

SPRING / SUMMER 2023

IN TOUCH

† Steinbach Bible College





Steinbach
Bible College

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Cover Photo: Hot air balloons take off in the Central
Asian city of Kapadokya, during the MX3 trip. (Photo
Credit: Tyla Pankraz)

Message from the President



Psalm 40:1-3 Revival was a fitting theme for this year. God is doing a new work at Steinbach Bible College. In the past 3 years we patiently waited for life to return to normal. We have experienced God's deliverance in big and small ways. We are singing a new song of hope for the future.

On April 28-29, we celebrated with 35 graduates. This graduating class was among the most diverse groups ever. Our vision of multicultural graduates, serving in meaningful vocations, and making followers of Jesus is coming to life! The graduates are serving the church and engaging the world in biblical studies, pre-university, marketplace, counselling, intercultural studies, worship, and youth ministry.

Now after 28 years at SBC, I start a new chapter. This past year as interim president was a great opportunity to connect with alumni and supporters beyond the college walls. In Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta, I enjoyed hearing about what God is doing in your lives and churches. I preached in several churches and shared news about what God is doing here at SBC. On campus,

I served in new areas, seeking to give the new president a better opportunity to thrive.

While I could only see outlines of my next chapter, it seems that SBC is not finished with me yet. I will return as a sessional instructor and develop online and institutional effectiveness projects. My name will be removed from the door on June 30th but SBC will continue to be in my heart.

I feel absolutely honored and blessed to have been apart of this amazing SBC family for so many years. Thanks to all the students in classes and in my office, to the faculty who truly care about pastoring, to the staff so willing to serve, and to the board for caring so deeply about helping us flourish. Thanks to Luann and my family for supporting me in the ministry I love. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

We welcome Dave Reimer as the next SBC president. He has a deep love for God, the Bible, and pastoring the SBC family. I'm praying that Dave and the Administration Team seek God's wisdom for the years to come.

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6.

Blessings!

Dr. Terry Hiebert, PhD
Interim President



(All Photos Courtesy of Anthony Mark Schellenberg)

GRADUATION 2023

On the weekend of April 28-29, SBC celebrated another class of graduating students both at the SBC Chapel and at the Emmanuel E-Free Church in Steinbach.

A total of **35** graduates were recognized with 4 Certificates, 4 Pursuit Certificates, 5 Associate of Arts, and 22 Bachelor of Arts degrees.

Pursuit Certificates

Adam Friesen
Kaylin Hemingway
Bryan Teichroeb
Ainsleigh Thiessen

† **Suzanna Hopcraft** (*BA Biblical Studies - Worship*)
Jared Irvine (*BA Christian Studies - Youth*)

† **Dominik Kosta** (*BA Biblical Studies, Intercultural*)

† **Kalia Kruse** (*BA Biblical Studies - Intercultural, Graduate Award, ABHE Delta Epsilon Chi*)

Carol Loewen (*BA Biblical Studies - Counselling*)

† **Emma Martens** (*BA Biblical Studies - Worship, Graduate Award*)

Jaala Martin (*BA Biblical Studies - Counselling, Graduate Award*)

Adrian Miller (*BA Biblical Studies*)

Emmanuel Ochoche (*BA Christian Studies - Youth*)

Tyla Pankraz (*BA Biblical Studies - Youth*)

Nolan Penner (*BA Biblical Studies - Intercultural*)

Dmytro Shevchenko (*BA Marketplace*)

† **Kiara Thiessen** (*BA Christian Studies - Intercultural*)

† **Melissa Thiessen** (*BA Biblical Studies - Counselling*)

Vera vom Dorp (*BA Biblical Studies - Youth, Graduate Award*)

† **Lisa Wiebe** (*BA Biblical Studies - Counselling, Timothy Award*)

Heidi Wohlgemuth (*BA Christian Studies - Worship*)

1-Year Certificates

Akira Brown (*Biblical Studies*)
Josh Chen (*Pre-University*)
Julia Dyck (*Biblical Studies*)
Samantha Neudorf (*Biblical Studies*)

Associate of Arts

† **Abby Dueck** (*AA - Biblical Studies*)
† **Keyara Froese** (*AA - Pre-University*)
Adam Kim (*AA - Marketplace*)
Lois Michael (*AA - Marketplace*)
Mark Sangiza (*AA - Marketplace*)

Bachelor of Arts

Ha Min Ahn (*BA Christian Studies - Worship*)
† **Liam Bull** (*BA Marketplace, Graduate Award*)
Andrew Doerksen (*BA Christian Studies - Counselling*)
Bridger Dyck (*BA Biblical Studies*)
Riley Hiebert (*BA Christian Studies - Bible-Theology, Graduate Award, Timothy Award*)

† *graduating with honours for achieving a GPA of 3.70 or higher*

SEEING THROUGH GOD'S EYES

Melissa Thiessen, 2023 SBC Grad, shares about experiencing God's presence during her overseas trip.

