

## Why Living Faith?

What makes Living Faith Bible College so effective at what it does? In my opinion it starts with their simple mission statement; "Equipping for Life and Ministry." At Living Faith nothing is taken for granted. The student's individual spiritual maturity is a primary concern. They understand the philosophy that you can't export that which you haven't imported. Ministry apart from spiritual maturity is a formula for failure, and Living Faith's mission is to assure success in both life and ministry.

Life at the school is designed to teach students the importance of making responsible choices as well as the value of living in community. Living Faith is located outside of Caroline, Alberta in a beautiful natural setting. This type of location reinforces the need for building community and provides multiple opportunities to participate in ministry

and service for both the students and the staff. The result is a community of students and staff that work together to meet individual needs as well as community needs. Each student is required to assist with the many operation activities required to maintain a school located in a country setting as well as given the opportunity to become part of ministry teams that travel sharing the gospel to those in need.

Combine the opportunity to mature and be trained in a solid Christian community that creates spiritual responsibility among the students together with their new vision of preparing people for bi-vocational ministries, you now have, in my opinion, a school that is on the cutting edge of the curve to reach their society for Christ. Especially in those smaller communities that need a mature caring spiritual leader



who understands the value of ministering to the community in and out of the local church.

In many areas there is a tendency to look down on bi-vocational ministry as second rate. The attitude comes across that if the pastor were any kind of a leader he would be in a large church not having to take a second job to support this family. AW Tozer stated "It's not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is why he does it."

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## What If?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if there really was a Bible College that prepared people for life and ministry, I mean, really did prepare them? Beyond competing claims and the hype of advertising, what if there really was a school that did what it claimed? What would that look like?

It would have to combine several key factors into a consistent format that kept the goal of life and ministry preparation at the forefront. What would these ingredients need to be?

The first would have to be the provision of a solid foundation in the Word of God that was integrated into every course, and into all aspects of college education. It would need to be a place committed to the infallibility of the eternal Word and its trustworthiness and applicability in every aspect of life and ministry. It would need to be a place where the engrafted Word is both life changing and enduring.

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## What If?

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Second, it would need to be a place where the presence, power, and manifestations of the Holy Spirit are a reality, not just doctrine about His Person and work, but a cultivated experiential reality in both corporate worship and individual personal walks. It would need to be a place where the precious things that really are of the Spirit are welcomed, but where extreme and marginal teaching and practices are excluded.

Third, it would need to be a place where Christian character is developed, refined, and transformed so that each student becomes “all that he or she can be” as the rock tumbler of college life brings every gem to its final polish in Christ, as precious stones that have gone through the heat and pressure to become the jewels in His crown.

And fourth, it would have to be a place where students were actually involved in practical aspects of ministry commensurate with their abilities in every year of training. From basic servant-hood ministries to pulpit presentations, each student would be trained and equipped in ministry applications from the beginning to graduation.

Some further ingredients that would make such a Bible College attractive and viable would be qualified professors and instructors having a minimum of a Master’s level education, all of whom had extensive years in the classroom and in the church. Add to that, one-on-one mentoring for every student with faculty or staff mentors so that discipleship is personalized for each person enrolled in the Bible College. In such an ideal school, there would be one and two year certificates, and a Provincially recognized four year Bachelor’s Degree in Theology that gains access to a wide spectrum of seminaries in Canada for graduate work. A full 6 month supervised Internship would also link Bible College education with the real life world of the church, camps, and other ministries.

Add to all the above, attractive program options that allow students to spend three months in Uganda, pursue vocational trade training, or develop their music and media skills in conjunction with their training in Bible and ministry. Such a Bible College should also have international connections with other schools and churches related to missions and on-going Christian education. Oh, yes, and a year of Greek, and Hebrew language courses would be a necessity, as well as elective Advanced Reading offerings to fourth year students in their specialty ministry/study areas.

And, oh yes, such a campus should be rural, scenic, and a place set apart for God, worship, study, personal and professional preparation, with 78 wooded acres being a reasonable recommended minimum. Yet a Bible College should be within an hour’s drive of major metropolitan centres, with large towns close by within a half hour’s distance. Also having students from a diverse denominational spectrum would also illustrate the broad range of appeal to conservative Christian groups both nationally and internationally.

