

# Why I Love MBI

by Jamie Janosz

Before I was a professor and employee at Moody Bible Institute, I was a student. I came to Moody Bible Institute in the 1980s. I was fresh out of a public high school and eager to be challenged in my faith. I had been raised in a Christian home and a conservative Baptist church. I did all the typical things kids raised in Christian homes do – I was in Sunday School, vacation Bible school, attended Awana clubs and summer camps. Most of all, I was taught to love Jesus – and, more than anything, I wanted my life to count for God.

It was with this in mind that I decided that Moody would be my college of choice. This was surprising to many in my advanced public high school class who were going to pursue degrees in law, medicine or engineering....degrees that would make money. I am sure that many students and their parents have similar concerns today. Why choose a Bible school, particularly when the job market is tight and finances are a concern?

But Moody rewarded me far beyond my expectations. For those of you who might be considering MBI as a college choice – I want to tell you why it benefited me.

First – it allowed me to study the Bible in a way that challenged my head and my faith. Before I came to Moody, I thought I knew the Bible. I had been in sword drills and Bible verse memorization since I could read. Yet – the books I read at Moody and the professors who taught courses in theology and Bible, stretched my mind. I felt like I had stepped out of the shallow end of a pond and discovered an ocean of thought. I could hardly believe that my homework for the night might mean reading Scripture or a great author of the faith.

Second – Moody broadened my concept of what it meant to be a Christian. Growing up, my idea of what it meant to be a Christian was limited to my family and my church friends. At Moody, I met believers from across the nation and the world. The students who were my closest friends were from Idaho, Michigan, Florida, Hawaii and the Bahamas. They came from different types of families than I did and worshipped in different ways. My view of what it meant to believe in Christ became bigger and less judgmental. I learned to look beyond surface differences and to see the hearts of fellow believers.

Third – Moody's location in downtown Chicago introduced me to people that challenged my idea of serving God. All MBI students are required to do practical ministry assignments. For me, this meant tutoring in Cabrini Greene and counseling women at the Pacific Garden Mission. I remember meeting 8-year-old Roy who had grown up in Chicago's housing projects and sitting at the Pacific Garden Mission across from a young woman who had just been released from prison. After our frank discussion about her life, beliefs, and ideas about God, I knew my heart would not walk away from these experiences unchanged.

I would not trade my diploma from Moody Bible Institute for a degree from any Ivy League college. It was at this location, at the place where D.L. Moody knelt and prayed, that my heart was moved to serve God. Thank you, Moody Bible Institute!

*That's my opinion, and I'm Jamie Janosz for Prime Time America.*