

Update

Fall 2022

What are your plans after high school?

Talk to an advisor who encourages you to follow biblical principles for expenses like:

- attending university
- apprenticing in the trades
- entering the workforce



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Update from the CEO

by John Veldkamp

Welcome to Fall and another edition of our Update newsletter. Since Fall is a time when many of our children and young adults return to school, we decided to have a bit of a youth focus in this newsletter.

The start of a new school year often involves **setting long term goals**, which is one of our five biblical principles. I hope that all our members continue to set long term goals because there is always a trade-off between the short term and the long term but setting goals is in greater focus when we are young. Of course, when setting long term goals, we need to recognize that God owns it all (Psalm 24:1) and we are called to be good stewards of the time, talent and treasure God has entrusted to us.

Avoid the use of debt is another one of our five biblical principles and some may be wondering how this fits with promoting credit cards and building a credit rating. We acknowledge that using a credit card makes it easier for a person to spend money and that if you are not able to pay off your balance each month you can end up being permanently in debt. If you find you are struggling with credit card debt, please talk to our advisors and they will provide you with strategies to either reduce or eliminate that debt. Two key strategies that they will discuss with you is to **spend less than you earn** and to set up and **maintain an emergency fund**. These are two more of our five biblical principles.

At the same time it can be very useful to have a good credit rating in our society. A credit card is a tool that, when used in a stewardly way, can help build a credit rating. If you are interested in talking to us about our credit card, we would be happy to advise you on whether this tool is right for you. (Please note that we were required to change our credit card supplier in 2019 so if your credit card no longer says Christian Credit Union on the front, we are no longer receiving benefits from offering you that card.)

Give generously is the only one of our five biblical principles that we have not mentioned yet. In this newsletter we are highlighting the **Canadian National Christian Foundation (CNCF)**, an organization which can help our members give generously by setting up a

donor-advised giving fund or by providing legacy (estate) planning. We have recently entered into a partnership with CNCF, and we are excited to see how God will use this partnership between like-minded organizations to support our members with their giving.

We strive to share some or all of these five biblical principles in each member interaction. This is what makes us different from other banks and credit unions and sharing these biblical truths makes a difference in the lives of our members. We are certainly not perfect in providing this unique member experience and we work on helping each other get better every day. We will be gathering our whole team together on November 22 to reflect on the past year and learn together how to better fulfill this mission. This will mean that our branches will be inaccessible for a short time but all other banking services will continue to be available. We would appreciate your understanding as this is an important time of building and growing together as a team to serve you better.

Although we are focusing on youth in this newsletter, you will also notice an article acknowledging the contributions of **Ed Dubbeldam** in advance of his upcoming retirement at the end of October. Ed has made many important contributions to our Credit Union over the past 16 years, particularly in the area of technology and in encouraging us all to pray and live out our faith in our work each day. Ed is certainly still young at heart and he has set long term goals to re-purpose rather than simply retire. Ed, we are thankful for the many ways God has allowed you to contribute to our Credit Union and we pray that God will bless you in the future.

In closing, thank you for your continued connection to our Christian Credit Union community and it is our hope and prayer that we can all adopt a stewardship mentality and recognize that **God owns it all** as it says in Psalm 24:1:

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

As Ron Blue says in his book Simplifying the Money Conversation:

"Once you adopt a stewardship mentality, you are poised to go on an unforgettable adventure with God. In my experience, when a person surrenders to God's ownership of their resources, magnificent and disproportionate Kingdom impact inevitably occurs."

Let's go on this adventure together for the glory of God's Kingdom!

