



# The Link

MBCI Alumni Newsletter - Keeping You Connected

CELEBRATING  
**70**  
YEARS  
1945-2015

## BACK TO AFRICA

**TWO COUPLES.  
TWO DIFFERENT JOURNEYS.  
BOTH HAVING BEGUN THEIR MARRIAGES  
WITH AFRICA ROOTED AT THE HEART.**

Neil ('57) & Herta (Rempel '60) Janzen and  
Darryl ('81) & Shirley Peters

### Celebrating 50!

#### Neil & Herta Janzen

We married June 1964 and arrived in newly independent Zambia in August 1965 as volunteers with MCC. Neil taught in the Kafue Secondary School for boys; Herta, being a nurse, became involved in a public health program for children under five.

Now, 50 years later we decided as part of our 50th Anniversary, to return to Zambia with our daughter Sandra ('83), son Doug ('87) and his partner, Devon Haag. Besides revisiting Zambia, we made stops in South Africa (Cape Town & Hermanus) as well as Tanzania. Each country represented some of the international connections that Herta had through her board involvement with iDE and Neil with his staff role with MEDA. We wanted to experience the nostalgia of returning while also introducing Sandra, Doug and Devon to part of our past.

Zambia was of course nostalgic, revisiting Lusaka General Hospital, birthplace of our daughter Sandra and the Kafue Secondary School. A brief stop at the iDE project highlighted the impact of its irrigation support. A final stop in Livingstone offered a return visit to Victoria Falls and a cruise on the Zambezi River.

The stop in Tanzania provided an opportunity to stay at Dashir Lodge and meet its owners Darryl and Shirley Peters. We were inspired by their venture and accomplishments and thoroughly enjoyed our stay with first rate and five star accommodations. We had great hospitality and wonderful arrangements for the wildlife safari and Kilimanjaro climb.



### Africa in the Pre-Nups!

#### Darryl ('81) & Shirley Peters

When Shirley and I discussed our "relationship" in the early days, she candidly stated, "If you take me to Africa, we can get married. If not, we will just be good friends." I said yes and we got married a year later.

God works in mysterious ways. Through a leaky roof in Botswana, we met Bakari, an amazing Tanzanian architect, who with his wife introduced us to his beloved Tanzania and family in 2002. Then in 2010, after teaching a total of 20 years in Brandon, Botswana (MCC), and Winnipeg (MBCI), we sold everything but our three grown children and moved to Tanzania.

Dashir Lodge & Safaris is located in Arusha, Tanzania, set on African grassland with acacia trees. We have been building with great care over the past four years, with a team of local workers who have become our friends and part of our current lodge staff.

What energizes us is making new friends and seeing God work in the lives of our guests, village neighbors, and workers (and us too of course!) as we share the beauty that is here in Tanzania; from the incredible hospitality and warmth of the people to the grand experiences of



the Serengeti, Kilimanjaro, and Zanzibar.

We love to break down negative African stereotypes by connecting tourists with local Tanzanians, whether a home meal, a village tour, a school or clinic...many guests say these daily life encounters are the highlight of their adventure, and many say that they have been deeply moved and will come back again.

**We would love to design a trip of a lifetime and host you here! [www.dashirlodge.com](http://www.dashirlodge.com)**

Connecting in Africa, brought together two completely different couples, with different experiences, different connections to MBCI, but still at the root of their love of God and His leading in their lives, it brought them together across the world.

If you have a story to share of a connection or a way back to MBCI, please call or email Lori at 204-667-8210 or [lderksen@mbc.mb.ca](mailto:lderksen@mbc.mb.ca).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 29**

GRADUATION CEREMONY @  
NKMB 7PM

**AUG. 19**

MBCI GOLF TOURNAMENT  
ST. BONIFACE GOLF COURSE

**OCT. 17**

**\*NEW\*** FUNDRAISING EVENT  
STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

**OCT. 29**

GRANDPARENT DAY

**JAN. 26**

OPEN HOUSE

Do you have an alumni update  
or a feature story idea?  
Tell us by writing to:

Mennonite Brethren  
Collegiate Institute  
C/O Lori Derksen  
173 Talbot Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB  
R2L 0P6

Or email  
lderksen@mbcmb.ca



*Life Well Learned.*

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## MBCI TODAY

Spring is in the air and always has that feeling of new beginnings, hope and renewal. As I reflect on MBCI celebrating 70 years this year, I am proud of the strength, hope and renewal MBCI has continued to stand on to this day.

