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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Project helps solve problems across the world

Providence students supporting small Ugandan business

Allison Barron
Special to ChristianWeek

OTTERBURNE, MB—Business students at a small Manitoba university college are aiming to make a big impact across the world for people in need.

Fuel for the Future is a small business located in Uganda at the Kyaka II refugee settlement west of Kampala. The settlement is home to 30,000 refugees from Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

The settlement suffers from a shortage of firewood for cooking and basic needs. Foraging for firewood is dangerous, charcoal from trees has to be shipped from 300 miles away, and kerosene is impossibly expensive.

Pastor Godfrey Byaruhanga, a Ugandan who lives near the settlement, has developed a solution to this shortage: a biochar

briquetting product made from locally grown biomass (banana leaves, bean straw, corn stover, and sorghum), which provides a sustainable, renewable, local fuel.

Now Providence students who are members of the college's Biochar Team are getting involved, by raising capital to develop Byaruhanga's business.


"I am finding myself caring for this project so much and it has already become more than just a class to me," says Providence student John Buller.

Part of professor Bruce Duggan's non-profit management class, the students have posted the project as a crowdfunding campaign on causevox.com with the goal of raising \$30,000 for the Ugandan business. The finances raised will be used to purchase a truck to transport the product, to fund a building to store the machines and for year-round production.


Lauren Toews, one of the students who created the project, says she was blown away by Fuel

for the Future's mission after hearing about it.

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FAITH INSPIRED LEARNING

Lament for a small-town Bible school

Current school year marks the end for Bethany College

Ryan Dueck

The official news showed up where all things show up these days: on my Facebook feed. Right there next to cheesy inspirational slogans and idiotic videos and family photos and passive-aggressive politicking.

It is with profound sadness and regret that the Bethany College Board of Directors announces that the conclusion of the 2014-2015 year will mark the end of the ministry of Bethany College in its current iteration.

It wasn't a surprise to me—I had seen this sad news coming for quite a while, had been talking with my twin brother (the academic dean) about it for months—but I was surprised at the way my heart sank when I read the announcement. Surprised by how surprised I was to see the words on the screen. December 10, 2014. The day the news came that another

small Canadian Bible school—an institution that has been around since 1927—would be closing its doors.

I did not attend Bethany College in Hepburn, Saskatchewan, but my brother and sister both did, countless friends and family and acquaintances did. My parents met there. So many people in my personal orbit have spent time at this little school in the middle of the frozen tundra of central Saskatchewan. It's a place I have visited often, a place where we have braved treacherous winter roads to visit family, to play in friendly hockey tournaments on bone-chilling January weekends, to drop our kids off at volleyball camp in the summer. It's a special place for me, even though I have never spent time there in any kind of "official" capacity.

And I am very sad that this seems to be the end of the road.

I am sad on a number of levels. I

am sad for what this means for my brother and his family. I am sad for an uncertain professional future, sad for my nieces who have only known this small Saskatchewan town as home. They will move on, I know. People do it all the time. But still. I feel a heaviness for people I love who are affected by this news.

I am sad for the many people whose faith was nurtured or even birthed at Bethany College. Sad for the many people for whom this place is a vital part of the story of their lives. Sad for the students who will not now get the opportunity to experience this wonderful place.

I am sad for the faculty and staff who have poured years of their life into this place, who have loved students, who have laboured under a cloud of uncertainty for a number of years now, and who must now continue to do their good work while helping a community to grieve this loss.

I am sad for the broader trends that this decision reflects for Christian higher education. Sad that theological education is no longer the priority for young adults and their parents that it once was. Sad that a focused year or two (or four) spent on discipleship and faith formation is seen as something sort of frivolous and unnecessary—a "waste of time" when they could be getting to work on beginning a career.

I am sad for how the news of Bethany's closing is, in many ways, symptomatic of far broader church trends. Declining numbers, aging populations, struggles to attract and retain young adults in the face of complex social factors... These are daily realities in many parts of the Church. The closing of Bethany's doors echoes the closing of other doors—other small Bible colleges, other churches, other institutions that were once taken

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for granted, other places which, for all their flaws and however inconsistent-ly, pointed people to Jesus of Nazareth.

