

# GREAT LAKES BIBLE COLLEGE

# stakeholder newsletter

SUMMER 2023

## From the President's Desk

### GLBC Update: A unique church and ministry resource that's worth investing in

In 2022 and 2023, we continue to build on the foundations laid in previous years to effectively serve God's Kingdom. As we look to the future, and with God's continued blessing, we need more partners like you to allow this educational ministry to live and serve into the future.

### Bringing Bible, Ministry and Worldview education to the Local Church

In 2023, we had the equivalent of 7.5 full-time students take classes with GLBC. While some were taking a full course load, most of the 40+ students were taking one or two classes. Think of how many congregations and communities are being impacted by equipping the church for service as part of their local congregation!

Our **Bible, Ministry, Worldview Paradigm** is essential to our educational ministry. The work in previous years to develop this accessible and holistic curriculum continues to show benefits today. In contrast with the Canadian public education and funding, *our Bible, Ministry, Worldview paradigm can only be accomplished through the support of the church and through our private funding model.* It is because of the support of the church that we can clearly teach the Bible as the foundation for truth, encourage every Christian to Ministry as part of their local congregation, and talk about the uniqueness and requirement of a Christian worldview in meeting with the world around us.



**Immanuel Velasco**  
*President*

We are using technology effectively to bring the school to students across vast distances- you may not realize that all of our classes are available in person **and** online. For example, in April 2023, our 8-week course on apologetics culminated with an in-person weekend at Strathmore Boulevard Church of Christ, with 60 students engaged, including 40 in-person and about 20 online. Also, in May, Professor Nathan Brown taught a week-long short course on the Gospel of Mark in Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

### How can we bring the school to you?

In the coming months, you'll be hearing about the **Hybrid Learning Centre Opportunity**—congregations will be able to use the latest 360° cameras to enhance the learning experience for students from their own congregation or local visitors connecting to the school. This is a wonderful way to equip and increase relationship development between congregation members.

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# SUMMER 2023 UPDATES

## Budget Deficits – Please Consider Your Financial Support

I give thanks to God for the opportunities and challenges over the past couple years and trust Him to sustain this educational ministry according to His will. I also **thank you for making our ministry of Christian Education possible** thus far. Our goal to be operationally efficient with our funding is always a priority. However, I hope that as you're reading this, **you'll please prayerfully consider your ability to assist in continuing this educational ministry.**

*thank  
you*

FOR MAKING  
OUR MINISTRY OF  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION POSSIBLE

This year, as we have since 2020, the GLBC board has **budgeted for a planned deficit as we've made significant investments into the program and managed challenges such as COVID.** By God's grace and blessing, we have operated with greatly reduced deficits and in one year, finished slightly ahead. While this is certainly a blessing, we also recognize that many of those years' financial results improved due to non-repeatable circumstances. These circumstances include bequests from supporters who have passed, government grants, or congregations that have closed their doors and named GLBC a recipient of the sale of assets.

As we continue to trust in God's ability to provide, we realize that we must also use the wisdom that He has provided. I'm confident in the program that we're developing and our ability to reach as many as possible across Canada and beyond. **Looking at the last several years, we know that continuing to operate with planned deficits is not feasible.** We need the support of God's people to continue our work.

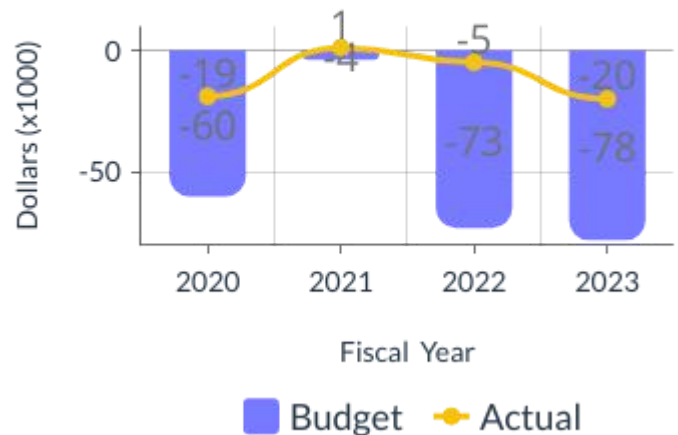
## How can I support GLBC Funding?

