



I want you to be encouraged by knowing that your support of MB Seminary has tremendously impacted the lives and leadership of students and learners across the country! On their behalf, thank you.

I remember when I announced I was resigning from Westwood Church to become President of MB Seminary. Among all the conversations at church, there were stories of “you made a difference in my life” that had never been spoken to me. I had been at the church for ten years and had no idea about many of them, but hearing the stories greatly encouraged me!

Throughout the stories in this report, you will read about the difference you have made. You will read stories of the disciple-making heart of MB Seminary. You will be reminded of our passion for coming alongside the church and its local ministry. You will discover how theological training and leadership development have become widely accessible through teaching and mentoring on campus, online, and with our Teaching Church partners.

Most of all, I hope you are encouraged by knowing that God is at work across the country, calling and empowering his followers to serve others, articulate biblical truth, and pursue the mission he has called them to. As you and your churches partner with MB Seminary, it is exciting to see men and women be educated and equipped to help lead the church in reaching Canada and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ!



**Mark Wessner, Ph.D.** is President of MB Seminary and Associate Professor of Biblical Studies for Leadership.

# Celebrating together all God has done

SHAPING LEADERS, CHANGING LIVES

# Shaping Leaders

Dr. Randy Wolff



**I love shaping leaders!** Through our Teaching Church partnerships, we are able to come alongside local churches and help them equip their leaders to love God more deeply and serve Him more effectively. On May 28, 2022, we celebrated with sixteen graduate students and two continuing education students from Willingdon Church and North Langley Community Church as they received a Graduate or Continuing Education Certificate in Ministry Foundations. I had the privilege of teaching two of the four courses in the certificate. In the Missional Discipleship course, students developed a biblical framework for discipleship in their church, evaluated their church's disciple-making effectiveness, and then created a plan to strengthen their discipleship approach. *It was so gratifying to see these leaders come to a better understanding of God's heart for discipleship and to take steps to apply what they learned in their lives and ministries.* A huge bonus for me was that my oldest son, Caleb, was one of those leaders!

## GRADUATE STUDIES



**Nuilia Lima** was born in Resende, Brazil, moving to Canada six years ago. She describes her vocation as “full-time mommy, full-time ministry”, explaining it this way, “what I mean by this is that I am available for Him in my everything.” Her ministry call has four dimensions: to create and shape in the midst of chaos; to build a flourishing community wherever I am; to bring light where darkness exists, and to enjoy a rhythm of work and Sabbath.

Nuilia started studying at MB Seminary in September 2022 and sent us her graduation picture to symbolize her desire to graduate from MB Seminary with her master’s degree. Speaking of her experience at seminary, she says, “**MB Seminary is being impactful for me and the people around me. It is equipping me significantly to help people live their purpose, which I trust is part of the mission that God is calling me.**”

**Sudianto Wijaya** is a Professional Electrical Engineer working full-time in that field. He describes his ministry aspirations: “I love teaching others. Matthew 28:20 is the verse that motivates me: “... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...” He describes the impact of studying at MB Seminary this way: “I’m thankful to God. God has called me to join the courses at MB Seminary. **My spiritual life has grown significantly from taking the courses in the past 1.5 years. I can feel that I have a deeper relationship with God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.** From the courses at MB Seminary, I have the confidence to do the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) through volunteering as Discovery Class leader and Life Group leader at Willingdon Church.”



Nicole Yang is a Pastoral Intern at Willingdon Church and has been studying at MB Seminary since the fall of 2021. Asked about her ministry aspirations, she said, “A Turkey mission trip in 2015 was one of the turning points of my life. God has shaped my heart to love the lost, especially the 1040 unreached people groups. I am passionate about sharing God’s love to fulfill the Great Commission locally, globally and cross-culturally. To be part of God’s wonderful invitation of making more disciples and pointing people to Jesus.”

She describes the impact of studying at MB Seminary this way; “**Being a student in MB seminary has allowed the new knowledge about God that draws me into a deeper love for the Lord; a heart posture to lean in to love Him fully.** Also, the humbling realization of how much I don’t know and how much more I need to learn by depending on the Lord to be His vessel for his kingdom. In addition, so grateful for the opportunities to have godly professors who guide and journey with us and point us to King Jesus.”

A man with glasses and a dark blue button-down shirt is speaking, gesturing with his hands. To his left is a large, dark book. The background is a light, neutral color.

# Thinking Theologically

**Dr. Brian Cooper**

Years ago, I was taught that being faithful to Scripture meant making sure that my chosen theological system was anchored in an appropriate selection of proof texts. Since that time, I have become convinced that faithfulness to Scripture goes further than that. My approach to teaching students how to do theology is to read biblical texts in context and synthesize their collective witness. Theology is faithful to Scripture when it does justice to the whole of Scripture rather than imposing a theological agenda based on selected texts. My goal as a theologian is not to advance a particular human theological system. Rather, my goal is to help believers understand how biblical texts necessarily shape our understanding of what God is revealing, whether it suits my presuppositions or not.

