

BRIERCREST

2019

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



A group of young people, including men and women, are walking along a path outdoors. They are dressed in winter clothing like jackets and hoodies. The scene is overlaid with a dark blue filter. In the background, there are utility poles and bare trees, suggesting a winter or late autumn setting. The overall mood is casual and community-oriented.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ————— 2

EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

BRIERCREST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ————4

BRIERCREST COLLEGE ————— 6

BRIERCREST SEMINARY ————— 8

ENGAGING OUR WORLD

ATHLETICS ————— 10

YOUTH QUAKE ————— 12

WORSHIP/PERFORMING ARTS ———— 13

KEEPING THE FAITH ————— 14

FINANCES

REVENUES/EXPENSES —————16



Dear friends,

As parents and grandparents, many of us continue to grapple with the changing culture of the world. We are recognizing that our children are growing up in a world that is becoming more and more hostile to the Christian community. Under constant pressure, our Christian young adults are leaving their faith after high school in overwhelming numbers.

It is our desire to make biblical education accessible to students, regardless of financial status. We believe that students should be able to choose a school based on what they value, not on what they can afford.

That's why I'm so thankful for you! Your prayers and financial support have enabled more students to not only attend Briercrest, but have their lives drastically changed as they learn to completely surrender to our Lord and Saviour.

My humble prayer is that God would continue to draw students to Briercrest to learn and grow in their faith in a community that encourages and fosters discipleship, mentorship, and relationship.

May God richly bless you,



Michael B. Pawelke, President



Ranked **TOP 10** in Canada for:

HAPPIEST
STUDENTS

BEST STUDENT
RESIDENCES

MOST
APPROACHABLE
PROFESSORS

MOST ACADEMIC
STUDENTS

MOST INVOLVED
STUDENTS

MOST SAFE
OFF-CAMPUS



BRIERCREST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Heart. Soul. Strength. Mind.

OUR VISION: In Luke 10:27, Jesus teaches, “‘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.’” At BCA, we have the exciting task of living this out together. We have a unique identity as a school. We combine relationships with Briercrest and Prairie South (Public) School Division to offer students from across the world a faith-based high school experience, inviting them to live out Luke 10:27 through a range of fine arts, athletics, service, and academic opportunities.

DISCIPLESHIP: This year, we studied the Sermon on the Mount with the prayer that students would be captivated

by Jesus' words and surrender their lives to Him. God answered that prayer. At a student worship night, Olivia, a grade 12 student, felt God calling her into missions. Other students and staff affirmed this calling. Meanwhile, Olivia served as a school worship leader and grew in confidence. Not only was she captivated by Jesus' call to "seek the Kingdom of God above all else" (Matt. 6:33), she was also able to develop her God-given gifts to equip the church.

Our students also used their gifts to serve God and others through class service projects, an Easter choir and dance tour, and missions trips to Ft. McPherson (NWT) and Cuba.



141
STUDENTS



35
2019 GRADS



"One thing that I've learned is that God's plan is so much better than my own. Even though sometimes it's been hard coming here, switching schools, making new friends, living in dorm, it's also a reminder of all those promises of God in my life that have been fulfilled in ways I couldn't have even expected."

— Ashten Miller (BCA)



BRIERCREST COLLEGE

Calling one another to seek the Kingdom

ACADEMICS: Four new faculty members were hired in the departments of Theology, Business, and Philosophy. Our BA Psychology has been recognized as university-calibre by our provincial quality assurance board. This recognition allows our students to enter Masters programs and have greater confidence that their degree will be recognized.

DISCIPLESHIP: God continues to use our residence program to foster the Christian discipleship that young adults need as they explore identity and belief. We have been blessed to see students pursue Christ, follow His word, and serve as needed members of the Church.

Campus pastor Jason Wendel explains the community our students share: “In Acts 2, the Christians devote themselves to four main activities: the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. These activities are the pillars of our discipleship program. Rich community life in dorm, extracurricular activities, and shared meals provide space for fellowship and the breaking of bread, and daily chapels provide space for prayer and the study of God’s Word. It is our hope that students would learn to seek the Kingdom here and now as we await Christ’s return.”

MISSIONS: In addition to ministry credits for their programs, our students formed outreach groups to expand community engagement. Throughout the year, they hosted prayer groups, did street evangelism in Moose Jaw, and delivered baking to community members.

Six students returned to Canada’s Arctic to invest in the community of Ft. McPherson, NWT. The community was thrilled to see familiar faces, and the missionaries were encouraged to have them come and serve the church there. Through the Kaléo program, 17 students also served in Vancouver and Mexico, and the TESOL program commissioned 16 teachers to serve in three countries.



489
STUDENTS



92
2019 GRADS



BRIERCREST SEMINARY

Accessible and relevant education for the Church

SEMINARY LIFE: We are grateful for what God is doing through Briercrest Seminary! More students are choosing to study with us as they prepare to equip the church and engage our world—over the last two years, we've seen a 59% increase in total course registrations. New Experiential Ministry courses offer students mentorship in their ministry contexts. Partnerships with the Coalition for Youth Ministry Excellence, Renovaré Canada, and Arrow Leadership expand opportunities to pursue God's calling. Tuition assistance is available through our Partnering for Success initiative. We thank God for all of these things.

