of the study indicate that a higher degree of religious involvement is associated with more traditional gender role attitudes. Evangelical Protestants had a higher level of involvement than members of the other religious groups sampled. However, involvement in religious activities is a stronger predictor of gender role attitudes than is religious affiliation.

The study showed that Evangelical Protestants are more likely to believe that keeping house is just as fulfilling as working for pay. They also feel that pre-school children are likely to suffer if both parents are employed and that most women find happiness in a home and children instead of a job.

Dr Jon Johnston, Chair of the Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers, offered congratulations to President Howard Wilson and the Ambrose University College faculty and staff who have "educated and mentored an accomplished and ambitious young woman." ■

Supervised Drug Injection Talk Stirs Debate

Close to 140 people gathered in the Ambrose Library on February 9 to hear Meera Bai speak about her experiences at the Insite supervised drug injection site in Vancouver. Now based in Calgary, Ms Bai, a committed Christian, worked as a nurse at Insite for about a year, assisting addicts with health issues and, yes, facilitating the injection of addictive drugs.

She began her 50 minute talk by describing her own experience of questioning how she, as a Christian,

could seemingly enable drug addiction, supporting her decision with Biblical, personal, medical and political data. The federal government has stated that it will not "use tax payers' dollars to support drug addiction," and a Supreme Court hearing scheduled for May puts the program's future in jeopardy. Using well documented research that indicates a reduction in public health spending because of the measurable decrease in HIV infections and drug-related deaths in the area, as well as personal observation of the work carried out by Insite, Ms Bai made the case for keeping Insite operative, noting that all of the many peer reviewed scientific and medical journal articles show evidence of a positive impact on both the people and safety of the Vancouver Eastside because of the presence of Insite.

The presentation at Ambrose was a joint initiative of the Behavioural Science program and the Ambrose Library. Behavioural Science Program Chair, Dr Alex Sanderson MacIntyre, noted that the response to Ms Bai's talk was overwhelmingly positive, as evidenced by the intense discussion and question and answer period that followed. One member of the audience even commented from the floor that he had come to the event supportive of the government's stance, but that what he had heard at the presentation had changed his view.

The effects of the presentation have continued as Dr Sanderson MacIntyre reported that since the event she has been contacted by a number of students seeking ways in which to actively engage in the efforts to keep the program running. "This strong response clearly indicates how important it is that lectureships such as this continue in order to connect students and the community with important social issues," said Dr Sanderson MacIntyre. ■



Beth and James working with Allan, Mariko and Herbert – Ugandan volunteers for Rays of Hope – to dig holes for the playground equipment.

Coming Alongside: Working and Hoping with the People of Uganda

Late in December 2010, Walter, Marilyn, Beth (English 2008), Teresa (Christian Studies 2010), James (Biology), and Vince Grippings found themselves bumping and swerving down narrow roads, some with more potholes than pavement. The heat assured them that, after much anticipation and preparation, they had, indeed, arrived in Uganda, Eastern Africa. With suitcases full of donated clothing, school materials, toys, and hygiene supplies, the Grippings headed for Kaberamaido district, a region greatly affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the ongoing civil war. In 2004, at the peak of the war in the north, a young Ugandan, Francis Okullo, visited family in Kaberamaido only to discover that, in his words, “home was no more.” Most people had left their homes – voluntarily or forcibly – to settle in cramped, chaotic internal displacement camps, further, war and disease had left many children orphans. Recognizing God’s calling to care for the vulnerable, Francis began a charity called Rays of Hope for Uganda, which opened a primary school in Akampala, a small fishing village in Kaberamaido, in 2010.

While in Akampala, the Grippings had the opportunity to serve and hope alongside the villagers. In particular, the Grippings painted and installed the school’s new playground equipment and,

in free hours, had the honour of building relationships with the villagers, especially the children: the Grippings distributed clothing, painted fingernails, provided a meal, made balloon animals, held hands, played football, and cuddled babies. They arrived with hands full of financial and material resources, but they left with spirits full of hope in God’s restoring power. **E**

Top Ambrose Students Share Their Research

The annual interdisciplinary Ambrose Research Conference, held March 28, highlighted excellent research by senior Ambrose students and recent graduates as well as Ambrose faculty.

