



ABLAZE

SPRING 2019

MAKING ACCESSIBILITY A TOP *Priority!*



Stairs Hall Prepares to Undergo Renovations

A Word from the President



Rev. Stephen J. Lennox, Ph.D.
President

Does anyone else remember that gospel song, "Count Your Blessings"?

*"When upon life's billows you
are tempest tossed;
When you are discouraged,
thinking all is lost.
Count your many blessings,
name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what
the Lord has done."*

These are certainly stormy days for Christian higher education, but I'm not discouraged, and all is definitely not lost. I've been counting the blessings God has been pouring out on Kingswood University and it continues to surprise me "what the Lord has done."

As you will see in this newsletter, the long-awaited renovation of one of our heritage buildings looks like it is just around the corner. God has provided generous donors so that we already have 65% of the necessary funds on hand. Now that we have gone public with this request, we are counting on others loyal to Kingswood to step forward and bring this project to a successful completion.

Blessings are all around me in the students God has sent. I have the privilege, along with our staff, of watching how God develops their minds, hands, and hearts through class, chapel, ministry experiences, and interaction with others in our wonderful community.

All of these students will point to an influencer, someone who steered them to consider Kingswood. It might be a pastor or youth pastor, parent or grandparent, mentor or friend, but this person spoke a word at a crucial time, making an eternal difference. These influencers are a big blessing to Kingswood.

One of my personal blessings is being able to introduce new friends to Kingswood through our trips. This fall, after a day on campus, we're heading to Quebec City to visit the most European city in North America. We're also touring the Gaspé Peninsula, one of the most beautiful spots in an area renowned for its beauty. As well, we're taking a group to Israel in March of 2020. I'm excited to open the Bible in its homeland. You can read more about both trips in these pages.

Other blessings include our alumni who continue to make a difference for Christ wherever they find themselves. Within these pages you will meet several of God's choicest servants who are turning their invested talents into blessings for others.

Challenging times are nothing new for God's people, but we need not be discouraged. God is still on His throne and He still has an important work for Kingswood University to accomplish. That is why we value your prayers and financial donations. Your support has been an incredible blessing to us for almost 75 years. When we count our blessings, we think of you. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve".



2019 Kingswood Graduating Class, faculty and administration.

Space for Discipleship

Stairs Hall Prepares to Undergo Renovations

“Rich friendships, relationships, mentoring, group meetings, luncheons: all of those things are part of the focus of what we do educationally because we believe so strongly in community,” reflects Kirk Sabine, Kingswood’s VP for Campus Life. “Community here is around a common focus: building a Christlike character both in their own lives and the people around them, and preparing them to minister in many ways.”

Stairs Hall—one of the first two of Kingswood’s nineteen buildings—has long played host to discipling conversations that are a hallmark of KU’s ministerial education. Now, after almost 55 years of use, fundraising is in process to help Stairs Hall become an even better context for campus life. The renovation plan for Stairs Hall includes more inviting spaces that encourage conversation; the reimagined kitchen and dining space will offer more diverse food options, allowing KU to better accommodate those with dietary restrictions. Updates like a wheelchair lift and accessible restrooms will offer every member of the community more convenient access to all Stairs Hall has to offer.

For Sabine, one of the greatest benefits of the renovation includes showcasing the work of those who make the Kingswood experience a delightful one. “One of the primary things I’m excited about is for Greg Mann—who has been here twenty-six years and goes above and beyond in his work with such excellence—to have a facility that makes a better presentation of his work, and [a space that] creates a better environment for students, staff, and guests.”

Fundraising for the project is well underway with contributions from businesses, foundations, and individuals alike. As of April 30, \$416,000 has already been raised against a project budget of almost \$650,000.

We hope to begin the construction process in Spring 2019, with a target finish date of September 1, provided finances are in place.



If you're interested in hearing more information about this project, email sabinek@kingswood.edu; or to contribute financially, contact Allen Price at pricea@kingswood.edu.

Alumni Spotlight

Nathan and Sarah Moss



Nathan and Sarah Moss met at Kingswood University while studying in the Global Ministries program. During their time at Kingswood, both felt a stirring in

their spirits for unreached people groups (peoples who are less than two percent Christian), but were surprised to find that fewer than five percent of missionaries minister among unreached peoples.

The Mosses served in youth ministry for a time, and in 2017 started turning toward the idea of going overseas. Having reached out to Global Partners, they started the process of training and preparing to participate in a team in Eastern Europe. In October 2019, the Mosses – including their

1 year old daughter, Piper - will begin a three year, six month term in Eastern Europe, with another six months set aside to visit their partner churches.

