

BRIERCREST ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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*Briercrest is the partnership of three Christ-centred,
Bible-anchored, ministry-focused schools that thrive
in the context of a vibrant spiritual community.*

This has been a year like none other in recent history. And yet, amidst incredible global instability, economic decline, human loss, and personal anxiety, God is at work in our world. I do trust you have sensed God's presence and comfort as you have processed the times we find ourselves in.

This report is a testimony to God's shepherd care over Briercrest. He continues to protect us, provide for us, and guide us. In this report you will see God's providential fingerprints as he works his purposes through us as an educational institution and in the personal lives of staff, faculty, and students alike.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to dictate uncertainty, we maintain a relentless commitment to fulfilling our vision of educating disciples, equipping the church, and engaging our world. However, we are fully aware that we are only able to continue this work because of the partnership that we enjoy with you.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for sending us your sons and daughters. Thank you for your financial support. And thank you for your partnership in Christian higher education.

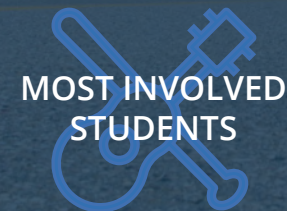
May God bless us all as we press on to fulfill his call,



Michael B. Pawelke, President



Ranked **TOP 10** in Canada for:



BRIERCREST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Heart. Soul. Strength. Mind.

OUR VISION: Briercrest Christian Academy is a faith-based secondary school and dormitory program committed to transformational Christian discipleship, academic preparation and co-curricular excellence. BCA functions in academic partnership with the Prairie South School Division of Saskatchewan. We strive to perpetually live out Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." We hold a unique place in our provincial educational landscape providing a faith-based experience to students from around our world.

DISCIPLESHIP: This year, we invited our students to hear and share about personal "Encounter with God." Our prayer was that our students would be captivated by the stories, the testimonies, and the truth of God's magnificence and pursuit of their lives. Our ultimate hope is that we would all learn to fully surrender our lives to God. God answered that prayer. Stories of transformation, God's faithfulness, and His hope were shared and heard by our students. As we transitioned to learning from a distance in March, we continued to encourage our students to see God's sovereignty in the midst of unprecedented uncertainty.



"I always felt like going into high school would be like the rat race. Always going, never stopping. But everybody here just seems... mellow. Like there's not really troubles here because we give those to God and we trust our troubles with Him. So it feels very calm. With a bigger school, you don't really know people, and you feel constantly hectic. It's a different kind of environment here where people aren't freaked out. I've been to a few schools in my elementary, but BCA's different than any school I've ever been to or anything I could have imagined. It's not stressful. It's so very not stressful."

—Claire Neufeld (BCA)



145
STUDENTS



32
2020 GRADS

BRIERCREST COLLEGE

Calling one another to seek the Kingdom

Student Development is once again thrilled by the opportunities we had to minister and relate to students in the past year. We saw many students come to our campus with a deep desire to learn more about the will and ways of the Lord, and who studied towards that end. We also rejoiced when students who arrived struggling in life left campus with a sincere and life-changing faith in Christ Jesus. That is truly a celebration!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Our Student Government led in outreach opportunities to nearby communities this past year including street witnessing and working with a local food bank to collect food supplies on their largest drive of the year. When our students left campus in March, many chose to donate their food and clothing to local charities. It is always a sign of God's working when His people reach out and care for others.

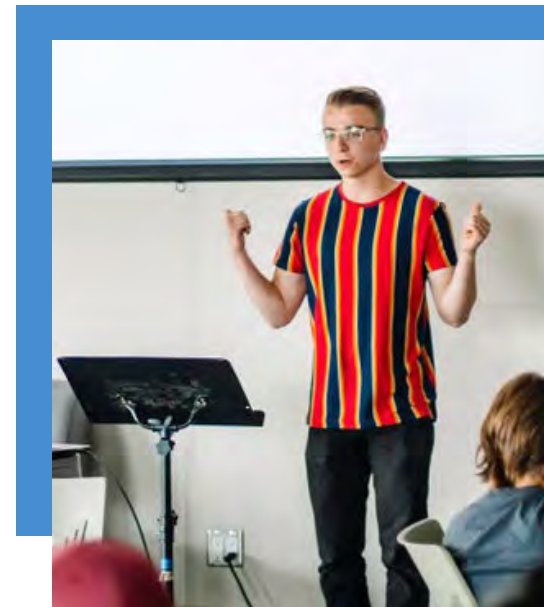
COVID-19 CLOSURE: When Briercrest closed in mid-March, students truly became aware of how meaningful their experiences and relationships on campus were. Residence Directors spent much time encouraging and praying with students as they prepared to leave. Many struggled to process the end of their time: some grieved the loss of celebrating graduation, others did not yet feel spiritually strong enough to return to places where they would walk with Christ on their own. In the midst of these difficult and abrupt changes, students gathered one last time to worship God in the Hildebrand Chapel, a testimony to the work he has accomplished on our campus this year.