Each year, SBC has a unique and adventurous opportunity for third-year students - visiting another country for a three week period to learn and experience culture and the church. This year, our class got to visit Central Asia! We visited many regions with new and challenging charms. We cherished every moment with those we met along the way as we have come to love not only the different areas, but its vibrant people who we now call friends. Our team of thirteen shared about these experiences on the SBC website, and I am here to share one of my own.

During our last week, the team split into three groups, each exploring new parts of the region. The team I was a part of spent a few days in the most beautiful farming town which grew olives and peaches in

abundance. This town has a rich history of art, specifically tile painting. As we walked the streets, seeing all the history and art shops, I felt the age of this people. There are homes and structures here which have been built upon the ruins of the Roman Empire and older ruins still. Generations have lived here without a thought of moving, and it is easy to see why.

One of the days we set out to pray as we walked. I strongly felt that instead of walking, I needed to sit and watch. So I left the group to have a delicious cup of Turkish coffee next to a school and within a small plaza of artisans. I took in the sounds and tried to pray, but no words came to me. I slowly finished my coffee and walked across the street to get a better view of the school.

Here I saw a large group of parents waiting to walk their children home from school. Across the school was a mosque and a small park. I sat here on a bench, in view of the school, the park, and the mosque. I watched as the children were let out, as a grandfather played with his young grandson, a group of boys chasing each other shouting "tavuk" (which means



chicken), and I still had no sense of what to pray. My eyes were continually drawn to the simple existence of those around me. I looked upon their faces. I observed a moment of love and joy between the grandfather and child, the rush of the mothers, the frustration of the boy being called a chicken, and I felt like crying.

I felt God calling me to just look at his works of art. To take in the glory of what He has created, that which will not last for hundreds of years, that which man cannot replicate, and what no one stops to marvel over.



that moment what they needed was to be seen as more precious than our difference. There is something about the glory of a person that causes the details of their face to slip our mind. We are able to recognize the people we love from a distance and remember their faces. However, if we were asked to draw or perfectly describe our mothers from memory, most of us would have a very hard time doing so. It is as if God has created us in such a way that we cannot handle the depth of how Good we have been created. Looking into the eyes of a sister must be broken with a smile as the intensity grows because there is something so inherently beautiful about a face.

The image of God, a glimpse of Goodness, a being like no other, because they were made 'very good'. This is part of what prayer has taught me while on the MX3 trip. That sometimes God wants us to stop and really look at what is happening around us and praise Him for the goodness He has created. 📍

Melissa Thiessen *recently graduated with a BA Biblical Studies major, specializing in a counselling focus.*



That morning we had set out to prayer walk through the town. My attitude was that I had something to give this place, that I needed to pray the presence of God over this place and be faithful. What God wanted of me was to slow down and see with His eyes. I imagine God sitting on that bench with me, watching as his creation played. I could not understand the language, and I most definitely stood out as a foreigner, but God felt right at home.

The barriers I saw of language, culture, gender, and status were all lost to God. He fully knows what his children need, and in



MISSION X



“More than an intercultural trip, Mission Xposure was a life-changing experience that allowed me to witness how big and wide God’s kingdom is. This has reshaped how I think about following Jesus, serving the church, and engaging the world.” - **Betty (MX3, Central Asia)**

INNER CITY WINNIPEG | NORTHERN MANITOBA | CENTRAL ASIA

“During my time on MX2, I learned that one of the main ways I can serve is just being present in the community and encouraging them in that way. God show me how to love the people of the North in ways I didn’t think I could.”
- **Shelby (MX2, York Landing)**



EXPOSURE



“Through MX, I experienced the multicultural family of God at work in the lives of those in need. Community and fellowship is at the heart of that family, drawing people in, and giving them the space to be filled with hope.” **Samuel (MX1, Inner City Winnipeg)**



“My MX1 experience opened my eyes to the magnitude of how much there is to be done in the world, but also how much work there is being done already. I saw just how much I can make an impact in my world.” **Nathan (MX1, Inner City Winnipeg)**



ALUMNI UPDATE

SBC alumnus Trevor Elias shares where God has lead him since graduating from college.