The research presented covered a variety of topics, ranging from a discussion of the meaning of Tennyson’s poem, *The Lady of Shalott*, to a presentation related to traditional practices in addiction recovery of Aboriginal males.

William Weatherall, a Biology major, discussed his research into the use of petroleum-degrading bacteria to remediate contaminated soil. He believes that the use of bacteria in reclamation is a more effective and efficient approach to returning land to usability than relying on indigenous soil bacteria.

Music student Kathleen Serquina discussed her work studying early ragtime music and its impact on the development of jazz music and stride piano, in particular. In her presentation, Kathleen highlighted the various evolutions of rag: Early Rag, Popular Rag, Advanced Rag, and Novelty Rag.

Samuel Lippitt explained his view that the development of the New Testament canon of scripture was not the result of 4th century Church politics, but was rather centred on the tradition of the early Church that held that the life, death, and resurrection of Christ were the defining aspects of its faith.

These current students joined former Ambrose students now engaged in graduate studies at other universities. Brianne Collins and Jonathan Durance,

both Ambrose graduates who are now in graduate programs at the University of Calgary, shared some of their research with the conference. Brianne read from her research into treatments for mental illness in the early 20th century while Jonathan explored the response of Canadian Christians to how the government and church had responded to the plight of German Jews trying to flee Nazi persecution in the late 1930s.

In addition to students past and present, a number of Ambrose faculty presented papers reflecting their own research in their fields. All the faculty members agreed that their research makes them better teachers and ensures that students are receiving knowledge and concepts that are tested in the practical world.

The Ambrose Research Conference demonstrated our commitment to contribute to the knowledge and practice of their disciplines in order to engage redemptively with the church and our society. **E**

New Grand Piano Needed for Fall

The Clare-Kirk Choral Classroom is presently equipped with a 40-year old grand piano. This piano has served well but it is time to move it to a rehearsal room and replace it with a new piano to increase the level of excellence in classroom instruction, concerts, music labs, and chorale accompaniment. The new piano envisioned is a C5 Yamaha. The C5 Yamaha piano has an exceptional bass sound with a crisp, clean Yamaha tone which can be appreciated when it is positioned in the center of a large room like the Clare-Kirk Choral Classroom.

The price of this new instrument is \$31,000. So far donors have contributed around \$20,000 toward the purchase of the new instrument. The goal is to have the new piano in place when students arrive for the fall semester. **E**

To make a gift toward the purchase of the piano please contact the Advancement Office: 403.410.2934, cpetkau@ambrose.edu



The men's futsal team successfully defended its ACAL title with a 10-2 win over the PBC Pilots.

Lions Futsal Teams Repeat as ACAL Champions

On March 5, both the men's and women's futsal* teams successfully defended their Alberta Colleges Athletic League (ACAL) Championships against the Prairie Bible College (PBC) Pilots, giving them back-to-back titles.

The Ambrose teams entered the championships as the favourites, both with records of 5 wins and 1 loss. The women shut out the Pilots 3-0 led by Allie Parry who scored one goal and assisted on the other two. The men won their game by a convincing 10-2 score. The scoring outburst was led by Phil Seutter who paced the team with five goals.

Although both teams have enjoyed competing in the ACAL for several years,

they are ready for a new challenge. In order to continue to grow and develop in skill and level of competition, the Ambrose futsal teams must take the next step: competing at the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) level.

By joining the ACAC, the Lions athletics program would not only go on to greater heights of competition, but it would also be exposed to a deeper pool of competitors. As women's team captain Karlie Silcock points out, "The ACAC level of competition is not out of our reach. We have played many of the teams from the higher league in exhibition matches and have done well."

Asked how else membership in

the ACAC may benefit the Ambrose Lions, men's team captain Jon Pettigrew explained that it would mean "more exposure as a team and as individuals. The ACAC means better competition, better athletes, and a better run system. It would push our program to another level."

The stellar seasons of both teams prove that they are not only out to win the ACAL championship, but to prove themselves ready for this next step. **a**

* Futsal is indoor soccer played on a gym floor with a weighted ball.

Lions Play Their Own Heritage Classic

On the heels of the NHL Heritage Classic in February, where the Calgary Flames hosted the Montreal Canadiens at McMahon Stadium in Calgary, the NHL allowed the ice to stay in place for a few days following the main event so that local amateur hockey teams could use it. Demand was high, but the Ambrose Lions men's hockey team was fortunate enough to be one of the teams selected to play on the McMahon Stadium ice.