PERSONNEL PROVISION: We are excited to welcome Kevin Thiessen as our new Dean of Students, and Carlie Pagens as our new Director of Counselling and Health Services. Thanks be to God for his provision!

WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE LEARNING: "Some wisdom that stuck with me this semester came from Revelation with Wes Olmstead. In chapter 12, the angels conquer Satan 'by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony' (Revelation 12:11), Wes noted 'that what at ground level looks pathetic from the vantage point of the throne room of God actually appears as conquest.'

Though you may feel pathetic in your worship and witness to Christ, keep doing it. This is victory, that Jesus is announced, praised, and known. Who is to say that in your witness and prayer for those against you, God will not turn the lives of those people around?"

—Michael McCrea,
current college student



494
STUDENTS



110
2020 GRADS

BRIERCREST SEMINARY

Accessible and relevant education for the Church

SEMINARY LIFE: We continue to be thankful to God for his blessing and providential care in these challenging days. Our overall course registrations continue to be trending upward and we are seeing evidence of strength and vitality even during the recent disruption.

The global pandemic did interrupt some of our initial plans, including our faculty searches in New Testament, Leadership and Management, and Marriage and Family Therapy, plans for celebrating graduation in April, as well our accreditation self-study for the Association of Theological Schools. We were able to make an abrupt adjustment in a matter of days to offer our courses on an online platform and both professors and students were able to pivot admirably. We have been able to secure sufficient faculty for the short term and we are proceeding with great enthusiasm into this next school year.

New opportunities for students continue to develop as transfer agreements with Prairie College and Horizon College and Seminary have been added to our current partnerships with Renovaré Canada, Arrow Leadership, and the Coalition for Youth Ministry Excellence. Increased concentrations in our MDiv program have added further flexibility for students seeking specific training in key ministry specializations.

CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP STUDIES: The Centre continues to offer seven graduate level certification and develop wider educational offerings to support those who are looking for just-in-time personal and professional development. Tristan Norton has been hired as Director of the Centre and is spearheading a number of these newer initiatives. The addition of the Teaching Studio in the past year has been providential as it has served the needs of the institution well in these days of online course design. The Centre will continue to broaden the impact of what the Seminary has to offer to those we serve.

“To have your professors unpack biblical passages on an academic level and bring so much depth to it in that capacity, but then also being led by the Holy Spirit in the classroom, and listening to how the Holy Spirit is calling them to minister to the students beyond just the academic text—that combination has been so life-giving.”

—Michelle Karst (Seminary)



270
STUDENTS



35
2020 GRADS

BRIERCREST ATHLETICS

Becoming third in a world striving to be first

VISION: We are united around the purpose of developing life champions who put God first, others second, and self third, when competing for and winning conference and national championships.

Our coaching staff are core to this vision. In sport, pressure to win can cause coaches to use players or hold their power over them to win at any cost. A transformational coach, however, views sports as a virtuous and virtue-giving discipline.

We are united around the purpose of developing life champions who put God first, others second, and self third, competing for and winning conference and national championships. We believe the process that connects these things is transformational coaching.

This season our women's volleyball team won the 2019-20 ACAC conference championship. At the awards banquet Nolan Weinmaster was named ACAC Women's Volleyball Coach of the Year and shared with all the competing teams and guests where true identity comes from—a relationship with Jesus Christ. With a clear focus on who we are in Jesus we can compete freely, put ourselves third, and serve our teammates, helping each other grow and mature in faith and competencies that can translate into championships.

"SOMETHING I REALLY VALUE IS THAT BRIERCREST IS A GOOD PLACE TO BATTLE OUT THINGS IN YOUR HEAD. ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT RELIGION OR GOD CAN BE ANSWERED HERE.

IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DIG INTO THE WORD AND FIND GROWTH. THERE'S A LOT OF TRANSFORMATION THAT CAN HAPPEN HERE."

—LEAH HOLTZ (WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL)



MEET THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: This year Stan Peters (Seminary '89, Higher Education Administration) returned to the role of Athletic Director. Stan brings extensive coaching and leadership development experience, which he has invested back into Briercrest with his passion for transformational coaching and sport leadership.

