

TYNDALE

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS
TYNDALE
1894-2019

— A SPECIAL PUBLICATION —
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF IMPACT



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WHY SHOULD I INVEST IN TYNDALE?

I was tired and jet lagged. Twenty hours of flying to speak in Australia will do that to you. In many ways, all my filters were down when I received an email from a friend who asked me a simple question: "Why should I invest in Tyndale?" It was a fair question, although I must admit being jet lagged makes you a little oversensitive. It did make me think! Finally, I replied with these words...

"Thank you for your email. The question that you asked is a fair one – a question any investor or donor should ask before they actually give. There are many ways to answer the question but what I have chosen to do is simply to describe from my own discoveries why Tyndale is so important.

Our mission is uniquely needed in a post-Christendom world. We believe that the future of the church is not in new buildings and grand strategies. It is, in fact, in partnering with the local church to create a movement of people so committed to Christ that whatever their vocational calling, whether it be in the academy, the workplace, the school, the church, community development or mission organization, entrepreneurial endeavour or something else, they sense God's missional call on their lives.

Our job in receiving for undergraduate education young adults who are moving from Christian homes and will, at graduation, be living out their faith in a complex and challenging time is to prepare them for this. Our role is to be a catalyst, an incubator and a launch pad building a foundational Christian mind and formational heart of character and faith. That allows a movement of young adult Christians and emerging Christian leaders to live faithfully and redemptively in a world that no longer sees faith or church as relevant. Our role is to plant deep enough roots so that they can live meaningfully and steadfastly as light and salt in this hostile new world.

My point is simple, and I could give you many examples. This place called Tyndale is a very special Kingdom asset, in which the impact on your investment is being returned in remarkable ways. I will make no apologies for building a movement of followers of Jesus Christ who can navigate with resilience and dynamic energy the society that is emerging. As we get ready for a new group of students to arrive in a few weeks, I just needed you to know this."

I think about this every time new students step on to our campus and into our classrooms – Bachelor of Education students who begin in August and new university and seminary students who enter classrooms in traditional ways in September or throughout the year in modular, intensive, one-week courses and other forms developed to make education accessible. Still others join us online and through live streaming. I marvel at Tyndale's reach. Its influence stretches around the world 24/7 and 12 months of the year.

This year we celebrate an incredible legacy of women and men who stepped into classrooms and were changed– our graduates who went all over the world and shaped lives and legacies in every walk of life. We celebrate this remarkable institution that God has used to influence students to live faithfully and vibrantly wherever they found themselves after graduation.

This is why I get up in the morning and am excited to lead this remarkable place called Tyndale! It is why this celebration of our 125th anniversary is so important! This is why Tyndale is worth investing in!



PAST PRESIDENTS

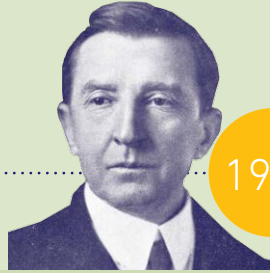


1894

DR. ELMORE HARRIS

TBTS / 1894-1911

Toronto Bible Training School was birthed in May 1894 by a small group of businessmen and clergy. They met at the home of Dr. Elmore Harris, minister at the Walmer Road Baptist Church in Toronto, with a shared vision to train laity in the knowledge of Scriptures. The first classes were held at Walmer Road Baptist Church. Dr. Harris was pivotal in offering his services, his home and his church particularly in the early stages of the school's formation.

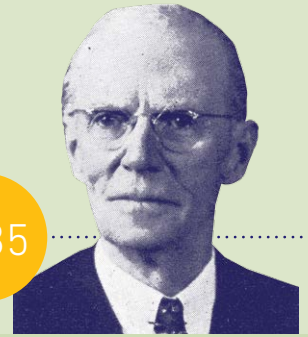


1906

DR. JOHN MCNICOL

TBTS, TBC / 1906-1946 (PRINCIPAL)

"It is not merely that [the Bible] is taught, or even that it occupies the central place in the curriculum. The essential feature in the way the Bible is taught here is that it is 'thought through.' It is not taken merely by selected books, or in special portions chosen here and there. It is studied as one whole and is taken as the progressive unfolding of the Divine will. The students are led through the Scriptures from beginning to end, so that they may see how God revealed Himself down through the ages in His gradually developing plan of redemption for the world."



1935

DR. J. WILMOT MAHOOD

LBI / 1935-1944

"But even in the dark hour of sorrow the soul of him whose will is conformed to the will of God will be at peace. He will be able to say 'Thy will be done.' Make Jesus king over the will. Then shall the will be free and strong and restful; then shall bitterness be turned into blessed resignation; then shall the life be girdled with strength and beauty; and we shall 'run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.'"



1960

DR. JOSEPH C. MACAULAY

LCBM / 1960-1966

"None of us can improve the past, but, in the good providence of God, we have today, and we may have some tomorrows. These we can redeem, giving our best to any task committed to us by our blessed Lord, whether it be further preparation, or immediate appointment to a field of service."



1963

DR. STEWART BOEHMER

TBC, OBC / 1963-1973

"In all facets of our work – the classroom, chapel, assignments, student council, committees, Christian Service Outreach, to name just a few and last, but certainly not least, our personal walk – in all of this, He must have the pre-eminence. And if He has, our lives will show forth His praises and our school will be a foretaste of heaven. May the blessed Holy Spirit be sovereign in every phase of this great work!"



