

SPRING / SUMMER 2022

# IN TOUCH

Steinbach Bible College



*"Coming Together"*



Steinbach  
Bible College



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**Cover Photo:** Noah Fehr, Class Valedictorian for  
the SBC Graduating Class of 2022, speaks at the  
commencement ceremony on Saturday, April 23, 2022  
(Photo Credit: Carla Ackermann)

# Message from the President



The theme for this year was Being Renewed from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. While outwardly we felt at times like we were wasting away with the pandemic, there were signs of renewal as well.

Students, faculty, and staff demonstrated notable resilience as we kept focusing on things that are eternal. Change, flexibility, patience, and hope are words we know well. But our eternal God is faithful in renewing us by His Spirit daily.

After some setbacks the previous years, SBC was again committed to fulfilling our mission of empowering servant leaders to follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world. We discovered signs of renewal this year. Positives included a meaningful Truth and Reconciliation Day, returning audiences in the Princess Bride drama, hiring of new staff, in-person Mission X in

Winnipeg, Northern Manitoba, and Spain, and an MDS work trip to Princeton, B.C.

We celebrated a memorable Spring Concert with its Finale of Hope led by our combined worship teams. Graduation culminated our year with speaker Antonio Pitta, an EMC pastor in Calgary, calling graduates to surf the waves of change to engage the world with the Gospel of Jesus.

I invite you to pray, welcome, experience, and give to the ministries of SBC. **Pray** for our students, faculty and staff as we see lives transformed by the living Christ. **Welcome** SBC students and staff to minister in your churches, youth groups, special events and even in your homes. **Experience** SBC music and drama events, conferences, and college courses, many that you can access online. **Give** generously so that the next generation of servant leaders will be empowered to follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world for God's kingdom.

Blessings!

**Dr. Terry Hiebert, PhD**  
Interim President

# SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Community

## THE PRINCESS BRIDE

Along with Candlewick Productions, SBC set out to put the classic tale of love and adventure to the stage in front of a live audience. Students, staff, and several community members came together to bring the story of Buttercup and her farmhand Westley to life. For 4 performances, laughter echoed throughout the theater as the cast and crew provided great entertainment!



## CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Student council put on a fantastic Christmas banquet this year! All students, staff, and faculty were welcome to come together to celebrate Jesus' birth through songs, stories, games, and cookie decorating. It was an evening of laughter, rejoicing, and enjoying the company of friends.



# LIGHT

## y Events From 2021-22



### DEPUTATIONS

Many of our teams were able to go to churches and youth groups to share their talents! New Creation shared skits and led games, while Free Servant and Ignite led worship on Sunday mornings across the province. We love it when students use their gifts to encourage others!



### CAMP DAY/MISSION DAY

One highlight for students in the second semester is getting the chance to meet various camps and missions organizations. Over the past 2 years these interactions have been minimal, but in 2022 we were able to host many groups on campus! Students could find a summer job, or build connections for after graduation. A win-win!




### HOOTENANNY

A proper Hootenanny was had this year! Those who were in attendance know that what happens at Hootenanny stays at Hootenanny. Students displayed many talents (and so-called talents) for the SBC community to marvel over.



# Graduation 2022



Steinbach Bible College celebrated the graduating class of 2022 at the Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church on April 23. A total of 28 graduates were recognized with 5 Certificates, 4 Associate of Arts, and 19 Bachelor of Arts degrees.

In February, the province of Manitoba got word that many of the restrictions on gatherings and events would soon be lifted. With this news, SBC's graduating class of 2022 became hopeful that a "normal" graduation would soon be at hand. A graduation with family and friends in attendance to celebrate in their accomplishments.

Celebrations began on Friday with the annual Spring Concert to honor the college's Certificate grads. In many ways this was also a celebration of God's faithfulness throughout the past 2 years in the pandemic as everyone was able to come together. Students showed their talents through drama and dance, and Imminent, Ignite, and Free Servant led a time of worship.

Joel Sawatzky, a certificate grad, expressed his gratitude for his time at SBC. "Through the professor's teachings and the opportunities here at school to serve in new ways, I have seen that the good news is not just needed across the sea; it is needed here where we live!"

He explained that the theme verse of 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 became meaningful to him in reminding him that "while now we are going through momentary struggles, the eternal glory that is to come will far outweigh everything in this life on earth. We no longer fix our eyes on the struggles in front of us. Now we look to the things unseen and yet to come."