The team faced off against a local team, the Cougars, in Calgary Adult Hockey League action.

Temperatures hovered around the -20C mark throughout the game, with a very light snowfall. The players had to bundle up, but were quite comfortable as there was virtually no wind. The heated benches helped, along with the hand warmers provided by the league.

"The ice wasn't like normal indoor ice, but was probably better than any outdoor rink the guys have ever played on," Ambrose Director of Athletics Ryan Willison noted. As a result of the ice conditions, the game lacked a little flow and the players were bobbling the puck all night.

"Even though we weren't able to pull off a win, this was an incredible opportunity for our team," Willison

said. “We got to experience something that many NHL teams have yet to experience. The guys were very excited.” **A**

The Lions Need Our Pride to Move Ahead

Athletics has traditionally played a central role in the life of Ambrose, from the early days in Red Deer, Winnipeg, and Regina right through to the present.

As the school grows we are attracting students with the ability to play at a higher competitive level. It is important that Ambrose be able to offer a higher quality of competition for our athletes.

Last fall Athletic Director Ryan Willison submitted an application for membership to the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC), the league above the Alberta Colleges Athletic League in which Ambrose currently plays. In March ACAC officials were on campus conducting a site visit.

Already the Lions have played ACAC teams in futsal, basketball, and volleyball and have proved to be competitive. There is a sense of optimism about the readiness of Ambrose for membership in the ACAC.

Futsal player Jon Pettigrew expressed the confidence that Lions players are feeling. “We have been laying the foundation for years, so (the ACAC) is the next logical step for this program and this school. Go Lions!”

Entry into the ACAC will mean greater distances to travel, more intensive coaching and additional scholarships which will increase the athletic budget. Therefore, President Wilson is launching Lions Pride which is a booster club dedicated to funding and advancing the athletic program. Lions Pride members will receive benefits and recognition for their involvement.

Lions Pride gives alumni and supporters of Ambrose an opportunity to help our Ambrose athletes achieve at the highest level of their abilities. **A**

To support the Lions Athletic program through Lions Pride go to www.ambrose.edu/athletics/lionspride or contact Athletic Director Ryan Willison.



Player Profile: Jonathon Pettigrew

Jon Pettigrew is in his fourth year in the youth ministry program. After feeling God’s calling to ministry, he moved from Vancouver to attend Ambrose because, he says, “I knew that it would be a great place to ground me in my faith.” Aside from taking classes, Jon has been a vital member of both the men’s futsal and hockey teams in each of his four years at the school.

This year Jon is the captain of the Ambrose futsal team as well as a formidable offensive player. Although the team has struggled with injuries and illness, he takes pride in the fact that they are one of Ambrose’s most consistent teams. Despite the challenges, “the team has grown in skill and competition,” Jon says. When asked to comment on the highlight of his athletic experiences at Ambrose, Jon listed “the camaraderie, travelling, and competing with the guys, and the opportunities to mentor younger players.” Their win at the league championships during his freshman year is also an experience he will remember.

His involvement with Ambrose athletics has given Jon the opportunity to develop as a leader on the court and around campus. Jon is confident that the skills he has learned in the Ambrose athletic program will help him succeed wherever he ends up in the future. **A**



Player Profile: Helena Kemper

Helena Kemper is a first year student in the Behavioural Science program. When she isn’t studying hard at Ambrose, she calls Lavington, British Columbia, home.

Although this is her first season with Ambrose she has already made an impact. She played Power on the Lions Volleyball team, assisting in the team’s second-place finish in the regular season and playing for the bronze medal at the ACAL Volleyball Championships in the fall.

She also played Shooting Guard on the Lions Basketball team.

Helena was named to both the ACAL women’s volleyball 1st All-Conference Team, and to the ACAL women’s basketball 2nd All-Conference team for the 2010-2011 season, and was named the Ambrose Lions Female Athlete of the Year at the recent Athletics Awards Banquet.