A lot has changed in education in that time frame, but the strength and foundation that MBCI was built on 70 years ago has remained the same.

The purpose and aim of MBCI has always been to give our youth a solid faith based education. Students are educated in mind,

body and spirit under the guidance and leadership of qualified teachers in our faith community.

Upon reflection, MBCI has remained true to these ideals. The manner in which this is expressed has changed over time, but the commitment to a faith based education that prepares young people for post-secondary education and for life is at the heart of what MBCI does every day.

The significance of a Life Well Learned.

Fred Pauls  
Principal



**EXPERIENCE MBCI AND  
BOOK A CAMPUS TOUR!**

**BOOK ONLINE [MBCI.MB.CA](http://MBCI.MB.CA)**

# GREEN FOR GOOD

**THREE REASONS YOU NEED TO GO  
GREEN FOR GOOD WITH MBCI**

- 1. Instant access to MBCI alumni news**
- 2. Stay connected with everything going on at MBCI**
- 3. Help the environment and MBCI by cutting down printing and postage costs - not trees!**

## SIGN UP NOW!

**Sign up by emailing [lderksen@mbcmb.ca](mailto:lderksen@mbcmb.ca) or  
online at [mbci.mb.ca/alumni](http://mbci.mb.ca/alumni)**

By signing up you are giving your expressed consent to receive all MBCI communications, including The Link, via email.

## STUDY TOURS AT MBCI

### HOLY LAND TOUR



By Graham Kurbis, Gr. 12

The Holy Land 2015 trip was something extremely special for me. The group, teacher, chaperone and destination created an amazing combination that led the two weeks spent in Israel, Palestine and Jordan being the best two weeks of my entire life. The combination of visiting multiple religious sites, learning about the politics in the area, as well as learning about the situations that many people (mostly Palestinians) face everyday made the trip educational, spiritual and extremely fun.

Summarizing the entire experience will be extremely difficult as no words can adequately describe the experiences and emotions felt throughout the entire journey. Starting off with our days spent in Jerusalem, we toured the city and met with MCC workers that showed us both the major tourist sites, as well as the areas

that tourists do not get the opportunity to see much of the time. These areas included Ramallah (A city located in the West Bank, only a short distance from Jerusalem) and Lifta, an abandoned Palestinian village dating back to before Christ.

After Jerusalem we made our way north and met with students at the Mar Elias school. We stayed with these students for two nights and they were gracious enough to invite us to stay with them in their homes. These home stays let us bond with the students and really get a clear story of the situation in Israel/Palestine, many of us are still in daily contact with the friends we made. The trip from here on gave us an even more in-depth view into the political struggles in Israel/Palestine, until we headed into Jordan, beginning with the Dead Sea then heading to Petra and finally finishing in Amman. Our experiences in Jordan were extremely fun (floating in the Dead Sea and climbing in Petra) as well as very eye opening and educational meeting with the MCC workers in Amman. Amman was the end of our journey and after two weeks of traveling, we were forced to say goodbye to the countries and people that we had all fallen in love with.

To sum everything up, the Holy Land 2015 trip was absolutely amazing. Meeting with amazing people, seeing breathtaking views and witnessing the conflict first hand is something I would do again in a heartbeat. The bonding on the trip created a group of people that I am sure will continue to stay together well after high school. The trip left nothing to be desired except the opportunity to spend months in Israel/Palestine rather than weeks.