When I teach, I am always aware that what I intend students to learn and what they actually learn may not be the same thing. In one course this fall, what I saw in the papers I read, and particularly in one student's paper, was that he was wrestling well with the issues that I was trying to emphasize about how to think theologically. Moreover, his email revealed to me that he was aware of the theological developments in his thinking.

I was encouraged, since this indicated that this student was willing to grapple with the implications of good theological method, even if they challenged his long-standing way of thinking.

# Helping to Shape and Expand a **Worldview**

**Dr. Bruce Guenther**

One moment that stands out for me in 2022 was travelling with a group of DMin students to Montreal and Ottawa in June. There were many highlights including a visit to the Montreal Chinese Catholic Mission, which has been in existence for well over 100 years and is a vibrant community with lots of young families.

One of things that is special about the place is the prominent use of visual art with Christian stories and themes presented in distinctly Chinese ways. [None of our Protestant Asian students had ever seen their faith contextually expressed this way before – this was a profoundly emotionally moving experience for these students.](#) It gave them a whole new way of understanding Catholicism, Protestantism and the importance and power of contextualization.

Another highlight was a personalized tour of parliament (while it was in session) by one of the Abbotsford MPs, Ed Fast (a Christian), and then joining him for dinner in the parliamentary dining room. It was a special evening that offered our students a close-up view into the life of our political leaders.



# Shaping Leaders around the World

**Dr. Doug Heidebrecht**

At the heart of MLT is training trainers to equip the church to participate in God's mission. The focus is to enable the training of local leaders by providing core teaching material that can be contextualized by local trainers in their own contexts. Local leaders take responsibility for training others – who in turn are encouraged to train others.

It was exciting to hear Safari share at the annual ICOMB meeting in Brazil how the MB Church in Malawi has embraced this vision. Initially, seven trainers were coached in teaching Module 4. These seven trainers taught just over 100 leaders in seven different locations. These, in turn trained over 300 people who then trained over 1200 people! The teaching of God's Word multiplied!

Sam Arcaño, who leads the MB Conference in the Philippines said, "I saw how effective the training was for leading us into a real grounding in the Scriptures, and at the same time developing a missional mindset for our leaders and churches...I became so convinced of the value of this course that I kind of volunteered myself to be a local trainer."

I am very encouraged as I have been engaging this past year with leaders from Malawi, Thailand, the Philippines, and Colombia and have seen how they are excited to teach MLT in their own contexts. I am delighted as the Lord continues to open new doors for equipping the church through MLT in this coming year in South Asia, Myanmar, Turkey, and the Congo.



## What is MLT?



**Missional Leadership Training (MLT)** is an eighteen-module course that is being used to train local leaders to serve and equip the global church to live on mission. On behalf of the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB), the training is being developed through a partnership between MB Seminary and Multiply. Those who complete the course will receive recognition from the MB Seminary for Certificates in each of the three main areas of training: Discipleship Foundations, Ministry Equipping, and Leadership Development. MLT is currently being translated into ten languages!