Soli Deo Gloria

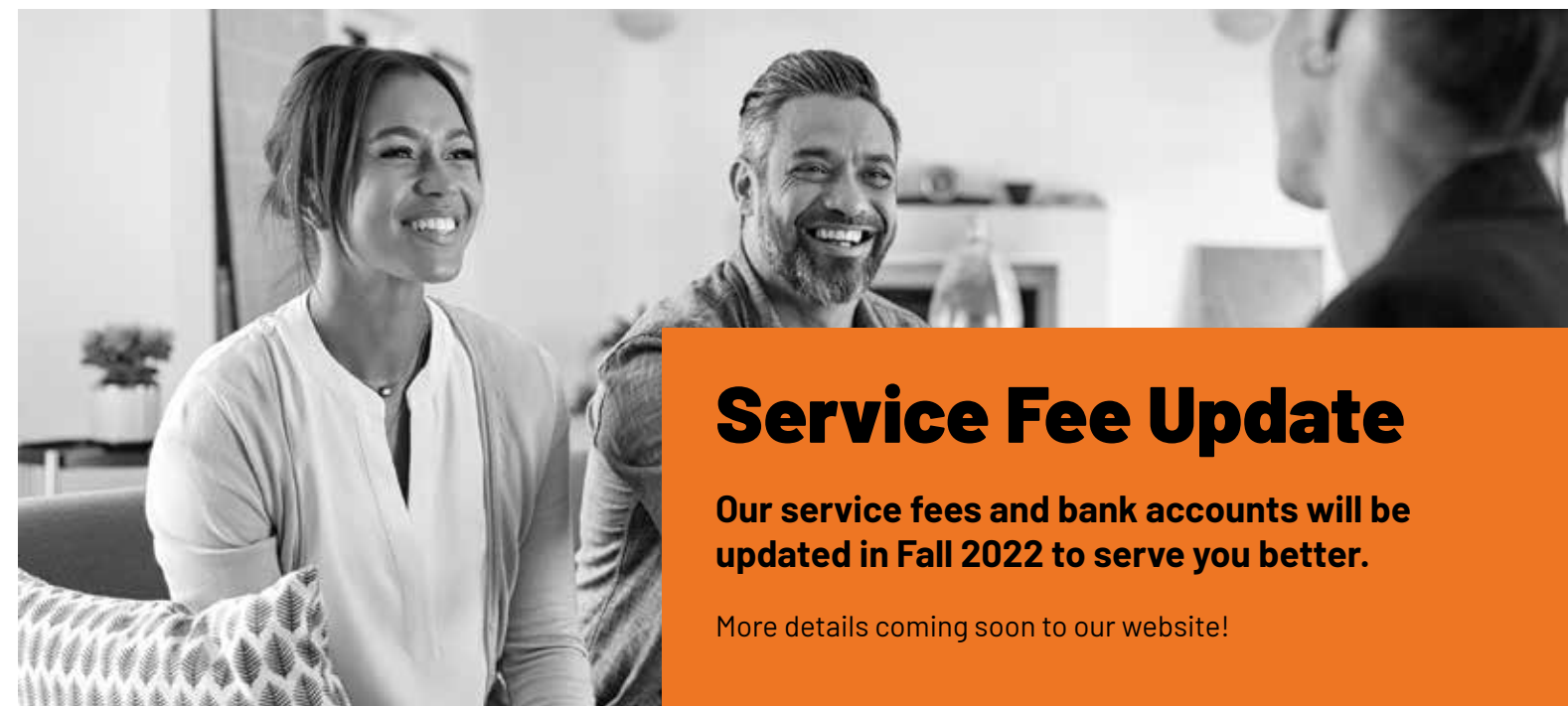
All Nations Church

King's Kids Promotions Outreach Ministries (KKPOM) was formed in 1992 by Rick and Cathy Kirschner and Jill Edwards with a mission to engage youth culture. The organization's mission is to reach, equip and activate people to bring hope to the world through Media, Music, Missions and Mentorship. Over the past 30 years they encouraged and strengthened youth by recording Christian bands and artists, booking shows, and touring on over 20 different mission trips. They launched the first professional recording studio named "The District Studio" in 2018 and also won the Leadership Wood Buffalo Community Impact award from among over 200 non-profits in the community.

KKPOM founded and built a radio station in Ontario in 2004 before moving to Fort McMurray and building another station in 2007. This new station was recognized as a fresh new approach to Canadian media and promoted a healthy community through upbeat music, a feel-good message, and Christian talk radio. Today, KKPOM is involved in several community activities including winter skating events, BBQs, Easter Egg Hunts, and family fun days. They also offer after school programming for the performing arts and work with local musicians to get their voice heard through the airwaves.

