



EVANGEL

OUR MISSION: TO EQUIP PEOPLE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE AND WITNESS FOR CHRIST.



UPCOMING PACE COURSES

APRIL 8 – APRIL 10 (Register by April 1)

- P4335 Strategic Leadership (Intensive)

MAY 18 – JUNE 22 (Register by May 4)

- B3286 Introduction to Paul
- B3326 Theology of Church and Ministry
- B3327 Theology of Care
- G3217 History of Christianity II
- P3535 Counselling Theory
- P4555 Family & Marriage Counselling

JULY 27 – AUG 31 (Register by July 13)

- B3115 Old Testament Literature
- G4525 Christian Ethics



NEW DIGITAL EVANGEL

Stan Helton (President)

The Evangel has been a part of Alberta Bible College since 1950 when Melvin Breakenridge became the principal, the role now called president, in the fall of that year. Principal Breakenridge reported in that first edition how the ABC Board felt a need for a “publication that would regularly inform interested friends of things happening about the College and of persons involved in these events.” “This little paper,” Breakenridge continued, “is the result of the recent action taken by the Board.” (*Evangel* 1 [November 1950], 2).

When I became president in 2015, publishing the *Evangel* quarterly was a tradition. We have continued that practice up to the time of the beginning of the pandemic. With the rising cost of postage and production of the paper version, the shift from physical mail to digital mail, and now pandemic restrictions which have kept our wonderful and faithful team of volunteers from working together in assembling the pieces for mailout, the time has come for the *Evangel* to go digital. We recently initiated a monthly digital publication called *GoodNews@ABC*. *GoodNews* will be published monthly except when the *Evangel* will be released. *GoodNews* will contain regular timely updates about what is happening at Alberta Bible College while the *Evangel* will contain fuller stories and information about “things happening about the College and of persons involved in these events,” in keeping with the original vision of the *Evangel*.

You will be able to get the *Evangel* by email, from our website, and through our various social media posts. We are pleased to share with you the “new and improved” digital *Evangel*.

OUR TEAM



Dr. Stan Helton (President)

Stan has been at the administrative helm of ABC since 2015. In addition to his presidential duties on campus and his service to churches and Christian leaders across Canada, he also teaches at ABC in the areas of New Testament and leadership.



David Ford (Academic Dean)

David is currently in his second year serving as academic dean, and he is also passionate about teaching in the areas of theology, biblical studies, and ministry. David is currently completing his doctoral dissertation in church history at Trinity International University (Deerfield, IL).



Kris Ford (Operations Director, Registrar)

Kris is in her first year on staff at ABC. She brings a wealth of experience in the areas of both public and higher education, as well as human resources. She is currently working on a doctoral degree in education at Trinity International University (Deerfield, IL).



Ginelle Graham (Operations Assistant, Academic Coach)

Ginelle joined the ABC team in 2020. In addition to running the administrative hub of the ABC office each day, she is also a great support resource to our students in their ongoing studies. Ginelle is currently completing her undergraduate studies in our College program.



Marissa Moore (Librarian, Assessment Officer)

Marissa has been overseeing the ABC library since the fall of 2019. Since then, she has also added the role of assessment to her portfolio as she helps ABC continue to measure and improve its institutional effectiveness.



David Ross (Field Experience Coordinator)

David graduated from ABC in April 2020. His passion for uniting practical ministry with theological reflection has made him the perfect candidate to oversee ABC's field experience program this year. David is currently completing a master's degree in theology at Wycliffe College (Toronto, ON).

OUR TEAM



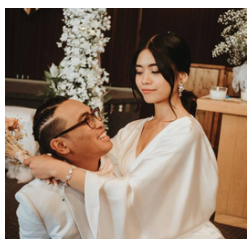
Cory Pytlarz (Student Development Dean)

Cory has been on staff at ABC since 2014. In addition to helping ABC nurture a holistic educational experience for its students, he also teaches in the areas of Old Testament and spiritual formation.



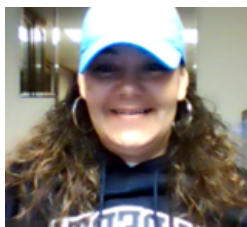
Shannon Gugyel (Enrollment Officer, Student Development Chaplain)

Shannon has been bringing life and energy to ABC's hallways since she joined the staff in the fall of 2014. Whether introducing prospective students to ABC's programs or walking alongside current students through the ups and downs of life, Shannon's passion for caring for people is always evident. She is currently completing a master's degree in counselling psychology at Yorkville University (Fredericton, NB).