Such a place would also need to have a proven track record of training, forming, and releasing young men and women into viable personal and vocational ministries—over 40 years being a realistic span of time to verify the credibility of such an institution. Would you not say that such a Bible College would qualify for both being ideal, but also “real” if such a place existed? If you are in agreement with this, give us a call at Living Faith Bible College and we can discuss this with you in even more detail.

*Dr. Peter Engle is Dean of Education at LFBC. He loves the Lord, loves God’s Word, and loves students.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LYFE

**April 10-12**

**Theme:**

Walking and Living in Freedom

**Ages:** 13-18

**Cost:** Early Bird: \$65  
Regular: \$85  
Sponsors: half price

**Speaker:**  
Allan Smith



### GRADUATION CEREMONIES

**May 2**

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Message:**  
The River Flows

**Speaker:**  
David Saunders



### WILDMAN

**May 29-31**

**Cost:** \$195  
(\$100 deposit)

**Register by:** May 15th

Loads of Fun

**Speakers:**



Dudley Hall & Russell Thornberry

### MJORUD FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

**June 19-24**

**Cost:** Free-will Offering

**Location:** Glacier Bible Camp  
in Hungry Horse, MT

**Speakers:**



Paul Anderson    Brother Frans    Emmanuel Chiwele

For more information on these events go to [www.lfbc.net](http://www.lfbc.net)  
or contact us at 1-800-838-2975

## Why Living Faith?

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The fact is statistics show that there is a need for bi-vocational pastors. In a world with economical challenges, low church attendance and the average church size in both the US and Canada at around 75 people there is a great need to equip and prepare future pastors for a bi-vocational mind set.

It doesn't take much effort to search the web and realize that there is an abundance of sites attempting to discuss the pros and cons of bi-vocational ministry. Ed Stetzer the Vice President of research and statistics of Life Way Christian Resources points out that 50% of those entering ministry will leave the ministry within the first 5 years. Of those that stay in ministry 1 out of 10 will retire in ministry the others will leave prior to retirement. Over 75% of Baptist churches are 100 people or less of which many are lead by bi-vocational pastors. Nazarene churches report that 40% of their pastors are bi-vocational. George Barna states that though 87% of the Protestant churches in the US have fulltime pastors, the average age is between 28-45. This means that 13% of these churches need bi-vocational pastors in order to exist. It also shows the glaring lack of pastors over that age of 45 within the Protestant church. What is happening to the spiritual wisdom of our older men and women within the church? The statistics are similar within the Assembly of God churches in that 84% of the churches have less than 199 people, 65% of the churches have less than 99 people and 30% of the churches have less than 49 people.

Dr. Kyubuem Lee in his online article at The Biblical Theology and Seminary website discussing the strengths of bi-vocational ministry unfolds the reality that we live in a world where the church no longer exerts the influence within society that it once did. Dr. Lee points out some obvious benefits of bi-

vocational ministry. In an economically repressed area the availability for church planting is reduced due to limited resources requiring more to be done with less. Bi-vocational ministry frees up funds that may very well be needed to keep the church doors open. Bi-vocational ministry also has the ability to force the others within the church to take a more active role within the church and not to rely solely on the pastor to minister to those in the body. It also has the ability to help the pastor relate to the needs within the community on a more personal level creating new and more creative opportunities to reach the community with the gospel. Christian Schwarts in his book *Healthy Church Development* shows that smaller churches are 16 times more effective than mega churches when it comes to evangelism (p48). This is most likely due to the fact that the larger the church grows the more time is needed to care for its members and the less time it takes to reach out to those that are lost within the local community.

Bi-vocational ministry is a must for many churches. Though there are concerns surrounding proper life balance, family issues as well as job loyalties the benefits are obvious. A bi-vocational pastor is closer in touch with the many needs of the community in which they serve. Those in bi-vocational ministry can chose a smaller closer community in which to raise their family instead of the faster more chaotic pace of a larger city. There is a greater opportunity to increase the involvement of lay leaders within the church. There is also the possibility for a broader financial base that may provide better medical benefits and retirement than many full-time pastors.

Though there are multiple choices on the internet for someone in a career to get the Bible training needed, there hasn't been a location for those seeking a position in ministry to receive both biblical training and vocation trade training to launch them into a bi-vocational ministry until now. Living Faith Bible College is just such a place. Their mission of equipping for life and ministry uniquely enables them to assist those preparing for bi-vocational ministry to get a balanced approach to ministry and life so they can meet the many challenges that they will face with confidence and skill.



