

GOODNEWS@ABC

OUR NEXT GOODNEWS IS SET TO RELEASE SEPTEMBER 1



On Campus & Online Options Starting September 2021

We have waited seventeen months to welcome students back into the hallways and classrooms at Alberta Bible College. Finally, the opportunity is here to gather again as students, staff, and faculty in person! Woohoo! But before we breakout the balloons and confetti—we have to say it—ABC will adhere to **all pandemic protocols mandated by government bodies, including municipal, provincial, and federal authorities, if there are ongoing changes that dictate campus closure again and other measures deemed necessary to protect Albertans.** Obviously, we are praying this should not be the case, but please be ready to adjust accordingly.

COVID-19 has not gone away, therefore, we prioritize the health and safety of all who choose to come to the ABC premises. We understand there are a variety of perspectives, and we respect differing opinions that exist among our community members. In many cases, ABC will offer both in-person and online course options to accommodate the needs of students. Please watch for informational updates as the new academic year approaches. We are so excited to see you *beyond the screen!*

UPCOMING PACE COURSES:

SEPT 14 - OCT 19 (Register by Sept 7)

- B3286 Introduction to Paul
- B3325 Christian Theology
- P3206 Thriving in Transition
- P3315 Introduction to Non-Profit Leadership
- P3545 Counselling Skills

NOV 1 - 5 (Register by Oct 25)

- B4215 Romans and Galatians

NOV 9 - DEC 14 (Register by Nov 2)

- B3025 Grasping God's Word
- B3025 Grasping God's Word (PACE@Home)
- P3535 Counselling Theory
- P4125 Pastoral Work
- P4325 Essentials of Board Governance
- P4425 Spiritual Formation



Empowering Leadership Scholarship Fund

By Stanley N. Helton (President)

We hear of church closings frequently and it is always sad that another church will no longer meet. However, for some churches, that is not the end of the story. Closing churches can find ways of preserving and sharing their legacy with future generations.

Such is the story of One Church Windsor. This church decided that its ministry could best continue in the support of training future leaders for the church. Consequently, on April 16, 2021, they made a substantial contribution to Alberta Bible College for a scholarship that would support students coming from the greater Windsor (Ontario) area, and others beyond Windsor should there be no eligible candidates from that location. To be eligible for this scholarship, students must already be enrolled in a diploma or degree program at Alberta Bible College. This scholarship is for students who have shown leadership skills in their commitment and care for and compassion toward others.

This scholarship is named in honour of Bishop Arthur Thomas Harrison and Reverend Cyril D. Romeo. Following is a brief biography of each of these servants of God.

Bishop Arthur Thomas (T.) Harrison dedicated his life to the service of Christ in 1931 and accepted the call to the ministry in 1934. Bishop Harrison served in many capacities within the church and the community. He was elected as Provincial President of the Young People's Willing Workers of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and worked diligently to expand and improve this organization.



In 1945, then Elder Harrison, in his first pastorate, planned the building of the Mount Moriah Church of God in Christ, North Buxton, Ontario. From 1948 to 1952 he pastored simultaneously the Tried Stone and the Mount Moriah Churches of God in Christ in Chatham and Buxton, Ontario for over ten years. He later served churches in Wayne, Flint, and Pontiac, Michigan. During this time, he was appointed Vice President of the International Churches of God in Christ.

In 1963, Elder Harrison created, organized, and registered the Ontario Churches of God in Christ in Canada. In 1965, he was ordained as Bishop by the International Churches of God in Christ for the Ontario Diocese. Additionally, Bishop Harrison founded and pastored, as well as organized, the building of Harrison Memorial, COGIC in Windsor, Ontario.

Many young people profited from his understanding, counselling, financial support in promoting their education, obtaining jobs, and in straightening out confused lives. His leadership in raising relief funds to send to those suffering of the starvation in Africa declared his love of humanity.