Near the end of my time in high school I began sensing a call to pastoral ministry. Specifically to be a pastor in a small town that didn't yet have a strong Christian presence. Naturally, I decided I should go to Bible College to prepare myself for wherever God would lead in this.

I decided on Steinbach Bible College and made my way there after taking a gap year. While at SBC I studied the Bible together with classmates and knowledgeable professors. I also developed my skills and learned new ministry skills, all while enjoying life in a community of believers, many of which were there for similar reasons.

Some of the highlights I remember are the mission trips (specifically in the Philippines), building friendships, being mentored by professors, and being a CGL (Care Group Leader). I was challenged to think through things that I had previously just accepted or rejected without looking into why.

After Bible College I got a number of job offers for different ministry positions. I ended up accepting a job at Pembina Valley Bible Camp where I served for over five years as the Program Director.

This was a great place to put the things I had learned to use through leading teams of staff and teaching God's Word. The camp community feel was even quite similar during certain seasons to the community I had experienced at SBC.

While at camp, I married my wife Renee and a while later we had our first son! Throughout the ten years from finishing up high school, completing Bible College and working at camp, God continued to affirm the call of pastoral ministry for my life.

Renee and I ended up applying with Village Missions – a ministry that seeks to place full-time pastors in small communities across North America – and got accepted into their program.

We were then placed in Binscarth, MB to pastor the small church of Binscarth Christian Assembly. Binscarth is a community that's just off Highway 16, 10 minutes south of Russell and an hour north of Virden.

God has been so good to us! We are thankful for His work in our lives each day. I have only been in this role a couple of months, but I already love my job and seeing the ways that God is working in this community!



As I go about pastoring I frequently put to use both the skills and knowledge I gained while at SBC. Thanks SBC for doing your part in helping prepare me for the work God is doing in, and through, my life! 📍



Trevor Elias ('17) graduated from Steinbach Bible College with a BA in Christian Studies, specializing in a Pastoral Focus.



ANNUAL SBC GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Quarry Oaks

JUNE 6 / 2023

QUARRY OAKS, STEINBACH



JUNE 20 / 2023

MINNEWASTA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, MORDEN

REGISTER TODAY AT
SBCOLLEGE.CA/GOLF

In Memory Of
Shai
Manongdo

May 17, 1998 - March 8, 2023



Shai's bright smile, curious questions, and compassionate heart will be missed. We were privileged to have her as part of our SBC community and look forward to the day we meet again in the presence of Jesus.

Praise & Prayer

PRAISE:

- Praise God for the opportunity to celebrate 35 multi-cultural and diverse graduates at the end of April.
- Dave Reimer becoming SBC's new President starting at the beginning of June.
- For the fruitful experiences students had while on Mission Xposure in Winnipeg, Northern Manitoba, and Central Asia.
- There were many opportunities to visit churches and youth groups with our deputation teams: Free Servant, Ignite, and New Creation.

PRAYER

- Continue to pray for the family and friends of Shai Manongdo as they grieve her untimely loss.
- For our new students getting prepared to study in the fall, and for our returning students as they rejuvenate over the summer serving at camp, or in their home communities.
- That we raise the necessary funds to continue training the next generation of servant leaders, through our upcoming golf tournaments and other initiatives.

How can we pray for you? Send us your prayer requests on our website at [SBCCollege.ca/Alumni](https://www.SBCCollege.ca/Alumni).

Stay Connected!

Let us know of any address or email changes by contacting us at reception@sbcollge.ca or **204-326-6451 / 1-800-230-8478** (toll free).

Social Media

Make sure you follow our social media accounts to see daily life at SBC and be the first to know what's happening!

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SBC Upcoming Events

For information on SBC events, visit www.SBCollge.ca/events

June 6	SBC Golf Tournament (Steinbach)
June 20	SBC Golf Tournament (Morden)
September 4	Move-In Day
September 5	Orientation Day
September 6	2023-24 Classes Begin

Want to read more stories like the ones you read here? Head to SBCollge.ca/sbc-blog for more InTouch stories on graduation weekend, and a further reflection from SBC faculty member Arlene Friesen on prayer!

If you would prefer a digital copy of the full edition, please contact SBC at 1-800-230-8478 or email reception@sbcollge.ca.



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Steinbach Bible College

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Visit **[SBCollege.ca/Visit](https://www.sbcollege.ca/visit)** to learn more, or contact our
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Steinbach Bible College is an evangelical Anabaptist college empowering servant
leaders to follow Jesus, serve the church, and engage the world.

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