Kim Salcedo (Enrollment Coordinator)

Kim graduated from ABC in April 2020, and now he is a vital part of the enrollment team inviting others to benefit from an ABC education. Kim is currently completing a master's degree in theological studies at Wycliffe College (Toronto, ON).



Jana Brown (PACE Enrollment Coordinator – Ontario)

Located in southern Ontario, Jana is a busy mom and current PACE student who is helping spread the word about ABC in central Canada.



Kaithlyne Marcos (Digital Media Coordinator)

Based in the Greater Toronto Area, Kaithlyne is ABC's web design and social media guru. Her expertise in photography and video help tell the story of ABC and its students. She is also a student in our PACE@Home program.



Peter Kehler (Facility Manager)

Peter has many years of experience in the construction and trades industry, and this has made him the ideal person to oversee ABC's physical campus. If something's broken, he can fix it with a smile! Peter is also actively involved in leading the senior's ministry in his local church.

THE ABC ENROLLMENT/MARKETING TEAM

Shannon Gugyel

The 2020-2021 academic year was unique for Alberta Bible College (ABC). The pandemic restrictions changed many things from how we recruit to how we host prospective students virtually. For example, Rereading Scripture on Saturday mornings (10 am - 11:30 am MDT) has introduced people around the globe to ABC! While our enrollment numbers have not grown this past year, we have continued to share information about our stellar Christian higher education options and are excited about what God is doing in the upcoming year.

Let me introduce three “newish” members of the Enrollment/Marketing Team. Two are current PACE students and one graduated from the College program in 2020. These individuals are vital contributors to the ABC culture and have impacted our ability to advance God’s mission.

ENROLLMENT COORDINATOR

Many know Kim Salcedo as the ABC basketball leader, but a scholar also resides within the athlete. He graduated from ABC in April 2020 with his Bachelor of Theology degree and is currently working on a Master of Theological Studies degree through Wycliffe College (University of Toronto). Because of COVID-19, Kim’s program has been online, and this allows him to stay in Calgary for his studies. Of his many roles—believer, brother, graduate student, pastor, and teacher—his most cherished role is husband to his beautiful wife, Jahaziel. They were married on August 21, 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. Kim claims to have the cutest puppy named Bear, a crossbreed of English bulldog and basset hound. In his role as the ABC Enrollment Coordinator, Kim is often a first point of contact for prospective students trying to find God’s next for them in the search for Christian higher education. His pastoral heart, encouraging demeanor, previous ABC student experience, and amazing collaborative skills make Kim a true asset for the Enrollment Team. Whether individuals want to be ministers, leaders, counsellors or just better students of Scripture, Kim is committed to guiding them towards reaching their God-given potential. We are beyond grateful for Kim and all he brings to ABC!



DIGITAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Kaithlyne Marcos did an internship with ABC in 2019 as she finished off her photography and videography diploma from a school in Ontario. Although she resides in the Toronto area, she has been instrumental in the development and maintenance of ABC’s website. Recently, she started a degree completion option through PACE and is working towards graduating with a Bachelor of Christian Ministry degree. Kaithlyne loves using her skills in digital media to further God’s kingdom. She attends North York Church of Christ with her younger brother, Kenneth. She is the Youth and Worship Leader and her father, Roger Marcos, is the pastor. We are so excited to have Kaithlyne on the ABC Team as our Digital Media Coordinator!



PACE ENROLLMENT COORDINATOR - ONTARIO

Jana Brown is one busy and committed woman of God. She resides in Windsor, Ontario, and is the proud mom of an eleven-year-old son whom she has homeschooled since September due to COVID-19. She is part of a support group at Windsor Regional Hospital for parents of children with mental illness and is on the Family Engagement Committee at Windsor Regional Children's Hospital. Additionally, she is the primary caregiver for her mother who has lived with Jana for the past three years.

Jana grew up in a Christian home, but in 2018 gave her life to Christ. Jana attributes God’s saving grace for rescuing her from addiction, and consequently she has a passion to serve in mental health care and share the Good News of Jesus. Jana began working on her degree in the Leadership track in the PACE program in May 2020. This academic journey has fostered transformative spiritual growth for her. She feels like the ABC community – all the students and staff – is like family and she loves being connected with other Christ followers who are passionate about the Trinity! Jana has taken on a part-time role as the Ontario PACE Coordinator and is spreading the word about Jesus and ABC in Eastern Canada. We are thrilled to have Jana on board!