1973

DR. VICTOR ADRIAN

OBC, OTS / 1973-1983

"The Lord taught us that love at its deepest levels meant being existentially concerned about the personal holiness and growth of fellow believers. He commanded us to wash each other's feet, that is, to minister to each other's needs...It is my hope that during your time at OBC you have had the exhilarating experience of having your feet washed through loving and concerned Christian fellowship...Jesus would suggest that it is... important that you leave a legacy of love – love (of) your Lord and love (of) your fellow students."



1945

DR. JAMES N. BEDFORD

LBI / 1945–1954

“The greatest need of the Church today is an honest, heaven-sent revival! It is not a mere revival of form without fact, nor of word without heart, but one in which the Spirit of God has awakened the love of the Lord Jesus in human souls, kindling a passion to win the lost, and a willingness to step out of sight that the Spirit of God may do His work. What, then, is your place in this scheme of things? Will you live for ‘men, movements, machinery, and the inevitable moments,’ or will you live for the Lord Jesus alone?”



1954

DR. ALAN GANNETT

LBI / 1954–1957

“As Ambassadors of the Cross, never forget that you go forth to teach and preach Jesus Christ. May you always be able to say to those among whom you have ministered: ‘I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.’ Live Christ! Preach Christ! Serve Christ! Such a ministry God will honour and bless.”

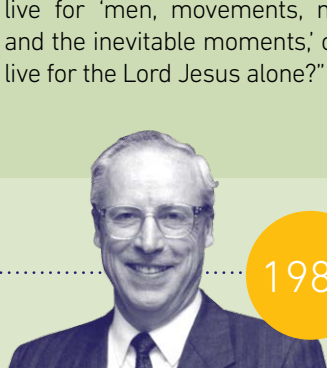


1958

DR. PERCY H. HARRIS

LBI / 1958–1959

“We will never think of Dr. Harris without remembering his happy, radiant face. We also remember how precious God’s word was to his heart and how faithfully he gave it to us.”
– LBI Alumni



1983

DR. WILLIAM MCRAE

OBC, OTS / 1983–1991

“Our churches, homes and communities are crowded with insecure, arrogant, jealous, destructive critics. Genuine encouragers are a vanishing breed, a rare species. How will you be remembered by your friends? Do you really want to make a difference in people’s lives? Be an encourager. You will bless the heart of God, others will rise up and call you blessed because you have been a fork in the road of their life. This is our deepest desire and most earnest prayer for you. May your life be crowned with the rich and precious fruit of a life lived under God for others.”



1991

DR. BRUCE GORDON

OBC, OTS / 1991–1995

“My prayer for you is that the word ‘celebrate’ will always be part of your vocabulary, that with God’s help and presence even in turbulent times, you will be able to rise above the difficulties and rejoice in your King.”



1996

DR. BRIAN STILLER

OBC, OTS, TYNDALE / 1996–2009

“Leaders, we’re to give, as is anyone out of their gifting... it falls in part to us to provide a flow of life, energy and hope as conduits of [God’s] grace. This necessitates learning how to give. It’s a discipline. It’s learned. In doing it – especially in times when it threatens our well-being – it becomes natural, and in time becomes the first impulse, the dominant instinct.”



LISA OPPITZ

TAKEN, BLESSED, BROKEN, GIVEN

Before joining the team at Tyndale's Family Life Centre, Lisa Oppitz [MDiv 2019] was an intern with Tyndale Counselling Services while enrolled in Tyndale's Counselling Program. She works with individuals, families and couples and hopes to gain additional certification in the areas of grief and trauma counselling, as well as in play and art therapy.

Prior to studying at Tyndale, she taught French Immersion with the Toronto District School Board. She later took time off to raise her family and volunteered with Community Bible Study International and mentored with Moms Arise. Her volunteer work motivated her to pursue theological studies, specifically in the area of Christian counselling.

Lisa was the graduating seminarian speaker at Convocation Chapel this past April. In her speech, she made references to her Tyndale journey and why it was such a defining experience for her. She expanded on the collective challenges of her fellow seminary graduates. Many struggled with balancing multiple aspects of their lives, whether financially, professionally or personally. Often there was sacrifice and the need for perseverance in their academic journeys. Talking about Henri Nouwen, she presented the sequence of the Eucharist (taken, blessed, broken, given), relating this process to the Tyndale Chapel mosaic artwork and to her own Tyndale experience. Here are some excerpts from her inspirational speech:

"Like many others, I have been deeply drawn to the majestic mosaic art work in Tyndale's chapel. My hope is to share how the materials and processes involved in this art form can evoke images and understandings of the personal, relational, spiritual and vocational journeys in which we've participated during our formative and transformative time here at Tyndale.

"In researching our chapel's mosaic, I learned that...approximately 400,000 individually cut tiles, or tesserae, are set in the work before you...Few of the tesserae have equal sides, and, in fact, many are chipped, cracked, uneven, fissured, or lacklustre at initial glance. Interesting to note is that a piece is never discarded. In fact, the most unique pieces are set aside for just the right place. However, while each tile and each small section are beautiful to behold on their own, the art of mosaic invites an appreciation of the whole.

"Light also plays a critical role in the effect of the mosaic. The reflective properties in the glass tiles, set at slight angles in the adhesive medium, invite the light to be reflected in particular ways. The quality of light falling on the tile will depend on the time of day, weather, and season. At times, artificial light angles and streaming sunbeams will illuminate particular sections, while others stay shadowed. Interestingly, the inherent reflective quality of each tile is not altered by external conditions. And so, we observe an ever-expanding, light-reflecting beauty in mosaic.