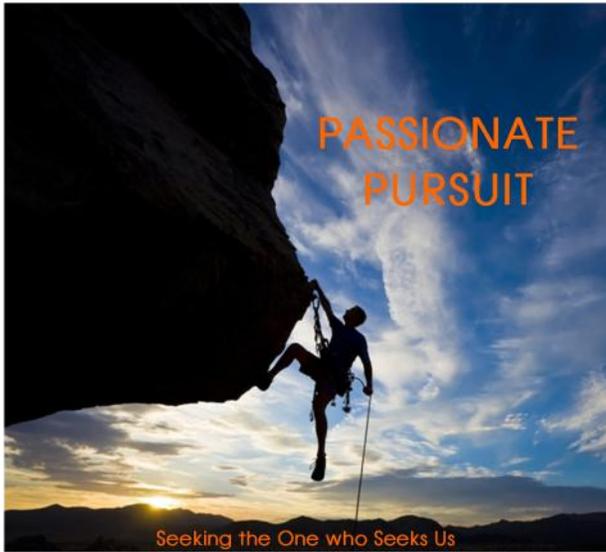
*Greg Reich is director of Cutting Edge Influence, a coaching practice that serves leaders in business and ministry. He is one of LFBC's adjunct faculty.*



## Now I Truly Believe

"Before coming to Living Faith Bible College, I was completely broken. I knew my worth, knew who I was in Christ, but did not believe it. Coming to Living Faith, I did more than just discover my worth and talents. The Lord showed me that all this knowledge was worth nothing if I did not believe that I was created in Christ Jesus, hand-crafted to do good works for Him. It is because Living Faith took me in and mentored me, that I can teach others those very same lessons that I learned and now truly believe."

Michael Clarke



## March Ministry Tours

Once again, in March 2015, our student body will be taking to the road to visit churches, youth groups, Christian schools and a variety of other venues to minister through presentation and relationship. This year each team will be presenting a faith-building program of drama, personal story, song and God's Word that we are calling "Passionate Pursuit." We are subtitling it, "Seeking the One Who Seeks Us." The major theme of this variety program will focus on drawing near to God and wholeheartedly seeking Him because He has first pursued us. We believe this is the cry of God's heart and a very relevant message for believers today.

### Needed at LFBC

Following is a list of needed items that would greatly assist us in being more effective in ministry and campus stewardship.

- An economical car for promotional travels
- Several vans for student ministry travel and outings (8 passenger maximum)
- A wood chipper
- A diesel generator
- Library books (especially commentaries & resource books)
- A 3/4 ton long box 4x4 truck would be ideal for a maintenance vehicle
- Several good condition push lawn mowers
- Heavy car hauler (flat deck trailer)
- Good condition white gas domestic kitchen range with oven
- **SKILLED VOLUNTEERS!** If you are a tradesman and would like to use your talents for Kingdom work, consider blessing us at LFBC.

"Gifts in kind" can often be receipted for the fair market value of the goods.

## Camp Changes for 2015

To provide time for evaluating and rejuvenating the Living Faith Family Camp and Kids Camps for greater impact and success, we have decided to postpone these camps for this year. Issues we want to look at include the following:

- How do we attract more attendees to camp? (advertising, networking with churches, programming, etc.)
- What changes in society and culture have impacted camp attendance and how do we address them?
- What changes should we make in our programming and scheduling?
- Are we in a rut? How can we better facilitate meaningful teaching, worship, fellowship, growth, etc.?
- What's the best way to handle volunteer tasks?
- How do we increase recreational options for campers?
- What is working successfully in other camps? Can we learn from them?
- How do we assess financial feasibility for camp? How can we strengthen this?

By grappling with these and other related issues, our goal is to improve these camps and re-launch them in 2016. We encourage our regular campers to give consideration to Mjorud Family Bible Camp in Hungry Horse, MT, or the FCA Family Camp held on the Living Faith campus during the August long weekend (Friday to Monday, July 31 to August 3). These are both very excellent camps with inspiring worship, relevant preaching, and activities for all ages.

Please join us in the summer of 2016 when we celebrate Living Faith's 45th anniversary.



### Digital Newsletter

Living Faith News can now be delivered directly to your email inbox in PDF format. Send an email with the word *Newsletter* in the subject line to [office@lfbc.net](mailto:office@lfbc.net) and the next newsletter will be emailed to you.

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