TEACHING STUDIO: This year saw the completion of the

teaching studio, which offers students state-of-the-art classroom experiences online. “The most exciting thing about [this] is the ease with which professors are now able to do distance teaching, pre-record class sessions, and interact with students that are unable to be on campus,” said Tristan Norton, graduate intern with the Seminary.

The studio hosts lectures in real time. Students can tune in, interact with peers and professors, and download a video recording of their class. It also opens up new avenues for podcasts or discussion panels. God is already using this update to expand our reach and enhance our ability to offer impactful seminary training, even at a distance.



268
STUDENTS



38
2019 GRADS



“In my third year I was approached about being a chaplain with the military. As a chaplain, I can reach people that are searching or lost in a different way than a pastor can. I needed two things: a Master of Divinity and to be ordained. This place is really foundational; we don’t just learn about leadership, we also learn from a Christian perspective, which will be helpful in my work as a chaplain.” — Officer Cadet Paul Reimer (Seminary, Divinity)

TESTIMONY OF HEALING

by Nolan Weinmaster

Heading into 2018–19, I sensed God wanting to grow our team’s faith through healing. He has shown amazing displays of His power on our varsity women’s volleyball team this season!

One player injured her knee during a preseason game. By the end, it was swelling, stiff, and sore. The team laid hands on her and asked the Holy Spirit to heal her. We prayed three times: the first time, the swelling went down and we saw more mobility in her knee. We prayed again and saw more improvement. After another round of prayer, she was running across the gym exclaiming, “Jesus healed my knee!” Coaches and players from the opposition witnessed it all!

Another player had back pain that significantly limited her ability to play. She was in physiotherapy and had tried other treatments, but the pain continued. One practice, she was desperate for relief, so the team prayed. The Holy Spirit removed all pain and restored complete mobility. She was overcome with emotion at God’s amazing power and love.

God is so good and only He can do these miracles! As a team, we are continuing to learn that our part is to believe in His Word and to be boldly faithful in asking Him to show up in His power.



BRIERCREST ATHLETICS

Ambassadors for Christ through sport

VISION: Briercrest Athletics is about developing life champions: healthy men and women who have their identity in Christ and are serving their team, families, and churches. We are using sport as a vehicle to transform lives through coaching—in practices, classroom sessions, competitions, and service projects.

Our coaching staff are core to this vision. In the world of sport, pressure to win can cause coaches to use players as tools or hold their power over players to win at any cost. A transformational coach, however, views sports as a virtuous and virtue-giving discipline. These coaches change lives. They also change society by helping to develop healthy men and women who are rooted in Jesus.

We are united around the purpose of developing life champions who compete for and win conference and national championships. We believe the process that connects these things is transformational coaching.

SPORTS CAMPS: This August, God blessed us with a record 458 athletes on campus for volleyball, basketball, and hockey camps (with Hockey Ministries International). Over 40 Briercrest athletes and alumni served as coaches. Campers developed their skills through daily court/ice time, skill sessions, and tournaments. In evening chapel sessions and small group times, we witnessed the Lord move as campers grew in their faith.

YOUTH QUAKE 2019

The power of focusing our eyes on Jesus

OVERVIEW: While Youth Quake (YQ) looks like a festival, it feels like a retreat. Since 1962, YQ's concerts, activities, seminars, main sessions, and times of worship have all focused on helping youth grow spiritually. Amidst all the energy and activity, ongoing discipleship is our priority: after each main session, we shut everything down so youth and youth workers can meet, discuss the message, and apply it to their lives.

THEME: The theme of YQ 2019 was "The Narrow." In main sessions, speaker Jason Ballard taught on what it means to choose the narrow path when everyone around us is choosing the wide path (Matthew 7). On the narrow path of Jesus, we find wholeness, joy, and life to the full. This path, while difficult, leads us further towards God.

FEEDBACK: "I just appreciate the opportunity that YQ brings to have intentional time with my youth—whether it's on the bus ride out or the conversations we have after the sessions, it's great to have this time." — Youth Worker

WEEKEND AT A GLANCE:

- 1257 REGISTRATIONS
- 1397 TEENS & LEADERS
- 80 GROUPS
- 39 APPLICATIONS
- 29 EXPERIENCE BRIERCREST ATTENDEES

PERFORMING/WORSHIP ARTS

Glorifying God through arts and music

CONSERVATORY FOR PERFORMING ARTS: Briercrest launched a Conservatory for Performing Arts in September 2018. Over 100 grade school students from Caronport, Moose Jaw, and surrounding areas are currently enrolled in one of our private lessons, musical theatre classes, dance classes, or instrumental ensembles. Under the direction of Briercrest music alumni and faculty, these children have opportunities to both develop and showcase their creative interests in a non-competitive Christian environment.