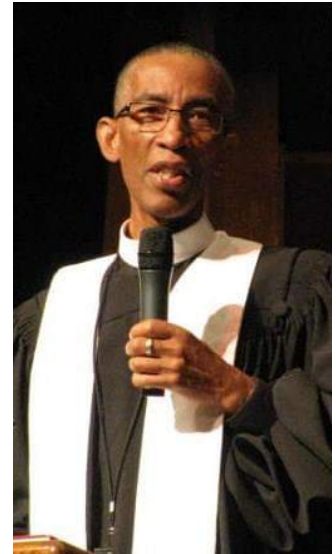
Urban Bible College granted him an Honorary Doctorate. He received a Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions to the development and programming of the North American Black Historical Museum. He held the position as an Interdenominational Patients' Pastor for Windsor Hospitals. For four years Bishop Harrison held the position of President of the Pastors' and Ministers' Alliance of Windsor, Essex, Kent Counties, and the City of London.

Bishop Harrison was married to Sylvia Anne Harrison for sixty-five years and she worked faithfully beside him. To this union they were blessed with fifteen children.

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Rev. Cyril D. Romeo was first called to ministry in 1971 and in 1981 he became known as Pastor Cyril D. Romeo, starting a church in the city of Mississauga, Ontario. Soon after, he with his wife Merle, moved to the heart of Toronto. This church became known as Restitution Bethesda Tabernacle (RBT). Pastor Romeo and his wife Merle jointly pastored the work from its beginning. The church family was just that, family; they knew they could count on Pastor and Evangelist Romeo whenever they needed a listening ear or needed counsel.

RBT, as it was known, birthed many ministers and pastors. Pastor Romeo always said that God called him to the city of Toronto for the "bruised sheep" and he just wanted God to work miracles within the city. RBT was known as a place of healing but unfortunately personal tragedy struck with the loss of his wife in August of 1994 to cancer. Pastor Romeo, despite this loss, continued the church while balancing his job with the Ford Motor Company as well as taking care of home life.



With over forty years of faithful servanthood in ministry, philanthropic work was dear to his heart. He was a giver and knew the secret of giving was to be generous with a cheerful heart to the Lord. He made certain to give back consistently from his first fruits. He never deterred nor waived from this principle. Several years later, cancer took Pastor Romeo's life, though he worked in ministry until he was no longer able. To have known him was to know that he was self-sacrificing and desired above all else to be a person of decency and order. He has certainly been missed and has left a lasting imprint on the lives of for whom he cared.

ABC is pleased to announce the creation of the Bishop Arthur T. Harrison/Reverend Cyril D. Romeo Empowering Leadership Scholarship Fund. We are even more pleased that One Church Windsor felt ABC is the institution through which the legacy of these men could continue.

Courses at ABC this Fall (Semester Format)

SEPT 7 - DEC 17 (Register by Aug 31 - Sept 3)

- B101 Grasping God's Word
- B111 Old Testament Literature
- B122 Life & Teachings of Jesus
- B221 The Acts of the Apostles
- B231 Christian Theology
- B321 Old Testament Prophetic Literature
- B333 Christian Ethics
- G101 Communications Theory
- G243 Developmental Psychology
- G244 Worship and the Arts
- G335 Christian Apologetics
- P101.1 Spiritual Formation
- P351 Pastoral Counselling
- P416 Adaptive Leadership

To find out more about these and other courses offered by ABC, please contact Kim Salcedo or Shannon Gugyel at admissions@abccampus.ca or call 403.282.2994, ext. 230.



College Students from 2019

The Best Thing since Sliced Bread

By Annie Mackinnon

In its truest form, I would describe Re-Reading Scripture as “the best thing since sliced bread.” For me, Re-Reading has been an intervention or breakthrough with significant impact on my daily life.

A global pandemic put on hold my family’s plans to immigrate to Canada from the UK to join Alberta Bible College in the PACE program. The pandemic coupled with being a busy mum of two young children meant spiritual feeding became hard to come by; but as my need arose, God in His faithfulness provided! My days are busy, tiring, and all-consuming, often leaving me physically and socially depleted but more importantly, spiritually empty. Re-Reading has become the most protected hour of my week where I feel I have experienced not only true discipleship but also true fellowship. In this hour of my week, I make sense of the world again and I feel peace. Re-Reading equips me with the tools I need to read my Bible better, which ultimately has affected a more intimate relationship with my Saviour. I have learned to trust myself with reading scripture in a season where self-doubt is prevalent and the more I understand God’s word, the more it becomes a part of me.

