



**ABLAZE**

FALL 2021



# A **Light** in the Marketplace

**FEATURED STORIES:**

- *Peace of (My) Mind*
- *Serving the Community with Passion and Purpose*
- *From Teacher to Trailblazer in the Amazon Rainforest*
- *Six Decades of Kingdom Impact*

 **KINGSWOOD**  
UNIVERSITY

# Peace of (My) Mind



**DISRUPT: “cause radical change in an industry or market by means of innovation” (Dictionary.com).**

This term describes higher education today. Demographic changes mean fewer college-age young people. Those who are considering higher education now choose from a dizzying array of options, thanks to innovations in technology and new business models.

It used to be that someone chose between spending four years living at a public or a private college or university. Now, in addition to those choices, they can do part or all of their studies online.

Oh, and did I mention the pandemic? Higher education is now experiencing a third academic year impacted by COVID-19.


The question is not whether post-secondary institutions, including Kingswood University, are facing disruption. The question is, what is God doing through this disruption? Never surprised or stumped, God loves to turn present obstacles into potent opportunities.

At Kingswood, we are already seeing these opportunities develop. Through His providential leading, several years ago we

began Kingswood Extended. We started by offering certificate courses and now have several hundred students enrolled. Then we put our Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology fully online and saw a great jump in enrolment.

When COVID hit we realized the time had come to put our undergraduate programs fully online. Thanks to the excellent leadership of Dr. Erik Ireland, we successfully launched five majors this fall, with enrolment surpassing our goals.

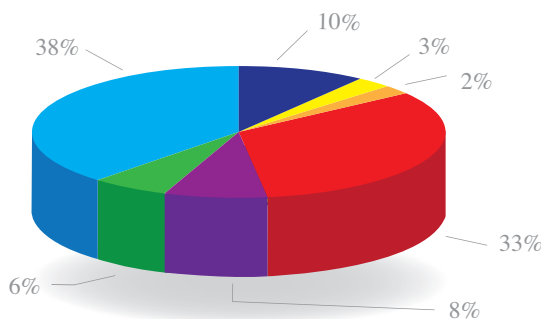
These online programs carry the “Kingswood difference,” combining academic excellence and practical ministry experience with intentional spiritual formation. Through these and our excellent on-campus programs, Kingswood has something to offer for anyone preparing for ministry, whether as a vocation or through a vocation. In this issue of Ablaze you will meet stellar examples of both types of ministry.

Higher education may be disrupted, but God has clearly prepared Kingswood “for such a time as this.” 








**Rev. Stephen J. Lennox, Ph.D.**  
President

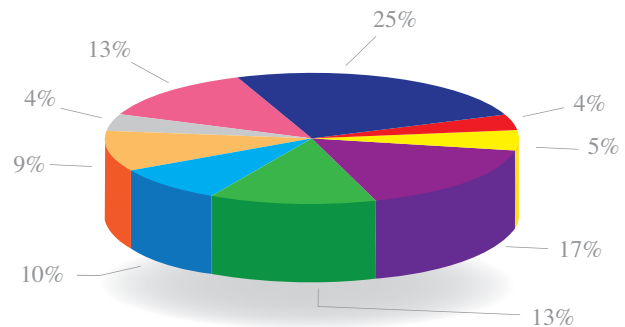
## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021












### OPERATING REVENUE

<b>Tuition</b>		\$1,551,702
<b>Student Residence Services</b>		\$359,022
<b>Student Food Services</b>		\$298,320
<b>Wesleyan Church Grant</b>		\$1,746,132
<b>Donations</b>		\$447,686
<b>Auxiliary Income</b>		\$144,592
<b>Other Income</b>		\$101,330