In 2020, KKPOM formed the All Nations Church, who exists to bring all nations to Jesus by loving God, loving people, and loving life. The church hosts weekly services and bible studies in a local movie theatre and plans to purchase an existing church building from the Fort McMurray Christian Brethren Assembly. The Assembly provided a gift because they believe in KKPOM's vision and commitment to the Fort McMurray community. Christian Credit Union is excited to support the important work of All Nations Church and King's Kids Promotions Outreach Ministries by providing a mortgage for \$580,000.

Rick Kirschner, founder and Executive Director says, "We give God all the Glory for the many things He has allowed us to do! We are thankful for our board, volunteers and many donors over the years. We are excited for the new partnership with Christian Credit Union and our new facility in Fort McMurray to serve this community and introduce them to Jesus!"



Service Fee Update

Our service fees and bank accounts will be updated in Fall 2022 to serve you better.

More details coming soon to our website!

Interview with Julie Tabler

The King's University Student Intern



Julie Tabler



Phil Geusebroek
Marketing Director

(P.G.) Hi Julie, thanks for taking the time to meet with me today. Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, your age, where you grew up, any sports or hobbies?

(J.T.) I am going into my fifth year of business at The King's University and I'm the summer intern here at Christian Credit Union. I grew up working on a farm, and my hobbies include plants, dogs, and hiking. That's a little bit about me.

(P.G.) You mention you're a King's University student and you're studying business. What made you decide to pursue a business degree?

(J.T.) I didn't start out as a business student. I started as a science student and what made me go into business is just how practical of a degree it was. I'm not just learning about how to conduct business but also about money and finances and how to navigate a workplace. I switched into business, and it's been a great experience. I definitely think it was the right decision.

(P.G.) Obviously you had a change of plans but was it always a long-term goal of yours to go to college or university?

(J.T.) I knew I wanted to go to University and get a degree, I just didn't really know what exact degree I wanted. In my first year I kind of felt out which way I should go and it's been a long time coming, but I'm here now.

(P.G.) What are some of the things that you did to achieve your goals? How did you earn or set aside money for your education?

(J.T.) Throughout high school, I was fortunate enough to find summer jobs that had full-time hours. I spent the summers working and saving up as much as I could. I knew it would be beneficial to save so that I didn't have to worry about finances once I got to University.

(P.G.) Excellent, that sounds like a really smart approach. When you put aside money for your education, did you save it in a savings account, or did you use a GIC or an RESP?

(J.T.) When I was younger my parents would help manage my money and they were really good at explaining the different options. Throughout high school, I set money aside in a GIC because at the time I was new to saving, investing and learning about banking. A GIC was the best option for me at the time. I also had a youth savings account.

(P.G.) Now that you're in University, I imagine you have a lot of things on the go. How do you ensure that your finances stay on track and that you have enough money to pay for tuition and books and all those other expenses that come with going to school?

(J.T.) The main thing I do is make sure that I don't spend more than what I earn at my job. That includes packing lunches instead of buying lunch or making coffee at home rather than buying a coffee at McDonald's or Starbucks. Finding smaller ways to save but also setting aside parts of my paycheck, saying this amount is going to go to tuition and this amount is going to go to gas. It's not like having a structured budget but just being really aware of what my money that I am making in a certain pay period is going towards.

(P.G.) Have you ever had to use credit to pay for unexpected expenses or to cover a shortfall? Were you aware of various credit options that are available to students like student loans, lines of credit, or credit cards?

(J.T.) I've definitely experienced having to use credit when an expense was greater than what I was anticipating. In University, textbooks cost an arm and a leg, and I budgeted about \$400 for a semester, when it was actually over \$600. I didn't have that amount of money to spend on my debit card and I didn't have that in cash. I got a credit card and used that until I had enough money to pay it back. It's important to know that you can use those resources to get credit, but if you do, work it into your budget to pay it back.