I am sad for the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches—the denomination that I was raised and formed in, the denomination that I continue to think of as one of the places that I belong. I am sad that more effort is often put into hyper-pragmatic church-planting techniques than the preserving of spaces for theological education that has as its goal the forming of Christian character and the training of Christian leaders.

But most of all, I think, I am sad

that the world will now have one less good place where young women and men can encounter Jesus and learn to love each other in the context of community. Bethany College is not perfect. Of course it isn't. No school or church is or could be. It is not in a desirable location, doesn't have gleaming state-of-the-art facilities, is not academically renowned, is not terribly well-known beyond the relatively small world of Anabaptist churches.

But it has been a place that has stubbornly invited people to encounter Jesus, to explore what He means for them and for the world, to ask some good questions, to receive

some good answers (or better questions), to learn what it means to give oneself away for the sake of the world that God loves.

In John 11, Jesus came to a town called Bethany where His friend Lazarus had been dead for four days. It was at Bethany that Jesus defiantly summoned a dead man to walk out of his tomb. And so, the sentimental part of me obstinately hopes for the same for Bethany College—that what is dead or dying might rise up and walk again. But I am not naïve. I know that even though Lazarus walked out of his grave at the command of Christ on that beautiful day in Bethany, he eventually died again. I know that all

things die, that all things are here for a season, and then no more.

This is the way of the world. We are born, we march across the stage for a few years, we (hopefully) do some good, and then we die. And we trust that the One who is the source of all that is good, the One in whose name we did what we could, with the resources we had, for as long as we could, can be trusted to bless and care for that which was given, to water seeds that were planted along the way.

Ryan Dueck is a pastor serving at Lethbridge Mennonite Church. This article is reprinted from his blog, Rumbblings (www.ryandueck.com), with permission.

Global impact through sports ministry

Peter Mal

While in some public forums faith is often pushed to the sidelines, professional sports seem to welcome the conversation publicly. Whether the Tim Tebow phenomenon from just a few years ago, post-game professions of faith or John 3:16 signs at professional sporting events, the dialogue is certainly a mixed bag.

Athletes in Action Canada (AIA), a ministry of Power to Change, focuses on the domain of sport. In addition to local outreach activities and campus ministries, it also has chaplains with eight Canadian Football League teams, three Major League Soccer teams, three National Hockey League teams and a National Basketball Association franchise.

“It is a privilege to bring God’s unconditional love and His truth into the sports world,” says Rodd Sawatsky, chaplain for the Calgary Stampeders, Flames and Roughnecks. “There has been openness and involvement by a growing number of athletes, coaches, and staff on the teams where I have been able to serve.

“Every athlete is in a different place in their spiritual journey; it is my desire to encourage each of them to be all that God created them to be, in every facet of their lives.” AIA believes sport is the one language that knows no boundaries and sees no distinctions. It unites cultures, transcends values and defies convention. When words fail, a game can speak.

Brittany, a 26-year-old transfer student at Prairie found Christ

when she was looking to play volleyball in a local rec league.

“All of the leagues in my hometown were closed to new participants,” she says, “except for the church league.” Through sports she was introduced to a community unlike any she’d encountered previously. “I was accepted for who I was,” she recalls. “People were welcoming and willing to get to know me, but most importantly, they shared Jesus through words and actions.”

James Fraser, Athletics Director and Program Coordinator for the Diploma in Sports Ministry and Management at Prairie, says opportunities to share faith through sport are growing across the country. “Over the last 10-15 years there has been an emphasis on promoting health and well-being and churches and ministry organizations have responded through afterschool programs, summer camps and rec leagues.”

Prairie’s program prepares leaders for both ministry and recreation management roles by providing a biblical foundation and athletics training as well as leadership and management courses. Following a successful mission trip to El Salvador in 2013, a 10-member team is also planning to return to the Central American country in the spring. “Coming from North America, we have an immediate open door,” shares Fraser. “We are met with respect and a willingness to participate. Along with local ministry leaders, we are able to teach, coach sports and share the gospel.”