On Saturday, joy and excitement was in the air as the AA and BA grads walked down the aisle with family and friends by their side. Graduation is a time of reflection on the growth that has happened over the course of the student's time of study. This particular group of students began their journey at SBC during the pandemic, so it was rewarding to celebrate their accomplishments alongside the community.

Noah Fehr, SBC's class valedictorian for 2022, likened this class to Christian, the pilgrim in John Bunyan's *Pilgrims Progress*. "This character met others while journeying along the straight road of faith," he explained. "He was challenged by them, rebuked the ignorance of others, and inspired others to make the same walk of faith to the celestial city in heaven."

Fehr continued by saying that "we are committing to live out the call to be servant leaders who will walk that path by patterning our lives after Jesus Christ, humbly serving the church, and engaging the world."

The Commencement address was given by Antonio Pitta, an SBC Alumnus and Lead Pastor at the Iglesia Emanuel Church in Calgary, Alberta. Pitta, who brought a surfboard on stage, challenged the graduating class to approach life like surfing a wave. "When I was (a swimmer) and was tossed all over the place by waves, I thought I could drown," he shared. "Yet those same untamable waves were being masterfully dominated by people on surfboards. You can't stop the waves, but you can learn how to surf them."

Pitta concluded by saying, "As you go forward and face your uncertain future, and through the difficulties that come your way; go forward with courage and confidence knowing that God's plans for your life are truly great." 📍







# 2021-2022 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

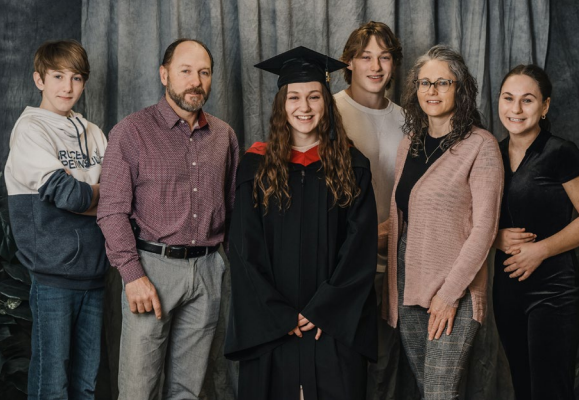
Timothy Award – *McKenna Barkman & Noah Febr*  
Abundance Spirit of Generosity – *Sofia Epp*  
ABHE Delta Epsilon Chi – *McKenna Barkman*  
Vidir Bursary – *Vera vom Dorp & Bridger Dyck*

## Undergrad Scholarships

Bible Teaching – *Adam Thiesen*  
Children's Ministry – *Ruth Dyck*  
Counselling Ministry – *Chris Penner*  
Youth – *Karenna Ginter*  
Intercultural Studies – *Kalia Kruse*  
Pastoral – *Mason Kehler*  
Marketplace – *Wildson Seguchi*  
Worship – *Suzanna Hopcraft*

## Graduate Awards

Pastoral – *Lizzie Rowan*  
Missions – *Alan Campos*  
Bible/Theology – *Marcus Friesen*  
Youth – *Grace Wieler*  
Counselling Ministry – *April Talbot*  
Worship – *Evelena Thiessen*  
Children's Ministry – *McKenna Barkman*  
Marketplace – *Taylor Posillipo*



# MISSION X



“Mission X is an opportunity for students to leave a Christian community and explore how what we have been studying interacts with the world around us.” - **Marcus (MX3, Spain)**

INNER CITY WINNIPEG | NORTHERN MANITOBA | SPAIN

“During MX, my eyes have been opened to different situations in local areas, and even the world, that have challenged me to embrace Jesus’ compassion for others and reflect God’s love wherever I go.” - **Tanya (MX1, Inner City Winnipeg)**



# EXPOSURE



“God used MissionX to bring us into fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the North. Through mutually loving and being loved, we were able to encourage and bless one another in a very profound way.” **Dominik (MX2, Northern Manitoba)**



“Through MX, I was challenged to care for those that otherwise would be overlooked, to trust God for His guidance, wisdom, and strength, and to speak of the hope that is within me. I trust that this time of ministry will be used by God to further His Kingdom here on Earth.” **Abram - (MX1, Inner City Winnipeg)**



# PRACTICING HANDS-ON MINISTRY

How important are first impressions?

