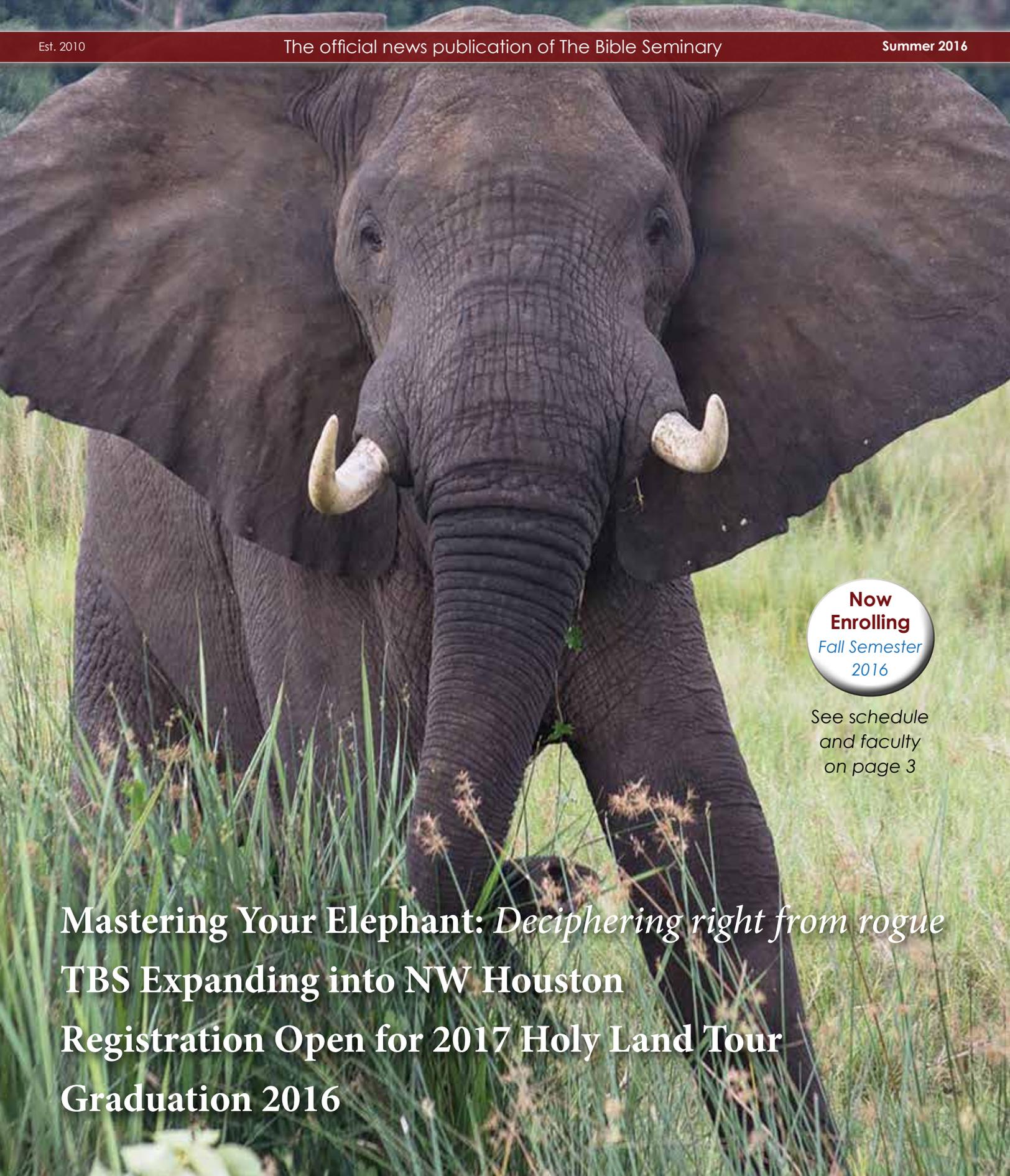


The Sentinel

Est. 2010

The official news publication of The Bible Seminary

Summer 2016



**Now
Enrolling**
Fall Semester
2016

See schedule
and faculty
on page 3

Mastering Your Elephant: *Deciphering right from rogue*
TBS Expanding into NW Houston
Registration Open for 2017 Holy Land Tour
Graduation 2016

The Sentinel

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The Bible Seminary exists to glorify God by training Christian believers in a context of biblical community in all 66 books of the Bible so that they can serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God’s Spirit.

