

# FACES OF FAITH



www.macdiv.ca

At MacDiv we are proud of our students and are encouraged by their work and enthusiasm towards learning, teaching and sharing the words and works of God. Here are four examples of the “faces of faith” embodied in our students.



## From professional drummer to ordained pastor

**Wesley Collins, First year MDiv student**

After completing a three-year music program, and one year of teaching music full-time, Wes' dream was to become a professional drummer. Then Jesus got his attention while reading the Gospels – as a result, Wes enrolled in Bible College with a view to training for vocational ministry. Now, three years later, Wes is starting his Master of Divinity program in further preparation for becoming an

ordained pastor of a church.

Wes was awarded our Christian Leadership Scholarship this year because of his dedicated leadership in his home church, a Christian Reformed Church, as well as in a new church plant started by his father, and for his ministry aspirations for the future.



## MK dreams of returning to Africa

**Nathan Dirks, First year MA student**

Nathan finally discovered a passion for learning when he started his BA in Religious Studies. It was then that he realized the importance of understanding God and his work in the world, and being able to competently teach this understanding to those in his Mennonite Brethren home church.

Fueled by a desire to become more proficient in understanding and teaching the Scriptures, Nathan has enrolled in the MA in Christian Studies here at MacDiv. He hopes to follow in the tradition of his parents and grandparents and return to the African continent for long-term mission work.



## Roller-coastering with God

**Mary-Lue Mahaffey, First year MTS student**

Whether it is working as a director of a sports camp, doing building expansion on a church mission in Mexico, or working on a Native reserve in Alberta, Mary-Lue likens her relationship with God as being strapped into a roller coaster with God in the seat beside her. While the Christian life may be scary and difficult at times, Mary-Lue has learned that God is faithful and nothing can separate her from His love.

Having finished her BA in history, Mary-Lue is now enrolled in the Master of Theological Studies program at MacDiv. She has a strong desire to acquire tools to study Scripture and engage today's culture with God's word, so that young people can be more firmly grounded in their faith and stand more firmly in their Christian life. Mary-Lue is actively involved in her Fellowship Baptist home church.



## Becoming relevant to the 21st century Church

**Marilyn Draper, First year PhD student**

Gifted with the ability to teach and preach, Marilyn is committed to honing and developing that gift in order to better explain and apply the Bible. As the main teaching pastor of The Gathering in Georgetown these last few years, she is convinced of the need for the church to articulate the Gospel and provide biblical understanding that is relevant to today's culture.

Marilyn believes her Ph.D. program will give her the chance to dig deeply into the Scriptures in a fresh way. As well, she hopes to be able to ask questions about what the church needs to understand and do differently so that it will become more pro-active and inspiring to the next generations of Christians.

*These are just four of the new students who are coming to us this fall to begin their programs of preparation and study. But they give you a glimpse of the amazing impact these students will have as graduates, ministering where God has called them. This is our purpose – to prepare future Christian leaders like Wes, Mary-Lue, Marilyn, and Nathan so that they can fulfill the calling of God in their lives and influence the world for Jesus Christ.*

*Help us continue in our mission of preparing Christian leaders for the 21st century by sending in your donation today. Remember – effective mission work in Africa, the mentoring of young Christians, effective preaching and teaching, and the increased relevancy of the Church depend on it!*

Stanley E. Porter, PhD  
President and Dean, McMaster Divinity College