

Prairie Bible Institute Semi Annual Meeting

Report to the Board of Directors



May 2-6, 2025



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

President's Report

May 2025

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Finding our Future on the Ancient Path

*This is what the Lord says:
"Stop at the crossroads and look around.
Ask for the ancient path,
where the good way is, and walk in it.
Then you will find rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16*

Inflexion points –

Every organization encounters inflexion points—pivotal moments when decisions shape the course of years or decades to come. Often born out of crisis, whether internal or external, *these moments require renewed vision and clarity of purpose*. Without such clarity, organizations—especially those long removed from their founding generation—risk drifting from their calling.

Over the past century, Prairie has weathered many inflexion points: the Great Depression, World War II, leadership transitions, and more recently, the global disruption of COVID that tested the foundations of almost every organization, whether for profit or charitable.

One such moment arrived quietly in 2010, when Elaine and I transitioned from Board membership to executive leadership—though we may not have recognized its significance at the time.

At that point, I found myself asking a foundational question, "Why did our Creator put Prairie on earth...what was our created purpose?" My reasoning was that we needed to be doing the work that the Creator put us here to do: so that He would be pleased with us, lend us His good favour, and so that the world would be a better place because of our existence.

During this time, I was drawn to Psalm 138, a psalm by the great King David, written on one of his better days. In verses 2 and 3 David declared,

*"...for You have exalted above all things
Your Name and Your Word.
On the day I called, You answered me;
My strength of soul You increased."*

As a team of staff and faculty, we felt that our created purpose could be found in those few verses. Our priorities were to exalt above all things A) His Name, B) His Word, and C) Call on Him in prayer. These are the ancient ways referred to by Jeremiah. By turning to these activities, we found ourselves on the good way. And we found rest for our souls.

These three priorities became the foundation of our routines as well as our planning for the future.

A) His Word –

While the Word of God extends beyond the Bible, Scripture remains a trustworthy foundation and a good place to begin if we are to honour His Word. As Hebrews reminds us, the Word is "living and active," and the Psalmist calls it "a lamp to our feet." Jesus Himself said we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

The Scriptures are still relevant in this era.

From our Boardroom to our classroom, this conviction led to a campus-wide commitment: the full study of the entire Canon of Scripture in all four-year degrees. Seven courses now anchor our curriculum, and this

commitment is now enshrined in our Constitution—a defining core of who we are. We believe this will serve Prairie well not just for decades, but for generations into the future.

Not only that, we believe that this is the most important component of our education. To paraphrase: Careers will change, companies will rise and fall, and industries will go obsolete...But the Word of our LORD endures forever.

B) His Name –

We spent a year considering the Hebrew Names of God (Adonai, Elohim,...) in our weekly staff prayer/devotional time.

During that year, we realized that both the Word of God and the Names of God point prophetically and poetically to Jesus, the Word who walked among us (John 1) and the Name that is above all names (Phil. 2).

Which led us to wonder...how can we exalt the name of Jesus among us, as members of a college community? We found the answer in Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17. Jesus prayed that His disciples and His followers in the generations to come would live together as one, in unity, "so that the world will know that you, Father, have sent me."

We honour the name of our Lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father by living and working well together, in harmony. Unity among believers is one of our strongest testimonies of our faith as Christians to the watching world.

We began praying intentionally for harmony among our staff and faculty—so that our shared life would point people to Jesus. What followed was nothing short of miraculous.

1. We became galvanized around our created purpose: to teach the Bible.
2. God brought stronger and stronger talent onto our team.
3. The results showed up in our team culture—and were confirmed by "Best Christian Workplace" scores that placed us among the highest seen in their surveys.

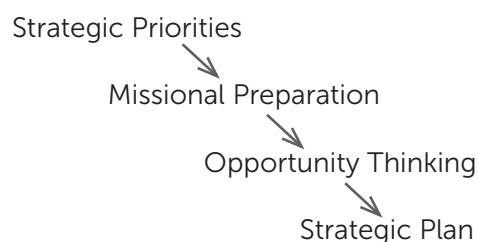
C) Calling on Him in Prayer –

We made a simple decision: the most important time of our workweek would be Wednesdays, 8:00–8:30 a.m., when we gather together to pray.

This is a time to thank the Lord—for His work among us, for the privilege of joining Him in it, for His presence, protection, provision—and to seek His guidance for our plans for the future.

This rhythm of prayer has shaped our short and longer-term plans. Rather than originating from a boardroom or a binder, our corporate strategy, our Strategic Plan, came out of these Strategic Priorities. Our priorities allowed God to prepare us for upcoming changes and improvements, for new ideas and opportunities. These priorities have germinated ideas. From those sacred rhythms, God has birthed vision, has brought harmony, and is building a renewed campus, which we have then turned into our Strategic Plan.

By following these God-given priorities, He has moved us through preparation to imagining opportunities and then to planning. With the Psalmist, we conclude that, "Our strength of soul He has increased!"



These are principles for setting corporate direction that I believe provide a framework that works, whether in churches, ministries, businesses, or schools. Each organization in its unique culture and setting will find its own

way to exalt His Name, uphold His Word, and call on Him in prayer, but when this happens, it seems to me that God cannot help but turn His face toward that group and grant them the most precious of all gifts—His presence. Success, in the form of His favour, will follow, and will inevitably help establish God’s will in that corner of the earth.

Making Headway – Here’s where we stand on our two major strategic initiatives:

Capital Campaign –

We are currently building relationships with an expanded network of donors who share our vision: that Bible-based, Christ-centered education is one of the best ways to impact nations and meet the greatest needs of the world.

The residence is on track to be completed on time (this summer) and on-budget. Assuming funds continue to come in, we expect to begin construction on the PATC expansion this summer. Following that, we’ll turn our focus to renovating the kitchen and cafeteria, then the auditorium and the concourse that ties everything together. These projects bring with them necessary infrastructure upgrades—drainage, paving, curbing... We’re grateful for Andrew Siggelkow and his team’s talent and work.

Special thanks, once again, to Gordon Dirks, our Capital Campaign Consultant, for his good and gracious leadership.

B.Ed. Program –

Mark Jonah’s report shares the exciting news that Prairie has received **Institutional Approval** from the CAQC and the Minister of Advanced Education—an essential first milestone on the path to launching our Bachelor of Education.

We’re prayerfully hopeful for **Program Approval** by the end of June. If granted, we have told the Minister that our first intake of future K–6 teachers will be in September.

Please continue with us in prayer for these two initiatives. There is still much to do, and the needs of the world are great.

Our Future is Bright –

In the next few years, we hope to put the school on a solid footing with a good campus, solid financials, and the plans in place to expand our program offerings without reducing our emphasis on the full reading of the Canon of Scripture—in seven courses—in every Bachelor degree program. **I can envision students from around the globe coming to Prairie because of the strength of our community, the excellence of our classrooms, and our biblical foundation.**

Let me take this opportunity to once again say thank you. Your faith, generosity, wisdom, and courage have been instrumental in this journey: our “returning to our roots” experiment. You have believed in the vision, invested in the mission, and shared both burdens and victories with us. Elaine and I are deeply grateful to have been part of this journey with you. What God has done in our midst has been the most rewarding work of our lives.

Above all, we give thanks to the Almighty—for what He has done, is doing, and will yet do through Prairie. The college is being aligned with His priorities, is built on foundations that will hold, and is being prepared through a campus renewal.

May God continue to bless you richly—so that through you, and with you, we can continue to be a blessing to others, all around the world.



Mark L. Maxwell
President and CEO