The Mosses will work alongside World Hope International in humanitarian relief efforts as a platform for building relationships. Their hope is to “see a disciple-making movement” begin among the people of Eastern Europe. Over twenty-five small fellowships of Christians are already meeting in the area to which they will be sent, so their work will partner with what God is already doing.

As they prepare for this assignment, the Mosses ask for your partnership in prayer--both for their transition and for the people God will give them to serve.

If you'd like to help the Mosses reach their financial goals so they may depart for the field, please visit donate.wesleyan.org/gponline/secure/4?prefix=PC2549&fund=754 to make a one-time gift or monthly commitment.

Dr. H.C. Wilson Receives Award

At the Believability Honours Gala hosted by Dr. L. D. Buckingham for the Buckingham Leadership Institute, Dr. HC Wilson received the Believability Lifetime Achievement Honour in recognition of his lifetime of service to the Church.

He graduated Kingswood as class valedictorian with a BA degree in 1972. While still a student, he accepted the pastorate of The Wesleyan Church at Black's Harbour, New Brunswick and in 1974 he planted Hillside Wesleyan Church in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where he was Senior Pastor until 1980. During this time, Dr. Wilson also served as District Youth President, directing May youth rallies that topped out a weekend attendance of 1,200.

Dr. Wilson has served The Wesleyan Church with distinction including as District Superintendent in the Atlantic and Delta Districts and General Director of Global Partners, the missions arm of The Wesleyan Church. He also served as General Superintendent, and most recently as the first National Superintendent for The Wesleyan Church of Canada. He is the only individual in The Wesleyan



Church to have served as Superintendent at the District, National, and General level.

He was designated as District Superintendent Emeritus by the Atlantic District in 2007, and General Superintendent Emeritus by The Wesleyan Church in 2012. During his years of service to the Church, he has ordained more than 400 ministers in North America and internationally.

Dr. Wilson served as Chair of Kingswood's Board of Trustees for 22 years, and continues to serve on the board, as well as the board for World Hope Canada.

Faith that Works:

Evangelism and Compassion in Kingswood's Praxis Program

Many pastors emerge from their education wondering how to combine both evangelism and compassionate ministry—how to love not just the idea of community, the Gospel, or the poor—but to love the people in their community, and to proclaim the Good News in the process. Kingswood's Praxis Program bridges that gap between theoretical proficiency and pastoral presence, helping KU students advocate for more than just policies while also developing their heart for relationship with those who are “other”.

During their first year at Kingswood, students minister each week near KU's campus; in the Fall semester of their second year, students continue their local ministry while visiting New York City for a view of pastoral life in an urban context. During the Spring semester students are immersed in a cross-cultural ministry experience designed to expose them to how God's call will lead them to partner with communities they are unfamiliar with. “Ministry is ministry,” reflects Mike MacNeil, program director and associate professor of evangelism. “But as the concentric circles [local, urban, global] move out, you experience different wrinkles.”

These “wrinkles” are as much a part of learning as the in-classroom preparation students undergo before traveling. Praxis prepares students to use their strengths and learn to minister alongside the diverse populations they encounter. March 1-9, 2019, MacNeil and a group of second-year KU students embarked on a voyage to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, working alongside a ministry called “Manos Extendidas,” (Extended Hands). Manos Extendidas includes a network of several churches and schools, as well as a presence in both prisons and street ministry.

Partnership with Manos Extendidas offered KU students an opportunity to engage Honduran ministers who live on their mission field; and it also offered students greater proximity to extreme poverty than many had previously encountered. “We funded a meal for workers in Honduras, and a lot of them live on the dump—people are breathing in toxic stuff and digging through the trash,” MacNeil recalled. “We did a short devotional and church service off the back of the pickup, hung out with them and prayed with them. We were singing the song ‘Reckless Love,’ in Spanish, and the line, ‘There's no mountain you won't climb up,’ took on new meaning as we were on top of that mountain of trash thinking about how God will go to any length to get people.”



Student engagement in community development extends beyond programmed trips within Praxis. MacNeil has taken students to visit prisons and serve alongside local ministries in and around New Brunswick. After taking Praxis students to meet with Syrian refugees currently settled in Canada, MacNeil was encouraged by students' desire to remain in contact with them. “A bunch of them kind of got together and said, ‘Hey, we could pile in the car and go every week and build relationships with these people.’ And they've been doing that since November—using their own money, their own gas, and their own time, and getting to know these families coming into Canada and starting all over. It's not a requirement, it's not a part of the program, it was just a burst in the heart of students.”

Journeying alongside communities is an essential function of the pastoral role. Because of Praxis, Kingswood students enter their pastoral ministry with both a theological approach to community development and a set of experiences that help them become more deeply rooted in loving whatever town they call home.