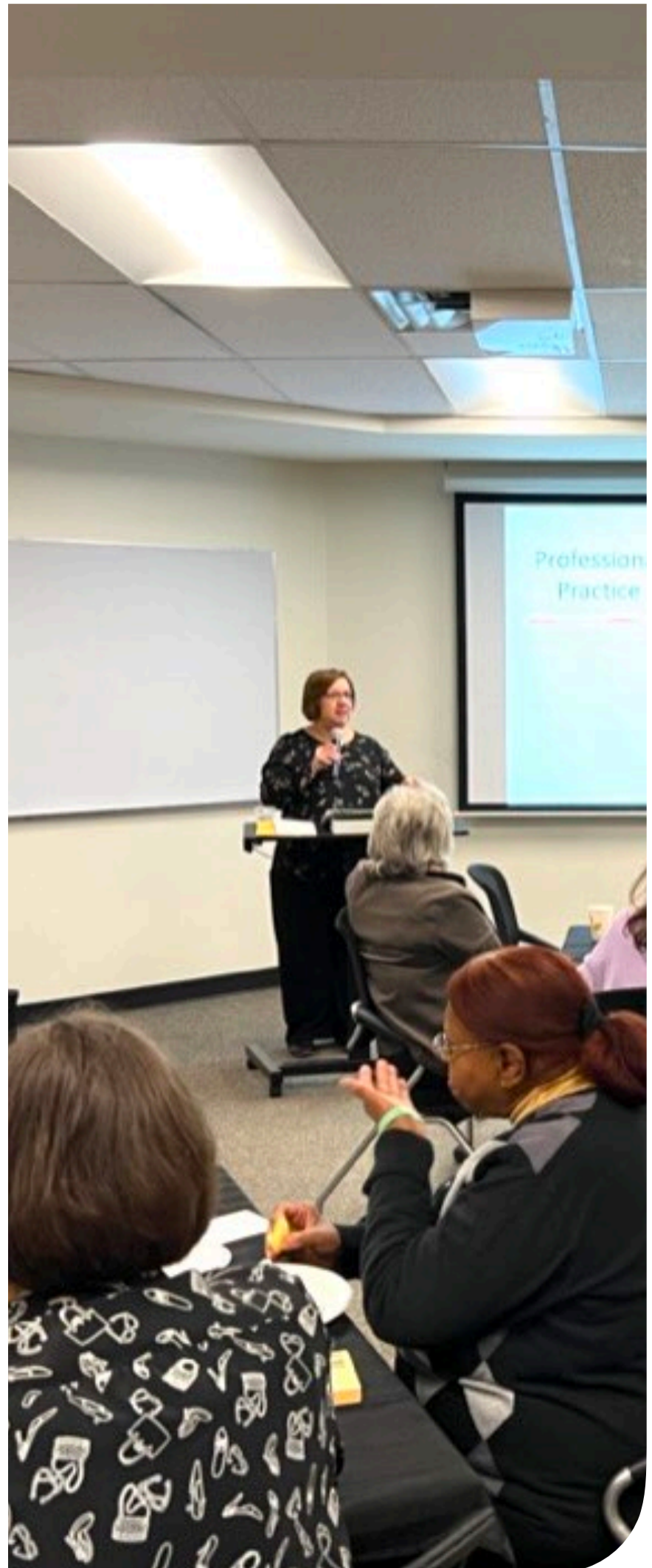
# Supporting Those Who Care for Others

**Dr. Gloria Woodland**

One of the highlights of my position at the Seminary is to facilitate Chaplains Connect. This unique event is held once each semester and is open to all Chaplaincy/Spiritual Care students, program graduates and chaplains working in the field. Best described as “an evening of networking for those who are like-minded in service,” we gather for a light meal, a topical presentation & discussion followed by a time of heart-sharing and prayer. Each semester, I am encouraged to witness chaplains gathering, sharing, and equipping themselves further for ministry.

This past fall, the theme was professional practice in ministry. At the conclusion of the evening, a participant asked to speak with me. This newly retired chaplain was feeling lost and missing days filled with ministry. During the evening, the individual had an encounter that allowed them to share themselves again. The newly retired chaplain explained to me how at their dinner table, a young chaplain had arrived with a heavy heart, worn from ministry, and they were able to support and pastorally care for them. The retired Chaplain reported having a sense of ministry again, concluding with the words, “[My sense of ministry purpose has been restored, and a young chaplain was encouraged in ministry because the Seminary provided the opportunity. Thank you](#)”

Once again, I was blessed to be in a place where this retired chaplain could share their experience with me. As MB faculty, I was encouraged to continue ensuring the seminary was open to equip and support those in ministry.





# Bringing Scripture to Light

Keith Reed

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105).

I find it deeply satisfying to hear of the impact that our devotional resources have on readers each year. [We create these daily devotionals to encourage people to read the Bible and experience how its message can shape their lives.](#) For Easter, we journeyed through the book of Hebrews, reminding our readers that Jesus is greater than any angel, priest, or covenantal practice, and following Him is worth any cost.

For Advent, we chose texts from the Revised Common Lectionary and challenged readers to see how every story in Scripture plays a part in God’s grand story of redemption. Nearly 1,000 people worldwide opened these devotional emails each day, and we appreciated hearing from many about how these stories impacted them.

To journey with us, go to [mbseminary.ca/go](http://mbseminary.ca/go)

*“They kept me connected daily to God in anticipation of the arrival of our Saviour. I felt the glory of God as He prepared the world for the arrival of his chosen Son.”*

*“I looked forward to the daily messages to keep me focused on the coming of Christ.”*

You have made these stories possible because of your belief in and passion for Jesus and His Kingdom! Thank you! You can keep this passion for Jesus and His Kingdom alive by putting a bequest in your will. A bequest is an investment in continuing your belief in and passion for the purposes of Jesus on earth through the training and shaping of leaders.

If you’d like more information about leaving a bequest, please contact Terry Kaethler at [terrykaethler@mbseminary.ca](mailto:terrykaethler@mbseminary.ca) , or 604 855.7434.