



*New Chapter.
Firm Foundation.*

- Reflecting on 80 Years of God's Faithfulness
- May Jesus Christ be Praised: Inaugurating a New Chapter
- Debt Free: We Burned the Mortgage!

The Mission Remains Clear

Preparing Workers for the Harvest

By Dr. H. C. Wilson · October 2025

Beginnings (1945–1965)

The amazing Kingdom entity we now know as Kingswood University was born in 1945 by action of the Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church. Kingswood and I share many things in common, including our birth date of 1945, when I entered the world as the son of Rev. and Mrs. H.S. Wilson. We are both octogenarians and have journeyed along together for these eight decades with our paths intersecting frequently along the way.



Hammond House, Woodstock, NB - 1945

Hights, Lows, and an Unshakable Mission

With two name changes, from Holiness Bible Institute to Bethany Bible College to Kingswood University, and two location changes, from Woodstock (1945) to Yarmouth (1947) to Sussex (1965), it has always been an exciting and sometimes challenging ride with both its high spots and low spots. An extremely generous gift that made the functional and architecturally impressive chapel the cornerstone of the Sussex campus - a high - to a fire set deliberately in a dual-purpose dorm/dining hall in Yarmouth - a low - the mission has always been clear - to prepare workers for the harvest.

On this journey, Kingswood has experienced significant programmatic changes, leadership transitions, the ebb and flow of student enrolment, faculty and staff changes, construction projects of

varying magnitude, seasons of financial strain and financial blessing, authorization from the Province of New Brunswick to grant degrees, accreditation through the Association of Biblical Higher Education, the addition of online learning components, and the introduction of both bachelor's and master's degrees. Through it all, bolstered by the consistent and generous support of The Wesleyan Church and the faithful, and often sacrificial, giving of donors and alumni, the mission has always remained clear - to prepare workers for the harvest.

Early Memories and Student Life

My first awareness of Bethany was in the early 50's when my dad, who served on the Board of Trustees at that time, pastored about 20 km from Yarmouth. Ministerial students were frequent guests in our parsonage. I did not know them personally, but these young men were so kind to an active little kid. The idea that Bethany, as it was known then, was a good and positive place was deeply sown into my early memory bank.



Yarmouth Campus

Campus Life in Yarmouth

When the college was 15 years old, I, at 15, enrolled in Grade 10 at Yarmouth. It was the era when there was both a high school program and a three-year training program for ministers and missionaries.

The boys' dorm, the administrative offices and the classrooms shared space in the main campus building, a stately mansion that was reported to be the former home of a sea captain by the name of Baker. The girls' dorm, the kitchen and the dining hall shared space in a repurposed military building. The Crosby Memorial Chapel rounded out the main campus buildings at that time - and the mission has always been clear - to prepare workers for the harvest.

Those early Yarmouth days were the days of tightly regulated schedules and rather restricted social practices. We complained. We complied somewhat. We survived. We found creative workarounds. We built memories. We established lifelong relationships. Many of us found a husband or wife there - the old adage of your ring by spring or your money back was often heard, somewhat in jest.



Growth and Change

The campus culture evolved as time went by. Regulations were relaxed. A sense of collegiality grew. The student base broadened to include students from a variety of other denominations, as well as from our own Wesleyan tribe, but from locations far beyond the geographic boundaries of the founding Reformed Baptist Church, the mission has always been clear - to prepare workers for the harvest.

Becoming The Wesleyan Church

In my opinion, the single greatest development that has had and continues to have a deep and profound impact on the institution was the decision in 1966 for



the Reformed Baptist Church to join The Wesleyan Methodist Church. Then, in 1968, The Wesleyan Methodist Church merged with the Pilgrim Holiness Church to form The Wesleyan Church. This opened doors of opportunity with a vastly wider geographic reach and potential donor base for the institution, the value of which cannot be overstated.

The very life and ongoing ministry of Kingswood rest in significant measure, on the denominational family that so snugly wrapped its arms around the institution - and the mission has always been clear - to prepare workers for the harvest.

Our mission remains clear and unshakable - to prepare workers for the harvest.

A New Day Dawning

A new day is now dawning. A rising sense of hope is now stirring. Enrolment is trending upward. Expectations are steadily growing.

Our future is brightening. Our faith looking forward is strengthening.

Our potential is renewed. Our passion is revived.

Our mission remains clear and unshakable - to prepare workers for the harvest.