### OPERATING EXPENDITURES

<b>Academic Services</b>		\$1,152,235
<b>Student Life</b>		\$184,995
<b>Scholarships &amp; Financial Aid</b>		\$225,405
<b>Food &amp; Residence Services</b>		\$797,801
<b>Advancement &amp; Enrolment</b>		\$606,256
<b>Finance/Administration</b>		\$457,542
<b>Plant Operations</b>		\$404,670
<b>Debt Service</b>		\$200,846
<b>Other</b>		\$618,979




# From Teacher to Trailblazer in the Amazon Rainforest



Growing up on the mission field in Bolivia and Honduras, Esther Leininger always wanted to be a missionary. After graduating from Kingswood in 2014, Esther now uses her BA in Christian School Education and minor in Global Missions to teach English in Nauta, Peru, as the first full-time missionary in the community. On mission to bring the hope of Christ, Esther uses every opportunity to evangelize her students, weaving Bible verses, stories, and songs into each lesson.



Her vocation has opened the door for her to work on the front lines of discipleship and leadership training, raising up local workers to be leaders of their own local churches. The church is exploding in the Peruvian Amazon, with the need for pastors far outpacing the current rate of planting and training. Esther's team travels from village to village by boat along the Amazon and Marañon rivers to serve the twelve church plants, pouring into the new generation of potential leaders, hungry for discipleship.

Esther freely admits she felt completely unqualified for her posting, but God had been preparing her heart in advance with Isaiah 6:8. When the opportunity came to serve in the Amazon rainforest, this young woman with a spider phobia responded with an unequivocal and unconditional, "Here am I. Send me!" She speaks with the confidence of one who knows God goes before her and walks with her when she counsels others: "Please don't let any feelings of inadequacy keep you from doing what God calls you to do. Just say 'yes' and watch how God uses you." 

# Serving the Community with Passion and Purpose




Life can take unexpected turns, something Barb Farrow knows personally. She was with her husband, Casper, on the day he opened the doors for the first service at Grace Community Wesleyan Church in Buffalo, NY. Barb and Casper served together through the nearly four decades of their marriage until his recent death. Throughout his prolonged illness and death, Barb learned how to suffer with dignity. She testifies to how wonderful it is to have powerful love on this earth and how God's grace really is sufficient.

It was towards the end of her husband's illness that Barb felt God confirm that He had a new calling on her life. Working co-vocationally as a social worker in Buffalo, Barb stepped out in obedience, signed up for ordination classes through Kingswood Extended, and embraced the role of solo pastor of Grace Community. She continues to serve the people who have become her family.

For her outstanding leadership at Grace Community, Barb was recently awarded the Claude A. Reis Pastor of the Year award by her undergraduate alma mater, Houghton College. To better serve the community to which she had been called, Barb moved from her upper middle class suburban community to an urban neighborhood impacted by a high crime rate, poverty, and a high dropout rate for people of colour.

Barb has a passion to be a voice for the voiceless. She serves a community of people who have experienced trauma, social injustice, and poverty, but who are strengthened by the God they serve. "Do life together" is the mission of the church, and they live it out by giving generously of their limited resources to show God's love to single mothers, widows, and vulnerable children and youth.

Barb, also a Kingswood trustee, is committed to serving God out of faith, not comfort, following Jesus' example of how to love a world that is broken, hurting, and in need of restoration, and she invites others to do the same. 

# Marketplace Ministry

## A Light in the Marketplace

*“... and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.” (Acts 18:3)*

Tentmaking ministry is at least as old as the apostle Paul, who worked with his hands while he planted churches and disciples. These days, bi-vocational ministry is taking on new life. Often referred to as co-vocational or marketplace ministry, it allows the gospel to permeate the world of work in unprecedented ways.

While pastors minister *as* a vocation, marketplace ministers do so *through* their vocation. As one practitioner described it, “marketplace ministry is the willingness to be active participants in our workplaces as an expression of our faith in Jesus.” Or in the words of another, “it is living out your genuine faith with intentionality in your place of work each day.”