Coupled with this has come the awesome fellowship from across the world with people who have edified my spirit every week and have left me feeling both loved and accepted. I am so excited about Re-Reading and want everyone to have a bit of this undiscovered jewel because it will change their lives. I don’t know how I would have managed a global pandemic without it and I am truly grateful to Stan and Alberta Bible College for making this possible. I can’t wait to join Alberta Bible College in the near future.



My ABC Story

By Tracy Bartel (Chaplain)



I graduated from ABC with a B.Th. in 2017 and now serve our Lord as a chaplain at the Calgary Young Offender Centre (CYOC). I minister to a wide demographic that includes women and young men of all ethnicities and belief systems, many know nothing about the Bible and God.

Alberta Bible College taught me about the Bible by introducing me to wonderful concepts that reveal the richness of God’s word. Things like exegesis, which is understanding scripture through the lens of the original setting to determine the meaning. Truly, these details provide much depth to my understanding of God that I am glad to share. As well, ABC taught me how to present the Gospel in a way that answers the universal questions of humankind: Why am I here? What is wrong with the world? Is there hope for the future?

ABC introduced me to our relational God and slowly guided me to see that I need not impress God to be accepted. Now, I experience God’s grace, mercy, and love instead of anxiety. I trust and depend on God for God’s word and ways as I minister to the broken and hurting people at CYOC. Thanks ABC for providing me with the education and community experience that led me to the Lord of love and my vocation.



Addiction and the Hope of Recovery

By Shannon Gugyel (Enrolment Officer & Student Development Chaplain)

I have always been intrigued by human behaviour. As a young undergraduate student at the University of Alberta, I studied educational psychology and spent years working with individuals with various exceptionalities, including violent and aggressive behavioural concerns, and emotional dysregulation. Decades later, I completed a Bachelor of Arts Counselling and Ministry degree at Alberta Bible College, satisfied that my formal educational training was complete. However, the fascination with cognitive influences on emotional and behavioural outcomes motivated me to pursue my Master of Arts Counselling Psychology (MACP) degree at Yorkville University in Fredericton, New Brunswick. I completed my coursework this past spring and am finishing my clinical hours with a neuropsychologist here in Calgary. I will graduate in December 2021 with the resolve to begin a doctoral program while accumulating additional clinical hours. An area of interest for me is the field of addictions.

In fact, I have a distinct bias about addiction. I am convinced every member of Western culture *has, will have, or has a loved one with* an addiction. Every single person. You may resist calling your behaviour or use of a substance (including caffeine and tobacco) an addiction. I have a different perspective. Overeating/undereating, pornography use, social media access, and gaming are just a few of the “acceptable” behaviours trending upwards in frequency and intensity within the church. Overuse of any of these activities can be detrimental. Obesity and serious health issues, betrayal trauma, and social isolation are daily consequences Christ followers experience as a result of unhealthy behavioural engagement with food, pornography, social media, and videogames.

From a mental health and psychological perspective, addiction is defined as an enduring or “chronic dysfunction of the brain system that involves reward, motivation, and memory” (<https://www.healthline.com/health/addiction>; Tyler, 2018). Additionally, addiction provokes physiological cravings for a substance or process, often causing “compulsive or obsessive pursuit of ‘reward’ and lack of concern over consequences” (again, Tyler, 2018). While we see opioid overdose or binge drinking as the addiction “poster children,” we minimize behaviours and processes that are just as damaging and destructive to relationships and to ourselves as substance use disorders (SUD).

The worldwide pandemic, which demanded social distancing and isolation protocols, has only fueled an already rampant fire in relation to process and substance addictions. While some attribute addiction to our sin nature, I want to supplement that generalization. My hypothesis—that every person in Western culture will face addiction personally—is directly interconnected with two key factors which increase our vulnerability to addiction. First, attachment disruptions occurring early in life have a profound influence on one’s susceptibility to addictive behaviours. Second, trauma exposure is a major risk factor for addiction as confirmed by data from ongoing research. The individuals I counsel during my clinical hours have one or both of these dynamics at play.