Aside from one-time cash gifts, there are many other ways to support GLBC. Please visit [www.glbc.ca/give](http://www.glbc.ca/give) for more details. For example:

- **Monthly donations** – Even a very small monthly amount helps to provide a predictable revenue for effective use.
- **Planned-giving** can take many forms, such as *wills and bequests, gifting of securities, and gifting unutilized life insurance plans.* These types of gifts have been a huge blessing for GLBC in the past few years especially, with more than \$300,000 of donations coming in this form.

## Planned Deficits vs Actual

2020 – Present



The GLBC board has budgeted for a planned deficit with significant investments into the program, and managed outside issues like decreased giving due to COVID.

## Did You Know?

- Pre-authorized Debit and Cheques (instead of credit cards) can help your support go further.
- Credit card donations are very convenient, but usually come with 2-3% in fees.

## What are other ways that I can support GLBC?



**Donate Microsoft Points-** If you're already using Bing as your search engine, supporting Great Lakes Bible College is easy with just a few simple steps. Set up your Give with Bing dashboard ([www.bing.com/give/dashboard](http://www.bing.com/give/dashboard)), choose GLBC as your organization and keep browsing. Microsoft will donate to the school based on your use of Bing.

**Please note that this particular type of donation is not tax deductible.**



**Initiate a Facebook Fundraiser for GLBC.** If you're active on Facebook, you can use the platform to raise awareness about GLBC in your circles and let them know that you're raising money for the school.

For detailed instructions on both of these ways to support, visit: [www.glbc.ca/other-ways-to-support](http://www.glbc.ca/other-ways-to-support).

# SUMMER 2023 UPDATES

## Highlights From the Dean – Paul Birston

**TAKE A CLASS  
FOR CREDIT  
OR AUDIT**

VISIT [GLBC.CA](http://GLBC.CA) NOW

- Audit Anytime Archive
- Week-long and weekend short courses
- 8 & 15 Week Courses

### Students, Classes, Evening/Weekend Accessibility

- Summer students this year include two recipients of the Roger Peterson Biblical Geography Scholarship
- Throughout the winter-spring term, we enjoyed high levels of interest and engagement from our students.
- Six evening courses increased accessibility.
- Three companion courses were offered in the 8-week March-April format also to increase accessibility and flexibility.

### Weekend Credit/Audit Seminar in Toronto April 21-23. Apologetics for Everybody (Preparing to Give an Answer for the Hope in You).

- We were very pleased to have our adjunct faculty Chad Ramsey come to Toronto with his wife and son for Apologetics for Everybody (Preparing to Give an Answer for the Hope in You).
- Classes were very informative, practical and well received. About 60 people attended the classes on Friday and Saturday with 40 in-person and 20 online. Sunday attendance was larger.

### Impacting the Church in Canada and Beyond

- **Church Group Audit of Understanding and Engaging Culture** . About a dozen congregation members completed auditing the Understanding and Engaging Culture course to increase their awareness and skills in reaching out to their neighbours coming to Canada from many different cultures around the world. The group took 8 months to study the course together and provided very positive feedback to us.
- **Melanesian Bible College (Papua New Guinea) & GLBC Courses** . GLBC has provided several course recordings, books and other resources to Melanesian Bible College in Lae by way of Ruth Zimmerman, who returned to PNG in February.

