

# CROSS ROADS

CLBI Newsletter

SUMMER  
ISSUE

V. 33 NO. 3  
AUG 2025



# President's Ponderings

Erik Osness  
Interim President



My wife, Megan, likes to garden. I would say I do, too, but all I ever really help out with is the very occasional watering. Still, I really do like the idea of gardening. As neither a practitioner nor an expert, I often bring up gardening in casual conversation. Need more serotonin? You should garden! Need a hobby? Grow a garden! Want more nutritious food? Start growing your own vegetables! I continue to champion such things, even if I don't do much of it myself.

One parable I bring up often is "The Parable of the Sower," from Matthew 13. "Consider the sower who went out to sow," Jesus says (v.3). The seeds fall on the path, the rocky ground, and among the thorns, all of which producing poor results. But Jesus continues: "Still other seed fell on good ground and produced fruit: some hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times what was sown" (v.8). It is here that Jesus shows us that in order to bear good (and numerous) fruit, it's all about the soil. This parable reminds me what poet and priest, Malcom Guite, shared on this particular scripture. He mentioned that we tend to focus on the "sowing of seeds" part of the parable, but not the soil. He emphasized that the parable is not about us scattering the seeds, but it is about us being the soil and God (the "sower") being the one who sows the seeds.

When the seeds of the gospel fall on good soil, they produce fruit: *"some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times what was sown"* (v.8). Now, I am no arithmetic expert, but that sounds like pretty good returns for Christ's kingdom! *That* is the kind of investment I want to take part in; the kind that creates and supports "fertile ground" (v.8), where one "hears and understands the word" (v.23).

For those familiar with CLBI, it does not come as a shock to hear that most young people today will not attend CLBI. However, another truth also remains: CLBI is "good soil" that helps young people become "good soil" for life. For over 90 years, CLBI has continued to surpass (and defy) expectations, and the faithful support we receive is truly the work of God.

Each summer, we work hard to upgrade and maintain our campus facilities. However, with donations slowing down this time each year, this is easier said than done. With that in mind, I want to challenge you, the CLBI supporters, to send your friends and family members to CLBI.

Our grads have gone on to become nurses, pastors, homemakers, missionaries, carpenters, and politicians (to name a few). This fact alone is proof that taking a year or two of bible school does *not* stop young people from pursuing their career goals. In fact, I believe it helps them. Not only that, but rushing young people into a career is neither a guarantee, nor a magic formula for "getting ahead". Even as I enter my late thirties, many of my peers are becoming unsettled in their career paths.

As for my family, I see hope. The next generation has already matched my own with how many students it has sent to CLBI. Even in that alone, good fruit is coming from CLBI. So, we invite you now to rise to the occasion and help us bring more students to CLBI. Help us fill these halls with young people desiring to experience the hope and lasting impact of growing in "good soil". This is my prayer; for today, for the year, and for the future.

Grace, mercy, and peace,

Erik Osness  
CLBI Interim President

# Farewell to the Students

Dean Rostad  
Former President



When I started this year, little did I know that this would be my last school year serving as President of CLBI. You all have been such a gift to each other, and a gift to me.

God has touched my life through this discipling community in profound ways. I am so proud that God has shaped this bizarre mix of individuals into a complex community of grace. The growth I have seen in all of you is miraculous. Jesus has been active in shaping you this whole year: in sinking canoes during Fall Hike, in heated theological hallway debates, in bible

memorization, in Wednesday testimonies, in Zach's life-saving response to "help me" (Urban Hike), in a frozen road trip to Minnesota, to countless ukulele gatherings in the corner of caf-Jesus was in it all! Now, as you go from here, be confident that God who began a good work in you, is faithful to complete it. Be bold in your Kingdom ambitions, I know that God has many surprises left as to how He will do great things through and in you.

