



TWO SCHOOLS, ONE COUPLE

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EQUIPPED TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN

Sharon Ransom looks at how Heritage prepared her for life.
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FORTY YEARS PLUS: REFLECTIONS OF A GRATEFUL PROFESSOR

BY DR. DAVID BARKER
Professor of Biblical Studies



It all started in September 1978. My first class, I think, was a Hebrew Elements class. Since then I have lost count of the students that have passed through my classrooms—the alumni of LBBC/S, CBS, and Heritage that I have had the immense privilege to teach over the last forty plus years, many of whom are you who are reading this newsletter.

I think of the pastors and church planters scattered throughout Ontario, Canada, and into the USA. I think of the missionaries around the world—men, women, singles, families, taking seriously the call to be a part of creating that international choir singing praises to the Son. I think of nursery workers, children’s workers, youth workers, small group leaders, women’s and men’s group leaders, seniors’ workers, worship leaders, deacons, elders, ushers, custodians, sound and tech people, so many faithfully serving Christ in their local churches. I think of homemakers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, engineers, funeral directors, educators, and business people, grads of our school involved in the home and workforce doing their work well and faith-

fully bearing testimony to the grace and love of God. I think of the women and men serving in campus ministries, counselling ministries, social/justice agencies, chaplaincies, theological education, and coaching and mentoring ministries. I think of athletes, artists, scholars, writers, and musicians. I think of denominational leaders as well as administrators and board members in organizations bringing good, God, and the gospel into the world. I think of the brilliant students who won awards. I also think of the average students that went on to faithfully serve God in exceptional ways (yes, even a motorcycle church).

As a kid off a farm in Woodbridge ON, a somewhat average student, and an OK teacher that did get better as time went along, to think that I have had a part to play in so many lives that are making a difference in the world and church is humbling, gratifying, and overwhelming. To reference an article that I wrote for our seminary blog a few months ago, there is “No Room for Vanity.” To God be the glory, both now and forevermore.

ONE COUPLE, TWO SCHOOLS

London graduate Rick Buck and his wife Jo who graduated from Central look back on how both schools - that later came together to form Heritage - helped prepare them for life and ministry together.

As a couple, we are so grateful that God used each of our Bible Colleges in our own lives to prepare us for ministry and for each other. And, we were thrilled when CBS and LBS came together to form Heritage. We like to say we were the first merger!



Jo Buck
Central Baptist Seminary '84

When I think of my time at Central, 'snapshots' of lessons and life changing moments come to mind: I can picture sitting in Miss Emily Turansky's Inductive Bible Study class and being struck by the wonder of God's Word coming to life as she taught us how to diligently unpack scripture for ourselves. That began in me a life-long love for the personal study of God's Word.

I remember listening to teachers like Dr. Michael Haykin and Dr. Stan Fowler and others, and seeing the depth of their knowledge, yet hearing their humility and dependance on God. What an amazing gift that was to someone starting out in life and ministry. God used so many lessons and moments to draw me closer to Him, and to plant in me a desire to spend my life in ministry. I am so thankful for my time at CBS!

Rick Buck
London Baptist Bible College and Seminary '91

I am forever grateful for the outstanding training I received for ministry at London. The passion of my teachers for God's Word, for the Lord, for the church, and for those who are not yet saved, was so evident and impacting. I also made significant relationships with fellow students that have lasted a life-time. Professors like Dr. Barker became much more than instructors for me - they became mentors, not just in school but also in my early years of ministry.

I have been grateful to remain connected to and involved with, what is now, Heritage through the years. The school's role continues to be critical for the mission of the gospel, both here in Canada and around the world.



After 30 years of pastoral ministry, Rick has recently accepted the role of Regional Director of FEB Central Ministries, serving the Fellowship churches of Ontario and English speaking Quebec. We are living in the Barrie area and are thankful for the opportunity to support FEB Central churches in this new role.

FEB Central Ministries is grateful for God's provision for our churches during COVID-19, and even through lockdowns, our region has been able to see seven new churches planted last year. We are praying that our pastors would be encouraged and would persevere during these challenging days and that our churches would stay on mission for the gospel.



EQUIPPED TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN IN EVERYTHING

Heritage College & Seminary graduate Sharon Ransom '15 looks at her life after graduation and how her education opened up exciting opportunities through a variety of jobs to give glory to God.