### AMERICAN HISTORY



The American History Tour provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the history and culture of the U.S. The trip offers students a glimpse into the historical narrative of colonial and revolutionary America, and moves them through the earliest days of the Republic following Independence. Time spent in NY and Washington highlight some of the U.S.'s most prominent cultural and political institutions: Time Square, a Broadway musical, Liberty Island, Capitol Hill, the Whitehouse, the Smithsonian's, Arlington Cemetery and numerous war memorials.

### EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR



This study tour occurs every two years with the express purpose of creating a vision and curiosity for European history, art, languages and cuisine. In Paris, students will be exposed to the elegance of the French language; contemporary and traditional art forms; knowledge of the Revolution; Napoleon and Josephine; Versailles, and of course French fashion, cuisine and landmarks! The Alps provide a welcome repose from the hectic pulse of Paris as we ascend Mt. Pilatus in a cable car; southern Germany provides the imagination with the juxtaposition of Neuschwanstein with Holocaust education at Dachau and finally, after a whirlwind tour of Munich we board the City Night Line train to Berlin for an encounter with the city accustomed to drama.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRIP



Not for the timid or those scared of heights, the Rocky Mountain trip is designed to give our students a real taste of some serious mountain hiking. Using the Alpine Club of Canada in Canmore as our home base, the group heads out each day to some of the best hikes in the surrounding area including Heart Mountain, Mt. Indefatigable, Burstall Pass, Grotto Mountain, Chester Lake, Wasootch Ridge, and Ribbon Creek. Positioned at the very end of the school year, students have this wonderful opportunity to discover life beyond the flatland.

### ENGLAND STUDY TOUR



The England, Ireland, Wales Tour highlights include horse-drawn carriage rides, castle ruins, Dublin's Trinity College, Shakespeare's birthplace, and the bustling life of London. Over 10 days of Spring Break, students stare with wide-eyed wonder at the collision of magnificent architecture with the historical, cultural and literary significance of a place. Memories are created that last a lifetime.

# CELEBRATING MBCI

## Annual Benefit Dinner

### AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY & CELEBRATING MBCI

BY LORI DERKSEN, MBCI ALUMNI RELATIONS & EVENTS MANAGER

When the Advancement team sat down to discuss what the upcoming edition of the Link would look like, we wanted to ensure we had a variety of unique perspectives on MBCI activities and events. I was asked to share mine on the upcoming MBCI Benefit Dinner.

I just started here at MBCI in January as the Alumni Relations & Events Manager. I come from over a decade of fundraising and event planning experience and so immediately dove into one of the major "ToDo's" on my new list of tasks to perform - plan the Benefit

Dinner alongside a group of volunteers and staff from the Advancement team.

The Benefit Dinner is one of MBCI's signature events and is a long standing successful fundraising event, so I had a great framework to begin with. I immediately connected with what the event is all about; raising funds and connecting the community of MBCI to what the funds are used for; improving the day to day experience for our students. As you open the Link, we will have just had all of our hard work and planning come to life, my favorite part; the event itself.



NORM ('80) AND SHERRY SUKKAU ASKING THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT MBCI DURING THE 2015 CELEBRATING MBCI BENEFIT DINNER.

The excitement of seeing guests connecting with each other, connecting with the cause itself and the added satisfaction in all the other areas of the event that raise funds; Live Auction, Raffles and of course, each of your generous donations.

If you haven't attended this event, please plan to in the future. It gives each alumnus, parent, staff and friend a sense of us partnering together for the success of the event and what it accomplishes here at MBCI. A Life Well Learned.