Prairie is accepting applications

to the two-year diploma program. The school is looking for students who are passionate about getting involved in their communities and using sport as an on-ramp for ministry. “I hope that each graduate will be a life-long ambassador for physical activity as well as for Jesus

Christ,” says Fraser. “Some may find a calling with organizations like Athletes in Action, but others will be faithful in their church or local soccer club.”

Learn more about Prairie’s Sports Ministry and Management Program at www.prairie.edu/sport.



Purpose. Passion.

The Sports Management & Ministry program prepares graduates for athletics-related careers and ministries. Students benefit from the integration of faith and sport, leadership development and hands-on experience.

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EXERCISING

faith

ChristianWeek asks several faith-based universities and colleges about their sports teams and what it takes to integrate their faith with the games they love.



Prairie Bible Institute
THREE HILLS, AB
www.prairie.edu

Intramural sports offered: Futsal, basketball, volleyball offered every year. Some years: dodgeball, Ultimate Frisbee, floor hockey

Intercollegiate sports include: Outdoor soccer, futsal/indoor soccer, basketball, Volleyball and badminton

Team motto: Prairie Pilots – Purpose. Passion.

Noteworthy accomplishment: 2015 PAC Indoor Soccer Champions – Men, 2013 ACAL Basketball Champions – Women, 2013 PAC Indoor Soccer Champions – Women



Trinity Western University
LANGLEY, BC
www.twu.ca

Noteworthy accomplishment: Have won eight CIS national championships, 15 Canada West championships, and 24 national championship medals in 16 years. Have also won 21 major CIS individual awards, including seven CIS Player of the Year and four CIS Coach of the Year awards. Ranked number one in the BCHL men's hockey.

Team motto: Through the Complete Champion Approach, strive to develop athletes who are godly leaders in all areas of their lives. Send teams to help communities around the world through sports camps for kids, building projects, and other types of ministry.



Ambrose University College
CALGARY, AB
www.ambrose.edu

Intramurals offered: Badminton, dodgeball, futsal, basketball, and volleyball as well as two club sports: hockey and cross-country running

Six intercollegiate sports include: Men's and women's basketball, futsal, and volleyball

Team motto: Pursuing excellence, building disciples

Fast fact: Our teams have won 23 provincial championships in the last 10 years



Canadian Mennonite University
WINNIPEG, MB
www.cmu.ca

Intercollegiate sports include: Basketball, volleyball, soccer, futsal

League or conference: CMU is a founding member of the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference

Team motto: Love the Dove

Noteworthy accomplishment: The men's soccer team defended its title to the Thunderhawk Invitational Tournament in Thunder Bay, which they won for the second straight year.



Providence University College
OTTERBURNE, MB
www.providenceuc.ca

Intramural sports offered: Flag football, floor hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, beach volleyball, basketball and indoor soccer

Intercollegiate sports include: Soccer, basketball, volleyball

History of success: Five national championships, 12 top four finishes, 19 NCCAA Regional Championships, 16 MCAC Championships

Teams travel to: Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Winnipeg



GUARDIANS
Tyndale University College
TORONTO, ON
www.tyndale.ca

Intramurals offered: Badminton, dodgeball, futsal, basketball, and volleyball as well as two club sports: hockey and cross-country running

Six intercollegiate sports include: Men's and women's basketball, futsal, and volleyball

Team motto: Pursuing excellence, building disciples

Fast fact: Our teams have won 23 provincial championships in the last 10 years

MILLAR EDGE



Millar College of the Bible
PAMBRUN, SK & TAPPEN, BC
www.millarcollege.ca

Intramural sports offered: Four on four hockey, arena football, badminton, floor hockey, Ultimate Frisbee and indoor soccer

Intercollegiate sports include: Outdoor soccer, volleyball, basketball, indoor soccer/futsal and hockey

Noteworthy accomplishment: Men's and ladies outdoor soccer PAC provincial champions 2014, women's volleyball league sportsmanship 2014 and men's volleyball league and provincial champions 2014

Teams travels to: Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan and Manitoba



Redeemer University
ANCASTER, ON
www.myredeemer.ca

Intramural sports offered: Dodgeball, bubble soccer, Quidditch, volleyball, basketball, and indoor soccer.