Marketplace ministry can take many forms. Kingswood graduate, Pete Benson (class of 1981), runs Beacon Capital Management in Franklin, TN. He views his work as a mission field, counselling clients and leading his employees. Yohan Mahimwala manages corporate accounts for a large banking firm in Toronto, carrying out his ministry in a corporate environment. Kim Cook, Kingswood alumna, runs a non-profit providing services to the homeless in upstate New York.

The common denominator for these and all marketplace ministers is prayerful intentionality to use their work as an arena for serving God. As David Drury wrote in *Marketplace Multipliers: Stories of Faith and Influence in the Marketplace* (Wesleyan Publishing House, 2021), they “intentionally focus on integrating faith and work, making disciples, and multiplying the kingdom in the marketplace.”

As expected, ministry in the marketplace has its challenges. Pete Benson identified the challenge of living out the demands of Christ day in, day out, in front of co-workers. “It’s very difficult to ‘hide’ your true self. Believe me, it will come out for everyone to see. If we don’t act the way we should, we need to learn from these experiences, apologize where necessary, and be teachable.”

One also must beware of crossing whatever lines are in place. Evangelism already requires us to be wise as serpents; doing so in the marketplace, with its legal requirements and corporate policies, calls for extra wisdom.

Benson warns of “the tendency to be too heavy handed or pushy in our enthusiasm to share Christ to others. In the marketplace, in my opinion, it’s our job to live out a Christ-like life and drop seeds in the ground, conscious that God gives the increase.”

Mahimwala concurs, “A unique challenge in the workplace for me is finding appropriate spaces to have spiritual conversations with either spiritually-curious or marginally interested people.” The right approach, he adds, “is to look for opportunities where they present themselves and not feel pressured to preach. Rather to go alongside others and be present until the right time.”

There is also the challenge of time pressures, especially now. “Our work environments have increasingly become ones of productivity, efficiency, and burnout,” says Mahimwala. “Taking the time to be available and thoughtful about people over process and product alone is one that needs constant nudging by the Spirit.”

Yet another challenge is helping Christians understand that marketplace ministry is really ministry, not just a way to subsidize vocational ministry. “Unfortunately,” notes Kim Cook, “there’s a gap in understanding the differences between church ministry and marketplace ministry. Both are vital ministries. We’re seeing lives transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit at Open Door Mission.”

Given the importance of marketplace ministry in Kingdom growth, how can the local church come alongside marketplace ministers? According to Mahimwala, one way would be to disciple each Christian to see “every hour of the day, including our workday, as an expression of who we are.” Churches can reinforce that everyone is called to minister, whether as a vocation or through their vocation.

The church can celebrate examples of marketplace ministers in the congregation. Seeing what others are doing helps us understand what we can be doing. This type of validation provides marketplace ministers with, in Drury’s words, “a sense of blessing, release, and anointing.”

*“Marketplace ministry is the willingness to be active participants in our workplaces as an expression of our faith in Jesus.”*





**Pete Benson**  
Financial Management



**Kim Cook**  
Non-Profit Mission




**Yohan Mahimwala**  
Corporate Banking

Churches can make a special point to pray for those who minister, whether they do so in pulpits, on mission fields, or across cubicles. Regular and special times of prayer will not only reinforce the spiritual nature of all these ministries, but will call down Heaven’s assistance.

Because ministry is not easy, wherever it occurs, marketplace ministers need to gather for fellowship and instruction. Benson recommends that churches host a chapter of the group, Marketplace Multipliers (<https://marketplacemultipliers.com/>), “where like-minded people get support, prayer, and encouragement on a monthly or regular basis with others. Together we share stories and pray for each other and hold each other accountable in our marketplace ministry. Iron sharpens iron.”

Those engaged in marketplace ministry need training. They already know how to do their job; what they need is help knowing how to do ministry while doing their job. According to President Lennox, this is one reason why Kingswood University created its Marketplace Ministry curriculum. “We wanted to strengthen a person’s knowledge, skills, and disposition for effective ministry in the marketplace.” Courses are offered online for both personal enrichment and undergraduate credit. More information is available at [kingswood.edu/marketplace-ministry](https://kingswood.edu/marketplace-ministry).

