

Midwest Bible College

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Graduation 2024

**MIDWEST
BIBLE COLLEGE**



MEACO

Midwest Education
and Community Outreach

*A non-profit community organization
P.O. Box 270184 Milwaukee, WI 53227
(414) 546-1248*

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"That they might set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but might keep His commandments."

Psalm 78:7 (AMPC)

2024 was a year of blessing for Midwest Bible College. Since the COVID-19 shutdown, students have slowly returned to the classroom, and this year, we had our largest incoming class since 2019. The Appleton campus continues to grow and expand, and has begun reaching out to the local area for new students.

The graduation ceremony in May was bittersweet, as it was the first we have celebrated without our founder, Dr. Roy Bowen. This year's speaker, Dr. Steven Mayanja, joined us via video from Uganda, East Africa.

In August, we held a beautiful inauguration ceremony to formally install me as the new President of the college. There were many familiar faces of families and alumni from years past. What a precious time of coming together to look forward and see the vision of what God has in store for the future of Midwest Bible College.

This year, the college also undertook curriculum reviews for every class to ensure our content and courses are taught with excellence and led by the Holy Spirit. We began transferring live class videos online so others around the world can log in and receive the same outstanding education that happens here in Milwaukee. Eventually, all of our curriculum will be translated into Spanish so those who want to attend in-person Spanish language classes can come and learn as well as online.

Our outreach in East Africa continues, training leaders and pastors, with graduates coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. Training leaders and pastors in other countries via online classes is an important part of our student body as a whole and will continue to be a critical component of our work.

Looking to 2025, we continue to move forward with Dr. Roy's legacy. *Teaching Others to Teach Others* was always his motto – to reach the world with the message of Christ and make Jesus known – remains the heart of our mission.



MIDWEST BIBLE COLLEGE VISIT TO BURUNDI

In late January, 2025, college president Dr. Nicole Bowen Purpura travelled with her husband Chuck to East Africa to celebrate a Midwest Bible College graduation. One of our school's graduates from 2018, Dr. Ezechiel Nivyayo, has founded a satellite campus in Burundi. He has gone on to translate our curriculum from English into Kirundi – the official language of Burundi. Now the students have come.

In pursuit of their education, students rose early and stayed late, some walking up to four hours one way just to attend classes. They are hungry for the Word and they love learning and knowing more of the Bible. Several of the graduates are pastors, whose degrees will enhance their ministries and ensure that they are properly qualified to satisfy government requirements for church leadership.

At the ceremony, every graduate proudly wore their cap and gown as they walked together through the village, passing banana trees and corn that grow along the road. Once we arrived at the church, the graduation lasted all day. The students were thrilled to earn their degrees from an American college. What a joy it was to see their hunger, excitement, and pride in receiving their degrees and building towards change in their nation. Burundi is one of the poorest nations on earth, and Midwest Bible College is there to teach, train and empower leaders and pastors to change their villages, cities and nation for God.



MBC BY THE NUMBERS

22
years in operation



In 2023, Midwest Bible College celebrated our 20th anniversary!

12
professors




There are 12 professors at Midwest Bible College. We're grateful to work alongside dynamic and dedicated educators.

823
degrees completed



Since 2004, our school has confirmed 823 student degrees.

21
ministers ordained



Midwest Bible College has ordained 21 new ministers who serve in communities across the United States and Africa.

790+
volunteer hours



Our volunteer staff collectively contributed more than 790 hours of their time last year.

67
graduates in
Spring 2024



This past spring marked our 21st graduation ceremony.

GRADUATION 2024

The Midwest Bible College spring graduation ceremony is a joyful time for our students and their loved ones. Each year in May, we gather together to celebrate our students' hard work and their achievement in earning degrees and certificates from our school. In May 2024, more than 30 students received diplomas before an audience of over 200 family members, friends, and supporters. Congratulations to all of our 2024 graduates!



TESTIMONIALS

"MBC has given me a deeper understanding of the scriptures and how to apply them in a practical matter."

~

"The work is challenging, but it is manageable. The support from teachers and staff is top-tier, all the way around. You are challenged to dig deeper."

~

"I love the conversation and the family atmosphere."

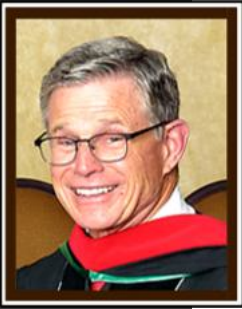
~

"The curriculum forced me to slow down and dig into God's Word for answers."

~

"Attending MBC has been one of the best decisions I've made in my life."

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



2024 was a very exciting year of change and growth for the school. With a new president, chairman, and board members, the school is stronger than ever. We enrolled more students this school year, and we are poised for growth throughout the entire school. The board has a great vision to make Midwest Bible College one of the premier Bible Colleges in the country, in Africa, and whatever nations God calls us to.