Ryan Willison, Athletic Director at Ambrose University College, notes, “Helena is a player that every coach wants on their team, but most people don’t enjoy playing against her because she is so talented and plays so hard. She plays with passion all the time and is as fierce a competitor as I have seen in the last five years at Ambrose. She has been an incredible addition to our program.” **A**

Alumni Update

What I am Reading These Days

Please email us to let us know what you are reading, and in a few sentences, tell us what you think.

Eugene Neudorf (CBC '74, CTS '85) writes, "As a church consultant I get the opportunity to work with a variety of churches, many of which are going through some form of transition.

"The greatest transition confronting the church today is the transition affecting North American culture itself – the transition from a modern to post-modern mindset. As a consultant, I need to be able to help churches wrestle with the right questions so that as a community of faith they can engage the community at large with a renewed sense of passion--on mission with God in an ever changing world.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that the church of this century is going to need to take the church to the community, encouraging, equipping, and empowering individuals, small groups of believers and the corporate body of Christ, to act as missionaries with those with whom they work, play, and live beside. Three books that address this issue are:

The Present Future (6 Tough Questions for the Church)
Reggie McNeal

Missional Renaissance (Changing the Scorecard for the Church)
Reggie McNeal

Missional Mapmaking (Skills for Leading in times of Transition)
Alan J. Roxburgh.

Valley Alliance Church at Fort Qu'Appelle 50 Year Celebration

The Lord has graciously blessed Valley Alliance Church at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, over the past 50 years. We are taking time to celebrate and thank God for His hand upon our church and church families. Many people have entered our doors and been a part of Valley Alliance over the years.

We would like to extend an invitation to any and all who have had any affiliation with Valley Alliance over the years, and any who would wish to help us celebrate. Celebrations are planned for August 26-28, 2011. Please send us your contact information. Edna McCall is coordinating and you may contact Edna at horizonviewfarm@sasktel.net or at Box 52, Abernethy, SK, S0A 0A0, or, even at 306.333.4915. Plans have not yet been finalized; but we will send pertinent information as we finalize it.

On behalf of the Committee,

Edna McCall

1950s



Jim (CBC '56) and **Doris (Jones) Pratt** (CBC '55) live in Edmonton, AB. **Jim** has just completed his seventh set of chemo, for multiple myeloma. The doctor is quite pleased and his blood seems to be improving. They are thankful for what God is doing in answer to the prayers of many. "We appreciate our friends' love and prayers."

1960s

Bob (CBC '68, CTS '96) and **Shirley (Stewart) Falconer** (CBC '68) write, "We retired in the Fall of 2009 and moved from Regina to Innisfail, AB to be midway between Calgary and Edmonton where two of our daughters and their families live. We love being closer to our Alberta grandchildren and helping with childcare when needed. We are thankful for the Innisfail Alliance Church family. Our biggest challenge in retirement is being

uprooted and living in an unfamiliar community with no previous connections. That's why we are so thankful for the Church here..."

1970s



Pastor **Rick Gibson** (CNC '78) and his wife, author **Kathleen (Neufeld) Gibson** (CNC '77) are living a full life in Saskatchewan. After pastoring Nazarene congregations throughout Western Canada for 30 years, **Rick's** full-time ministry ended in 2007, when he was bitten by a West Nile Disease infected mosquito, paralyzed in three limbs and hospitalized for six months. They write, "God used the prayers of his church in amazing ways, and has since opened the door to a surprise ministry of hope that quickly spread across North America. Media interviews, the publication of **Kathleen's** book

Thanks to our alumni for submitting these news items.

If there are other alumni and former students, faculty, staff who would like to have updates published in *Family Ties*, please send your items to the alumni office – alumni@ambrose.edu. Be sure you specifically ask to have it published, and we will make every attempt to include it. Please mention the school(s) with which you were associated, and the years.

CNC Reunion / John Rosfeld Music Studio Dedication

On October 1st the John Rosfeld Music Studio at Ambrose will be dedicated. John was the former head of the music program during the CNC Red Deer days. All CNC alumni are invited to attend, especially alumni from the late '50s and early '60s. The evening will include a dinner at 5pm and a concert at 7pm. Contact Riley Coulter for more details at rcoulter@ambrose.edu.