"When we consider the wholeness, the entirety of the art piece, the Latin term for this style of mosaic - opus tesellatum (a life's work in tesserae) - makes such sense. And one could argue that, by no accident of design, such an art form was chosen and created as the backdrop for the cross, Christ's opus. Our life, our beautiful, messy, redeemed life in process - the one formed in each one of us and the one formed as a body of witnesses - is full of Christ-light-absorbing and Christ-light-reflecting properties meant to point a hurting world to the cross. As we move forward in our next chapters, may we embrace the taking, the blessing, the breaking, and the giving, and may we remember this place and these people who helped teach us how to do that well."



JONATHAN THOMPSON

PRACTISING SPIRITUAL GIFTS MODELLED BY CHRIST

Jonathan (Jon) Thompson [BA 1999, MTS 2005] is the Lead Pastor of Vision & Preaching of the 3,000 member strong C4 Church (previously known as Carruthers Creek Community Church) in Durham region, Ontario. He has served here for more than 20 years, earning his degrees while pastoring, including his doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is also an adjunct professor at Tyndale Seminary.

C4 has a broad reach in Ontario with sites in Ajax, Port Perry and Bowmanville, and another site is to be launched in Pickering. The church's phenomenal growth came out of C4's experience exploring the theology and importance of spiritual gifts as modelled by Christ on earth.

This inspiring journey is captured in Jon's book *Convergence* (available at thrivewithconvergence.com), which provides insights into C4's transformation as the church put spiritual

gifts and disciplines into practice. "It's been an incredible journey here. We've genuinely experienced renewal and revival in the historic sense, hundreds of baptisms, conversions from multiple faith backgrounds and no-faith backgrounds and renewal in Christian life," notes Jon.

Looking back, Jon appreciated his Tyndale experience, particularly its evangelical history and transdenominational nature. "I appreciate that Tyndale perpetually tries to make an ancient faith relevant today," he shares, noting that the Christian mind is fundamental to the survival of the church today. "Higher Christian education is critical because the world is complex. If you read church history, some of the greatest moves of the Holy Spirit happened through intellectual revolution in the church. It's critical in a post-Christian, multicultural, pluralistic time that the church is in the forefront of thinking and engagement."

LIANN ALMEIDA

FAITH IN THE FACE OF DISASTER

On May 3, 2016, Liann Almeida [BEd 2015] went to work as usual as an elementary school teacher in downtown Fort McMurray, Alberta. At the time, everyone was aware of a forest fire in the area but assumed it was under control. The day started with clear skies, but by the afternoon the situation had drastically changed as the fire reached Fort McMurray.

An evacuation order was issued. Liann and her colleagues had to ensure that each one of her young students was accounted for and that all were reunited with their parents or boarded on emergency buses. Some of her students had special needs and needed additional reassurance.

Everyone in Fort McMurray had to leave via one main highway, which quickly snarled with the number of evacuees. Liann made the harrowing journey with her family as the fire closed in. “God sent his angels to rescue the residents of Fort McMurray – 88,000 people made it out alive. It was such a huge fire, but no one was injured and no deaths were reported. For me that’s a miracle in itself,” she notes.

When they had been evacuated to Edmonton, she called each of her students’ families to make sure they were safe. Many were in university dormitories or scattered across Edmonton. “These displaced kids had nothing. The community was attending to them, but it’s our job as teachers to be there for them,” she shared. Through a connection, she worked with Save the Children to create child-friendly spaces and made an open call to her fellow teachers for volunteers. In these spaces, children had the opportunity to express themselves through art and communicate what they were going through. Liann was eventually able to say good-bye to the children, knowing they were safe and head back to the Greater Toronto Area to continue teaching.



Every skill I learned at Tyndale I utilized in my teaching career.

Liann feels specifically called to be a teacher. In 2011, while working as an Early Childhood Educator (ECE), she heard the voice of God calling her to apply to teacher’s college. Liann felt she had gained valuable and practical foundational knowledge in the Bachelor of Education program at Tyndale. She particularly took note of the faith of the professors and other staff and their readiness to support students. They ensured all the teacher candidates felt valued and encouraged to accomplish their goals even when faced with unexpected challenges. With those skills, she was able to motivate her students and find new ways to inspire them. “Every skill I learned at Tyndale I utilized in my teaching career,” she notes. Referring to Jeremiah 29:11, Liann also adds, “I feel honoured and blessed to have been a Bachelor of Education student at Tyndale. It was God’s plan for me to be here.”

LAURA COXWORTH

A PRICELESS INVESTMENT

Laura Coxworth [MDiv 2015] is the first female chaplain of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) in the Canadian Armed Forces. Her journey with the military began as a civilian working on contract positions overseas, including Kandahar, Afghanistan. She came from a background in the financial services sector and was looking for a change.

Her experience with the military reawakened her calling to ministry. “I was coming back to the idea of pastoral ministry after 20 years when I realized I could do full-time ministry in the military,” she shares. “My pastoral heart was emboldened and enlarged by the idea that I could help Canadian Armed Forces members, who are being asked by the nation to do difficult things. Studies show that spirituality increases resilience, which, in turn, contributes to overall health and well-being. We want our members to be healthy and whole.”

As a mature student, she found that Tyndale offered a variety of options towards earning her MDiv efficiently. “My Tyndale experience was great. It expanded my understanding of faith and God and the people in the family of God.”