Visitors who walk into the north entrance of SBC see four banners with the core values of SBC on display:

- **The Bible is the foundation for learning.**
- **Community is the context for learning.**
- **Discipleship is the process for learning.**
- **Mission is the purpose of learning.**

As I teach Intercultural Studies, my eyes are naturally drawn to the banner about mission. How does SBC keep mission central, and actually make it the purpose of learning? How do we take Christian formation out of the classroom? How do we share the gospel of Jesus in effective and respectful ways?

One of the key ways we do this is through Mission Exposure. Our MX programs

give students the opportunity to put their learning into practice in different contexts. The pandemic may have slowed down our MX programs in 2021, but we were able to relaunch all of our teams this spring, which was exciting.

Our first-year students headed back to Winnipeg to partner with inner city organizations like Inner City Youth Alive, Living Bible Explorers, Union Gospel Mission, and Salvation Army. Second-year students travelled to northern Manitoba and lived in a variety of northern communities for a few days, experiencing culture and ministry in an Indigenous context. These students understand in new ways that mission is indeed the purpose of learning here at SBC.

My wife Lisa and I led a team of five students to Spain for three weeks. We spent time partnering with Christian workers near Madrid, and then travelled down to Sevilla for a few days with SBC alumni Rich & Joy Sayer.

One highlight was joining the Sayer family and their friends as they hosted a delicious traditional Spanish breakfast for our team. Our time at their house was so refreshing. It was an opportunity to see friendship as a form of ministry. Joy has been hanging out with a number of ladies for the past few years, sharing her faith in an authentic way.

There was so much laughter around the table as we shared stories, tried to learn a few new Spanish phrases and made some new friends. A man from Holland joined us and then later we met his wife. Friends connecting with new friends. Eating, sharing, living out faith – learning about

models of ministry that can be applied back in Manitoba.

As we reflect on our time in Spain, how do we apply these lessons in our own context? How does hospitality lead to friendships? How does our faith in Jesus transform us in ways that open up conversations and questions?

Pray for our students as they follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world in creative ways. 📍

**Carl Loewen, MA,** *is the Professor of Intercultural Studies at SBC.*



**YOUR  
MISSION  
STARTS  
HERE!**

**EXPEDITION NOW**

**TEAM YOUTH CHALLENGE EVENT  
COMING 10.22.2022**



# SBC Volunteers With MDS Canada in Princeton

During Spring Break week in March, a group of nine students and one faculty member volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) in Princeton, B.C. The group assisted with efforts to help the town rebuild after major flooding hit the region this past November.

“I think we all had a little special piece of our hearts stay in Princeton with all those we met,” third-year student April said. “While only there for seven days, it was so evident to see God at work in all of us.”

“I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the people in Princeton over reading week. I was encouraged by their stories of perseverance and hospitality. I learned more on the importance of listening and the value of simply being a friend. It was a blessing to be the hands and feet of Jesus during a time of crisis.” **Kiana, 1st-Year**



# A N N U A L S B C GOLF TOURNAMENTS

SBCOLLEGE.CA/GOLF

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**JUNE 7 / 2022**  
QUARRY OAKS, STEINBACH



**JUNE 21 / 2022**  
MINNEWASTA GOLF & COUNTRY  
CLUB, MORDEN



### SBC Core Values

The Bible is the foundation for learning.  
Discipleship is the process for learning.  
Community is the context for learning.  
Mission is the purpose of learning.

# Farewell To A Friend

Family, Friends, Supporters, Faculty, and Staff gathered to say goodbye to a leader and a friend.

Sunday, April 24th was a day dedicated to saying farewell to a beloved colleague, friend, and leader of Steinbach Bible College.

Faculty, staff, friends, family, long-time supporters, donors, and the SBC board of directors gathered on campus to celebrate 15 years of service for longtime President Dr. Rob Reimer. He announced in November that he would be concluding his tenure as the head of the college at the end of April.

Ted Falk, Member of Parliament for Provencher, was in attendance to say farewell. He presented SBC's outgoing leader with two awards: a House of Commons Service Award and a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Emblem award for his years of service in the community and at SBC.

Board and staff members also had the opportunity to say a few words, and each spoke of the great ambassador that Reimer

was for the college, and the positivity he always displayed, even during challenging circumstances.