Alumni benefits

The alumni office is always looking for on-campus and off-campus alumni benefits. Be sure to check out the alumni website (www.ambrose.edu/alumni/benefits) for opportunities that are already available to you.

about their experience, *West Nile Diary, One Couple's Triumph Over a Deadly Disease*, and the couples' joint speaking engagements have repeatedly testified that God is, indeed, sovereign in all circumstances. Though **Rick** still suffers from ongoing effects of post-neurological West Nile infection, and is unable to do full-time work, he has learned to pace himself. His flexible schedule includes single and weekend speaking engagements with **Kathleen**, local radio, inter-denominational pulpit supply, and volunteer chaplaincy. **Kathleen** writes and speaks full-time. Both **Gibson's** enjoy their four nearby grandchildren. Find more info at www.kathleengibson.ca and www.piratefighters.org



Rod (CBC '73) and **Robin** (Meadows) **House** (CBC '76) are enjoying life in High River, AB, after having spent 33 years in Dawson Creek, BC. Their children live nearby, in the Calgary area. Their son Jeff and his wife, Jen have a son, Nolan (4 yrs) and a daughter, Norah (5 months). And their daughter **Monica** (CBC '03) is working and attending Ambrose. "We thank God for His loving care!"

1980s

Tim (CBC '89) and **Sauna Archer** (CBC '90) returned to Regina in July 2009, after three busy years as dorm parents at Dalat International School in Penang, Malaysia. **Sauna** is presently the Seamless Link Advisor for the Canadian Midwest District of The C&MA, visiting churches and connecting them to the workers overseas. **Tim** began his own electrical company, Archer Electric, and has been busy filling the niche of home renovations. Being his own boss allows him to take time off to travel with **Sauna** and go on missions trips to use his skills. Their son, Kaleb, graduated from Dalat and is working full-time,

while daughter, Annie is in Grade 11 at Regina Christian School.



Ric (CBC '84, CTS '87, current faculty) and **Ruth-Anne (Draper) Gilbertson** (CBC '82, CTS '87, current faculty) continue to work with Global Ministries of the C&MA. Their current role is as co-directors of Converge, which is the mobilization and development of new international workers who are sent globally by the Canadian Alliance family of churches. In this role, they also spend time on the campus of Ambrose with **Ric** teaching a course each semester, and both of them connecting with students who are wondering what working overseas with the Alliance might look like. They are enjoying living in the same city as their adult children, **Derrick** (AUC '10) and **Rebecca (Thistle)** (AUC '10, current staff), and **Karissa** (AUC '10).

1990s

Paul (CBC '96) and **Jennifer (Fraser) Wolfe** (CBC '92) will celebrate their 19th wedding anniversary in a few months! Congratulations, **Paul** and **Jennifer!** They are proud parents of two teens, "Jubalee (13, grade 8) who is a snowboarder, a very good writer, and now taller than her mom, and D'Art (15, Grade 10) who is involved in drama, works at McDonald's and 'has the world's second largest circle of friends.'" **Paul** has been the executive director of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation for about six years, recently "studying the emotional, relational, and spiritual entanglements that show up when assets pass from one generation to another. I'm also an artist. The City of Thunder Bay installed one of my concrete sculptures this summer (www.thunderbay.ca/Living/Culture_and_Heritage/Public_Art/Art_Collection/Public_Art_Projects_Overview.htm). It's a family of partridge...mom is 2500 lbs. (bullet-proof birds, that don't

taste very good at all!) I think there are also photos in my facebook photos section. **Jennifer** has been with Bombardier Transportation for a while now and she is part of the management team that helps build the "GO Transit" cars. She's also been on contract with the West Coast Express and Utah. Life is busy and good."



Gerard Barabash (left) and **Mike Adamczyk** (both CTS '97) are seen in the photo at Gerard's Basic Officer Training for Chaplains Graduation in December 2010 at CFB Borden, ON. Gerard and Mike are two of four Alliance pastors serving as chaplains in the Canadian Forces. Gerard is stationed in Edmonton while Mike is in Toronto.

Tim (CBC '91) and **Jennifer (Wadge) Bergmann** (CBC '91) are living and working in Calgary, AB where **Tim** serves as the Worship Arts Pastor at RockPointe Church. They are enjoying life with their six children (Alexandra, Tanner, Emily, Luke, Hannah and Riise). Currently **Tim** is also performing a one man show entitled *Before The Silver Cord is Severed* which is a recitation of the book of Ecclesiastes in a modern setting. He is also working on a show around the recitation of the book of Revelation. He writes, "Through struggles and trials and weakness, God's grace continues to prove faithful in every circumstance. Who are we to be loved so much by Him?"