During her studies, Laura received both a scholarship and a bursary, something she deeply appreciated.

“Someone invested this money. It’s more than just financial, it’s an affirmation of calling, affirmation that those who have gone before are passionate about investing in the next generation, and that’s more priceless than the actual sum,” she says candidly.

She discovered that only a few scholarships were available for pastoral ministry and wanted to change that somehow. She started saving, knowing it was something she would have to build up over time. As the years went by, she asked friends and family to donate to this fund. When the time came, she named the scholarship after Corporal Chad O’Quinn, who was killed in action in Kandahar in 2009. “He was someone I met in Kandahar,” she recalls. “His presence left an impact. He was known as a man of deep faith.” Tyndale students interested in military chaplaincy or Canadian Armed Forces veterans pursuing ministry as a vocation are eligible for this particular fund. The fund has provided support for four seminary students since its inception.

“My heart is to facilitate the study of ministry in a way that other people did for me. Also, when people see this award listed, they would remember both Chad and the importance of military chaplaincy,” she says.



QUASQUICENTENNIAL

quas-qui-centennial [kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uh]

Definition of *quasquicentennial*

noun

- 1 a 125th anniversary
- 2 a celebration to mark such an anniversary

Total attendance



Year

1895



1919



1944



The library began with approximately **80 books**, donated by Mr. J. D. Nasmith



The first session required a total cost of **\$3000** to operate (including free tuition)

The War caused a major decrease in male students

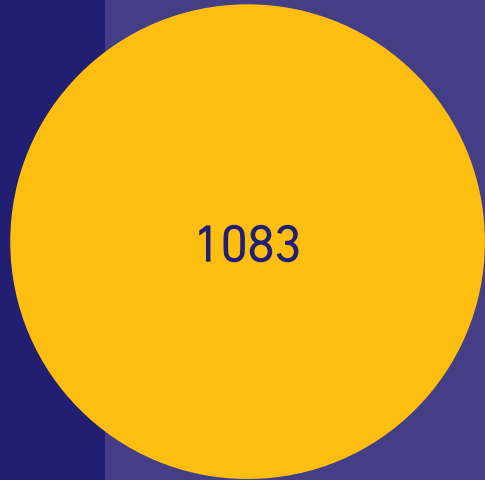
The work of the College was interrupted to some extent during the epidemic of the **Spanish Influenza**. The Evening Classes were closed for three weeks. The Day Classes were not discontinued, but all the students who were in a position to give assistance in any way to the sick and afflicted were released from attendance. A large number of the young women went out to serve as nurses, and several of the young men also were able to render valuable help. We are thankful to record the fact that among all these students thus brought into close touch with the epidemic, not one case of illness occurred.



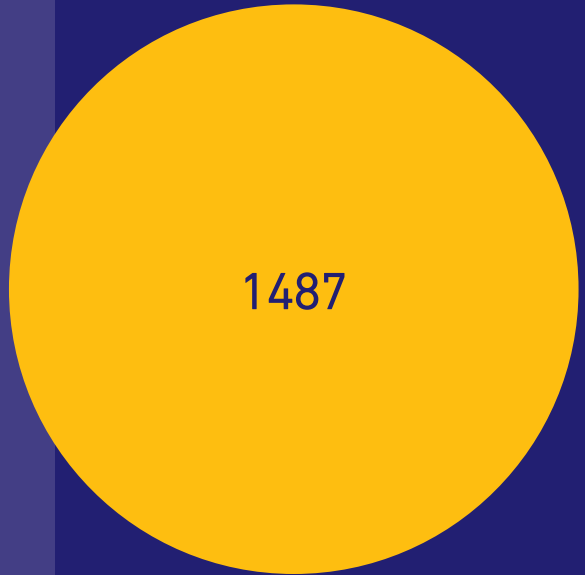
This group of between **40–50 young women** visited Camp Borden one Sunday each month, in co-operation with the War Services Committee of the Baptist Convention. The work of these students there, in the hospital wards and the officers' mess rooms in the afternoons, and in the public meeting in the large YMCA hall in the evenings, has won high praise from all who witnessed it and saw its results. A genuine spiritual impact was made upon the soldiers and a considerable number of men were won for Christ.



1969



1994



2019

The College was given a memorial gift after the death of J. William Horsey – the College was able to secure an auto-typist. The machine saves countless staff hours in typing the letters that are the vital link between donors and the College.

The first yearbook was published – entitled “Maxaipa ‘69”

\$1200

Cost of tuition **\$1200** for a full year at school all inclusive (raised from the \$200 rate from 1936)



A new computer lab with **four terminals** and a laser printer made a student’s life easier. The terminals had WordPerfect 6 and manuals were available for those unfamiliar with the program.



The first Indigenous person in Canada graduated with an advanced theology degree in spring 2018.