## 2015 CELEBRATING MBCI BENEFIT DINNER SPONSORS

### CELEBRATING

Urban Effects by Norcraft Cabinetry - Mark ('83) & CariLyn (Friesen '83) Buller

### RED CARPET

Bill ('55) and Margaret (Redekopp '61) Fast  
Olympic Building Centre - Garry ('86) & Tamara (Fast '86) Roehr

### LIFE WELL LEARNED

DeFehr Foundation  
Norm ('80) & Sherry Sukkau  
Richard & Wendi (Ronald '83) Thiessen

### CANDY BAR

Bob ('60) & Doreen Wiens

**DIAMOND** Boge & Boge (1980) Ltd.

**PLATINUM** Donald Duerksen and Janice Siemens • FT3 Architecture Landscape Interior Design - Jerald ('87) & Jennifer Peters • Holz Constructors Inc. - Ted ('84) & Carrie (Wall '84) Geddert • Fred ('72) & Linda Pauls

**GOLD** Anonymous MBCI Board Member • Best Care Dry Cleaners - Kevin & Lisa Hiebert • Hans E. ('90) & Tanya (Ewert '90) Boge • Sabie & Sindy Brar • EnviroForce Group Inc. - Kal & Lisa (Fast '83) Loewen • Randy & Charlotte Gesell and Dr. Sheila Peters • Carl & Sally Kauenhowen • Krueger Enterprises - Andrew & Heidi (Krueger '93 Herrod and Jeremy & Jodi (Krueger '96) Kosman • Lakeview Insurance Brokers Ltd. - Anthony Reimer • Ron & Sandy (Olfert '84) Malech • Justin ('95) & Andrea (Buller '96) Neufeld and Neil ('69) & Joyce (Riediger '68) Buller • David & Hermine Olfert and George ('53) & Sylvia Martens • Phil ('81) & Michelle (Enns '83) Pauls • Penner Autobody - Dan & Daphne Roller • Raymond S.C. Wan Architect Inc. - Raymond & Connie Wan • Will & Leona (Hiebert '72) Rew • Michelle R. Redekopp - Aikins MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP • Dr. Cory B. Sul Dental Centre & Children Fun Zone - Cory and Melissa Sul • United Therapies STRIVE - Eugene & Christine Capitano • Urban Effects by Norcraft Cabinetry - Phil ('92) & Rachelle (Dueck '92) Buller • Winnipeg Building & Decorating Ltd. - Brian Thiessen • VNJ Futures Inc. - Harald ('85) & Vicky Schulz

**GIFT IN KIND SPONSORS** Freeman Audio • Regehr's Printing Ltd. - Reynold & Karis (Neufeld '90) Regehr

## BE OUR GUEST - BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

BY JOHN TAVES ('13)

My name is **John Taves** and I am an alumnus of MBCI currently enrolled at Brandon University majoring in violin performance.

In this year's production of *Beauty and the Beast*, I played violin in the pit orchestra as an alumnus. It was a great experience for students and a few alumni of various ages and interests to work together and produce a show like this. I played in a few musicals during my time at MBCI and have always found them to be very inspiring. These shows stretch students' artistic abilities and create a strong community within the school. I think it is very important to support this as I may not have met some of my friends in the orchestra had I not participated.

As an alumnus, I think it is also important to support the musical because these students have put an incredible amount of work into their parts during the majority of the school year. It was great to see other alumni come and support the show and see what their school has been working so hard on in the past few months!



SNAPSHOT OF THE 2015 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PERFORMANCE



THE WIZ PERFORMED IN 2009



GROUP NUMBER DURING THE 2011 PRODUCTION OF FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

## A MUSICAL MINUTE

FACTS ABOUT MBCI'S MUSICAL HISTORY - ANDREW KLASSEN, MBCI BAND TEACHER

MBCI has produced 24 musicals in its' 70-year history. Over time, the school has settled into a pattern of mounting a major musical every second year, generally selling out each of four nights for a total of 2,400 audience members.

MBCI's last four musicals have received Rainbow Stage High School Musical Awards, annually given to 2-3 Manitoba school productions. This is an incredible and unprecedented achievement, made all the more fantastic by the fact that everyone involved is doing so almost always completely on their own time outside of class.

Our musicals are truly a "school production", involving a tremendous number of students, teachers, and alumni of all ages and disciplines working together toward a common goal. No other school project comes close to bringing together as much of our school community's expertise and contributions in so many areas simultaneously - music, drama, dance, construction, art, costumes,

makeup, technology, and publicity. It is by far the largest cooperative project MBCI mounts on a regular basis, and draws the largest audience.