Darrol (CBC '92) and **Lynae Carelese** and their family live in Anzac, a little hamlet of approximately 800

people, just south of Ft McMurray, AB. Prior to moving to Anzac in 2001, they lived in Ft McMurray for three years, while **Darrol** was associate pastor at the Alliance Church. He has been out of ministry in a full-time capacity for close to eight years now, while he works in the oil sands as a plant operator "on a 14 days on 14 days off schedule... which I enjoy. I and my entire family, along with another couple, and a team from the Fellowship Baptist Church in Ft McMurray, are involved in a leadership capacity with a church replant in Anzac. We love northern Alberta and the activity associated with the boom in the oilsands...life is good...and God is Great...!" **Darrol** and the family took the trip of a lifetime last year. "We went to South Africa for a month (I had not been back for 36 yrs). What an awesome reunion with family there! While there we did a 6200 km road trip to see the country...absolutely amazing..."

Kirk (CBC '95, former staff) and **Britton Cowman** have returned to Regina, where **Kirk** "recently accepted the position of associate pastor with Living Hope Alliance Church...**Kirk** was sad to say farewell to many good friends and co-workers at RockPointe Church, Calgary, AB, but is eager to take on a new role. Wife, Britton, and kids, Liam (11) and Emma (10) are happy to be back in their hometown and are spending lots of fun times with extended family. Please keep oldest daughter, Alixandra (18) in your prayers as she is staying in Alberta to finish her post-secondary studies.

Jorin Green (CBC '96) and his wife, Dorothy live in Pambrun, SK, with their children, Mike (10) and Kathy (8). **Jorin** writes, "After a couple of years of battle, Kathy's leukemia treatment (finally!) finished in July. She has been cancer free for several years now, and her regular checkups have all been good. The rest of the family is doing fine, also, as we continue to serve at Millar College of the Bible in southern Saskatchewan, where I am in my eighth year of faculty, and Dorothy serves part time as a librarian."

Esther (Fehr) Jones (CBC '85, CTS '93) and husband **Martin** (AS '03) and their daughter Katie (9) have lived in Calgary for the last eight years. **Martin** is doing some studies

at Ambrose Seminary, and driving school buses while recovering from his whiplash injury of a year ago. Last year **Esther** earned her CELTA certificate (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) to upgrade her skills in ESL. She is teaching ESL as opportunities arise. Katie is one of the students from her school who has been chosen to attend a young writer's conference in April. **Martin** is involved in the choir at Foothills Alliance Church.



Rick (CBC '94) and **Susan** (**Hiebert Kilbrai** (CBC '98, CTS '04) serve in Mexico City with the C&MA. **Susan** writes, "Doing life and church planting in Mexico City... Did we ever imagine back in 1993-94, when I was a freshman in Regina at CBC and **Rick** was a senior, that we'd end up on the same team down here? Well, we decided to really become a team on July 10, 2010 in Winnipeg, surrounded by an amazing group of family and friends, and have been back in Mexico from the honeymoon on. It's been an incredible adventure, working to establish La Conexión these past couple of years, and very exciting to walk with our Mexican friends, as they take their first steps of faith and leadership. Hope everyone else out there is as happy as we are!"

Arne (CTS '96) and **Pam** (**Yetman Trondson** (CTS '93) have two wonderful boys, Aaron (15), and Matthias (9), and live in Toronto. **Pam** is finishing training to become an Anglican minister and hopes to be ordained May, 2011. **Arne** has been doing consulting as a chartered accountant, and has been enjoying coaching the boys at baseball and hockey.

Larrisa Whittaker (CBC '95) moved to Britain to do a PhD in ethnomusicology at Royal Holloway University of London at the

beginning of January. She finished her MA in ethnomusicology at the University of Alberta last spring, focusing on South African music and its role in HIV/AIDS awareness and advocacy work. She plans to return to South Africa for further fieldwork for her PhD, looking more broadly at some of the social, economic and political barriers to the use of music in programs promoting positive social change.