Tyndale Seminary is now the largest graduate school of theology in Canada



GLOBAL IMPACT

Where our students are from

Albania
Antigua and
Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Bahamas
Barbados
Brazil
Burundi
Cameroon

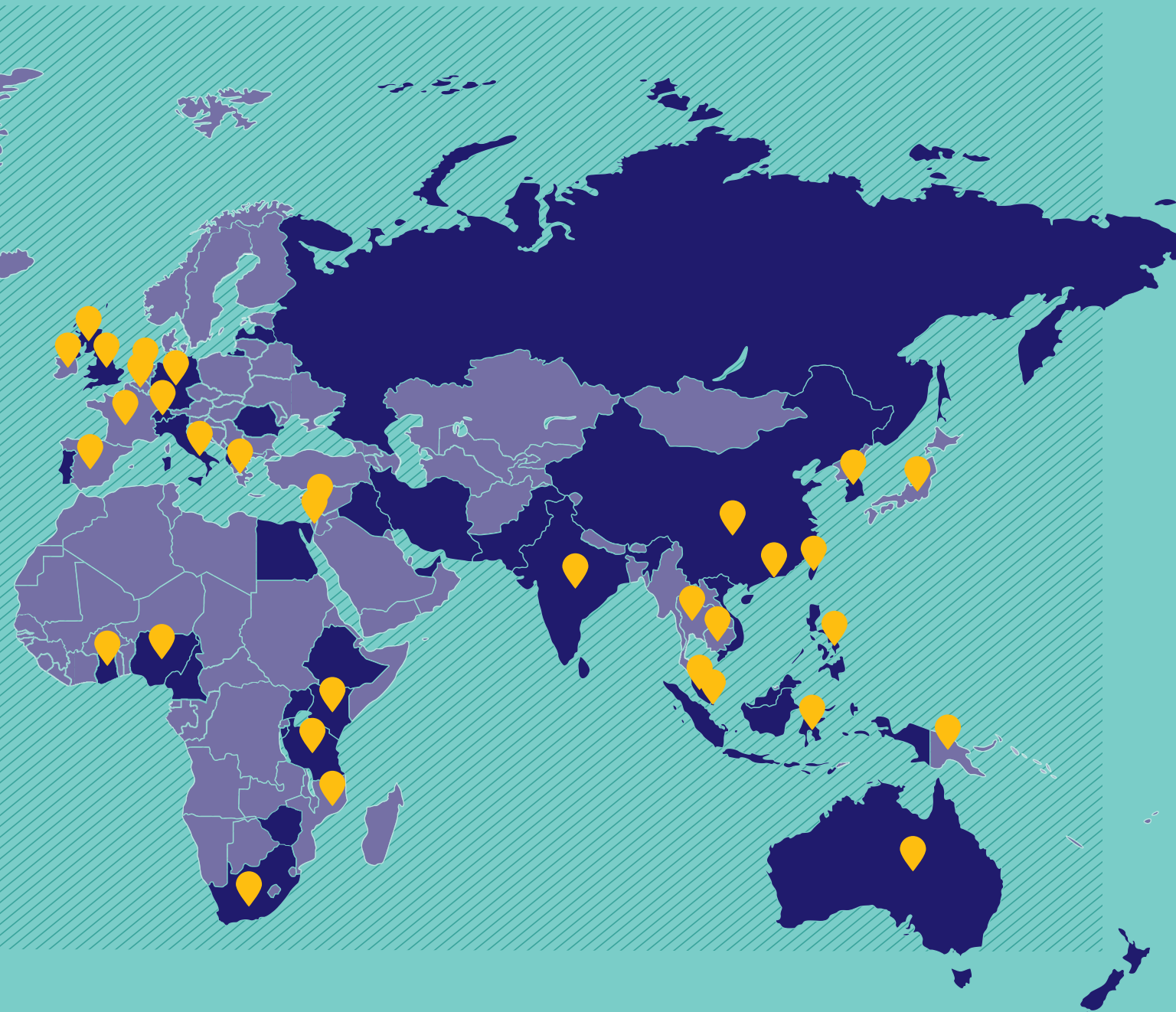
Canada
China
Colombia
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Germany
Ghana
Grenada
Haiti


Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Italy
Jamaica
Kenya
Latvia
Malaysia

Mauritius
Mexico
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Philippines
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Singapore

South Africa
South Korea
Sri Lanka
St Vincent and
the Grenadines
Switzerland
Taiwan
Tanzania
Trinidad and
Tobago

Uganda
United Arab
Emirates
United Kingdom
USA
Vietnam
Zimbabwe



 **Where our students are serving**

Antigua and Barbuda
Australia
Bahamas
Belgium
Cambodia
Canada
China
France
Germany

Ghana
Greece
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan

Kenya
Korea
Lebanon
Malaysia
Mozambique
Netherlands
Nigeria
Papua New Guinea
Phillippines

Scotland
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Switzerland
Taiwan
Tanzania
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago

United Kingdom
USA



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Honouring the History of Innovation and Community at Tyndale

In the late 19th century, there appeared to be an insurmountable problem. College and university campuses were experiencing revival. Many young people were being challenged to a commitment to Christ for world service, and they were responding in unprecedented numbers. The Church was becoming world conscious, and the need for biblically literate women and men became more and more obvious.

However, many educational institutions, once evangelical and biblical, were embracing modern theology, contradicting the foundational truths of the Christian faith. Students were therefore in need of a Christ-honouring educational program that would equip them for the challenge of world service.

This was the problem – a growing opportunity for Christian service at home and overseas, but a lack of trained people. Dr. A. B. Simpson was the first to seek a solution. He had already established the Christian and Missionary Alliance with missions in mind, and in 1882, he founded Nyack Missionary College. Mr. D. L. Moody saw the same need, and he was led to establish in 1886 what was subsequently known as Moody Bible Institute. Thus began the Bible College movement.

In 1894, Dr. Elmore Harris, a Baptist pastor in Toronto, felt the need for such education in Canada. He consulted with Mr. Moody and then with other Canadian church leaders. In that same year, Toronto Bible College was founded. Its purpose was to ensure “the training of Christian men and women for the service of the Lord Jesus Christ at home and abroad.”