(P.G.) Some of the dangers of using credit are that you use the credit to pay for expenses but then if you don't have a plan to pay it back then it could become a long-term debt and it could be a growing debt.

You mention paying off that credit card balance every month. Why do you think that's important?

(J.T.) For me, it's peace of mind to not leave something unpaid and accrue 22% interest, that's a lot. It also reflects really well on your credit score if you're making payments consistently and on time. If you don't once or twice, it's not gonna have a huge impact, but if it becomes a consistent habit, then you should figure why it's happening and adjust your budget so you can pay it off.

(P.G.) If you determine that you just don't have enough income, and you want to continue with your education, or if it's bigger amount, perhaps you look at a different form of lending like a Line of Credit or a Student Loan, where the interest rates are much lower and you don't have to pay interest until you're finished school.

As a young adult do you still ask your parents for financial advice today?

(J.T.) All the time! They've definitely been around longer to see fluctuations in the market and know if certain investments are better than others. I also just like knowing what a good thing is to spend money on and maybe what isn't. Your parents can be your sober second thought when it comes to purchases.

(P.G.) Who else do you seek financial advice from?

(J.T.) When I go to the bank, banking advisors are always so helpful, especially if you're new to banking and investing. There are no bad questions and it's better to be more informed than less informed. I get a lot of

information from my banking advisor and it's never a bad idea to use Google, that's a resource you always have.

(P.G.) One of the ways that Christian Credit Union is different and perhaps our advice might be different is our biblical approach to financial services.

At Christian Credit Union, we encourage people to be faithful stewards of the financial resources God has given to them. What does being a faithful steward mean to you?

(J.T.) That's a good question. I would say that being a faithful steward means recognizing that your blessings and your gifts, whether that's a skill or money you have, is not yours, it comes from God. Being mindful of that and shifting your spending and saving habits in such a way that's also honoring to him. That can include making sure that you're being wise and setting aside money to save or not spending more than you're earning or being generous and tithing too. Using your money wisely to further the kingdom.

(P.G.) Do you have any other advice for young adults who might be attending college or University, or apprenticing in the trades, or entering the workforce?

(J.T.) For those going to university, definitely look into scholarships. There's always something out there and that can help you in the long run. If you're entering the workforce, it's important to work and make money. It's also important to recognize that you need rest. Don't burn yourself out chasing after a bigger paycheck all the time.

(P.G.) Thank you very much! That sounds like good advice for all of us. Thank you for your time here and we look forward to continuing working with you and may God bless you in the upcoming school year.



Scholarship Winners

We support grade 12 graduating students at participating schools in the Christian community with \$1,000 scholarships. Students are required to write an essay emphasizing the meaning of "Biblical Stewardship" and how it applies to their life. In addition, the student should provide a brief outline of their accomplishments, volunteerism, life and career goals.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



Kiahna Barendregt
Covenant Canadian Reformed School

We do not receive gifts from the Lord simply for our own growth in him, but to serve others and help them grow their faith in Christ. We are called to be stewards of Christ, to live for Him, and to

preach His word to those around us.



Laura Bergsma
Tyndale Christian School

Living a life of Christian stewardship is not easy. However, we take comfort that God has given us the communion of saints, His Holy Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit. By reading our Bibles, participating in Bible studies,

church, and personal devotions we grow in our faith more and more. We become humble stewards of our Lord, serving Him with all our heart, soul, and mind.



Maria Brouwer
Calgary Christian School

I want to continually be using my gifts to help others and I feel I can use my gifts to help others through becoming a nurse. I have always found science (Biology and Chemistry) intriguing and math easy. God gave me these

strengths and I feel nursing is the best way I can use my strengths and glorify Him.



Kayleigh de Boer
Coaldale Christian School

God has given every individual different skills and abilities, and we are called to use His gifts to serve the furtherance of His kingdom. As a Christian, this means using our talents to serve others and live for the best

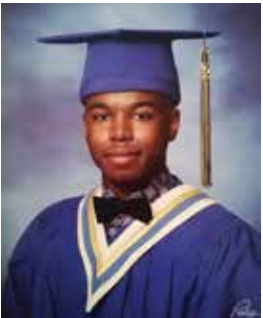
interest of our neighbour, living as Christ would, rather than living for ourselves.