Your brother in Jesus,  
Dean Rostad



# Student Reflections

## A word from our students.

**"Thank you so much. I learned Jesus' church is real and His Spirit is alive and active. There are people who care... about truth."**

- Jacqueline Matte (1st Yr Student)

**"Urban Hike was the highlight of my year and I hope you keep working with multiple ministries because that made this year even better!"**

- Jessa Long (2nd Yr Student)

**"I have become closer and in a better relationship with Jesus this year at CLBI because I have experienced His true, unending, immaculate love through people in the CLBI community. The relationships you make here are so tight and so intimate, that it's hard to even let this place go."**

- Julia Rostad (1st Yr Student)

**"At CLBI, you are bound to find connections, even if you might be introverted or not a People Person. The bonds in this community are formed very quickly and you feel seen and loved. Here you grow in ways you never imagined possible, and you do so together in an amazing place with Christ at the centre."**

- Ethan Sherbanuk (2nd Yr Student)

**"I think in personal ways, [CLBI] has definitely built me up in Christ and led me to trust God more."**

- Blake Jack (2nd Yr Student)

**"[CLBI] really helped me realize I need to work on myself so that I can help and respect others, hopefully... I grew more than I could've imagined. This year was foundational for my faith. It's important to be intentional to be able to grow."**

- Draken Mol (1st Yr Student)

**"AT CLBI you find yourself among strangers, growing into the family God meant us to be."**

- William Frederickson (1st Yr Student)

**"I have learned many ways to love those around me & also how to read my bible more attentively. CLBI was an impactful time for growth and learning that it is not good to always be busy."**

- Till Niehoff (1st Yr Student)

**"Minnesota trip was a lot of fun. I feel like it's where we became more of a family."**

- Simon Carlson (1st Yr Student)

**"[The program] has given me discipline and a new love for Christ. It taught me how to lead-threw me in different situations and I learned so much."**

- Leigha Hansen (2nd Yr Student)

# IMPACT Program

Lisa Belau

IMPACT Director & Residence Life Director



Greetings everyone!

My name is Lisa Belau and I am excited to share that I will be taking on the role of IMPACT Director at CLBI this year! Along with being

one of the current Residence Life Directors, it is a true delight and honour to serve the CLBI community in this way.

When I was a student at CLBI some 15 years ago, never would I have dreamed I'd get to do this. For the past 10 years I was able to go and serve in West Africa with a missions organization called World Team. Through this experience God has taught me so much about His great love for the global and local church. As I am taking a pause from long-term missions work for a season, I am looking forward to coming alongside the students here at CLBI as they learn and grow in their understanding of God's heart for them and for all nations.

The CLBI IMPACT program is such an incredible part of the second year experience, and one area I am particularly excited for is working with the second year students in planning and preparing for their cross-cultural mission trips. I will never forget my own IMPACT team and the adventures we had in Jamaica when I was at CLBI back in 2011. It was my first time flying, being away from home for that length of time, and stepping so far out of my comfort zone. I am proud to say that God was, and is, so incredibly faithful!

Another aspect of this role that I am looking forward to is getting to work with our wonderful partners at World Mission Prayer League (WMPL). WMPL has been a partner ministry of CLBI for a number of years, primarily in regards to the support and coordination of the IMPACT trips.

This partnership is a beautiful example of how the local and global church can compliment and uphold one another, so I consider it a privilege to be able to be involved in such a meaningful ministry.

From my perspective, I see the CLBI IMPACT program as a bridge that enables us to live out the great commission with our national brothers and sisters in Christ (Matthew 28:16-20). Not only is it about sharing the love of God with the lost and unreached, it also involves us learning how to receive God's love for *ourselves*. In 1 John 4:19, it states that "*We love because He (God) first loved us*". As I read this verse, it brings to mind the fact that through opportunities like the CLBI IMPACT program, we get to see what that love looks like in our own lives, which speaks volumes in how we live it out to those around us. This is the reality in which we live, both at home and in every nation around the world. Now, this is not an easy journey to walk, but it is good because He (God) is Good! One day at a time, I trust that the Lord will continue to transform all of us through the power of his blood and the kindness and might of His unconditional love.

To support the ongoing work of this incredible program here at CLBI, please pray for our students, staff, and the amazing team at WMPL as we all work together for the glory of God. Pray that wherever we go, we would be known as Christ-followers by how we allow Christ to love through us. Thank you so much for your support. I look forward to witnessing what God will do through your prayers, and may God bless you and keep you in His peace.

Lisa Belau

IMPACT Director & Student Life Director

# A Vision for Our Facility

Tyler Adam  
Director of Maintenance



Since taking the role as Director of Maintenance here at CLBI back in January (2025), I have been really encouraged by the conversations about the future of CLBI.

There is life, faith, and deep relationships being forged here in our humble institution. I am incredibly excited about how the Lord is moving here.