In my years at Heritage, one of the foundational truths that the Lord helped me to realize was the incredible reality that He is to be made famous through absolutely everything and anything I do.

Spending the four years at Heritage, gave me the opportunity to be in a unique community of students and teachers that gave me the space to figure out what I needed to do in terms of profession, education, and understanding of who God was and who I was. I wrestled in Bible College about whether or not I was to go into something drumming focused or if I was to work within a church setting as a Worship Director. Looking back, the Lord gave me the opportunity to do both while also providing exceedingly more than what I ever thought.

After graduating Heritage, the Lord led me into a time of waiting for a year where I spent some time teaching drums at the local Long and Mc Quade Music store, as well as at a Christian School in Cambridge. After that year ended, I received a call from Oxford Baptist Church in Woodstock to become their Worship Director over a period of four years, while developing and running

a program, called "OWL" or Oxford Worship Lessons, where I taught students how to play various instruments and play on the Worship Team.

Then, in 2020, I was flown to L.A. for a commercial run by Facebook to drum for a campaign for International Women's Day and following the commercial I was overwhelmed by a number of students who were seeking to take drum lessons. At this point, I was teaching a little bit while I was working at Oxford, however I felt the Lord tugging on my heart for a change in direction. I left Oxford in March of 2020 and have been running my drum studio, *Ransom Drum Lab*, full time offering online and in-person drum lessons.

What I love about these jobs - as a Worship Director and now a Drum Educator - is that I've clearly seen the Lord direct and guide me through all of these scenarios, plus have had the opportunity to witness, to love, and to minister to people in various walks of life. Heritage equipped me for all these circumstances that have occurred in the past six years since I graduated, and I couldn't be more grateful for that.



**KEEP
IN
TOUCH**

We'd love to hear all about what God is doing in your life, prayer requests and ministry updates. Update your information at Heritage anytime by calling 1.800.465.1961 or emailing info@heritagecs.edu.

PAUSE, REFLECT, AND PRAY

Director of Ministry Partners and Internships and Central Baptist Seminary alumnus Godfrey Thorogood '82 looks back at who God used in his life to bring him to Central and how alumni can support Heritage students today.



Dear CBS, LBBC/S and Heritage Alumni,

As I type this article, my mind goes back to September 1978. As a young high school graduate, I began a four-year journey of education and spiritual growth at CBS in Toronto. I attended CBS as a result of God speaking to my heart at a Fellowship Baptist Young Peoples Association rally in May of that same year. That day, through the worship and preaching of the Word, I simply heard God say, "Godfrey, I want you to help people". Not knowing what to do with what I had heard, I talked with Dr. Syd Kerr, who was serving at that time as interim pastor at my home church in Georgetown. Pastor Kerr had clear and direct advice - "You need to go to Bible college." My plan to go to university and become an architect went to the way-side that day!

Those four years at CBS were used of God in such significant ways in my life. God used professors who clearly loved Jesus and His church, and who spent time with students while eating lunch and drinking coffee in the cafeteria. God used fellow students to encourage me and to speak into my life. God used the practical experience I gained in my home church through teaching Sunday School, helping at youth group, working in the bus ministry, and serving for two years, full time as a pastoral intern under the guidance of Pastor Ed Mitchell and Pastor Gordon Mann. These stellar servants of God have since passed into eternity.

Why am I sharing these personal words with you? I share them because as an alum, I want you to consider doing three things that I believe are important:

1. Pause and take some time to reflect back on the significant ways in which God may have used CBS, LBBC/S or Heritage to shape your life. Take time to thank God for that season in your life. And if possible, personally thank those whom God used.
2. Pray for the next generation of pastors, church planters, missionaries and workers for Christ who are currently being equipped at Heritage College and Seminary. Pray also for our president, faculty and staff.
3. Provide me with input as to how we can engage with you as an alum, how we can encourage and support you, and enlist your support. Feel free to email your input to: gthorogood@heritagecs.edu

In the months ahead, we will share vision for engaging, encouraging and enlisting our alumni. I believe we have a significant role to play as Heritage seeks to equip the next generation of servants who will strive to live out the Great Commandment and do their part to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Yours in Christ,

Godfrey Thorogood
Director of Ministry Partners



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