H. C. Wilson, General Superintendent Emeritus for The Wesleyan Church, is a Kingswood graduate (HS 1962, BA Religion 1972). He served Kingswood's Board of Trustees for 20 years, 17 as Chairman, and now serves as a Trustee Emeritus.

May Jesus Christ be Praised

Inaugurating a New Chapter

By Dr. Janet Starks - Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness



Friday, October 17, 2025, marked the inauguration of Kingswood University's 13th president, Rev. Dr. Ricky A. Christman. The service in the chapel that evening was much more than the official installation of a president; it was a celebration of what God has done and continues to do through Kingswood.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of Kingswood, then Holiness Bible Institute, in Woodstock, New Brunswick. An alumni choir sang "When Morning Gilds the Skies ... May Jesus Christ be Praised!" This was truly the theme of the evening. The choir represented alumni from as long ago as the 1960s and as recently as the 2020s. As they sang, I was reminded of the hundreds of students whose lives have been shaped by the ministry of this institution and who now serve around the world. Alumni in the congregation included former presidents, board members, current staff and faculty, and many who had come to Sussex for this event.

May Jesus Christ be Praised! for our past.

Not only did this event consider our past it also honoured the present. Part of the celebration of the evening was the burning of the mortgage. For the first time in 30 years, Kingswood University

is debt-free. Burning a mortgage is always an exciting event, but for those of us who have been here through those years, it is a moving testimony of God's hand at work. In November 2008, Kingswood carried more than \$6 million in debt. Thanks to the generosity, sacrifice, and steadfast prayers of our community, even through a global lock down, we are grateful to report that the debt has been retired.

May Jesus Christ be Praised! for the present.

Each president is different, each brings their own experiences, passions, and vision, yet each is driven by what Kingswood has been doing for 80 years. We may use different words to identify the programs, the delivery methods have changed, the students are certainly different from their alumni parents and grandparents, the words of the mission statement have been edited, but the mission of Holiness Bible Institute/Bethany Bible College/Kingswood University remains the same - to strengthen the local and global church through forming Christlike servant-leaders.

May Jesus Christ be Praised! for our future.

And because God continues to provide, we can look to the future as Dr. Christman assumes the mantle of leadership.

Kingswood University Burns Its Mortgage

To God Be The Glory!

By Andrea Gunter - Executive Vice President

On October 17, 2025, during Kingswood University's 80th Anniversary Celebration and the Inauguration of its 13th President, Dr. Ricky A. Christman, the community gathered to witness a remarkable milestone - our official mortgage burning. This joyful act symbolized not only the elimination of a major financial debt but also a tangible expression of God's faithfulness and the generosity of His people.

In the fall of 2008, Kingswood secured a 30-year mortgage of \$6,027,965, with a monthly payment of \$40,470, to finance debt incurred from several major capital projects. Those transformative initiatives included the purchase of the Nelson property, infrastructure for Wesley Drive, the implementation of the Campus Master Plan, extensive campus renovations, the construction of townhouse apartments, and the completion of the beautiful Saunders Irving Chapel.

Seventeen years later, thirteen years ahead of schedule, Kingswood made its final payment

on October 14, 2025. This achievement stands as a testimony to God's provision, the steadfast support of faithful donors, and years of wise and careful financial stewardship. It reflects the shared conviction that God's mission through Kingswood University must never be hindered by debt.

The mortgage document was ceremoniously burned by former president Dr. David Medders, under whose administration the original loan was secured, and long-time financial officer Mr. Ivan Graham, whose leadership in careful stewardship over the years helped bring the university to this debt-free moment. As the flames rose, so did heartfelt gratitude - to God, to our generous friends, and to every person who has believed in the mission of equipping Christlike servant-leaders for the Church and the world.

*Truly, this is a moment to celebrate
God's faithfulness -
past, present, and future.*



Degrees that Go the Distance:

Introducing New Programs at Kingswood

By Dr. Allen Lee - Vice President for Academic Affairs

Kingswood University is committed to providing high-quality education that speaks directly to the vocational journey of our students. Our programs are designed to meet the desires, needs, and requirements of both students and the Church. In recent years, we've expanded with the B.A. in Business Management, B.A. in Ministry – Marketplace Ministry, A.A. in Biblical Studies, the Professional Development Certificate in Christian School Education, and Elements, a gap-year program that serves as the first year of our Evangelism & Compassion Ministry (Praxis) degree that blends adventure, faith, and leadership.