"I have heard from so many people congratulating me on the direction of the college," Reimer recalled at the party. "I'm appreciative, but I always correct them by saying that it's the faculty, staff, and the board. My greatest accomplishment is the team that has been assembled here over my fifteen years."

Terry Hiebert, Reimer's interim successor, gave a glimpse into their close working



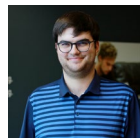


relationship. “We’re very different; you being the extrovert, and I the introvert,” he joked. “Because of our different personalities, I’d like to think that we made each other better and stronger. Thank you for everything you’ve done for this institution.”

Reimer was also presented with a fishing trip from the SBC Board of Directors, and received a jersey of his favorite sports player along with special messages from the staff. Reimer thanked all the attendees and his family, estimating that he spent around 700 days on the road away from loved ones to travel to meet with donors, attending conferences, and spreading the word about SBC.

“I will cherish these past years, and I am just as confident now as I was then of SBC’s mission to empower servant leaders to follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world.” 📍

**Brighton Thiessen** is the Communications and Marketing Coordinator at SBC.



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**WE'RE HIRING!**

**SBC President Position  
Opportunity**



# THE HERO'S JOURNEY

## What do we take with us after experiencing a global pandemic?

The Hero's Journey, also called the monomyth, is a commonly used narrative framework conceived by Joseph Campbell. I learned about it this semester in a Pop Culture class with Professor Garth Friesen. Since then, I can't help but see this framework all around me – in movies, TV shows, the Bible, and real life.

Since March 2020, we as a world, as a college, and as individuals have lived through a global pandemic. It's almost uncanny how our journey has resembled the typical Hero's Journey. As I reflected on the similarities, I noticed that there is wisdom to be found in knowing the path of the archetypal hero that lends itself to our real-life circumstances.

The hero starts off in the Ordinary World, usually lacking something or having something taken from her. She then receives a Call to Adventure – some kind of challenge. After Refusing the Call, the hero meets with a Mentor, is persuaded to embrace the challenge, commits to the Adventure, and enters the Special World.

In March 2020, the SBC community was thrust into this adventure just like the rest of the world. It was a time of grieving, confusion, and tremendous change. Students had to leave campus and their community, transition to online school, and were left to wonder what this new future held. Staff and faculty were also shocked by this abrupt change.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say we all entered this Special World of COVID-19 as reluctant heroes. However, as in the monomyth, the heroes committed to the task as they entered the Special World. From the beginning, there was a commitment to the goal – to remain flexible amidst the COVID-19 world, to roll with the punches, and stick to the core values of SBC.

The second part of the Hero's Journey is the most extensive and arduous. The hero must learn to navigate the new rules of the Special World. She faces trials as she adjusts, and she forges allies. This is where the "true characteristics of the hero

are revealed”. With her newfound allies, the hero survives the Supreme Ordeal and takes possession of the Elixir – a reward, typically a weapon, treasure, knowledge, or love.

We have all felt the pains and frustrations that this new world has brought us. We have all felt our character be tested as we faced newfound trials, whether that be burnout, family tensions, sickness, division, or anxiety. The importance of having supportive allies has been made evident.

As a student, I have been so grateful for the amazing staff and faculty here at SBC. They have adapted to COVID with grace and perseverance, always seeking to enrich the SBC experience despite all the curveballs thrown their way.

One of our biggest allies have been the many donors whose support has been invaluable and incredibly encouraging. Personally, COVID made it extra difficult to find jobs the past 2 summers, which put me in a tough spot when it came to my education. The support of donors has made my time at SBC possible. It has given me the opportunity to grow in my faith, to find a direction for my future, and deepen my love for the Church.

The Road Back constitutes the last part of the Hero’s Journey. While returning to the Original World, the hero is required to face one final test necessary for purification, rebirth, or transformation. The triumphant hero may return to the Original World with the Elixir while the defeated hero is “doomed to repeat the lesson”.

It certainly feels like we are on the Road Back. Restrictions have lifted extensively making community life feel the most normal it has felt in over 2 years. Our Mission Xposure trips were able to run

pretty much like normal. We had a normal graduation for the first time in 3 years.

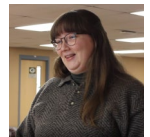
I use the word “normal”. While the hero does go back to the Original World, things are hardly “normal”. The hero is not the same as she once was and, if she has triumphed, she brings something valuable back with her.