About us

The Bible Seminary (TBS) is an independent, non-denominational, 501(c)(3) institution of higher education incorporated in the state of Texas in 2010 offering Bible Certificate, Licensed Professional, Dual Degree Completion, Master of Arts and Master of Divinity programs.

Affiliation

The Bible Seminary is an Affiliate institution of The Association for Biblical Higher Education. As such, it participates in and contributes to collegial and professional development activities of the Association. Affiliate status does not, however, constitute, imply, or presume ABHE accredited status at present or in the future.

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The Bible Seminary admits students of any race, sex, color, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Seminary. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its hiring policies, educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs. For more information, contact Dr. Steve Adamson, Provost, or visit “Admissions” at TheBibleSeminary.org.

Donations

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The Sentinel is a bi-annual publication distributed free to family and friends of The Bible Seminary. Article ideas, news and photos may be submitted for consideration for publication to info@TheBibleSeminary.org.

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About the Cover

Photo taken by Mark “Stuy” Lewis during an adventure in Africa in 2015. After graduating from college with a degree in Political Science and a concentration in International Affairs, he worked seasonally with Delta airlines and traveled around the world for a couple of years to actually experience nations and cultures he had studied. He writes:



“Early in my trip, I bought my first camera, a Nikon D5200, and I was immediately in enamored by my newfound travel partner. I was addicted to the hunt for beautiful moments, and the ability to trap them forever. To then share and revisit and enjoy them with others. To use them to communicate, or to simply appreciate them. I enjoyed the challenge of getting myself into the right places, at the right moments with the right settings to capture my subject. I studied the work of great photographers, and worked hard to improve my technical skills and train my eye. Before long, I was picking up freelance work to fund my explorations.”



Mark recently wrapped up his world safari and moved to Humble, Texas to gain business experience by working full-time as a Loan Officer with the Bank of England. To view other select photos from his African adventures, visit stulewis.com.

Join TBS on a
life-transforming journey
this coming March!

Immerse yourself in
the sights, culture, and
breathtaking landscapes of
the Holy Land!

The Bible will come alive
in ways you never dreamed
possible; and your daily
walk, prayer life, and
understanding of Scripture
will be forever changed.

Enjoy beautiful
springtime weather and
an exciting itinerary with
visits to 40+ locations.



JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE

with
Dr. K. Lynn Lewis
Dr. Scott Stripling

March 14 - 25, 2017

Registering NOW! For more info, visit www.MorningStarTours.com/TBS904

Fall Semester 2016

Begins Tuesday, August 30

View Faculty bio's online under "People - Our Faculty"

Northwest Houston

Bible Certificate courses

- BSM001, **Bible Study Methods**
Faithbridge, Tuesdays, 7:00 pm (Aug 30 - Nov 1), Helbig
- BSM001, **Bible Study Methods**
The Brook, Thursdays, 7:00 pm (Sep 1 - Nov 3), Bowles

Graduate courses

- SFM 501, **Spiritual Formation & Ministry I with Old Testament Survey - Exodus, Numbers**
Faithbridge, Fridays, 8:30 am (Sep 2 - Dec 9, except Nov 25), Lewis & Loken