SUMMIT PARTNERS WITH VISION MINISTRIES

Stan Helton

COVID-19 has presented all of us with challenges we have never had before. By this time of the year, ABC is working with the Summit Planning Team on the final details for Summit. Little would we have guessed that we would not be doing Summit for a second year in a row. However, all is not lost. This year we are joining Vision Ministries in their annual Thinking Shrewdly conference (<https://vision-ministries.org/resources/events/>). This conference will happen April 23-24, 2021. So let me encourage you to register (<http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/thinking-shrewdly-2021-registration-143696374725>) for \$20.00 until March 31 and for \$30.00 after that date. Notice the key resource person is Brian Sanders of the Underground Network in Tampa, Florida who is doing some innovative church planting and rethinking about the church in the disruptive future before us.

What this will mean for ABC's Summit and churches connected with us is that we will join Vision Ministries' programming and some of our resource people will be in the teaching lineup on Friday for some of the Ministry Seminars and Workshops. Also, on Friday afternoon, after the seminars and workshops, we will host a Coast-to-Coast Zoom gathering of leaders and interested people among the Churches of Christ, the Christian Churches, and Disciples, who want to have a reunion to share what we are doing in ministry at this time (plan for about 3 minutes each) and to pray for each other. We have been apart too long so we hope this will help break up some of the isolation you may be experiencing as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Those who register will get a Zoom invitation to the Coast-to-Coast meeting. An invitation to the meeting will be made available to those who just want to be with us at the reunion meeting.

INTRODUCTION TO ABC'S OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



Alberta Bible College is pleased that Kristen ("Kris") Ford has joined our team. Kris joined the team in August 2020. She is both our Operations Director and our Registrar. Kris has been working "under the hood" of our accounting processes to automate and bring our practices up-to-date. Kris is a teacher at heart. She holds a permanent professional teaching certificate in Alberta in secondary business and physical education. Academically, she is completing a PhD in Educational Studies through Trinity International University.

Kris holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta with a major in Business Education and a minor in Physical Education. We are grateful to have Kris on the team because of her education and rich work experience that includes teaching, technology, and accounting. She is an experienced registrar, having served in the role of Associate Registrar at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. Most importantly, Kris is a faithful Christian who seeks to use her gifts for the sake of the world and to the glory of God.



ABC'S COVID RESPONSE

Cory Pytlarz

The last year at Alberta Bible College has been unlike any before in our eighty-nine-year history.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been facilitating our courses and extra-curricular initiatives (e.g., weekly chapel) virtually since March 2020. While we are thankful for the technology that has allowed us to carry on the work of Christian higher education safely during this time, we are also eager to return to in-person learning and community life.

With this in mind, ABC administration was excited to hear Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaides announce March 18 that all post-secondary institutions in our province are being encouraged "to prepare for a full return to on-campus learning this September." Read the full CBC article [here](#).

While future plans must always be written in pencil in the context of a pandemic, ABC is moving towards reopening our campus in time for the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year in September. Public health guidelines set out by the province of Alberta and Alberta Health will continue to dictate our planning, policies, and procedures as we move forward.

As we prepare for September, we encourage all of our students, staff, faculty, adjunct faculty, and volunteers to receive their COVID-19 vaccination when it is their turn. We will require the completion of our brief online COVID-19 orientation course prior to September. If you have not yet completed this course, please contact Cory Pytlarz (**cpytlarz@abccampus.ca**). For more information on ABC's response to COVID-19, visit <https://www.abccampus.ca/covid-19-information/>.



MCC AND ABC OFFERING RESTORATION HISTORY IN THE US AND CANADA

Stan Helton

During this semester, Alberta Bible College (ABC) and Maritime Christian College (MCC) have partnered to offer the “History of the Restoration Movement in Canada and the US.” MCC provides the delivery platform and ABC the professor, our president, Dr. Stan Helton. In graduate school, Stan did a master’s degree in historical theology concentrating on North American Christianity with a particular focus on the Stone–Campbell Restoration Movement. Since Stan’s first arrival in Canada in 2003, he has been an ardent observer of the restoration movement in Canada. In this course, Stan weaves the Canadian layer into history often told from an American perspective.

Besides college students, a diversity of auditors includes pastors from various segments of the Restoration Movement in Canada, including the Churches of Christ (a cappella), Independent Christian Churches, the Disciples of Christ, and the International Churches of Christ. This diversity generates interesting learning, discovery, and conversation. With experienced people in the class, students have a living laboratory where questions can be asked of people living within the historical reach of each of the streams.

