

# Maranatha

## BIBLE SCHOOL

Dear Supporting Constituency of Maranatha Bible School,

For over 40 years Maranatha Bible School has operated year after year as a place where Christian young people from various parts of North America come to spend time studying and sharing together in the Word of God.

We as a board care deeply about this important work which has served the youth of our churches. We are committed by the grace of God to see it continue on into the future for the glory of Christ and his Church.

Many staff and students have been looking forward to another year of Maranatha Bible School for 2021 and while we would want nothing more than to be able to operate, the COVID 19 Pandemic has caused us to question the wisdom of going ahead for this coming year. After much prayer and discussion along with principal administration consultation ***the decision regretfully had to be made to cancel the 2021 year of Maranatha Bible School. However, the Lord willing, we intend to resume with normal programming for the year 2022.***

Several things were considered in this decision not the least of which was the realization that the facility of MBS requires staff and students to live in close quarters while there. This is nice for a sense of close community but it does create an environment where sickness is more difficult to contain from spreading. In an event where COVID-19 would get into the school it would be very difficult to isolate and manage.

To prevent the spread of Covid-19 the Minnesota Department of Health has guidelines in place which we want to be respectful in following. Looking at Governor Walz executive order 20-81, and in being in consultation with the local health department about them, we concluded that some of the guidelines would be very difficult to manage. One of them would be the wearing of masks at all times with the exception of eating and sleeping. We feel expecting this level of extensive mask wearing at a place like Maranatha would be unrealistic and would hinder students and staff from being able to communicate and build relationships which is an essential part of the experience at Bible School.

It is common for Maranatha to operate with numerous Canadian staff. This year was going to be no exception. Many of those staff members have duties to fill in their churches and places of work after they return home from their time of service at Bible School. During the pandemic the Canadian government requires a 14-day quarantine of their citizens on their return from another country. While this challenge could possibly have been overcome it was another factor of consideration in our decision.

While this decision is disappointing to all of us, we believe that God can work all things together for good as we continue to love him and seek him during this time.

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We thank you for your past support of Maranatha Bible School and we invite you to continue that support both in prayer and financially. Even though the program is not in full operation for this year, there is still a building to maintain and administrative work that must continue as we look with vision into the future.

If you are a student who has been accepted for MBS 2021, we are aware that you have paid a portion of your tuition. You will be contacted by administration in the near future and given options with what you can do with your funds. They will include the option of a full refund for your tuition paid. You will also have the option of using some or all of it as a means of donating to the Bible School or if you see MBS 2022 in your plans you can forward your funds and get priority of acceptance for 2022.

All of us have been faced with the disappointments of cancellations and the frustrations of adjusting plans through this Pandemic. This can remind us of the many privileges we have enjoyed that we easily take for granted. The program of MBS is one of those privileges that we pray can be once again experienced in the near future.

God in his sovereignty allows events that call us to make changes according to the circumstances, but some things will never change. Thank God for his WORD that stands forever!

Thank you for your interest and prayers in the work of Maranatha Bible School.

Blessings,

The MBS Board