

IN TOUCH




SBC Honours 2024 Graduating Class

Steinbach Bible College concluded its 2023-2024 school year by awarding a hard-working collection of servant leaders with their Bachelor of Arts, Associate of Arts, and Certificate degrees during Graduation weekend on April 26-27.

A total of 33 graduates received their diplomas from Dave Reimer, who handed out degrees for the first time as President of Steinbach Bible College.

The annual Spring Showcase took place on Friday, April 26th, where students, staff, faculty, family, and friends gathered on campus for a night of worship, singing, skits, and an interview with the SBC kitchen staff. Seven students were also honoured during this night for completing their one-year Certificate of Biblical Studies or the Pursuit XL certificates.

The next day, the SBC Graduation Ceremony was once again held at the Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church in Steinbach. 26 Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts graduates were honoured during this time, with a banquet following the conclusion of the service. Bruce Penner, Chair of the Board of Directors at SBC, was the guest speaker.

Nathan Bartel, from Rosthern, Saskatchewan, was chosen as this year's Grad Valedictorian. He expressed that it was an honour to be graduating, especially alongside this year's class. "We come from many different backgrounds, starting our journey each in different stages of life. For a short time, we have gathered together here at SBC and our stories have now been written together," he expressed. "This graduation is the culmination of this beautiful harmony. I feel privileged to be a small piece in each of their stories." 



PAST GRAD UPDATES



Kirsten Friesen ('19)

Currently serves as Office Manager of the Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church in Steinbach. She is encouraged by God's faithfulness in giving her a space to grow as a young leader. She is looking forward to a summer of adventure and rest surrounded by friends and family.



Alysia Thiessen ('20)

For the last three summers I've been working as head of the kitchen at Pembina Valley Bible Camp. Last October, I married Colby Thiessen, the maintenance leader, and now we live on camp.



Jeffrey 'Chops' Dueck ('19)

I am married to my beautiful wife, Erica Dueck, and have two fluffy dogs, Annie and Oakley. I am currently working in the Northern community of God's Lake with Penn-Co Construction. I also teach Sunday School with my wife and coach the SBC Flames futsal team.



A Life Full of Ministry

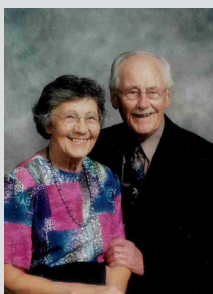
Tina Toews ('54, front right) shares her story

It was in April 1951 when I accepted Christ as my Savior when a week of Revival Meetings happened in our church in Macgregor, MB. The Lord worked mightily in the meetings with many young people coming forward to place faith in Jesus, I was one of them at the age of 17. It was a wonderful time when we sang, "I have decided to follow Jesus," – it still stirs my heart. Our pastor encouraged me to go to Steinbach Bible Academy, as it was called then.

There were many lessons to learn from the Bible since I was a new Christian – even though I had grown up in a Christian home. I remember studying the book of Acts. We were encouraged to read the book many times which I did and it has probably become my favorite book in the Bible.

I also very much enjoyed singing in the school choir as I had in my home church. It was also a privilege and joy to sing in a trio with Doreen Reimer and Eveline Reimer. The three years went by very quickly with graduation in 1954. The verse I chose for grad was John 15:16, I still treasure that verse and it is still my goal.

1954 was also the year I got married to John Toews. Since John was in Bible school for two more years, graduating in 1956, I was almost part of the school. After Bible school grad, John went to 'normal school' as it was called then to become a teacher.



Tina & John Toews

We came back to Macgregor where John taught in a one room country school and where we could put into practice our Bible school training in church. John was soon ordained into ministry. As a result, a church in Arden, MB called John to be their pastor where we moved to in 1968. We had eleven very fulfilling years in the church and community.

While in Arden, God blessed our home with a "bonus baby boy" as he was called. After 11 years in Arden, a church in Swift Current called John to be their pastor. After 8 months there, our precious "bonus boy" was hit by a car on his way to a Good News Club and he died as a result. There are no words to describe the trauma and pain. Our Heavenly Father was a faithful comforter and provider.

In 1989, Inland Gospel Fellowship in Burn's Lake, called us for John to be a pastor there, we believed God was directing us, so we moved there. A very big highlight was the annual family camp. There were wonderful days – kid's activities, swimming, and so on, finishing the evening with music and singing and sharing from the Bible.

In 1991, we moved back to Macgregor. We got into the regular church routine which felt good. The EMC Conference needed some pastors to fill interim positions in some churches. We had been back in Macgregor already a few years, when John was asked to fill positions for interim pastor so we had some very fulfilling months as we served in Alberta, Manitoba, B.C., and Ontario.

In 2010, John turned 82 and in December he had severe breathing problems and was rushed to the hospital where he died very suddenly and unexpectedly. I experienced God's loving care and comfort and the support of my three children, the church, and friends!

So here I am, I turned 90 in December – it is hard to believe. I have some health issues but I am still part of a lot of the church activities and community events as well. What can I say, God is good! 📍



Because of your generosity, we raised \$112,835 in support of Christian higher education through our two Golf Tournaments! Thank you for your support of SBC!



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Questions? Email us at info@sbccollege.ca

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