Guest speakers are an added feature of the course. Where experts on a topic are available, they join the class and share their research area with the students. Already Jamey Gorman from Johnson University guided the class in gaining a greater appreciation for the transatlantic missions movement that shaped the earliest leaders in the movement, particularly Thomas Campbell and his son Alexander. Doug Foster from Abilene Christian University joined to share his findings from his recent critical biography of Alexander Campbell. Ed Broadus informed us about the early Disciples in Ontario. On March 16, Shelley Jacobs, Archivist at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, shared about the early Disciples in Saskatchewan and the role of Pacifism in the Churches of Christ on the prairies. Marnie Hoetmer, one of our very own, did a master’s degree at Lincoln Christian University that focused on the early Disciples in Alberta, and Mike Luzine, evangelist for the Rocky Mountain Church of Christ in Calgary will share his journey in the International Churches of Christ. Learning from people who have done the actual research is an uncommon opportunity for students.

A couple of additional learning projects are available as well. Some students have chosen to edit articles for publication in an upcoming collection of Tom Olbricht’s writings on the Restoration Movement. The work will be titled *Essays of Thomas H. Olbricht on the Restoration Movement*, edited by Ron Cox and Stan Helton (Sulis Academic Press, 2021). Another research project is gathering the names and locations of all Restoration Movement Churches in Canada. This last task will create a helpful resource for Restoration Movement churches and leaders who want to be in contact with each other.

ABC is grateful to MCC for this cooperative venture. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to help students and others get introduced to the rich history, warts and all, of our movement in Canada and the US.

VIRTUAL AWARDS FUNDRAISER

David Ross

Alberta Bible College's Virtual Graduation and Fundraising Banquet on April 23, 2021

The entire ABC community and wider network is invited!

On the evening of April 23, 2021, Alberta Bible College (ABC) will be hosting our first ever Virtual Graduation and Fundraising Banquet! Our goal for this event is to celebrate our wonderful graduates from 2020 and 2021. Congratulations to both our PACE and College graduates! Now it's time to celebrate (virtually) as a community.

As we celebrate those graduating, we want to remember that ABC does not just give its graduates skills and knowledge. ABC seeks to shape and transform us into the image of Christ. Our second main goal for this event, therefore, is to provide an opportunity for the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021 to make a difference in the world by their very graduation. Therefore, our April 23rd event will also be a fundraiser for an ABC alumna, Vienna Molliet. Vienna works as a missionary in the Philippines supporting women and girls who have been sexually exploited. In our graduation we are declaring that the education and formation we have received at ABC is not ultimately about us, but about God's glory and the ministry of the gospel that can heal and transform lives all over the world.

If you are associated with ABC in any way, you are invited to join us (online) for an evening of fun and prizes on April 23rd. [Registration](#) is required, and more details will be provided upon your registration!

Further Details for our Virtual Graduation and Fundraising Banquet

What Will Happen at the Event?

Prizes, a silent auction (for Vienna) with great items, a best dressed competition, and much more! We want this to feel like a real graduation banquet, so we will be sending out to all who register (and are local within the Calgary area) a Banquet Basket (cost covered by your ticket). Our Banquet Basket will contain everything you need (minus a quick visit to the grocery store) to create a banquet-like atmosphere right in your own home. You will find a menu of suggested dinner options, a specially-designed recipe and ingredient list to help you create these dinner options to enjoy at home during our virtual banquet, various table decorations and a bottle of sparkling apple juice. We also encourage everyone to dress smartly, as if we were all having our usual grad banquet in person. The household deemed 'best dressed household' will win a special prize!

Date and Time: April 23, 2021, 6:30 pm-8:15 pm

Important - Registration deadline - Friday April 16, 2021

Registration required! Please register by [clicking this link](#) and filling out your information, or by calling ABC during office hours - (403) 282-2994. We will need your household name, mailing address and email address.

How to pay for your ticket - Tickets are \$20 per household. To buy your ticket, please call the office.

*The link to participate in the Virtual Banquet will be emailed out to all registrants the week of the event. Watch your email inbox, especially your spam folder!

A DESCRIPTION OF VIENNA MOLLIET'S WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

David Ross

On June 1st 2020 in Tabuk city of the Kalinga Province in the Philippines, Tabuk Refuge of Hope International began operating. Vienna Molliet from Canada, a former student of ABC, and another missionary from the USA, have partnered with a local pastor's wife, Cheryl Domingo, in this endeavour. The ministry is the only one of its kind in the province of Kalinga and also the surrounding provinces. Tabuk Refuge of Hope takes in women and girls who have been victims of sexual and or physical abuse. Sadly, a disturbing number of the abuse cases in this area are inflicted by family members. Because of this, these living environments are no longer safe or healthy for the girls. Refuge of Hope therefore works to provide not only physical shelter, but also a place of safety. The leaders and staff are passionate about sharing the love of God with each girl. They aim to guide their residents through their healing journey via counselling and caring as well as by providing for their physical, educational, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Refuge of Hope currently shares their living space with the church where Cheryl's husband pastors. At this location they have the ability to fit twelve residents relatively comfortably, and up to fifteen at maximum. At the time of writing there are nine residents, with ages ranging from as young as eight years old to twenty-five. The team is praying and beginning steps to raise funds to purchase a good-sized piece of land in order to build a larger space. This would allow the Refuge to have gardens and animals, which would make it more self-sustaining.