“Tentmaking” is alive and well and promises to be a key weapon in the church’s arsenal as it impacts society in the 21st century. 

[kingswood.edu/marketplace-ministry](https://kingswood.edu/marketplace-ministry)

# Be the church in your community.

Build a firm foundation for living out  
your faith in the marketplace.

*Marketplace  
Ministry*



# Eric Currie

## Dream Big



### **Eric, when did you attend Kingswood University, and what was your major?**

*I attended from 1988 to 1992 and received a BA in Religion with a major in Youth Ministry.*

### **What ministry and graduate work did you do after graduating?**

*I was the first youth and young adult pastor at Coastal Community Church in Portland, Maine, then went on to be the Youth and Young Adult Pastor at Journey Wesleyan Church in Fredericton, New Brunswick.*

*After that we moved to Florida to be part of the launch of Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando. I graduated with the Master of Divinity and then came on staff as their coordinator of Admissions in 2001, eventually becoming the Executive Director of Enrollment Management. I served as Vice President of Enrollment Management at Houghton College from 2012 to 2016, and then returned to Asbury as the Associate VP of Enrollment Management for Florida, Memphis, Tulsa, and Colorado Springs. In September, I accepted a position as VP for Enrollment Success at CampusEDU, a brand new educational tech company seeking to support Christian colleges and universities with their online course needs.*

### **Tell us about your family.**

*I am married to Charlene (nee Stokes), who graduated from Kingswood in 1998 with a BA in Ministry and a major in Global Missions. We've been married for 27 years and have three wonderful children, Adebé (15), Jerusalem (12), and Jacob (11).*

### **Briefly describe your career trajectory and what you've found most rewarding.**

*What was most satisfying in local church ministry was watching people that I ministered to grow into disciples of Jesus Christ. Many came to Kingswood to follow their call into ministry. I absolutely love seeing people embrace fully all that God has for them.*

*Over the last 23 years, I have been in Christian higher education. I have loved seeing people fulfill their lifelong dream of completing a degree and then going out to be part of the local church. The coolest part of my career is that when Charlene and I moved to Florida in 1999 we didn't know a person in this state. Now we could travel to any county in the state of Florida and know people who are leaving it all on the line for Jesus as His disciples! Only God could orchestrate that possibility!*

### **How did your Kingswood education prepare you?**

*Kingswood prepared me in three critical ways:*

- 1) Dependence on God. The professors and leaders constantly shared and modeled this. If anything was ever going to be accomplished, it would only occur through connection to God.*
- 2) God's Word is timeless and true for all time! It is the life source, and if applied, it will prepare you for whatever opportunities come your way.*
- 3) Dream Big (even bigger than you can imagine). If God has placed a call on your life, don't be afraid to live it out and chase after the dream God has called you to. Kingswood was the place that nurtured this calling and provided me with the tools for a life I could never have imagined. If you told me 32 years ago, as I was about to begin my journey at Kingswood, that I would spend the majority of my life in higher education at some of the leading academies in North America, I would have laughed at you. My friends would have laughed at you, my family would have laughed at you, and for sure my teachers from middle school through high school would have laughed at you. Only one person was not laughing- GOD!!! Kingswood prepared me to fulfill my calling!*

### **What changes do you envision for the Church in the coming decades?**

*The Church of the future will be borderless, a community able to connect with communities all around the world in ways we cannot imagine. This world will be ripe for mass communication of the Gospel on a scale we've never imagined. The Church's best days are ahead with opportunities to engage in society we never thought possible. I'm optimistic because I remember Who wins.*