"I am thrilled to have another opportunity to work alongside the Briercrest coaches, student-athletes, administration, faculty, and alumni."

— Stan Peters, Athletic Director

YOUTH QUAKE 2020

Building your life on Jesus

OVERVIEW: Youth Quake (YQ) looks like a festival but feels like a retreat. It looks like a festival because we have a crazy kickoff session, a variety of concerts throughout the weekend from different genres, and various other activities. YQ feels like a retreat because we have one speaker, one worship band, and one theme that drives our teaching throughout all the main sessions. It's youth group focused where your group will stay together in our dorms and eat together in our dining hall. Also, after each main session groups meet for "Youth Group Time" where they can discuss the message.

WEEKEND AT A GLANCE:

- 1227 REGISTRATIONS
- 93 GROUPS
- 52 APPLICATIONS
- 66 EXPERIENCE BRIERCREST ATTENDEES



THEME: The theme of YQ 2020 was "Build My Life" which focused on the foundation in which we each choose to build our lives. In Matthew 7, Jesus talks about building our lives on a foundation that will withstand anything. He tells us to build our lives on the one thing that will give us the strength to survive the storms of life and thrive on the other side of them. That one thing is Him. We don't choose when the storms in our life hit us, but we know they will, and we can choose the foundation that will weather any storm.

PERFORMING/WORSHIP ARTS

Glorifying God through arts and music

VOICES FROM THE FRONT: Our two Remembrance Day performances of *Voices from the Front* had standing room only. Staff and students presented wartime letters, songs, and poems in honour of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and though free of charge, a large offering in support of our department was gratefully received from a very appreciative audience.

A BRIERCREST CHRISTMAS: Our 2019 production, *A Father's Love*, presented an original story of a young man's faith and sacrifice that poignantly invited our 3,000 guests to respond to God's love for themselves. Complete with carols, a nativity, and period costumes, this beloved annual event continues to draw audiences from all over the province.

FACULTY RECITAL FOR FOOD BANK: Our newest tradition is our annual faculty recital at St. Aidan Anglican Church in support of the Moose Jaw & District Food Bank. No less than two large bins of non-perishable foodstuffs have been collected each year from community members who come to hear our music faculty perform.

CONSERVATORY OF PERFORMING ARTS: Now going into its third year, the Briercrest Conservatory of Performing Arts recently expanded its reach into Moose Jaw and Assiniboia, offering private lessons and group classes to even more young musicians and performers. Our strings ensemble was approved for an operations grant from the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association and continues to attract young violinists looking to improve their skills.

KEEPING THE FAITH CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are so thankful for God's faithfulness. He continues to use Briercrest to help young adults *Keep the Faith*. We are so humbled and blessed by this privilege to provide an education that discipled young people and gives them the things they need to mature in their faith as they enter adulthood.

Since we launched our *Keeping the Faith* campaign in the Fall of 2019, God has continued bringing faithful partners like to you support His mission here at Briercrest. We are so thankful for you!

It is our desire and prayer to make Christian education more affordable so that we can disciple more young adults and help them solidify their faith with daily discipleship, daily chapel, and godly instruction and mentorship in the classroom. And so, after prayerful consideration, we set a goal to raise \$8.9 million dollars in two years for the Briercrest Education Fund.

"My first chapter at Briercrest began in September 2006, and the most recent chapter just closed. I am forever grateful to Briercrest Christian Academy, College, and Seminary for everything it gave me over the course of the last 14 years (how old am I?). I entered as a punk kid who knew next to nothing about Christianity or the Bible, and now pastor a church in Bradford, Ontario. God is good."

— Rob Alcock (Seminary '20)



Students who chose Christian higher education had distinctly positive spiritual outcomes when compared to students who didn't, including being...



More likely to share the beliefs of their parents



More involved with Christian groups on and off campus



More likely to maintain or increase their church attendance

To date, we have raised \$4.1 million dollars. Thanks be to God!

The sobering statistic that 2/3 of Canadian young adults leave the Church after high school and 1/3 leave their faith entirely compels us to continue the fight for tomorrow's Church. We believe God has called us to this critical mission but we continue to need your help.