Congratulations to **Gordon** (CBC '91) and **Carla** (**Kehler**) **Willison** (CBC '91) who celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary this year! They live in Gull Lake, SK with their children, Jamie, Danae, and Gordie. They have been serving in pastoral ministry at the Gull Lake Alliance Church for the last thirteen years. **Carla** is a hairstylist and owns Conrad Ave. Cuts. Their youngest daughter plans to attend Millar College of the Bible after graduation from grade 12 this year. Their oldest graduated two years ago and their youngest is in Grade 10.

2000s

Joanne (**Akerley**) Greer (CBC '01) and her husband Stafford live in Portage la Prairie, MB with their three preschool children, (Ellie, Aowyn, and Emmett). They serve on pastoral staff at the Alliance Church in their town.



Congratulations to **Garrett Bailey** (CBC '01) who recently earned his nursing degree! **Garrett** and his wife, Laurel, live in Regina, SK. He writes, "...we have been married for

six years on May 14, 2011. **Garrett** finished his Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BScN) degree and now works as a registered nurse at Wascana Rehabilitation Center. Laurel is part owner and operator of Silver Fox 3D studios, where she does commercial art work. They have two dogs, one good, one bad, and two relatively well-behaved cats." They say that kids are in their future, but not for a couple of years yet.

Rev **Ann Camber** (CTS '00) moved from Calgary to Thunder Bay, ON in August 2010. She is now living close to daughter **Kimberley** (**Camber**) **Robinson** (CBC '00) and husband Dave. She loves being able to be an on-site grandma to Josie, Davey, and Cameron. One upcoming event that is cause for great joy is the new grandchild who will be born in midsummer. **Ann** is working full time as a clinical counsellor for Shepell FGI, an employee assistance provider, and enjoys being able to help people through the challenges of life. She is also in the process of setting up a team with the goal of starting a Victory Church plant in Thunder Bay.



Kelle (**Garrett**) Friesen (CBC '01) writes, "Mike and I are still living in Regina. We have been married for four years and welcomed a baby boy to our family. Caleb John Friesen was born February 11, 2010. I'm currently on maternity leave from the Saskatchewan Government (will be back to work March 1, 2011)."

Ruth Harnett (AS '10, former staff) and husband, Rock live in Calgary. **Ruth** has completed her MA in Christian Studies, and is now working on her MA in Biblical and Theological Studies at Ambrose. She is serving as financial advisor and acting treasurer to her local church board.



Kerry (**Graham**) **Klassen** (CBC '02) and her husband Corwin recently moved back to Saskatoon in May, and they welcomed their daughter Zoe Ellen to the world on June 26, 2010.



Tim (AUC '09) and Ariane **McAlpine** rejoice at the birth of Adelyn Jessie **McAlpine** on December 11, 2010. They live in Penticton, BC where they enjoy serving at Penticton Alliance Church. "We love our call to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to our church, city and the world."

Rachel Thomas (CBC '01) writes, "For the last 2½ years, I have been an educational assistant in a special needs room at a Catholic high school. I love what I do. The challenges are immense, and I am constantly challenged in my faith. But I love being where I am supposed to be, where God has called me. Currently, I go to Elim Tabernacle Pentecostal Church. I am involved in choir, worship team and a fantastic Bible study group with people like me, where I'm at, ready to see what God has for us. I am excited for this upcoming year, to see what God is going to do. Someday, I hope to travel again, and especially to go back to South Korea, even for just a visit. Life is great!!"

Dan (CBC '03) and **Jenica (Wilson) VanEssen** (CBC '08) are pleased to announce the arrival of Elliot Daniel VanEssen, born January 20, 2011. The three of them look forward to **Dan's** graduation and exploring ministry opportunities as they seek God's will for the future.



Jennifer (Gray) Yee (CBC '06) writes, "The Yee family has been busy. We have relocated to Grande Cache, AB where **Philip** (AUC '02) is a corrections officer and **Jennifer** is a stay-at-home mom." They enjoy their two children, Makayla, born June 9, 2008, and Taylor, who was born on May 14, 2010.

BIRTHS



Joshua Edward Andersen was born on January 31, 2011, little brother for Hannah, and first son for **Samantha (Dennis)** (CBC '04) Andersen and Vince Andersen, who live in Rosebud, AB.