Our impact extends beyond undergraduate study. Built on strong foundations, our graduate pathways offer a seamless experience from first year through to a master's degree: the M.A. in Pastoral Theology

builds on the B.A. in Ministry, and the M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counselling advances from the B.A. in Christian Counselling.

Looking ahead, May 2026 will see the launch of our Master of Business Administration (MBA), progressing from the B.A. in Business Management. This degree integrates faith and business, cultivating ethical stewardship, integrity in leadership, strategic purpose, and business as mission. In September 2026, we will add the B.A. in Sports & Recreation Management, equipping students with a solid business core plus specialized, practical preparation for the sports industry.

Kingswood remains steadfast in crafting relevant curriculum for today and tomorrow, preparing workers for the Kingdom harvest.

Welcoming Our New Team Members



A new semester brings three distinct stories to the same calling. **Patrick Sprague, Director of Student Life & Director of NextGen Ministry**, arrives with a steady, pastoral energy, eager to walk alongside students as they're formed for ministry. He talks about training, inspiring, and preparing leaders not as a slogan but as a daily rhythm of dorm conversations, chapel moments, and small wins that shape a lifetime.

In the library, **Dr. Erica Bowler, Director of Library Services**, is turning stacks into a hub of discovery. She loves teaching and curation: mentoring a

cohort, planning gatherings that knit community together, refreshing collections in theology, biblical studies, and counselling, and showcasing voices from our own faculty.

Ethan Phillips, Information Services Associate, is living the study-and-serve blend at Kingswood. Still a student, he's putting his I.T. training to work behind the scenes, keeping systems humming so learning and ministry stay front and center.

Three new additions, one shared heartbeat: forming Christ-like servant leaders. We are so thankful to have them on the team!

A New Day

Embracing the Past & Engaging the Future of Kingswood University

By Dr. Ricky A. Christman - President



I am filled with immense gratitude and a deep sense of calling as I step into the role of President of Kingswood University. It is truly a new day on our campus. The air is vibrant with anticipation as we work toward the next chapter in our storied history. Yet, as we look ahead with excitement, we must do so with one foot firmly planted in the foundation of our past. Our task is clear: Embracing the Past while relentlessly Engaging the Future.

Embracing Our Rich Heritage

Kingswood's purpose has always been singular and sacred: to serve Jesus Christ by strengthening the local and global church through forming Christ-like servant leaders in a community that creatively blends academic excellence and practical ministry experience with intentional spiritual formation. From our beginnings in 1945 as Holiness Bible Institute, and later Bethany Bible College, we have held fast to an unwavering commitment to Scriptural authority, spiritual vitality, and the high calling of ministry. This is the unchanging core of who we are, whether in the Church, the mission field, the classroom, clinical spaces, or the marketplace.

Our past is a testament to the faithfulness of God and the dedication of the founders, presidents, faculty, and alumni who sacrificed to ensure that a place like Kingswood could thrive. Their legacy is not just a footnote in a history book; it is the very bedrock upon which our future rests. We honour their work

by refusing to water down the powerful truths of the Gospel for the sake of cultural expediency. We are a university rooted in the holiness tradition, dedicated to deep biblical knowledge and genuine spiritual formation. That commitment will never waver.

Engaging the Future with Purpose

While our mission remains fixed, the world we are preparing our students to enter does not. Engaging the future means recognizing the monumental challenges and opportunities facing the contemporary Church and society. It requires innovation without abandoning our firmly held beliefs.

Our vision for the future involves enhancing our commitment to academic rigor and expanding our reach through strategic development and technological advancement. We must equip our students with the skills not just to preach the Gospel, but to apply it with excellence in a complex world. This means continuously updating our curricula, investing in faculty who are not only scholars but also active ministry practitioners, and fostering a campus environment that encourages thoughtful engagement with difficult questions.

We are focused on two key pillars for this new era: Stewardship and Relevance. We must be wise stewards of the resources entrusted to us, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the university. At the same time, our education must be profoundly relevant, producing graduates who can lead effectively, articulate their faith persuasively, and impact the world for Christ.

This is our covenant with the Kingswood community and the Church at large: we will relentlessly pursue excellence, champion our faith unapologetically, and dedicate ourselves to raising up the next generation of Christian leadership. A new day has dawned. Let's walk forward together—rooted in faith, ready for the future.



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John C. Maxwell Leadership Event

Save the Date

When: April 17, 2026

Where: Kingswood University,
Sussex, NB

*Plan to be there with your team
by your side.*