For more than a quarter of a century, it was Canada’s only interdenominational Bible College, dedicated to the teaching of the Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. For many years, it was *the* Canadian source for an ongoing supply of pastors, missionaries and other Christian workers. It was the first to enroll women and laypeople.

Over time, it became understood that a particular educational experience was needed to continue to prepare students for service. It was at this time in the mid-1960s the London College of Bible and Mission (LCBM) and Toronto Bible College began discussing their mutual needs and challenges. Both institutions agreed to merge in 1968 to form Ontario Bible College. The merger also brought to fruition a unified vision to provide graduate-level education to graduates of Canadian universities and accredited Bible Colleges, and in 1976, Ontario Theological Seminary was launched.

The merger opened the door to again think differently. LCBM had been exploring the possibility of granting a Bachelor of Arts degree in conjunction with a local university. In many ways, the vision for the university education that Tyndale offers today can be traced to these initial concepts and innovative vision of LCBM.

A deeper philosophy of Christian education and a much wider scope in curriculum to meet the growing, complex demands of an increasingly complex world began to emerge. Programs offered began to multiply beyond teaching English, Bible and missions skills. A greater emphasis on the humanities and human services skills (social work, developmental service work and early childhood education) were introduced.

Just before the turn of the 21st century, there was recognition that much of the training for pastors and traditional full-time ministry vocations was taking place at the graduate, seminary level. Observation of student pathways beyond graduation demonstrated that many were integrating into the business world, taking the hope of Christ with them, and into other universities for additional education. The question was how could Tyndale best serve students who were seeking to grow in their biblical literacy and to serve Jesus in a variety of other ways. The idea of becoming a provincially recognized university was reignited.

Today, 125 years later, it is apparent that Tyndale never deviated from its roots. We celebrate the forward thinking and innovation within its ethos. The university college degrees are provincially recognized. Graduates are working in a vast array of occupations and pursuits. The seminary is now the largest graduate school of theology in Canada, serving annually over 1,000 students from 40 different denominations and 60 ethnic groups. Tyndale is much more than a pastoral and vocational-ministry training school, and its students – from all walks of life, traditions and cultural backgrounds – are seeking to live lives that actively engage the key questions and issues of today, bringing with them the gospel message of hope.

The Open Learning Centre was added where several centres are located – The Leadership Centre, The Tyndale Intercultural Ministry Centre, The Spiritual Formation Centre and The Family Life Centre. Together, these centres enable Tyndale to reach into the community and serve various groups in ways traditional academic institutions are unable to.

Throughout Tyndale’s history, there have always been what appeared to be insurmountable issues. Words written by Rev. Stewart Boehmer in 1967 still ring true today. We have “experienced deep trials and difficulties..., but God has not forsaken us. His hand has been upon us at a time when we could not have charted our course or even kept afloat. This fact proves conclusively that far from casting us aside, God has sustained us because He has great things in store for us. He might well have cut us adrift, were it not for the fact that He brought us into being for His own peculiar purpose and glory. God be praised that He has not removed His hand of blessing from the first day until now. Therefore, we can face the future with the confidence that He Who has begun this good work will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Written by Kevin Kirk, Senior Vice President, External Relations with notes from D. H. Percy and S. L. Boehmer.

CHANGING THE ACADEMIC CULTURE FOR CHRIST

Originally on track to become a marine biologist, Dr. Richard Davis, Professor and Chair of Philosophy, came to Christ during his undergraduate studies at the University of Alberta. During that time, he witnessed a Christian apologist defend the faith in a debate with an atheist, which sparked in Dr. Davis a desire to do the same. After completing his BSc, he continued his studies at the University of Toronto and earned his MA and PhD in Philosophy.

Dr. Davis joined Tyndale in 1998 when it was known as Tyndale College & Seminary. At the time, philosophy courses were only electives. But in 2003, Tyndale received university college status accreditation from the Government of Ontario and was renamed Tyndale University College & Seminary. This enabled Tyndale to offer a recognized Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. Dr. Paul Franks, Associate Professor of Philosophy, joined the department in 2008. Together they redesigned the program with the goal of mentoring 50 students to achieve MA, PhD or Law degrees by 2018. “Dr. Franks and I believe the Christian faith can be rationally defended, which is essential to the evangelistic enterprise,” shares Dr. Davis.

Dr. Davis and Dr. Franks recently achieved their goal with 51 students accepted to postgraduate studies at such institutions as Oxford University, Yale University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto. Of this number, 15 have gone on to doctoral programs; some are now professors. Their new goal is to raise this number to 100 students. “Tyndale has enabled us to carry out this vision and dream to become one of the leading Christ-centred departments of philosophy in North America,” he adds.

“If our students can go out into the academic world and become professors at universities, we’ll actually change the academic culture for Christ by having Christian professors teaching undergraduate students in philosophy,” shares Dr. Davis. He notes how philosophy can be one of the most hostile disciplines to the Christian faith and believes they can make a significant difference by encouraging students to pursue postgraduate studies. “Who else can represent Christ in these programs? Your average pastor can’t go into a graduate seminar in philosophy at a university and be an ambassador for Christ because they don’t travel in those circles. But our students can and do. It’s like being a missionary in an academic context,” he says.