A BRIERCREST CHRISTMAS: Our 2018 Christmas production, *The Heart of Christmas*, presented an original dramatic story of hope, forgiveness, and reconciliation against the familiar backdrop of carols, angels, and the Nativity. With nearly 3,000 in attendance over four performances, this beloved annual event skillfully and beautifully presented the hope and joy of the gospel to guests from southern Saskatchewan and beyond.

VOICES FROM THE FRONT: Now in its fourth year, *Voices from the Front* is a Remembrance Day performance for audiences that include veterans from World War I and II. Presented at the Landing, an original building of the No. 33 EFTS (RAF) Airbase, this event features a collection of war songs, hymns, stories, letters, and Homefront sketches designed to celebrate and honour those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

KEEPING THE FAITH

This year, the “Competition for Character Education” study found that emerging adults (ages 18–28) who attended Christian higher education were *more likely to remain connected to the Church and to their Christian faith.*

Emerging adults in Christian higher education had daily access to godly mentorship and were likely to find roles and a sense of belonging in a Christian community. The report found that students who experienced these things were ultimately more likely to keep the faith than students at other institutions.

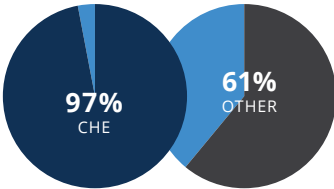
Christian higher education has a strategic role to play in discipling this generation. It reaches students in major life transition and prepares them academically, socially, and spiritually for life. It fosters the daily Christian discipleship community that emerging adults need as they explore identity and belief. It invites them to pursue Christ daily, both on campus and in churches, and *encourages them to participate as needed members of the Church.*



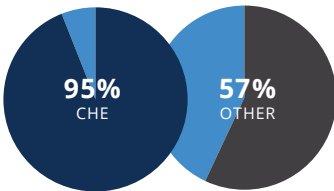
“Encouraging and building into people in community are what brought me to the faith, and then brought me here. I want to build into people and grow more.”

Briercrest alumni from Ethan’s church encouraged him to attend Briercrest after high school. He’s been able to prioritize spiritual growth, participate in the Church, and develop a passion for following Christ and encouraging others to do the same.

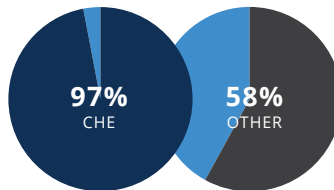
Students in Christian higher education (CHE) were more likely to agree with the following core statements of the Christian faith:



“Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection provided the forgiveness of sins.”



“Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God.”



“The Bible is the Word of God and is reliable and trustworthy.”

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



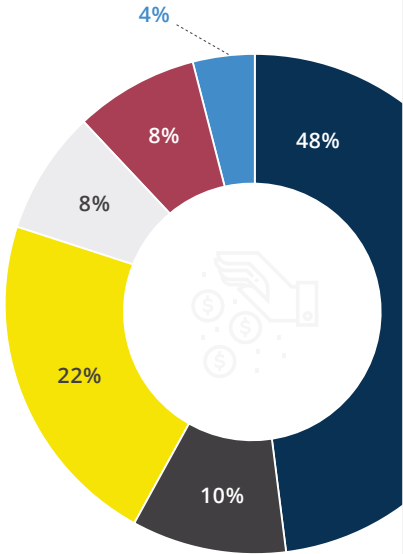
More involved with Christian groups on and off campus



More likely to maintain or increase their church attendance

REVENUES

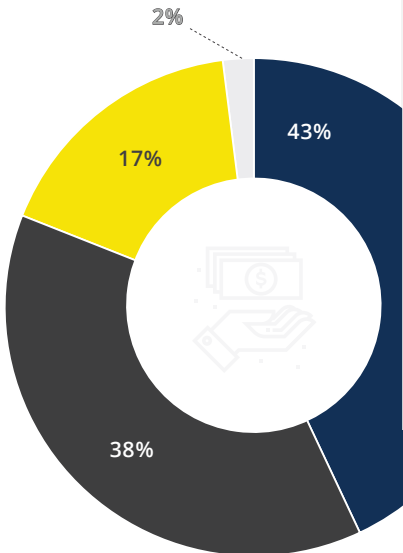
TOTAL \$15,187,659



- TUITION AND FEES
\$7,317,898
- DONATIONS
\$1,534,599
- BUSINESS SALES
\$3,288,637
- RENTALS \$1,228,887
- OTHER SALES
\$1,164,498
- GOVERNMENT GRANTS
\$653,140

EXPENSES

TOTAL \$16,871,818



- SALARIES AND BENEFITS
\$7,235,632
- OPERATING EXPENSES
\$6,370,760
- BUSINESS PURCHASES
\$2,825,789
- SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES \$439,637



Equipping the Church, Engaging the 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

donorinquiry@briercrest.ca | 1.888.581.2050