Our event on April 23rd will feature a virtual silent auction with amazing items to bid on, as well as other items which can be purchased, such as specially-designed 2020/21 ABC graduation hoodies. All money raised will go toward supporting Vienna's work at the Refuge of Hope.

We are also encouraging all of our attendees to consider donating directly to Vienna's work. This can be done via this secure link on MSC's website - <https://www.msccanada.org/donee/tabuk-refuge-of-hope-international/>.

MSC is a Canadian missions organization that processes donations and forwards the money directly to the Refuge of Hope. They do not take an administration fee of any kind. If you have any questions about the process, please contact David Ross at **dross16@abcampus.ca**.



ABC HONOURS LISETTE FRASER

Cory Pytlarz

Alberta Bible College is pleased to recognize **Lisette Fraser** as our nominee for honorary membership in the Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society of the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

As an accredited member institution of ABHE, ABC is eligible to annually nominate both graduating students and alumni for this award. The President's Cabinet has identified Lisette as a distinguished alumna that meets the criteria set out by ABHE. That is, she graduated from ABC at least ten years ago and has exhibited outstanding intellectual achievement, Christian character, and leadership ability.

As an integral part of the ABC student body from 1996-1999, Lisette is remembered as a young leader who brought great energy to her endeavours inside and outside the classroom. Graduating with a Bachelor of Theology degree, her extra-curricular involvement included the ABC volleyball team, Youth Alive in Christ summer ministry team, the student body executive committee, and ABC's annual youth conference planning team.

Since graduation, Lisette has spent the past two decades distinguishing herself as a leader in Christian ministry in both Canada and the United States. This includes being a leading voice in the work of racial reconciliation. (See her 2018 book *Waking Up: Stories of Jesus, Race, & Reconciliation* as part of the Orange City Strategy). Her role as a leader of leaders is further evidenced in her current role as pastor and chief operating officer of the Hillsong Atlanta church plant.

In the midst of her commitments to her family and the local church, Lisette also has demonstrated academic excellence in her pursuit of graduate studies in urban youth ministry, as well as in teaching as an adjunct faculty member with Azusa Pacific University.

ABC will be honouring Lisette at this year's virtual Graduation Banquet & Celebration on Friday, April 23, where she will serve as guest speaker.

Congratulations, Lisette, on your membership in the ABHE Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society. Thank you for representing ABC so well with your faithful service to the kingdom of God.

Read Lisette's ABC story on the next page.

GRADUATION 2021

Stan Helton

A year ago, we decided to postpone a formal graduation ceremony because of COVID-19 restrictions and the desire to keep all students and families safe. Little did any of us know that we would be struggling with those same decisions a year later. The ABC administration team has decided to go ahead with graduation but in a way that honours the current level of lockdown in Alberta.

We will livestream the graduation ceremony through multiple platforms. Only those graduating and a minimal number of required ABC personnel will be allowed to be present physically with masks on and socially distanced. Family and friends of the graduates will be invited to view the ceremony online. We have a relatively large number of graduates this year because last year's graduates will be included in the ceremony.

While this year's format will be far from optimum, we want to celebrate as best we can those who have earned it. We also do not want those who graduated last year to wait any longer to receive the recognition they deserve for their hard work. We will post information on our website and our social media as soon as we have the links available.



ABC

This is my story

BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS

Lisette Fraser



Never could I have imagined where I'd be today when I started at Alberta Bible College (ABC). Adventuring with Jesus leads you to the most unexpected places. No greater joy can come your way than watching God write a story you get to be a part of. Let me tell you a little of that story.

After sensing a call into ministry, I transferred from the University of Calgary to ABC in 1996. My 3 years at ABC were incredibly formative. I formed lasting friendships, became grounded in my theology, and gained practical experience. Oh, and I had the joy of meeting my husband!

I reflect often on my days at ABC; I see them now as a gift. The robust theological training was excellent. ABC prepared me to approach Scripture both faithfully and thoughtfully. As culture has shifted and the world has changed, questions and topics arise that were not on the table when I was in college. I was prepared not with answers, but with thoughtful methodology to address and understand Scripture faithfully as I journey through life.