Intercollegiate sports include: Badminton, cross country, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and indoor soccer

Team motto: Character and excellence in a healthy community

Noteworthy accomplishments: Men's volleyball - three provincial medals in the past five years. Indoor soccer 2014 provincial champions; 2014 badminton men's singles provincial champion (Owen Kurvits), who also placed fourth at the national championships.

Experience dynamic year of learning at Capernwray Quebec

Sponsored Feature

Capernwray Bible School and Conference Centre is helping students of all ages, from all walks of life, get to know Jesus more deeply.

Located in Chertsey, one hour from Montréal, the small school of 20-30 students is a community of believers who encourage, learn, serve, and grow together. "Capernwray Quebec is a place where I can build great friendships, experience new cultures, and be challenged to the core in my Christian walk," comments a former student.

The school welcomes a variety of people of all ages, from around the world. This may include those who have been to university or have spent a few years in the workforce and want to invest in their walks with the Lord, or younger students who want a grounding God's Word before entering university, the workforce, or future biblical studies. Capernwray Quebec offers a strong biblical curriculum, community emphasis, discipleship and outreach elements, short-term and one-year options. For more information visit capernwrayquebec.ca.

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TYNDALE SEMINARY

Business students get jump start on career

On-the-job training provides practical workplace experience

Renee Joette Friesen
Special to Christian Week

WINNIPEG, MB—A distinctive cooperative education program at the Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) is giving business students an edge in their preparation for the marketplace.

The Redekop School of Business (RSB) Co-operative Education Program integrates academic learning with on-the-job training that offers students practical experience to succeed in the workforce.

RSB launched the co-op program in 2011, and is unique in Manitoba because it provides double the work experience available at other higher learning institutions.

It offers Christian-based specialized training in accounting, management, non-profit organizations, and human resources.

“We aim to help students get a clear sense of their pathway and the direction they want to go,” says Sherry Funk, RSB program coordinator. “Our students learn important work and communication skills in the classroom and on the job.”

Fifty-four students are currently enrolled at RSB, and of those, six participate in the co-op program.

The co-op program can be

completed in five years or less and includes eight academic terms and six co-op work terms. Each job placement is four months, and students can take on back-to-back placements for eight-month rotations.

“The business co-op program is intended to be win-win,” says Ray Vander Zaag, director of RSB. “Students gain extended periods of employment experience in their field of study, during which time a lot of informal learning occurs, and they have an opportunity to earn some income while in school.”

“The businesses gain access to an energetic, young worker, and they are able to identify if that young person would be a good fit for their organization.”

“This is a great work-integrated learning process,” Funk says, adding students typically enter the co-op program in their second year of studies. “Entrance requirements are higher than for the (general) business program. We want students who are determined. They will come out of the program job-ready.”

At least 30 per cent of the students’ time spent in the program is dedicated to on-the-job training. Co-op students’ performance on the job is supervised and evaluated



RSB students have the option to supplement classroom lessons with workplace experience through RSB’s Co-operative Education Program.

Photo courtesy of CMU

by their co-operative employers.

“The co-op program allows students to apply the knowledge they gain in the classroom in real world situations,” says assistant professor Craig Martin. “This improves the learning students get from their university education, and they will gain experience to help them find jobs after they graduate.”

The program is particularly attractive to international students who may have difficulty entering the workforce. And Canadian students who may otherwise lack opportunities to work in an office setting can gain that kind of experience.

“It means that right from the beginning, students have the opportunity for entry level

positions,” Funk says. “By the time they graduate they will not be at entry level.”

Sometimes the job placements result in permanent employment, Vander Zaag adds.

The Manitoba-based businesses involved in the RSB co-op program include Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Manitoba, iDE Canada, Argus Industries, and McDonalds. RSB also makes every effort to match students from other provinces with companies from their hometown.

Organizations interested in offering RSB students work placement through the co-op program are encouraged to fill out a form available on the CMU website. For more information, visit cmu.ca.



Redekop School of Business

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- ▶ Gain professional work experience with practicum and co-op placements
- ▶ Experience a dynamic learning environment with state-of-the-art classroom technology

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