Admittedly, in my short time being on staff (6 months), it has become clear to me that while seeking to fulfill our mission of helping young people become disciples of Christ, the campus and its facilities are not being fully utilized to grow, teach, and lead the church into greater unity. From the weekly men's bible study group that meets each Thursday, to the monthly WMPL prayer meetings, I have seen first-hand how our campus can be used to inspire and foster unity. We believe that the CLBI campus serves as the perfect place for a variety of different groups and ministries, including: camp AGMs, board meetings, bible studies, seminars, conferences, prayer meetings, ministerials, youth groups, grief shares, freedom sessions, and more. If we believe that the body of Christ does indeed need more fellowship and unity, then the CLBI campus is a natural solution to achieve such things. This is our invitation.

While we do take great pride in our little Lutheran campus here in the heart of Camrose, we also see that, in its current state, there is a growing number of areas that are in dire need of a serious upgrade. One primary area is the lack of handicap accessibility around campus and its outdated and unwelcoming meeting spaces. My hope is that in the near future we will be able to steward our facilities and grounds in a way that better serves Christ

and honours our community of neighbours, alumni, supporters and the local body of Christ. With that in mind, our proposal is for a three-phased project to be completed over the next 2-3 years.

*(See next page for details ----->)*

We desire to foster great memories for another 93 years—not only for our students, but for our supporters, alumni and the greater community as well. For this to come together, we look to you, our supporters, for your help. The two primary areas of support we are asking for financial donations and volunteer support. With the CLBI campus being built and sustained by our incredibly generous extended community, we are excited to partner with you through this next season of our ministry and vision.

While this is most certainly a major proposal for the community of CLBI, it will by no means be the only project happening on campus. For instance, one project that is currently underway is the revitalization of our exterior grounds, including planting new flower beds, removing/replacing trees and foliage, and landscaping upgrades. We are also in the planning stages of preparing for new campus signage and refreshing and repairing our symbolic CLBI sculpture. All are welcome to stop by to say hello and share your thoughts on how we can make the CLBI campus even more beautiful. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you and some friends want to help out, please contact the CLBI office. It would be deeply appreciated and would be a huge help to me as well.

Thank you for your support and for your love of the mission of discipleship here at CLBI. If there are ways that our campus can be of use to you, please inquire.

# Three Phases of Campus Renewal

## PHASE 1:

### Conference Room & Meeting Space

We desire to develop a high quality, multi-purpose space available to the greater community of CLBI. In order to reach this goal, we believe that a complete overhaul of the CLBI conference room is in order. This would include an entirely new aesthetic: new wall colors, flooring, furnishings, and lighting, as well as any necessary sound dampening installations for a more engaging and versatile meeting space.

## PHASE 2:

### Bathroom & Ease of Access

Along with the newly updated conference room comes another needed upgrade: the 1st floor bathrooms in Hagen Hall. While I sit at my desk looking out at these washrooms, I am reminded daily of how inaccessible and unappealing these washrooms are; not only for our guests, but for our staff and students as well. This project will include updating wall colors, flooring, fixtures, plumbing, countertops, and lighting. To help us reach these objectives, the following two options have proposed for us to pursue:

#### Option 1:

2 large bathrooms, both with full handicap-accessibility.

#### Option 2:

1 handicap-accessible family bathroom + 2 smaller individual bathrooms.

## PHASE 3:

### First Floor & Kitchen Update

Over the history of CLBI, we have been incredibly blessed to be able to help students and community members come to a greater understanding of the gospel message and a deeper relationship with Christ. Often, as we alumni think about our time at CLBI, our memories often unify around one specific place on campus. Whether it's the fond memory of seeing your future spouse for the first time, or the haunting reminder of weiner water soup, the the true hub of life at CLBI campus is non other than the cafeteria.

Our plan for the cafeteria is to fully update all flooring through the lower floor of the main building, and increase the ease of access from the south side so that our whole main floor – extending to the bathrooms – will be handicap-accessible. The kitchen update will also include new serving counters and window, updating and replacing the dishwasher, installation of an extraction hood that meets code compliance, new wall colors and flooring, and an updated walk-in freezer and fridge.

To help raise necessary funds, CLBI will be selling the following items:

- 40 ft SeaCan (qty 1)
- 40 ft Insulated, wired SeaCan (qty 1)

#### Request for Donation:

30-60 gallon Electric Air Compressor

If you or anyoner you know are interested in buying a SeaCan from CLBI or have a electric air compressor to donate, please call the CLBI Office at 780-672-4454 or email us at [info@clbi.edu](mailto:info@clbi.edu).