Practical training alongside theological preparation was the real game changer. I have always loved that ABC is committed to train practitioners. Many schools give you great head knowledge, which is important, but knowing what to do with it is perhaps more important. We served in a wide range of churches, camps, and organizations. These experiences gave us skills we did not even realize we had or needed. I will never forget when Kyle and I served at Glen Elm Church of Christ in Regina, SK. We started in late August and were told that we would be hosting a youth rally with a few hundred students in October. I imagine that would terrify most inexperienced leaders, but we'd been a part of ABC's Youth Alive Teams and Prairie Young People Association (PYPA), so it just felt like another event. We knew what to do.

From Edmonton, to Regina, to Calgary, to Los Angeles, and now to Atlanta, God has been so faithful. A dream God birthed in Kyle and me many years ago was to church plant. No way would we have imagined how or where we'd do that. Today, we are in Atlanta, Georgia getting ready to plant Hillsong Atlanta. I will serve as one of the pastors and the chief operating officer (COO) helping to plant this incredible church as a part of a global movement. I am forever grateful for the training and equipping I received at Alberta Bible College which launched me into a ministry journey beyond my wildest dreams.

PREPARED FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

Tanya Woo



I completed a Bachelor of Arts Counselling and Ministry degree at Alberta Bible College (ABC). I enjoyed the program immensely and loved taking courses in both psychology and the Bible. Given my growing passion for this type of study, I decided to pursue a Master of Arts Counselling Psychology degree. Because of my experience at ABC, it was important for me to find a graduate program that integrated counselling and theology!

I was nervous to start my master's because I did not know if I was ready for this new level of academia. I discovered, however, I am well-equipped as a result of the education I gained at Alberta Bible College. ABC gave me an excellent foundation to pursue graduate studies and to achieve higher learning.

THANK YOU!

Sheila Junk



I first noticed Alberta Bible College (ABC) when my husband and I bought our first house in Highwood near the school many years ago. Since then, I had ABC in the back of my mind and when I would think about maybe going back to school, I would check out ABC's website. While a post-secondary education seemed like a far reach for me, I had several confirmations about ABC I could not ignore.

In 2019, I became a PACE student and started my spiritual-academic journey. ABC was a safe place where I found my voice and where I was safe to share my true self. Learning in a healthy environment with trustworthy people seeking the Lord has provoked healing for me and excitement for what God has in store. My relationship with Christ started to make sense as I continue to learn what it means to be a contemplative spirit. Spiritual Formation class helped me recognize one of my spiritual gifts I never knew I had, and this has opened my heart!

ABC has challenged me. I discovered I can grow and flourish in Christ in ways I had not anticipated. When I enrolled in a course called The Life and Teachings of Jesus, I had no idea that my professor, Steve McMillan, would become my family's pastor a short time later. God works in mysterious ways. The Bow Valley Christian Church (BVCC) became an integral part of what the Lord has been doing in me and my family. Today my husband and I feel connected with others in community, where we are loved and accepted. I am excited and looking forward to what God is doing through Alberta Bible College and Bow Valley Christian Church. As I continue to learn, I have such a sense of exciting days to come, knowing the Lord has blessed me with spiritual warriors who are walking with and praying for me. Thank you so much, ABC and BVCC!

HOW ABC PREPARED ME

Bob Dunn, Chaplain



Attending Alberta Bible College was a crucial experience in my discipleship and preparation for full-time ministry. Not only did the course work challenge me intellectually and spiritually but the staff encouraged me, provided opportunities for service, and challenged my developing worldview.

The PACE program seemed tailored for my needs. I was able to continue working, take care of my family, and take courses one at a time. The once-a-week classes over a set period helped me focus on each module and assimilate the material in practical ways. An impactful lesson was understanding the metanarrative, or the grand story, of Scripture, which allowed me to communicate a complete Gospel. Another valuable gift I received from ABC was a clear picture of Christ's identity. Theological themes, like a renewed mind, new creation, and transformation, were critical messages that I studied, talked about, and preached regularly.

A goal of mine for attending Alberta Bible College was to become an effective minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to make disciples, who in turn, also would make disciples. As a Prison Chaplain, I have daily opportunities to clearly communicate the gospel and to walk with others as they take steps in their faith journeys. Alberta Bible College was the right school, with the right program, at the right time for me. My current job grew out of my time and continuing support at ABC. I can only imagine what adventures await others who choose ABC and follow Jesus on their great adventure.

HOW ALBERTA BIBLE COLLEGE PREPARED ME FOR GRADUATE STUDIES AT WYCLIFFE COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

David Ross, 2020 B.Th. Graduate

It has been said by others before me that Alberta Bible College (ABC) is a special community, a place where students are members of a spiritual family, not just an academic program. This is an accurate sentiment. During my almost five years at ABC, I was blessed to be part of a community where I was accepted, seen, and cared for. I found a place of spiritual and relational belonging, marked in a special way by the grace of God's Spirit.