## COURSE OFFERINGS Fall 2023

### OMAGH BIBLE CAMP SHORT COURSE

- Wisdom in Counselling

### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- Isaiah, Jeremiah & Lamentations
- Gospel of Mark
- Intermediate Hebrew Readings I
- Biblical Doctrine of the Church
- Preaching & Teaching Scripture According to Its Biblical Genres
- Ministry Formation

### HYBRID OCT-NOV COURSE

- Old Testament World

# SUMMER 2023 UPDATES

## Highlights From the Dean – Paul Birston

Chapel Takes Place Wednesdays at 12 PM EST during the school year. See [glbc.ca](http://glbc.ca) for details

- Chapel continues to see good participation from regular supporters, excellent lessons from our speakers, good discussions, fellowship and prayer.
- At the suggestion of one of our regular chapel attenders we are meeting the first Wednesday of June, July and August for fellowship, news updates and prayer. Our June meeting was well received and an excellent opportunity to update one another on summer activities and important prayer needs.

15-20 Average number of participants joining weekly chapel via Zoom

6 Number of provinces that we have visited or from where students attended



Number of students from across Canada impacted by GLBCs educational ministry in 2022 and 2023

### Serving in Local Congregations

- As always, full-time and adjunct faculty and students continue to preach, teach, preside, song-lead and pray and serve in other personal ways in their local congregations.
- Nathan has been doing some excellent lessons from Mark recently. Paul is preaching a series of sermons from the 15 beautiful Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120–134) and parallel passages and application from the New Testament as well as giving mid-week Bible studies on the history, archaeology and geography of Israel, 4 of 5 Galilee and Jerusalem following a study of the Gospel of John. He also continues a small ministry to marginalised people on the street.
- We put our Bible, ministry and worldview skills into practical service with God and His local churches.

## Planned Giving and Website Updates

### Planned Giving in 2022-2023

Through generosity, and shared blessings from God, planned giving (such as sales of securities, major gifts, wills and bequests) continue to be a major lifeline in the continued service of GLBC.



Number of families that have donated through planned giving in 2022-2023



Approximate amount donated through planned giving in 2022-2023

### Want to learn more? Visit the Updated Pages

1. Visit [glbc.ca](http://glbc.ca)
2. On the top ribbon, click 'Donate' to access the updated pages



We've added new pages to our website to provide more information about gift allocation.

- **Our Funds** provides an overview of the three primary funds that our partners make donations to- General Fund, Bible Teacher Fund, Sponsorship Fund- and the purpose of each.
- **Planned and Legacy Giving** provides general information for anyone who may be considering a planned gift to the school.

*There are numerous options for legacy gifts. We encourage you to consult with your legal and financial advisors to consider all the relevant issues and income tax provisions.*

# SUMMER 2023 UPDATES

## Ministry Formation by Geoff Taylor



Geoff Taylor received his Foundational Certificate in Old and New Testament Bible Books in April 2023.

As part of the Foundational Certification, Ministry Formation projects encourage students to find ministry opportunities in their own context.

### Finding ministries that fit

The results of the interviews were encouraging and uplifting. The principal learning was that **simple things were of most importance. The deepest and shared desires surfaced naturally from individual interviews at homes or in cafés.**

A final list of twelve candidate ministries developed from the interviews. Two ministries that came to the top made it clear that **fellowship was one of the strongest drivers.**

### Serving in a small congregation

The Grimsby Church of Christ like many small congregations with an aging populace, has a great desire to reach people for Christ, but sometimes without strength to the task. My Ministry Formation course drew me to work with the congregation to begin to address this desire.

My mentor and I established that **congregational renewal was a valuable goal in answer to the longing to be productive Christians.** 1 Peter 4:10 sums up the yearning of the congregation: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." [NIV]

The resulting project was undertaken to assist the congregation in assessing their potential for renewed ministry. The method was to interview members, to understand their felt needs in the realm of ministry. The intention was to produce a list of achievable and manageable ministries, both internal to the congregation and to the community of Grimsby.

**... a congregation seeking to serve others ... is empowered by the Spirit's leadership. Continuing renewal lies ahead with God's help.**

A request to have services online for absent members was implemented, and it is now common during the coffee break to see people talking into an iPad to those who are away. **Without question the visitation associated with the interviews was the greatest blessing to interviewer and respondents alike.** These two results demonstrate that a congregation seeking to serve others as Peter reminds us, is empowered by the Spirit's leadership. Continuing renewal lies ahead with God's help.