At the conclusion of MBCI's current and 24th musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, more than 1,900 separate individuals have contributed to these musicals, each one taking part in an average of three separate productions.

Most of these individuals have been students or alumni, constituting over one quarter of our entire alumni, even including those who attended MBCI in the two plus decades before our first musical.

For many graduating students who take part in a musical as members of the cast, pit orchestra, or behind-the-scenes production crews, they will recount those experiences as being a highlight of their time at MBCI.

MBCI's first musical was in 1968 - *Barbarina*, an operetta adaptation of

Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*.

The first Broadway musical MBCI mounted was *Fiddler on the Roof*, in 1981. We have presented *Fiddler* three times in total, in 1981, 1995, and most recently in 2011.

MBCI has mounted four other musicals more than once - *Papageno*, an adaptation of Mozart's *Magic Flute*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Mikado*, and *The Sound of Music*.

MBCI has performed five different Gilbert and Sullivan operettas - *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Trial By Jury*, *The Mikado*, *The Gondoliers*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

*Beauty and the Beast* represents our first foray into the world of Disney. It's quite something to work on a show where almost every student involved will have grown up knowing the songs and words from memory because of the 1991 hit animated movie.

## TIME TO REUNITE

For any questions regarding reunions, please contact Lori Derksen Alumni Relations and Events Manager at lderksen@mbci.mb.ca or 204.667.8210 ext. 2109

### CLASS OF 1950

65th Anniversary Reunion  
hosted by MBCI  
**Planning Committee:** Eugene Regehr,  
Frank Friesen, Sarah Klassen & Helen Litz  
**Date - Friday, June 5, 2015**  
5pm - MBCI Private Tour  
Dinner  
Program to Follow  
For more information or to RSVP,  
contact Lori Derksen at 204-667-8210.

### CLASS OF 1955

60th Anniversary Reunion  
**Planning Committee:** Hardy Enns,  
Bill Fast, Adina Sukkau, Vic Wieler  
**Date - Thursday, June 11, 2015**  
12:30pm – Meet & Greet – location tbc  
3:30pm – MBCI Private Tour  
5:30pm – Dinner & Festivities at  
Bill & Margaret Fasts home

For more information, contact  
Hardy - hvenns@mymts.net  
Bill - bfast@mymts.net  
Adina – 204-661-1539  
Vic - vwieler@mts.net

### CLASS OF 1960

55th Anniversary Reunion  
**Planning Committee:** Wanda Andres,  
Katherine Penner, Herta Janzen  
**Date – Wednesday, September 2, 2015**  
Pre-Dinner Events  
1) Tour of CMU Library  
2) Tour of the Canadian Museum for  
Human Rights  
5:30pm – Reception  
6:30pm – Buffet Dinner  
Program to Follow

For more information, contact Herta  
Janzen : hertajanzen@shaw.ca

### CLASS OF 1965

50th Anniversary Reunion

Planning has begun!

For more information contact  
Louise Enns: lmenns3@gmail.com

### CLASS OF 1990

25th Anniversary Reunion  
**Date - August 14 - 16, 2015**  
Friday - Opening Reception at DeLuca's for  
Grads Only  
Saturday - Picnic in the Park - Details TBC  
Sunday - Worship & MBCI Private Tour

Check out the MBCI 25th Reunion  
Facebook Page!

For more information contact Chris  
Derksen: cgderksen@gmail.com

### CLASS OF 2005

10th Anniversary Reunion  
**Planning Committee:** Lana Hastings &  
Melissa Blieske  
**Date: Saturday, August 29, 2015**  
5pm - MBCI Private Tour  
5:30pm - Ice breaker in gym  
6pm - Dodgeball Tournament  
7:30 Open invite to Maw's Eatery & Bar  
Contact Lana for more information :  
lanahastings@gmail.com

## WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN GET... ONE STEP CLOSER!

*BE PART OF THE LEGACY AND BUY YOUR BRICK TODAY AT MBCI.MB.CA*

Every one of MBCI's alumni has a legacy to share. A legacy of time spent learning, growing and living a life well learned.