Katy/West Houston

Bible Certificate courses

- BSM001, **Bible Study Methods**
TBS, Tue, 6:30 pm (Aug 30 - Nov 1), Sweeney
- BSM001, **Bible Study Methods (Spanish)**
TBS, Wed, 9:30 am (Aug 31 - Nov 2), Heer
- OT001, **Old Testament I (Spanish)**
TBS, Thu, 9:30 am (Sep 1 - Nov 3), Heer
- OT002, **Old Testament II**
TBS, Thu, 6:30 pm (Sep 1 - Nov 3), Helbig
- OT002, **Old Testament II (Spanish)**
TBS, Tue, 6:30 pm (Aug 30 - Nov 1), Heer
- NT002, **New Testament II**
TBS, Wed, 6:30 pm (Aug 31 - Nov 2), Benton
- ELE100, **Holy Land Tour Prep**
TBS, Mon, 6:30 pm (Sep 12 - Nov 14), Pattillo & Stripling
- PER001, **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement**
Grace Fellowship UMC, Sundays, 5:30 pm (starts Sunday, August 14)

Graduate courses

- GRK 501, **Greek Language I - Jude, 2 & 3 John**
TBS, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 am, Stout
- MIS 501, **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement**
Grace Fellowship UMC, Sundays, 5:30 pm (starts Sunday, August 14)
- PAS 501, **Pastor-Shepherd I - Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations**
TBS, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 am, Cozart
- PAS 511, **Pastor-Leader I - Titus, 1 & 2 Kings**
TBS, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:00 am, Lewis
- SFM 501, **Spiritual Formation & Ministry I with Old Testament Survey - Exodus, Numbers**
Faithbridge, Fridays, 8:30 am, Lewis & Loken (also available remotely online)
- THE 503, **Theology III - 1 & 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Timothy**
TBS, Wednesdays, 9:00 am, Adamson



Steve Adamson



Titus Benton



Kevin Bowles



Rich Cozart



Paul Helbig



Esmeralda Heer



K. Lynn Lewis



Israel Loken



Linda Pattillo



Josh Stout



Scott Stripling



Jacob Sweeney



Mastering Your Elephant

Deciphering right from rogue

By K. Lynn Lewis

There you are, reading your Bible or listening to a sermon, when “Bam!” suddenly you come face-to-face with something quite unexpected.

Just moments prior, you were comfortable, content, and mentally, emotionally, and spiritually at ease.

Then, as you read or listened to something right out of the Bible, you realized it did not match up with what you have “always” believed or been taught.

And there it was, quite unexpectedly – your theology – staring at you with great consternation, even anger.

As you study Scripture more diligently and engage in discussions with others more knowledgeable to confirm this startling information, you find yourself uncomfortably and continually confronted by your own belief.

Like an enraged elephant with feet planted, outstretched ears, and willingness to charge, your theology dares you to take one more step.

“Defy me at our own risk!” your theology jeers.

Thus, you find yourself at pause. In a quandary. Confused. Even in danger.

“How can this be?” you wonder. “How can I have read and studied the Bible, been a Christian this long, and not realized that my theology in this instance does not seem to line up with what the Bible clearly teaches?”

Then, if you are serious, you will ask yourself, “*Why? Why do I believe this? Where did this particular theological perspective originate?*”

And you will embark on a journey of faith and understanding that hopefully, eventually aligns your theology with what the Bible actually says.

Elephant Tracks

One day, as we were studying through the book of Numbers, I was teaching a class of students about the Nazarite vow in Numbers 6.

“If a man or woman wants to make a special vow of separation to the Lord as a Nazarite,” I explained, “they must do three things *during the time of the vow.*”

1. Abstain from wine or other fermented drink, including avoiding anything that comes from the grapevine, including wine, grape juice, grapes, raisins, even grape skins and seeds (Numbers 6:3-5).
2. Abstain from cutting any hair on the head – “Let the hair of the head grow long” (6:5).
3. Stay away from dead bodies, even if a family member dies – “Throughout the period of separation to the Lord, do not go near a dead body” (6:6-7).

At this point, everyone seemed comfortable. The biblical instructions seemed to make sense. However, that was about to change.