ABC provides a place of belonging for its students but also a high-quality, rigorous, and comprehensive academic preparation for Christian ministry and further study at the graduate level. After graduating with my Bachelor of Theology from ABC, I immediately entered the Master of Arts Theological Studies program at Wycliffe College, which is a federated college within the University of Toronto. From the beginning of my program (considered an Advanced Academic Degree), I knew my time at ABC had prepared me excellently for the challenging task that lay ahead. My breadth of knowledge and exegetical/theological skills, acquired at ABC, fully equipped me to succeed at this level of study. Several of my colleagues in the MA/ThM program at Wycliffe hold degrees from North American Universities. I found my ABC education more than sufficient to keep up with my peers in this context.

ABC, in my view, is a rare gem of a place. A welcoming and loving Christian community that emphasizes deeply impactful spiritual formation, and rigorous academic preparation, is hidden away in the northwest quadrant of Calgary. Add to this the incredible affordability of an education at ABC, and you have a fantastic opportunity for anyone who wants to know Christ more deeply, make life-long friends, grow in Christian maturity, and prepare for pastoral or academic ministry.

HOMESCHOOL, DEGREES, AND A WEDDING!

Shalayne and Daniel Kortzman

(Shalayne) Going to Alberta Bible College (ABC) has been a positive experience for me. Not only have I grown in my relationship with God, but I have also gained an awesome Christian community, hands-on leadership experiences, and learned more of who I am as a person. I have appreciated how invested the staff and professors are in the students' lives—that has had a big impact on me. My studies at ABC are a strong foundation for my faith and made me more excited about serving in ministry, too!

(Daniel) I thoroughly enjoyed my time at ABC. Right from the first semester, the welcoming staff and close-knit community created many opportunities to dive into both meaningful discussions and, to put it mildly, lots of laughter too. ABC fostered in me a desire to not only serve in the Lord's Kingdom but doing so while being firmly rooted in Christian community. ABC has equipped me to enter new seasons of life with greater joy, confidence, and assurance, regardless of circumstances. I am deeply grateful for such an experience.

The two of us met on my (Shalayne's) first day at ABC, and, on just the following day, we actually prayed for each other during chapel! The Lord works in mysterious ways, so they say. We quickly noticed each other and had many conversations between classes but volunteering together to get ready for Emerge is where we hit it off. Daniel recruiting me to help out provided opportunities for us to get to know each other. Not long after that we started dating. Everyone at the school was supportive and encouraging and ABC provided a great atmosphere for us to get to know each other in many different contexts. We were engaged the following year, and thanks to COVID-19 we had a fourteen-person ceremony in my (Shalayne's) parents' living room on April 4, 2020. We are grateful we didn't wait until the pandemic "blew" over to get married! This last year has had its challenges but has provided time for us to spend together and build a strong foundation for our marriage. God has been so faithful to us in our journey!



WHAT ABC DID FOR ME

Norman Sagarbarria



At the beginning of 2019, after participating in our church's annual "Prayer and Fasting," I received a fresh revelation from God that he would direct me on the path he had for me. Growing up, I attended different Bible classes and leadership training in my home country. Even after I immigrated to Canada, I had a strong sense that I would pursue further studies to be equipped as a believer and a minister. I contacted my friend, Kim Salcedo, to inquire about Alberta Bible College (ABC). A week later, I was on campus, being introduced to staff and faculty at ABC. My initial curiosity about ABC turned into enrolling myself in a degree program. The rest is history.

Being part of the discipleship team of a new small church, I felt the need for a formal theological education to become a more effective teacher and preacher of the Scriptures. Studying at ABC, I did not only acquire knowledge, but I became part of a loving and caring community, a genuine family. A family where you are accepted for who you are regardless of your colour, economic status, background, denomination, personality, and appearance.

The first courses I took inspired me to be more passionate about studying. In less than a month, I made a decision to pursue graduate studies after finishing my bachelor's degree. In a very short time, I went from mere curiosity to full-time studies in a bachelor's program with a plan to complete my master's degree! I have clearer direction of what my future holds. In my culture, formal Bible education has been reserved, traditionally, for pastors or missionaries. My exposure to the possibility of receiving an accredited education in North American theological disciplines was instrumental for me in my consideration to study at ABC. Through class participation, ABC helped me learn more about Canadian culture through my daily interactions with students, staff, and faculty. I have learned how to communicate in different contexts, whether in academic discussions or colloquial conversations, in both written and verbal modes.