For more information on Praxis, contact Professor Mike MacNeil at macneilm@kingswood.edu.

The Trip of a Lifetime

Making Jesus' Footsteps Accessible

Most Christians read the Bible and wish that the places, people, and events in Scripture seemed more tangible. We long to see the places where Jesus was tempted, Peter sank into the water, David hid in the wilderness, and the disciples were called. On March 2, 2020, a Kingswood-led trip will depart for a ten-day, biblically immersive tour of Israel. Dr. Steve Lennox and Rev. Joel Gorveatte are leading, bringing both Biblical knowledge and a dozen trips to Israel between them.

“To put your feet where God chose to walk in human form helps you more than picture where it happened. It helps you to enter into Jesus' life as an historical event,” Lennox reflects.

Many tours focus on seeing popular tourist sites that are part of the biblical narrative; and while this trip will see some of those same places, Lennox and Gorveatte are offering a tour that brings those going on this trip into spaces that many tours do not get access to.

Both Lennox and Gorveatte value leading not just for information, but for formation. “We want it to have very much a community feel instead of being with 150 other people; people make lifelong relationships on trips like we're going on because we keep it small. Every question can get an answer. We're trying to keep this to a really intense, close to the heart experience,” said Gorveatte.

In-person experience will meet biblical knowledge during nightly debrief sessions where guests will gather, reflect, and hear the spiritual implications of the day's travels, along with more information about biblical characters and their engagement with these locations. Meals, too, will be contexts for community-building and delightful food, including fresh fish, fruits, vegetables, and olive oils.

Many who tour Israel need more than one trip to grasp and process the significance of their journey; the two co-leaders of this trip hope that the time to process along the way-- along with the nightly debrief sessions--will help both new travelers and seasoned sojourners walk away grasping more fully the context of the Bible “so they can meet the God of the Bible,” Lennox says.

“Travel in general is a good investment, but I'd look at this as a particularly good investment. To travel for the purpose of discipleship allows one not only to be personally benefited by it, but also one's network. If you're a Sunday school teacher, or a discipler, think of it as an investment in your way of investing in the Kingdom,” Lennox offers. “It's also a safe place, more than many think, and an incredible place to go and learn about one of the most important places in the geopolitical world,” Gorveatte adds.

For more information about the trip, visit kingswood.edu, or email lennoxs@kingswood.edu.



For full details, please visit: kingswood.edu/israel2020

Support for Ministry

Scholarships help students answer God's call

Debt-accumulation among those between the ages of 18-24 is tremendous, with the majority coming from college loans. For students headed into helping professions, the debt burden can be a significant obstacle to accepting God's call toward places where pay is minimal. Shelley Vail, Kingswood's Director of Financial Aid, works with students to help overcome those obstacles as they make the most significant investment of their early lives.

Scholarships at Kingswood are disbursed for diverse reasons. "For some scholarships, the criteria is more stringent--it could be they need a high GPA, be gifted in pulpit ministry, or other criteria expressed by the benefactor," Vail states. "And we also have one particular scholarship for a student who has no family support."

This scholarship is especially needed due to the fact that in past years, several students have attended Kingswood without familial support of their decision to pursue ministry. For these students, the care they receive at Kingswood is pivotal in encouraging them to follow God's call. "If I had three of those [scholarships for those who have no family support], I would have no trouble awarding them. We appeal to more than the average student raised in the church; it's more often the students who had someone speak into their life and who have followed God's call," Vail reflects.

Having kept in touch with Kingswood alumni after graduation, Vail knows how crucial KU's influence has been in the lives of those without family support. "Those students become just as successful after their time at Kingswood because they've been invested in so much here," she says.

Even those whose families are supportive often face financial hurdles that can prevent them from attaining an undergraduate degree; both large and small scholarships can bridge the gap for students unsure of their ability to attend. "I've seen it happen when a donor offered to provide a scholarship that would cover tuition, room, and board for two students, and I've also seen a \$3,000 scholarship make all the difference. We build relationships with students and do everything we can to help them financially."

While there are many places to give a financial gift, Vail sees Kingswood as unique in its clear connection between scholarship donors and the students formed toward Christlikeness. Among the greatest joys of the Kingswood experience is its focus on Spirit-oriented communal life that goes with those who graduate.

"The staff and faculty are very aware of students who are homesick and need a home-cooked meal, or need help with homework. Because we are a made-for-ministry school, the students who come are definitely planning on being in ministry. It's just so focused toward Kingdom servanthood--the Holy Spirit is definitely here."

If you are interested in helping to make the Kingswood experience possible for students, contact pricea@kingswood.edu for more information about how to donate, set up a scholarship fund, or otherwise support ministerial students.

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