“Once the time of the vow is over,” I continued, “the Nazarite should present meat, bread, and drink (usually wine) offerings to the Lord, and then,” I said, quoting 6:20, “after that, the Nazarite may drink wine.”

Bam! One student looked visibly stricken.

“Wait,” the student said, placing both hands on his desk. “I always thought drinking alcohol was forbidden by the Bible. Yet, you are saying a Nazarite is *commanded* to bring a drink offering to the priest, and that the person can also then *choose* to drink wine after the period of their vow is over?”

“That’s what the Bible says,” I affirmed. “Unless that person is set apart as a Nazarite for life, like Samson or John the Baptist.” (Judges 13 and Luke 1)

Someone else in the class noted, “You do know that Jesus turned water into wine in His first miracle recorded in the Gospel of John?” (John 2)

“Yes, but it doesn’t say he drank the wine!”

“What about the Lord’s Supper?” another asked.

“I’ve always been taught that was weak wine, like grape juice or something,” the student explained.

I asked, “Have you read the passage in I Timothy 5:23 where Paul instructed Timothy to stop drinking only water, but to also drink some wine to help with his stomach and illness issues?”

He nodded and shrugged, his shoulders slumping from the mental weight of the mounting biblical evidence that seemed to contradict his theology.

“Why do you believe what you say you have always believed?” I ventured.

Obviously shaken, but with a sort of sheepish smile, he answered, “I’m not sure. I guess that’s what I’ve been taught. But, clearly,” he said, holding up his Bible, “what I believe doesn’t match up with God’s Word. I suppose I need to rethink my theology on this issue.”



Elephant Herds

That student is not alone.

I was sitting at a lovely rehearsal dinner one evening with my wife, the couple I was marrying, and a crowd of their family and friends. As the waiter came around offering to pour wine into our glasses, when my wife and I politely and quietly declined, the father of the groom asked me loudly from across the table, “Hey, preacher, would you explain to my sons that the Bible teaches alcohol is evil?”

He glared at his two sons – the groom and his older brother – while everyone else stared at me, some of them with wine glasses already at their lips, wondering what I would say and most probably expecting yet another condemnation from a religious person for their choice in beverages.



Our own theology can confront us menacingly at times

“The Bible doesn’t teach that alcohol is evil,” I replied. “It does offer cautionary guidelines about when and how to drink or not drink, and warns against abusing it. Drunkenness is condemned, along with other excesses like gluttony, hoarding, love of money, arrogance, pride, and self-righteousness. But, appropriately drinking wine is affirmed in both the Old and New Testaments.”

Thereafter continued a discussion in which I explained that, even though I did not choose drink alcohol because I was serving as a minister at that time, that was my personal choice, not a biblical command.

Unfortunately, the father continued to draw attention to himself, tout his own religious piousness, and assert that alcohol, in its entirety, was unequivocally evil.

This type of behavior exemplifies how rogue theology often leads to destructive behaviors, whereas right theology leads toward more constructive behaviors.

(continued next page)

According to the Bible, would you consider the following perspectives right, or rogue?

- The King James Bible is the only true version of the Bible approved by God.
- All religions ultimately worship the same God, they are just known by different names.
- Salvation requires full immersion baptism in flowing water as an adult believer to absolutely confirm one's soul for eternity.
- Miracles in the Bible were actual supernatural events that happened just as described.
- So called "miracles" in the Bible are really myths with meaning based on events that can all be explained naturally.
- An unborn child who has not yet taken a breath of air is not "human", does not have a soul, and therefore abortion cannot be considered murder.
- Homosexual behavior is clearly condemned in Scripture.
- Resurrection is an actual, physical event in which deceased people are raised back to life through the power of Jesus Christ.
- Resurrection is not an actual, physical event, but a spiritual term that describes the sacred act of keeping the "spirit" of people alive.
- Angels are spirits of formerly alive people (i.e. when we die, we become angels with wings).