Bible courses such as Old and New Testament Literatures, Introduction to Paul, Acts of the Apostles, and many others, have developed my research skills and promoted careful reading of the Bible. Because of the motivation from my learnings, I conducted a monthly study on the Book of Acts in my local church which received great commendation from my leaders. Contemporary Thought, Science and Technology, and Christian Ethics courses have been helpful for exploring the progression of the Christian faith. My skills in writing and comprehension have advanced significantly through reading the textbooks and completing course assignments. Every course has been crucial for my intellectual development but the most essential element has been Spiritual Formation. The beauty of silence and solitude, the contemplative time, Lectio Divina, practicing the presence of God, and honouring God with the body have become a part of my weekly routine. These spiritual practices have given me a deeper awareness of the God I serve.

A group of people whom I treasure outside of ABC are the individuals I met during different Field Experience encounters, specifically during Fall and Spring Ministry. My memories of serving and fellowshiping with them are irreplaceable. I am grateful and privileged to have met them, shared in their stories, and laughed with them. They each hold a special place in my heart. ABC is not just a normal educational institution. They care about you. It is a family. The professors are not just instructors. They are friends, fathers, mothers, coaches, mentors. The openness they willingly share is exceptional. Every correction and comment on my papers, and each conversation we shared, played a key role in my growth. For each of my professors, you know who you are, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for every class discussion and one-on-one conversation we had.

My peers have been a source of great delight in my academic and spiritual journey. Learning with and from them has indeed changed me. Participating as a member of the Student Leadership Team helped me refine my gifts and gain new skills. My true example of servant leadership is Jesus. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" – Mark 10:45. I am reminded by my mother to ensure I remain steadfastly humble, not allowing knowledge to puff me up (1 Corinthians 8:1). Overall, enrolling at and being part of ABC has significantly benefited me. I have been trained in a holistic way. Weekly chapel has fortified a sense of community in its purest form for me. I have discovered that an experience at ABC does not end when a program is completed. It is a launching pad for what is next in God's plan for you.

HOODIES HAVE ARRIVED

Shannon Gugyel

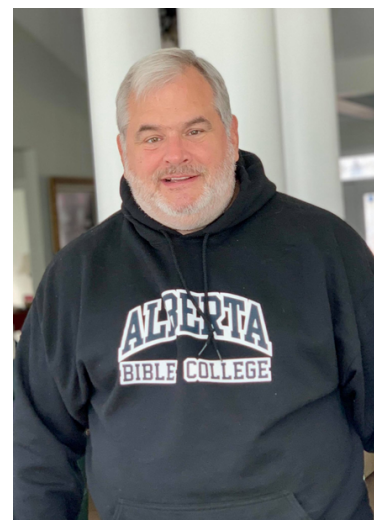
ABC's hoodies are here. We have six colours (red, black, ash, navy, purple, army green) and several sizes (Small, Medium, Large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL). If you have not done so, current students can email Cory Pytlarz (cpytlarz@abccampus.ca) to order a hoodie (your school fees paid for one!). We have had an amazing response so colours and sizes are starting to disappear...however, if your size and preferred colour are gone, we will be ordering a second batch mid-March. Arrange with Kim Salcedo (ksalcedo16@abccampus.ca) for pick up...YOU MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

Shannon Gugyel is currently shipping swag to all of our students living outside of Calgary, so please ensure your CURRENT address is listed in Populi. For any alumni, board members, and family members of students who would like a hoodie, or students who want multiple colours, please email Cory to place an order. The promotional prices are as follows but please be advised they will be increasing in the near future.



David and Laura Boswell, Fairbanks, Alaska

S-XL = \$25
or
2XL-3XL = \$27



Jim Conley, Summerville, South Carolina

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP (INTENSIVE COURSE)

APRIL 8 - 10, 2021

COVID-19 has created some new challenges for our time. A church, or other non-profit organization, needs a short-term strategic plan that can be changed on the fly. This is more important than ever.

ABC's course in strategic leadership is about getting the right things done. This course explores the strategic posture leaders need to build efficient and effective organizations or ministries. An important outcome of the course is that leaders will plan, write, implement, and evaluate a strategic plan for themselves and their organization.

Dr. Stan Helton, ABC's President, facilitates this course and brings his experience as a turn-around leader in churches and other organizations to the conversation. The weekend-format provides tactical time to navigate key topics that impact all organizations.

Contact the Enrollment Office at 403.282.2994 or check out our website to find out more information about how to register for this course.

<https://www.abccampus.ca/start-your-abc-journey-here/>