Julia Doorten
Parkland Immanuel Christian School

James 4:14-15 says, "Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the

Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'" We can see that everything is in God's hand and that we must glorify him with all our time. This involves praising him and sacrificing our time to volunteer, show kindness, and help others in our lives.



Immanuel Kasapu
Edmonton Christian High School

In my own life, part of the way I show biblical stewardship is through Matthew 7:12, where Jesus commanded us "in everything, do unto others what you would have them do to you". True biblical stewardship

directs the praise to our Creator and this can be shown in our daily lives. Even the tiniest deed, like encouraging a friend, can be part of our mandate to serve the Lord as stewards.



Abigayle Sinke
Immanuel Christian High School

Stewardship is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." To me, Biblical Stewardship means that

I view all the gifts God has given me through the lens of the Bible. I believe this refers to all aspects of my life, including my time, my talents, and my money.



Rochelle Vanden Brink
Calvin Christian School

God has provided instruction for us in this life, commanding that we be stewards to Him, steadfast and obedient in all our ways. I believe that we are called to demonstrate Biblical stewardship by taking

responsibility, demonstrating obedience, and being accountable to God.



Abigail Wierenga
Providence Christian School

We as sinful men here on earth often think that all that we have is ours, and many of us boast about what we all have, when in reality it's not ours but God's. We are called as Christians to be stewards of God's creation

which God reveals to us through his word.

youth

BANKING PROGRAM

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- Contests and prizes
- Financial literacy classes
- Focus on biblical principles

Visit our website or contact a branch to get started!



CNCF Giving Fund

a Christian Credit Union partner

Are you looking for more creative ways of giving and joining God in His work?

The Canadian National Christian Foundation (CNCF) was founded in 2002 to offer strategies and giving options that allow you to give more than you ever thought possible and in ways that will have more impact on God's Kingdom while maximizing your gift. The CNCF Giving Fund is a donor-advised fund with a Christian focus.

Invest in building God's kingdom by giving to the causes you believe in. Working with CNCF is like setting up your own private foundation without the cost and hassle of managing it.

Why use a CNCF Giving Fund?

- We are a community of believers: our staff, our leadership, our board and our donors.
- Our expert team can guide you through creative giving solutions. Set up a fund in a matter of hours and CNCF handles all the administration for you.
- Effectively give from a variety of assets. We can handle non-cash gifts efficiently, getting the money into the field as soon as possible.
- 100% of your CNCF Donor-advised Giving Fund is always available for your charitable grant recommendations.
- If preferred, grants can be given anonymously to your chosen charities.
- CNCF can work with your financial professional to manage the assets held in your CNCF Donor-advised Giving Fund, if desired.
- Through our unique partnerships, we can help facilitate gifts for qualified international charitable projects.

CNCF wants to help you connect your money with God's work. Since the beginning, CNCF has helped Canadian Christians maximize their giving, sending over \$93.2 million to thousands of charities working around the globe. CNCF's desire is to work with you to bring meaning to your money while you are living and to ensure the legacy you leave reflects the life you live.

Would you like a team of Christians to work with for your Legacy planning?



We offer great products for young adults.

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Contact a team member for more details.

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY® 2022!

EMPOWER
YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE
WITH A CREDIT UNION™

Celebrate with us!

Visit a branch on **Thursday, October 20** for coffee, goodies, and your 2023 calendars! Visit our website or a branch before ICU Day to enter our youth coloring contest!



All Staff Meeting

Our branches will close at 1:30pm on **Tuesday, November 22** for an all staff meeting.

We appreciate your understanding and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



Ed Dubbeldam

Retiring After 16 Years of Service!