We are teaching our students to be rooted and grounded in the Word of God so they might "live and move and have [their] being" in Christ (Acts 17:28).

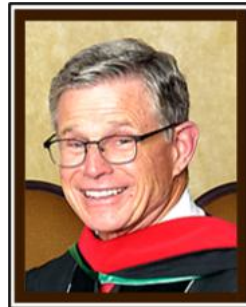
We want to teach them to live in abundance. "Now to Him who is able to keep you [carry out His purpose] do superabundantly more than all we can ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes or dreams] according to His power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever, Amen." (Ephesians 3:20).

Midwest Bible College is training students to go forth and spread the gospel wherever they go!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Nicole Bowen Purpura
President



Rev. Roger Smith
Chairman



Dr. Tony Whitley
Director



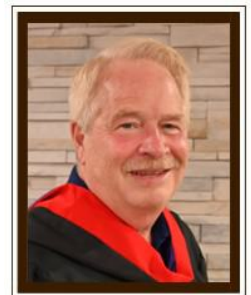
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Pastor Joseph Jones
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Director



Dr. Nadine Norland
Director

OVERVIEW OF MBC

Midwest Bible College prepares men and women for service and ministry in their local churches, communities, and the world by helping them develop an understanding of God's Word and learn to apply its teaching to everyday life.

Midwest Bible College was founded in 2003 by Dr. R. L. Bowen with the purpose of training servants of God. We seek to deepen our students' faith and understanding of God's Word through Scripture and education, so they can effectively communicate God's Word and graciously minister to others.

Our college engages students from all denominations and in all stages of life by providing sound, affordable, Biblical teaching. We offer degree programs ranging from Associates, Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral Degrees to a Biblical Counseling Certificate Program. To best meet the needs of students, our campus is located in the Milwaukee metro area, and is easily accessible via public or private transportation. Our degree programs are also available to students online. Additionally, United States Military Veterans may be eligible for tuition assistance through their VA benefits, under the GI Bill ®.

Midwest Bible College is fully accredited by the Association of Independent Christian Colleges and Seminaries. We hope to reach as many students as possible, to fortify their foundation of faith, and strengthen the unity of their churches and communities.

Over time, Midwest Bible College has welcomed students from 9 nations, and it is our privilege to welcome students from more than 45 different churches annually. We are dedicated to enlightening and educating people of all backgrounds about the teachings of the Bible.

"Our goal is to assist you in obtaining the knowledge that you need, so that you can accomplish what God has called you to do. That foundation of knowledge is found in the Word of God." – Dr. R. L. Bowen, Founder of Midwest Bible College

OUR CURRICULUM

The Midwest Bible College curriculum emphasizes key areas of study that are of major academic and spiritual significance. We offer our programs at both our Milwaukee and Appleton campuses as well as online. Our unique curriculum crosses denominational and ethnic lines to bring believers from diverse spiritual perspectives together, for the purpose of building the Kingdom of God.

As the need for knowledgeable Christian workers and leaders grows among our churches and in our world, graduates of Midwest Bible College are answering the call to serve the Lord. Their solid foundation of education in Scripture includes practical applications to everyday life, and encourages personal responsibility.

MBC IN AFRICA

Since 2019, with the approval of Uganda's Counsel for Higher Education, Midwest Bible College has maintained a Memorandum of Understanding with Yesu Akwagala Bible College, located in Kampala. Cooperation between our institutions has raised the level of education and increased the value of degrees earned at YABC. Graduates from this program include the heads of ministry in various African nations, and many have one or more churches under their care. In total, this network now includes more than 500 individual churches, and new pastors are being trained to continue growing the Kingdom of God.

“It does not matter where you are socially, economically, or what race is on your birth certificate. In the society of Heaven, there is no division, no segregation, no ethnicity label, and no social injustice. We see this heavenly model exemplified every day at Midwest Bible College.” – Dr. Tony Whitley, Midwest Bible College Board of Directors



MOVING FORWARD

As we look towards the future, the long-term goals for Midwest Bible College include finding a permanent brick-and-mortar home for the college here in Milwaukee. A suitable campus and office space with ample parking will help us continue to grow along with our next generation of students. We have funds set aside for this purpose, and are seeking additional financial support for this eventual purchase.

Additionally, we continue working to build up an endowment fund that is able to sustain the college while fueling new programs and classes as enrollment expands.

The future is bright, and we look forward to continued growth of our college and mission, both here in Milwaukee and abroad!

TRAINING WORLD CHANGERS ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

Give online at

MidwestBibleCollege.org/donate



Or make checks payable to:

MEACO or Midwest Bible College
P.O. Box 270184, Milwaukee, WI 53227

Thank you for your generous support!