I wonder: how are we returning to our Original World, and what are we bringing with us? Have we changed for the better or has the COVID world gotten the better of us? What Elixir will we carry forward as we return to the Original World?

It has been a privilege to witness our SBC community returning or “coming together” in ways that have not been possible for the past 2 years. I hope that our shared experience as reluctant heroes in the Special World of COVID has taught us to cherish our communities, to be gracious, kind, and radically compassionate, to embrace of a hermeneutic of generosity. Lest we went through all this trouble only to return empty-handed, a defeated hero, embittered by battle. 📍



**Judy Wiebe**, is SBC’s Student Writer for 2021-22. She graduated with a BA in Ministry Leadership in April.



# ALUMNI UPDATES



## Eli & Rachelle Klassen, '21

Life after our time at SBC began with a whirlwind! Just five days after graduation we welcomed our son Isaiah into the world. Four days later, Eli was accepted as youth pastor at the Bethel Berghaler Mennonite Church (a few minutes south of Winkler). A year has passed, and God has continued to prove Himself so faithful in our lives!

Eli continues to enjoy putting his passion for youth into practice as he leads around 80 youth, as well as pouring into youth leaders and various other members of the congregation. Rachelle is teaching piano part time and has appreciated the many opportunities to serve in the church with youth and through worship. Isaiah keeps us on our toes with his vibrant personality and we are grateful for his easygoingness that has allowed us to bring him along to many youth events and other church functions. We have seen God provide in ways we could have never imagined, and thought were quite impossible at the time. He continues to remain steadfast, presenting us with opportunities to trust Him more as we seek to live faithfully where He has planted us.



## Nikki Friesen, '10

Suostei from Kampuchea! (Hello from Cambodia!) I graduated in 2010, from SBC, with a B.A. Global Missions (as it was called then). Thanks to the partnership between SBC and Providence University College, I was able to complete my BA TESOL (at Providence) in 2015. This proved to be a key factor in helping me secure a teaching job here in Phnom Penh, Cambodia at an elite international school.

Due to the pandemic, I have remained in Cambodia since January 2020. Some seasons have been extremely hard (such as April 2021 when Phnom Pehn was in strict, military enforced, lockdown due to Covid), the constant switch from online to onsite, and simply missing family in Canada. But God truly is Immanuel, "God with us". I am currently in my 3rd year teaching Kindergarten and plan on continuing. God has provided me with an INCREDIBLE, Jesus-filled, international family. I love looking around and seeing my community made up of people from the nations - from Cambodia, to Fiji, Japan, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Brazil, Philippines, U.K., and more. My heart is full.

**Calling All Alumni! Where has life taken you after your time at SBC? We'd love to hear about it! Email [Emily \(eddyck@sbccollege.ca\)](mailto:eddyck@sbccollege.ca) and you could be featured in the next issue!**

# Praise & Prayer

- **PRAISE:** New student enrollment numbers are well ahead compared to this time last year!
- **PRAYER:** To have more students enroll, and that they will saturate our communities and churches with hope, mercy, and the peace of Jesus.
- **PRAYER:** For those who are planning to return to study at SBC will be empowered to follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world.
- **PRAISE:** We praise Rob Reimer's 15 years of visionary leadership as President, and Terry Hiebert being named Interim President.
- **PRAYER:** For the Presidential Search Committee as they consider applicants for the next President.
- **PRAISE:** For the way He has provided for the college through the generosity of donors.
- **PRAYER:** That summer donations come in to allow the college to provide more financial aid.
- **PRAISE:** SBC students, faculty, and staff experienced a sense of renewal with the return of Mission X, in-person learning, and the celebration of graduation in April.

Become a prayer partner!

Sign up on our website at [SBCCollege.ca/Alumni](https://SBCCollege.ca/Alumni).

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## SBC Upcoming Events

For information on SBC events, visit [www.SBCCollege.ca/events](http://www.SBCCollege.ca/events)

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>June 7</b>      | SBC Golf Tournament (Quarry Oaks - Steinbach) |
| <b>June 21</b>     | SBC Golf Tournament (Minnewasta - Morden)     |
| <b>September 6</b> | SBC Orientation and Registration Day          |
| <b>September 7</b> | First Day of Classes                          |

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## Steinbach Bible College

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time!

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leaders to follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world.

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