# Donations Update ('24/'25)

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (current year)

CONTRIBUTION GOAL:

**\$626,370**

Current Total Raised:

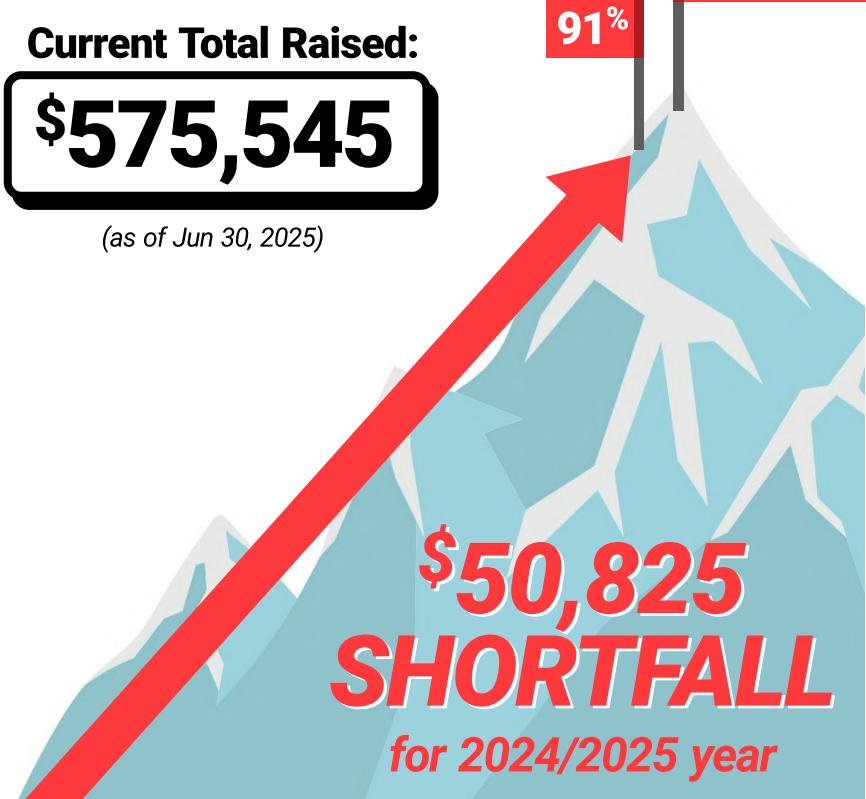
**\$575,545**

(as of Jun 30, 2025)

91%

**\$50,825  
SHORTFALL**

for 2024/2025 year



**DONATE TO  
CLBI TODAY!**

- Etransfer to [finance@clbi.edu](mailto:finance@clbi.edu)
- Mail-in cheque  
(CLBI - 4837 52A St, Camrose AB, T4V 1W5)
- Visit [clbi.edu/give](http://clbi.edu/give)



# Course Schedule for 2025-26

Ted Hill  
Program Director

## FALL SEMESTER (Aug-Dec 2025)

Aug 26-29	Authentic Leadership
Aug 30-Sep 3	Orientation
Sept 3-10	Fall Hike - Joshua/Ruth
Sep 11-12	Psalms & A Life of Prayer
Sep 15-19	Life as Community
Sept 22-26	Intro to the Old Testament Leadership Principles
Sep 29-Oct 3	Proverbs
Oct 6-10	Intro to New Testament Practical Leadership
Oct 10-14	Thanksgiving Break
Oct 15-17	Psalms and a Life of Prayer
Oct 20-24	Minor Prophets
Oct 27-31	Life of David
Nov 3-7	Discipleship & the Nations Cross-Cultural Prep I
Nov 12-14	Dwelling Retreat I
Nov 17-21	Urban Hike
Nov 24-28	Exodus
Dec 1-5	Sacraments & Discipleship
Dec 8-12	Identity & Vocation Cross-Cultural Prep II
Dec 15-19	Christ in Isaiah
Dec 20-Jan	Christmas Break
Jan 5-9	Apostles' Creed

## WINTER SEMESTER (Jan-Apr 2026)

Jan 6-27	IMPACT trips
Jan 10-22	Ministry Tour
Jan 26-30	Gospel of John
Feb 2-6	Galatians
Feb 9-13	Biblical Financial Principles Law and Gospel
Feb 13-17	Family Day Break
Feb 18-20	Dwelling Retreat II
Feb 23-27	Matthew
Mar 2-6	Patience of God
Mar 9-13	Option Class
Mar 16-20	Book of Acts
Mar 23-27	Ephesians
Mar 30-Apr 2	Theology of Suffering
Apr 3-6	Easter Break
Apr 7-10	Life in the World
Apr 13-17	Long Obedience Toward Home Abstract Testimonies
Apr 20-25	Dwelling Retreat III Grad Week

All classes in red are CLBI Open Classes.