KATIE CARLINE

A FULL-CIRCLE JOURNEY

Growing up in Nairobi, Kenya, with her missionary parents, Katie Carline [BA 2012] discovered Tyndale when considering post-secondary education. She knew it would be a place where she could cultivate her faith. She also loved the idea of being immersed in Toronto's international culture. She considers this city a hub for global migration and notes how Tyndale primed her to engage in a global context.

Katie felt encouraged by the faculty to continue her studies after earning her BA in History. She completed her MA degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax, where she received the Governor General's Gold Medal Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences. She is currently pursuing her PhD in African History at Michigan State University.

Coming full-circle, she recently returned to Tyndale to teach a course. "Christianity today is becoming a religion of



the global south. Christianity in Africa and Latin America is a really vibrant and powerful force in the church and in wider society, so that's something the students that I teach today want to learn about," she remarks.

Katie observed the inquisitive nature and level of engagement of Tyndale undergraduates as something she had not encountered in other places she had taught. "I really appreciate that because it allows me to open up the classroom beyond just lecturing and engage students in debate and instruction. Tyndale students see the material they're learning as necessary and relevant to all aspects of their life," she notes.

JASMINE FROST

LEARNING TO LOVE BETTER

Jasmine Frost [BA 2022] felt she needed to learn how to present and defend her faith within the academic circle after taking a philosophy course in high school. She sought out Dr. Richard Davis, Professor of Philosophy at Tyndale. "It was one of the most engaging conversations I've ever had about faith, and it was taken seriously," she says. "I really loved the prospect of being able to defend my faith logically, and that was the stance I took against my philosophy teacher. I wanted to prove that faith was rational." Her interaction with Dr. Davis prompted her to apply to Tyndale, where she is currently majoring in Philosophy and Biblical Studies. She loves the community and found a place where she could grow spiritually.

In her first year, she entered an essay competition. In the essay presentation, she addressed the importance of Christian higher education from the perspective of learning to love better. "Not only does a Christian education in the humanities extend the reach of our love, but it's quality as well...I firmly believe in the tremendous influence - and, dare I say, necessity - of the Christian university in discipling and equipping students like me to love God and others in ways that transform us and those around us," she says.

She feels her education at Tyndale plays a critical role in students' spiritual growth and capacity to share God's love. "It's something a secular university cannot accomplish. What truly fills our love for others with the purpose and sincerity of Christ is pairing the knowledge and understanding of others that comes from a fully rounded education with the knowledge and understanding of love that only comes from being in relationship with Love Himself," she adds.



THE ALISTER E. MCGRATH CHAIR OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND SPIRITUALITY

Early this year, Tyndale announced its vision to establish the endowed Alister E. McGrath Chair of Christian Thought and Spirituality. The twofold focus of the Chair (Christian Thought and Spirituality) is a key theme in Dr. McGrath's scholarship and is foundational to the educational ethos at Tyndale Seminary. The term *Christian Thought* includes, among other things, the reformation theologies that are an important stream within the transdenominational Christian heritage of Tyndale. The joint emphasis in the title underscores the inseparability of theology from the life and practice of faithful living.

The Chair represents an incredible opportunity for Tyndale and the Christian community at large. Dr. McGrath welcomed this connection with Tyndale because of its strategic position in the most multicultural city in the world and because of its multid denominational nature.

Dr. Alister E. McGrath

An internationally acclaimed theologian, scholar and Christian apologist, Dr. Alister E. McGrath has uniquely underscored the intersection of theology, science and spirituality. As a science academic first before becoming an apologist, Dr. McGrath has been one of the most comprehensible voices of Christian faith in our pluralistic world.

Dr. McGrath is currently the Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion and Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion at Oxford University. Dr. McGrath is renowned for his prolific, scholarly work in diverse areas, including the relationship between science and religion (atheism, and his public debates with Richard Dawkins), Christian apologetics (the first director of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics; C. S. Lewis scholar), reformation theology (including Luther and Calvin), contemporary theologians (e.g., Brunner, Barth, Moltmann) and Christian spirituality (Roots That Refresh; Christian Spirituality). He is also the author of one of the most acclaimed theology textbooks in use, *Christian Theology: An Introduction* (Wiley Blackwell, 2017).

Dr. Dennis Ngien

Dr. Dennis Ngien, Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of the ThM Program, will be installed as the first holder of the Alister E. McGrath Chair of Christian Thought and Spirituality at Homecoming in September. He is a renowned scholar, pastor, author and mentor, who brings diligent scholarship to bear on the issues of the day in a winsome and thoughtful manner.

The joint emphasis on "Christian Thought and Spirituality" is something Dr. Ngien naturally adopts in his multifaceted ministry. What makes him particularly fitting for this role is his ability to intersect his life of scholarly pursuits with that of practical application.

Dr. Ngien models qualities that students can emulate through his unwavering commitment to use intellect for God's glory in scholarship while working in tandem with the church. Highly esteemed at the seminary and in the broader Christian community, Dr. Ngien is the senior theologian at Tyndale Seminary and the founder of the Centre for Mentorship & Theological Reflection. Through the Centre, he mentors scholars, theological students, pastors and church leaders and assists churches in advisory and teaching capacities. Dr. Ngien counts Dr. McGrath among his influential mentors, and in turn, Dr. McGrath selected Dr. Ngien to write an endorsement to the recent edition of Dr. McGrath's acclaimed theology textbook.