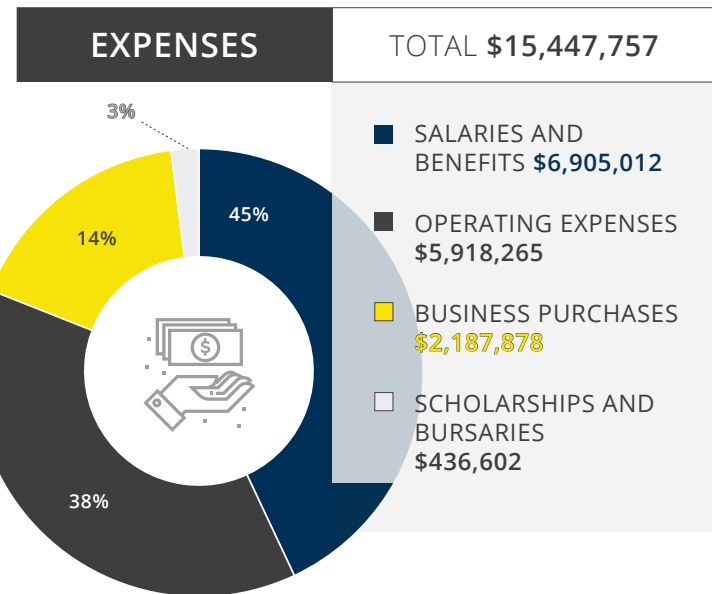
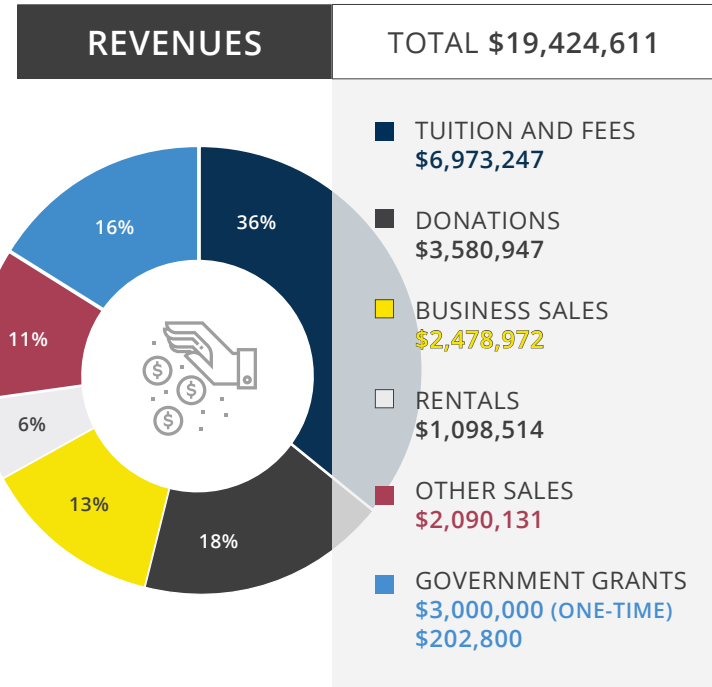
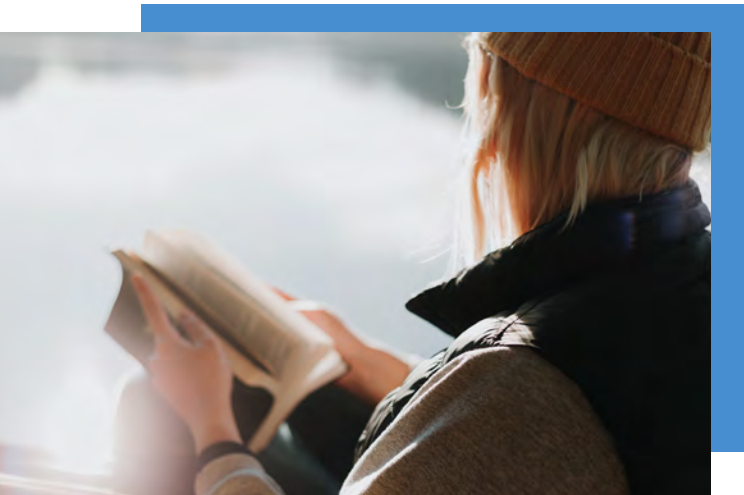
Would you join us in praying for our young adults? And with God's leading, please consider giving a gift to help students *Keep the Faith* through Christian higher education.

Visit [BRIERCREST.CA/GIVE](https://briercrest.ca/give) to make a contribution to our continued work on campus.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The 2019/20 school year has been filled with many challenges and many blessings. We give God the glory that we were able to end the year with a surplus.

We thank the Lord daily for our generous partners who help us continue to educate disciples, equip the Church, and engage our world.



*“The Word of our God
shall stand forever.”*

ISAIAH 40:8

Briercrest is a community of learning that calls students to seek the kingdom of God, to be shaped profoundly by the scriptures, and to be formed spiritually and intellectually for lives of service.

BRIERCREST.CA

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