You have the opportunity to share this legacy with other alumni and current students by placing a brick in the MBCI Legacy Walkway.

Your brick represents your journey at MBCI and paves the path for current students to pursue their passions.

To place your legacy on the MBCI campus permanently go to [MBCI.MB.CA/ALUMNI](http://MBCI.MB.CA/ALUMNI) or call Sherry Sukkau at 204.667.8210 x 2108



## HERE & NOW

We love to hear from you as do your classmates!

Alumni are encouraged to share professional updates, including information about current jobs, recent promotions, publications, presentations, awards as well as personal updates such as additional degrees earned, engagements, weddings, new additions to your family and other milestones.

Email your update, story or an idea for The Link to Lori Derksen at [lderksen@mbsci.mb.ca](mailto:lderksen@mbsci.mb.ca)

### **VOLLEYBALL STARS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS**

Current Grade 12 student, **Maiya Westwood** is one of the five students who received the Dr. Dale Iwanoczko Memorial Volleyball Scholarship. Maiya is the captain and setter of the Hawks and maintains an academic average of 91 percent. Each of the winners receives a \$1,000 scholarship named in honor of Iwanoczko.

### **MBCI STUDENTS AT THE 2015 CANADA WINTER GAMES**

**Keenan Brown** ('11) has captured his second gold medal of the 2015 Canada Winter Games, held in February, in Prince George, BC.

Keenan teamed with Bryanne Lameg to win the mixed team compound archery event and finished first in the men's compound event.

Currently a biology student at the University of Manitoba, Brown has competed in archery for nine years and is considered one of the country's best. He is currently ranked fourth in Canada across all age groups, and is a former world junior champion (2011). He won a bronze in archery at the 2011 Canada Games.

Current MBCI Student **Michael Copp** has reached his goal of being in the Top 30 at his first Canada Summer Games. He placed 30th in the Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom Male sport. He has already placed 2nd in the Prairie Championships and 3rd in the Provincials Championships, both in 2013.

Congratulations Michael & Keenan!

### **VOTE FOR MANNY GOOSSEN ON CBC'S SEARCHLIGHT COMPETITION!**

**Manny Goossen** ('07) is an official contestant on CBC's SEARCHLIGHT Competition to find Canada's best new artist. "Step Into the Light" by Manny Goossen is live to receive votes on <http://m.music.cbc.ca/artists/Manny-Goossen> OR <http://music.cbc.ca/cbcsearchlight/?id=292147> (for a quick and easy mobile friendly vote!) You can vote once per day (and maybe once per each device you have as well). For a grand total of 15 votes in that period! Help the MBCI community push him through!

### **WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD**

**Alex Wiebe** ('15) has been nominated for a YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Gerrie Hammond Memorial Award of Promise category for her volunteer work at school and in the community. Congratulations Alex!

### **SATISFYING APPETITE**

**Shae Ritchie** ('00) is celebrating the two year anniversary of his restaurant Chaise Café & Lounge, located at 271 Provencher Blvd.

## DID YOU KNOW...

AT MBCI STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING. BELOW IS JUST A TASTE OF ALL THAT MBCI HAS TO OFFER.

- 6000+** Number of the MBCI alumni network
- 80%** Of MBCI graduates move on to post-secondary education
- 25** Average number of students per class
- 1** Chapel service a week attended by all students
- 1** Full-time Campus Pastor
- 9** Co-curricular sports teams for students to participate in from Gr. 6-12
- 6** Study tours options for students in Gr. 9-12

# MBCI 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ST. BONIFACE GOLF CLUB

A DAY OF FUN, SUN & GOLF

SPONSOR OR REGISTER  
YOUR TEAM NOW!

AUGUST 19, 2015

CALL 204.667.8210 EXT. 2109  
EMAIL [LDERKSEN@MBCI.MB.CA](mailto:lderksen@mbsci.mb.ca)

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### SHOP WITH GIFT CARDS

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