These loving, caring, and faith-filled Christians find themselves trapped in cyclical patterns of “using” food, games, porn, media, tobacco, cannabis, and other sources for comfort and/or escape. Sin is not the basic issue. Identity is. Behaviours may result because of sin, but a person’s sense of belonging is associated with identity. In the church, we often want people to believe and behave the same way we do before they can belong. Jesus, however, offered holistic belonging before changed behaviour was expected.

Attachment disruptions and traumatic events target one’s identity and the beliefs we have about ourselves, those around us, and the world we live in. The hope Jesus offers the “sinner,” or the one living with addiction, is founded on **His** acceptance of **His** identity as the Son of God, the sinless Lamb that was slain for the world, and the Good Shepherd. We are attached to Him because of **His** behaviours, not ours. We belong to Him because **He chose us** when we were yet His enemies. When we understand our identity **in Christ**, when we accept our belonging **in Him**, *then* the outcome will be changed behaviours.

If you are struggling with addiction—any addiction—there is hope. Jesus accepts you. You belong to Him. Your behaviour is not your identity. Your behaviour is a response to attachment disruption and trauma, and Jesus wants to heal you so you can see your identity **in Him**. We were not created to walk this journey alone. Please reach out if you need someone with whom to talk and walk. For private and confidential support and counselling, email counselling.advocacy@gmail.com or sgugyel@abccampus.ca for community referrals.

President on the Go Again

By Stanley N. Helton (President)

I am finally free to roam about the country for the college again. COVID-19 all but shut down most of my travels—except those I did from my office chair via Zoom. I have missed being among the churches and other partners of the college. But the gates are now open (for the time being, anyway) and I am out and about.



Stan and Pat Helton entering BC

I'm writing this report to you from the Double VM Bible Camp near Cherryville, BC. The DVM Camp and Alberta Bible College have had a long and close history over the years. This year the camp is still recovering from navigating COVID-19 restrictions. The Directors of DVM Camp chose to have one week of family camp this year. I am happy to be here representing the college and teaching a series of classes and messages from 1 Peter. Pat and I always enjoy our time here where we can reconnect with the leaders from the various churches in this area. We are happy to have with us our Enrollment Coordinator, Kim Salcedo, who is working with the young people that have been able to attend this year.



Acacia, Kaitlyn, and Xavier showing off their ABC hoodies at DVM Camp

This past Sunday I had the privilege of preaching at the Lumby Christian Church where Pastor Barrie Forman serves. My sermon was on how we are the "People of the Resurrection" which calls us to come alive as this new season dawns. The Lumby Christian Church is to be commended for the ways they have held things together during this time and they are showing every promise of a prosperous future as the country reopens.



Kaden and J sporting their ABC Hoodies



Sam Tumlinson, long-time supporter of ABC and other ministries, and Dr. Stan Helton

The first three Sundays in August, by the way, I will be preaching a series at Bow Valley Christian Church in Calgary on being People of the Resurrection. If you cannot join us live, be sure to catch the service online.

From August 2–6, Pat and I will be at the 50+ Camp hosted by the Clearview Christian Camp in Kenosee Park, Saskatchewan. I will be bringing a message during the week and Pat will be giving her testimony around the campfire. We look forward to reconnecting with people among whom we worked when we were at Western Christian College in Regina. It will be good to see old friends.

On August 21, I will be attending the Canadian Church of Christ Historical Society meeting in the Greater Toronto Area. I will be in that part of the country for a few days hoping to connect with any who want to know more about ABC.

Finally, I'm scheduled to preach at the Shelburne Street Church in Victoria on August 29. So, if you are in the greater Vancouver area and would like to connect and find out how the college is doing, please let me know. As you can see, the President is on the go again! If I am close to your area and you want to connect, let me know. I would love to have coffee and a visit with you.