Please note that instructors may change throughout the year.

# Prayers

## JULY 2025

- ~ July 14: Evan Sherbanuk's Birthday (3rd year graduate)
- ~ July 21: Claire Halvorson's birthday (daughter of staff, Cullen Halvorson)
- ~ July 25: Julia Rostad's birthday (1st year graduate)
- ~ July 25: Erik (staff) and Megan Osness's anniversary
- ~ July 26: Harriet Halvorson's birthday (daughter of staff, Cullen Halvorson)
- ~ July 28: Cullen Halvorson's birthday (staff - Director of Communications)
- ~ July 31: Till Niehoff's birthday (1st year graduate)

## AUG 2025

- ~ Aug 14: Tyler Pelsey's birthday (2nd year graduate)
- ~ Aug 22: Deb Hill's birthday (wife of staff, Ted Hill)
- ~ Aug 25: Christina Matte's birthday (1st year graduate)
- ~ Aug 27: Amy (staff) and Landon Jack's anniversary

## SEP 2025

- ~ Sep 7: Zoe Jack's birthday (daughter of staff, Amy Jack)
- ~ Sep 8: Colby Rokos' birthday (son of staff, Dena Rokos)
- ~ Sep 23: Gemma Halvorson's birthday (daughter of staff, Cullen Halvorson)

## OCT 2025

- ~ Oct 10: Ted (staff) and Deb Hill's anniversary

## PRAYER NEEDS

- ~ The students as they transition into their summer roles and new living situations
- ~ The staff as they seek to be refreshed and inspired toward the coming year
- ~ For Lisa Belau as she steps into her new role as the IMPACT Director for this upcoming year
- ~ Continued wisdom and creativity for Ted's preparation and visioning of next year's programming
- ~ For Tyler's work and care in making CLBI a beautiful and inviting space for encountering God and community
- ~ For God to continually raise up and inspire people in our extended community who are excited about the work that we do and are dedicated to supporting the ministry of CLBI
- ~ For the ongoing discernment of our 1st year students as they consider whether God is leading them back to CLBI for a 2nd year
- ~ That God would gather the students to our program who would most benefit from what we offer
- ~ That God would lead and direct our recruitment outreach
- ~ That God would fully prepare and provide for the students who hope to come here this fall--financially, emotionally, mentally, socially and spiritually
- ~ That the students who graduated this past spring would keep step with God and truly flourish in their new pathways and pursuits

# Announcements

## BIRTHS:

(Apr 1, 2025 - Jul 31, 2025)

Jessica & Joel Roggensinger (2011-2013) had a daughter, Hannah, on Mar 12

Amy (Sorenson, 2001-2003) & Jeremiah Overland (2000-2003) had a son, Alfred Leonard, on March 18

Grace (Crosby, 2010-2012) & Austin Ericson had a son, Elijah Austin, on Mar 23

Kasey (Howard, 2008-2009) & Ryan Lumley had a son, Roarck Alexander, on Apr 23

Lindsey (Almas, 2005-2008) & Chris Vandermeer (2004-2006) had a daughter, Selah Grace, on May 14

Rachel (Rude, 2013-2015) & Paul Laferriere (2014, 2016) had a daughter, Remi Alice, on May 22

Danielle & Tyler Adam (2010-2012) had a daughter, Élodie Erna Lorraine, on May 28

Merrill Brady & Logun Moe (2011-12, 2015-16) had a son, Harlan Masen, in Jun

## MEMORIALS:

(Apr 1, 2025 - Jul 31, 2025)

Edgar Bartel, Gee Guey Mah, Evelyn Marzolf, Mildred Peterson, Arlene Poytress, John Sytsma

Total Memorials: \$1075

## HONORARIUMS:

(Apr 1, 2025 - Jul 31, 2025)

Rachel Ekailan, Adrianna Ekailan, Mitch & Cindy Hansen, Ella Thompson

Total Memorials: \$275

## Crossroads CLBI Newsletter

August 2025

Volume 33 No. 3

Published for the friends and alumni of the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose, AB

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