## Foundational Certificate – Set A Short Term Educational Target



- 16 Credit Hours
- Choose your pace: 6 months up to 2 years

### Example Certificates

- Youth and Family Ministry
- Evangelism & Missions
- Biblical Languages
- Church and Congregational Leadership

**Short-Term Educational Target** suitable for part-time or full-time Studies

#### Standalone or Start Building

- Can be used towards additional certificates and degrees

#### Flexible Options

- Build your own program OR choose one of our designed course schedule
- Study Online or In-Person

For More Details on the Foundational Certificate Program and Bursaries visit [www.gibc.ca/foundational-certificates](http://www.gibc.ca/foundational-certificates) OR email [info@gibc.ca](mailto:info@gibc.ca).

**Financial Aid is Available!**



# 2023 Winter Term Events

## Apologetics for Everybody

### Strathmore Blvd Church of Christ

Following an 8-week online course on Apologetics, Chad Ramsey led a weekend workshop at Strathmore Boulevard in Toronto, visiting the city with his family.

On Friday and Saturday, About 40 people attended in person and 20 online, with larger attendance on Sunday.



**Top left:** Chad Ramsey speaking during our Apologetics for Everybody weekend seminar at Strathmore Boulevard Church of Christ.

**Top right:** Immanuel Velasco, Deb and Chase Hibbard, Professor Nathan Brown visit the CN Tower while touring the city with the Ramsey family.

**Centre:** Friday Evening at the Strathmore Blvd Building.

**Bottom:** Seminar attendees enjoying lunch and fellowship on the Saturday of the Weekend.



# 2023 Winter Term Events

## End of Year Exercises – GLBC Connects 2023



**Counter-clockwise from top:**

Paul Birston addresses the in-person and online audience at GLBC Connects; Nathan Brown congratulates 2nd year student Michaela Easton; Nathan Brown congratulates 3rd year student Sam Mulligan.



## Weyburn Short Course and Western Trip 2023



**Top left:** After a day teaching at Weyburn Church of Christ, Nathan Brown stops for bubble tea with Minister John Smith (who is also a GLBC board member) and Immanuel Velasco.

**Top right:** As part of a spring tour through Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Paul Birston, Nathan Brown and Immanuel Velasco were hosted by the Williams family in Regina, SK.

**Bottom left:** Immanuel and Paul visited Clearview Christian Camp—an important ministry and gathering place for the church in western provinces.

## TRIBUTES

January 1 - June 30, 2023

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Marilyn Boden**

Dan and Judy Yaksich

**Max Craddock**

Paul and Margaret Birston

**Mervin Eaton**

Wayne and Helen Parker

**June Heuston**

Susan Jones

Linda Mellen

Brian and Faith Thompson

**Marie Hibbard**

Thomas and Michelle Burgess

Mike and Sandy Lunn

Mike and Laura McCabe

Wayne and Helen Parker

Murray Scott

Kathleen Sharkey

**David Hotchkiss**

John and Mary Colyn

Robert and Linda Haskayne

Ellis and Eileen Moore

Wayne and Helen Parker

**Albert Hotte**

John and Mary Colyn

**Allan Jones**

Susan Jones

**Roy and Nelle Merritt**

Paul and Margaret Birston

**Harvey and Olive Parker**

Wayne and Helen Parker

**Eugene Perry**

John and Mary Colyn

Stephen and Rebecca Courson

Susan Jones

Brenda Kennedy

Ellis and Eileen Moore

Myrna Perry

Lionel and Bonnie Weir

Cecil and Martha Wells

**John Williams**

John Smith

# WISDOM in Counselling

Practical Counseling Skills for  
Every Christian

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with **HUGH GANNON**

**AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2023**

Attend virtually or in-person at  
**CAMP OMAGH**

For more information and to register, see upcoming events on [www.glbc.ca](http://www.glbc.ca) or contact Judy Robins  
([judyrobins@glbc.ca](mailto:judyrobins@glbc.ca) / 226-507-5452)