Dr. Ngien's areas of expertise include Systematic and Reformation Theologies, Jurgen Moltmann, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Christology, Salvation, Trinity, and issues in the impassibility/passibility of God. He has authored numerous articles as well as 10 books, including most recently a major monograph on Luther's Christology in John's Gospel, published by Fortress Press, for which Dr. McGrath has written a preface. He was formerly nominated as Research Scholar at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford University, and now serves as Research Professor at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. He has been reappointed as Fellow (2016; 2018) at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, where he conducts his research and writing on his *Reformation Spirituality: How the Gospel Shapes Christian Living in Luther and Calvin* (Baker Academic, 2020).

ALLETH ANDERSON

SPIRITUAL CARE FOR THE DYING

Alleth Anderson [MTS 2019] has been a nurse for 22 years and has cared for patients through healing as well as death. In their profession, nurses are taught to deliver holistic care to patients, including spiritual care. But Alleth stresses that nurses are often too burned out, too busy and simply unequipped to handle this level of care.

Coming to Tyndale, she initially hoped that studying towards her MTS would enrich her personally but soon found that it complemented her work as a nurse. She discovered that she could apply the knowledge gained from her studies to the spiritual care of her patients,

“[My studies] helps me to understand a patient’s spiritual needs better and be more sensitive and compassionate in the time of dying and death.”

particularly in the final stages of their lives. The nature of her work means that when a chaplain is not available, particularly during the night, she is able to step into that role to pray for and comfort her patients. “I find myself being more compassionate, not that I wasn’t before, and it helps me to understand a patient’s spiritual needs better and be more sensitive and compassionate in the time of dying and death,” she says.

Alleth was grateful that Tyndale offered unique options for taking her courses, specifically Monday evening classes for her particular program. She overcame the challenges of balancing work, family and her studies through the encouragement and strength she received from God and her fellow classmates.

Alleth plans to continue her studies some day and is considering the new Pastoral Thanatology Program at Tyndale developed by Dr. David Sherbino; this program specifically focuses on the study of grief, bereavement, death and dying.



DR. SHARON SIMMONDS

LEADING TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S LOVE

As the Director of Programs with Arrow Leadership, Dr. Sharon Simmonds [DMin 2015] supervises the delivery of programs to develop Jesus-centred leaders for greater Kingdom impact around the world. Sharon's connection with Arrow Leadership began when she enrolled in the Arrow Leadership Program in 2004-2005. Along the way, her experiences with Tyndale's Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program helped solidify her calling within this ministry.

Before coming to Tyndale, Sharon experienced God's prompting regarding the purpose and meaning of the church and what it means to be God's people leading together. "I was motivated to see us putting our theology into practice and putting our love for Jesus into tangible, practical expressions of what it means to be the church," she shares.

She found that her experiences with her education, raising a family, working in the church and starting a charity all converged while she was in the DMin program. Towards



the end of her program, she felt God guiding her out of the church and into a new context. One of her Tyndale instructors was Dr. Steve Brown [MDiv 1997], President of Arrow Leadership. He invited her to volunteer as a mentor in Arrow's program. She also took on contract positions, wrote a devotional book (*Who Am I? A Devotional Journey for You to Soar in Your Identity in Christ*) and worked in the production of resources before being appointed to her current position. "The condition of leaders really matters for the sake of the ministry or the church, and ultimately it's about having this deeper relationship with God and one another in our work together," she says.

DR. DAVID SHERBINO

INNOVATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

For more than 30 years, Dr. David Sherbino (Professor of Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry) has served with Tyndale in various faculty roles. Of an innovative mindset, his goal has always been to ensure that the Tyndale programs meet the current ministry needs of students today. "The students come first at Tyndale. Even in choosing our schedules as faculty - like teaching at night because that's when students can come. It's incumbent upon us to be creative and helpful and have a pulse on where things are moving towards while trusting God," he shares.

Originally trained as a psychotherapist, Dr. Sherbino became a minister in the Presbyterian Church, where he continues to serve to this day. Dr. Ian Rennie, Dean of the seminary at the time, recruited him in 1987 as Chair of the Pastoral Ministries Department. Dr. Sherbino was the lead pastor in his church while teaching at Tyndale. He found this balance to be enormously beneficial because it was a perfect blend of theory and practice. "At Tyndale, faculty have a lot of practical experience, so they have one foot in academia and one foot in the church or real world," he says. Dr. Sherbino has also authored six best-selling books.

Among the many international partnerships and

programs he has established and designed at Tyndale is the prominent Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Formation. Later, along with the Tyndale Association of Spiritual Directors, he moved to initiate the certification of this profession.

Dr. Sherbino recently reduced his pastoral hours to dedicate more time to developing programs. The new Pastoral Thanatology program is his most recent contribution to the seminary. "Many people who graduate as pastors or as counsellors are not trained in grief therapy. Yet, every day people are dealing with the reality of grief," he shares. In September, Tyndale will offer Pastoral Thanatology as a concentration within the MDiv, MTS or Graduate Diploma programs. An internship is available for those seeking a CTPS (Certified Thanatologist Pastoral Specialist) designation granted by the Canadian Council for Professional Certification (CCPC) Global Inc. More information on this program can be found at tyndale.ca/seminary/study/pastoral-thanatology.

Dr. Sherbino credits Tyndale for being on the cutting edge. "Tyndale is very nimble. We have to understand the culture of the day. Also, being transdenominational, we're not locked into a particular mindset, but we're trying to see the whole breadth of the Christian community," he notes.

A LOOK BACK



LONDON COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MISSIONS



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