Jacob Andrew Dunham was born on September 4, 2010, third child for **Trevor** and **Carissa (Hoffman) Dunham** (both CBC '03) who serve in pastoral ministry in Regina, SK. Jacob has two older sisters, Caitlin (3) and Rebecca (5).

Caleb John Friesen was born on February 11, 2010, first child for **Kelle (Garrett) Friesen** (CBC '01)

and her husband, Mike, who live in Regina, SK.

Emmett Riley Isaac Greer, was born on July 15, 2010, third child for **Joanne (Akerley) Greer** (CBC '01) and her husband Stafford, who serve at the Alliance Church in Portage la Prairie, MB.

Joshua James Harnett was born on May 25, 2010, first child for **Kyle** (AUC '10) and Lauren **Harnett**, and first grandchild for **Ruth** (AS '10, former staff) and Rock **Harnett**. **Kyle** and Lauren worship at Westside Kings in Calgary, where **Kyle** serves as youth pastor, and Lauren serves as youth worship leader.

Gabriel David Hilton was born in November, 2009 to **Chandelle (Hansen)** (AUC '03) and **Joshua Hilton** (AUC '06).



Daniel Simon Layton was born on February 14, 2011, to **Tom** (CBC '98) and **Margaret (Chisholm) Layton** (CBC '98)



Adelyn Jessie McAlpine was born on December 11, 2010, first child for **Tim** (AUC '09) and Ariane **McAlpine**, of Penticton, BC.

Senoka Miyano was born on November 4, 2010, to **Christine (Mathis)** (CTS '06) and **Taka**

Miyano (CTS '04) who serve in Cambodia, working with orphans. Senoka's older sister is Srey Lin, who is 3.



Esther Florence Ralph was born on January 16, 2011, first daughter for **Peter** (CBC '97) and **Mandy (Scott) Ralph** (CBC '98, AS '06) who serve in pastoral ministry at the Alliance Church in Portage la Prairie, MB. **Esther's** delighted older brothers are six-year old Peter William, and one-year old Silas Alexander.

Ezekiel George Thole, third son for **Joshua** (CTS '05) and **Esther Thole**, was born on September 11, 2010. Ezekiel's older brothers are Jonah, born in April, 2003, and Ezra, born on June 20, 2007. **Joshua** and **Esther** and the family live in Meridian, Idaho.



Elliot Daniel Van Essen was born January 20, 2011, first child for **Dan** (CBC '03) and **Jenica (Wilson) Van Essen** (CBC '08)



Clara Ruth Wilms was born on October 6, 2010, second daughter for **Rob** (AUC '06) and **Charlotte (Ralph) Wilms** (AUC '04). Clara's older sister is two-year old Elizabeth Joy. Rob has recently resigned from full-time ministry at Rockyview

Alliance Church in Calgary, and will be attending Ambrose Seminary in the fall.

Aden Joseph Yip was born on October 8, 2010, in Halifax, NS where his parents, **Lisa Laine-Yip** (AS '09) and C-E Yip live.

WEDDINGS



Wonnell Wong (AS '07) and **Ada Wong** (AS '07) were married on December 19, 2010, at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary Chapel.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rev Colin Turner (CBC '06) who was ordained on September 19, 2010. **Colin** and **Kristi (Reist)** (CBC '03) serve at the Alliance Church in Prince Albert, SK.

MEMORIALS

Frederic William Brown (CBC '54, former staff) was promoted to Heaven's glory on December 15, 2010 at the age of 81. Dearly beloved husband of the late Hazel (Jones) (former CBC/CTS staff), dear father of Ruth, Paul, Philip, and **Stephen Brown** (CBC '79), cherished grandfather and great grandfather of many. Also surviving is a brother, and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, **Irene (Jones) Fleming** (CBC '55) and her husband **Gail** (CBC '54).

Clement Dreger (CBC '48) died peacefully at his home in Edmonton, AB, at the age of 89, on November 9, 2010. He was predeceased by his wife, **Madalene (Maddie) (Pritchard) Dreger** (CBC '46) and is lovingly remembered by his children **Darlene Dreger** (CBC '76) Daryl and **LeeAnn** (Cowger) **Dreger** (CBC '76), and **Doug** and **Kathinka** (Vanhet Veld) **Dreger** (both CBC '84); three grandchildren, and extended family and friends worldwide.

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