Ed joined the Christian Credit Union team as a Business Banking Manager in 2006 after working as Director of Architecture and Emerging Technologies for Telus (and formerly EdTel) for 22 plus years. This was a completely new role for Ed who was now assisting business members with financial needs and helping them achieve their business goals. However, he must have known the future was friendly because he served for 6 years in various capacities before becoming Director of Information Technology to respond to Christian Credit Union's evolving and changing needs for technology.

Today, Ed serves as a Chief Technology Officer, and is responsible for evaluating our short- and long-term technology needs. He oversees our company's data, security, maintenance, and networks and works closely with our technology service providers. Ed is always on the lookout for new technology that will improve the member experience, create back-office efficiency, or prepare us for the unexpected, like suddenly having to work from home! He played a key role in our conversion to a new digital banking platform.

Ed cares about the well-being of our members and our team and is always quick to help solve a problem or walk you through something new. He is also a great prayer leader and enjoys volunteering for his church and being involved in community programs. Ed currently works part-time and spends many afternoons playing golf. He enjoys spending time with family, camping, and working around his home.

Ed we are truly blessed to be part of your journey for the past 16 years and pray the Lord will guide your path as you get closer to retirement on October 31, 2022.



Creditor Protection – Top 10 tips for Business Owners

Are you concerned about creditors coming after your business assets? Here are 10 ways to protect your business from creditors.

Read the article:
www.christiancu.ca/en/products/insurance

Shred Events

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Shred Events in Lethbridge and Edmonton.

It was great to connect with you, enjoy great food, and have fun with the family! We appreciate your generous donations of non-perishable food items to Streets Alive in Lethbridge and the Edmonton Food Bank! Together, we collected over 455 lbs of food for people in need!



Lethbridge



Edmonton





Best Practices to Building Credit

Are you new to the world of credit? Understanding credit and using it responsibly will set you up for long-term financial success. By building your credit rating, you can prepare for financing major purchases like a new vehicle, or your first home. **Check out these tips on how to build credit and contact us if you have any questions!**

1. Credit Payment History (35%)

Never miss a payment with Auto Pay from our credit card partner, Collabria! Auto Pay gives you the peace of mind knowing that your credit card payments will be made on time and in full every month. It's complimentary and easy to enroll!

Login to the MyCardInfo portal to set up Auto Pay at christiancreditunion.mycardinfo.com

2. Amounts Owed (30%)

Use your credit card for everyday purchases such as gas and groceries, while ensuring balances are paid off in full each month. You can also put your credit card to work by using it to budget for big ticket purchases. If you need to finance a purchase, consider a Line of Credit from Christian Credit Union. By borrowing from a Line of Credit, you can pay off your credit balance, pay a lower interest rate, while being able to take advantage of the 25-day grace period—keeping more money in your pocket each month!

Credit utilization, or your ratio of credit used compared to your credit limit, can be a factor in determining whether or not you are approved or denied for new

credit. If you have a low credit limit and find yourself approaching your credit limit through everyday purchases, you can consider requesting a higher credit limit to continue building your score without maxing out your available credit.

3. Length of Credit History (15%)

It's important to start building good credit early in life. The younger you are when you first use credit, the more quickly you can build a solid history of on-time payments. A student credit card to finance the items on your budget is a great way to start! By starting early and using debt responsibly, you will have established a good financial foundation by the time you need more substantial borrowing power!

4. New Credit (10%)

Every new credit inquiry can impact 'new credit', whether the credit is approved or not. When applying for new credit (ex. credit card, car loan, student loan), make sure a hard inquiry is not performed until you are ready to commit. It's important to understand the impact a credit inquiry has on your score. An inquiry can lower your score by as much as five points! Ensure you take time to check the pre-qualifications before submitting the application to avoid an unnecessary credit hit.

5. Credit Mix (10%)

Mix things up! Having more than one type of credit—a revolving credit account (ex. a credit card) and an installment loan (ex. a student loan)—is a good way to diversify your financial profile.



An Essential Companion Cash Back Mastercard®

- No annual fee
- Bonus Reward Points on Gas and Entertainment purchases
- Includes valuable insurance benefits

Find out more at collabriacreditcards.ca/christian

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