### **What advice do you have for our students and recent graduates?**

*Say "Yes" to God every day. When your feet hit the floor in the morning, say "Yes." It is the most important choice you make with everything else flowing from it. Obedience to God is lived out daily; it is not a one-time decision. Dying to yourself so that Christ can have full control is a daily decision. You will never regret saying "Yes"! God truly knows the desires of your heart! (Psalm 37: 4).*

**Amen! Thanks, Eric, for sharing your heart with us. 🌹**



# Celebrating Six Decades of Kingdom Impact

## Servant Leadership at its Best



This year marks 60 years since Dr. Laurel D. Buckingham—a farm boy convinced he was a failure in everything from farming to athletics to academics—graduated from what is now Kingswood University. When it comes to “Dr. B,” as he is known to most, what is significant is not the passage of time, but the purpose with which he has faithfully pursued his calling to reach a lost world for Christ.

Dr. B served as lead pastor of Moncton Wesleyan for 41 years. When he began, the church had less than 150 people. Under his leadership, it grew to around 2000. As the church grew, Dr. B turned down opportunities to move on to “bigger and better.” He remained steadfast and committed to seeing lives transformed by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, expressed in the growth of the Church in Atlantic Canada. That commitment was the catalyst for what he calls “believability,” challenging the small-growth mindset prevalent at the time. Today, Moncton Wesleyan is one of many large churches in the Atlantic Provinces, led by men and women inspired and encouraged by Dr. B.

These days, Dr. Buckingham can be found investing his time and energy developing leaders, mentoring pastors and Kingswood University students, and consulting with churches committed to revitalization and renewal. Through the Buckingham Leadership Institute, he champions the need for strong leadership from pastors who will stay the course with grit, stamina, determination, and perseverance in the face of the challenges facing the church.

While Dr. B freely shares his decades of experience and lessons learned, the one thing you will not hear him talk about is retirement; there simply is no such thing as retiring from the mission to reach the lost for Christ. 🔥

 **Next Level**  
*Ministry Leaders*

**Master of Arts  
in Pastoral Theology**  
*Now Fully Online*

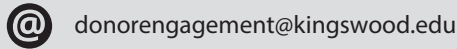
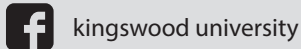
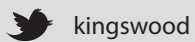
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[kingswood.edu/MAPT](https://kingswood.edu/MAPT)





FALL 2021



# Kingswood University Vision Tour 2022

**September 11-21**

**10 Night Canada Cruise includes port stops in:**

- Sail away from Boston, Massachusetts
- Bar Harbor, Maine
- Saint John, New Brunswick
- Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
- Sydney, Nova Scotia
- Portland, Maine
- Returning to Boston, Massachusetts



										
<b>DAY 1</b> Boston, Massachusetts Sun, Sep 11, 2022 Departs: 6:00PM	<b>DAY 2</b> Bar Harbor, Maine Mon, Sep 12, 2022 Tendered: 7:00AM to 6:00PM	<b>DAY 3</b> Saint John, NB Tue, Sep 13, 2022 Docked: 8:00AM to 4:30PM Visit Kingswood	<b>DAY 4</b> Halifax, Nova Scotia Wed, Sep 14, 2022 Docked: 11:00AM to 6:00PM	<b>DAY 5</b> At Sea - Cruising Thu, Sep 15, 2022	<b>DAY 6</b> Charlottetown, PEI Fri, Sep 16, 2022 Arrival: 8:00AM Overnight	<b>DAY 7</b> Charlottetown, PEI Sat, Sep 17, 2022 Departs: 6:00PM	<b>DAY 8</b> Sydney, Nova Scotia Sun, Sep 18, 2022 Docked: 8:00AM to 6:00PM	<b>DAY 9</b> At Sea - Cruising Mon, Sep 19, 2022	<b>DAY 10</b> Portland, Maine Tue, Sep 20, 2022 Docked: 7:00AM to 8:00PM	<b>DAY 11</b> Boston, Massachusetts Wed, Sep 21, 2022 Arrival: 7:00AM

*Boston, Maine  
& Atlantic Canada*