Taking Charge

One primary reason The Bible Seminary exists is to help willing students embark on a systematic, comprehensive safari through Scripture to develop a biblically-congruent, Christ-centered theology in all areas of life.

In doing so, some of us will have times where our theology confronts us.

But, we must learn to master our theology in light of Scripture, instead of the other way around.

What we think about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the universe, life, our bodies, sexuality, relationships with others, miracles, money, sin, justice...all of these and more impact our lives now, and – at least in my theology – our eternal life or death.

Rogue theology can crush a life, and endanger others. Thus, we must work to master our theology so that it fully aligns with Scripture.

Otherwise, we will merely be touting our personal opinions and reducing Scripture to subservience to our own mortal sentiments, not God's divine sovereignty.

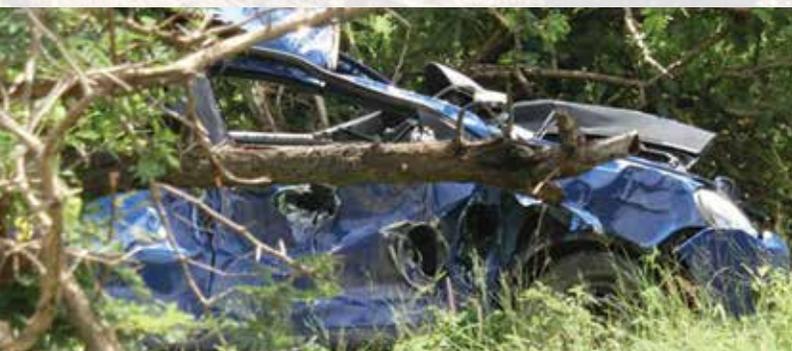
A cut-and-paste perspective of the Bible – ignoring parts we don't like and essentially adding in (i.e. reinterpreting) things we wish were in there – is a very popular strategy.

We often consider Scripture the way we consider a buffet meal, taking heaping measures of some things and completely passing over others, all the while considering ourselves to be judge and jury of the quality of the buffet.

However, Jesus insisted that "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

The Apostle Paul encouraged the importance of correctly handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

And the Bereans were lauded for their noble character, specifically because they "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11).



“Rogue theology can crush a life, and endanger others. Thus, we must work to master our theology so that it fully aligns with Scripture.”

At The Bible Seminary, we believe the Bible is the only inspired Word of God, fully true, and our sole authority for all that we believe and do (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18).

And, in lieu of becoming victims of rogue theology, or herding together in the absence of faithful biblical scholarship and Christian character in vain attempts to justify our own opinions, we offer five programs and over forty courses to help students embark on a life changing adventure through all 66 books of the Bible.

Our 10+ *Bible Certificate* courses are designed primarily for laity who want basic biblical training.

Our graduate programs are designed for persons who want more in-depth training for ministry leadership, ranging from 8 core courses in the *Licensed Professional* program, to our *Dual Degree Completion* program, to 20 courses in the *Master of Arts* program, and 32 courses included in the *Master of Divinity* program.

We invite you to partner with The Bible Seminary to help master your theology so you can ride forward joyously, triumphantly, and rightly aligned with God's Word as written in all 66 books of the Bible!

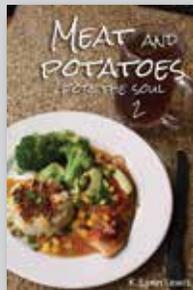


Dr. K. Lynn Lewis serves as President of The Bible Seminary and may be reached at Lynn.Lewis@TheBibleSeminary.org. For more articles, books (see several recently published titles at right), music, and other resources, visit KLynnLewis.com.



Meat and Potatoes for the Soul

A banquet of creative maybles – articles, poems, and stories written to educate, entertain, and inspire. Enjoy unforgettable characters in stories about Bitter and Better, Cant and Able, The Big Wheel, Malice in Wonderland, and The Resurrection, and journey paths of deeper thinking about faith, family, government, society, and justice.



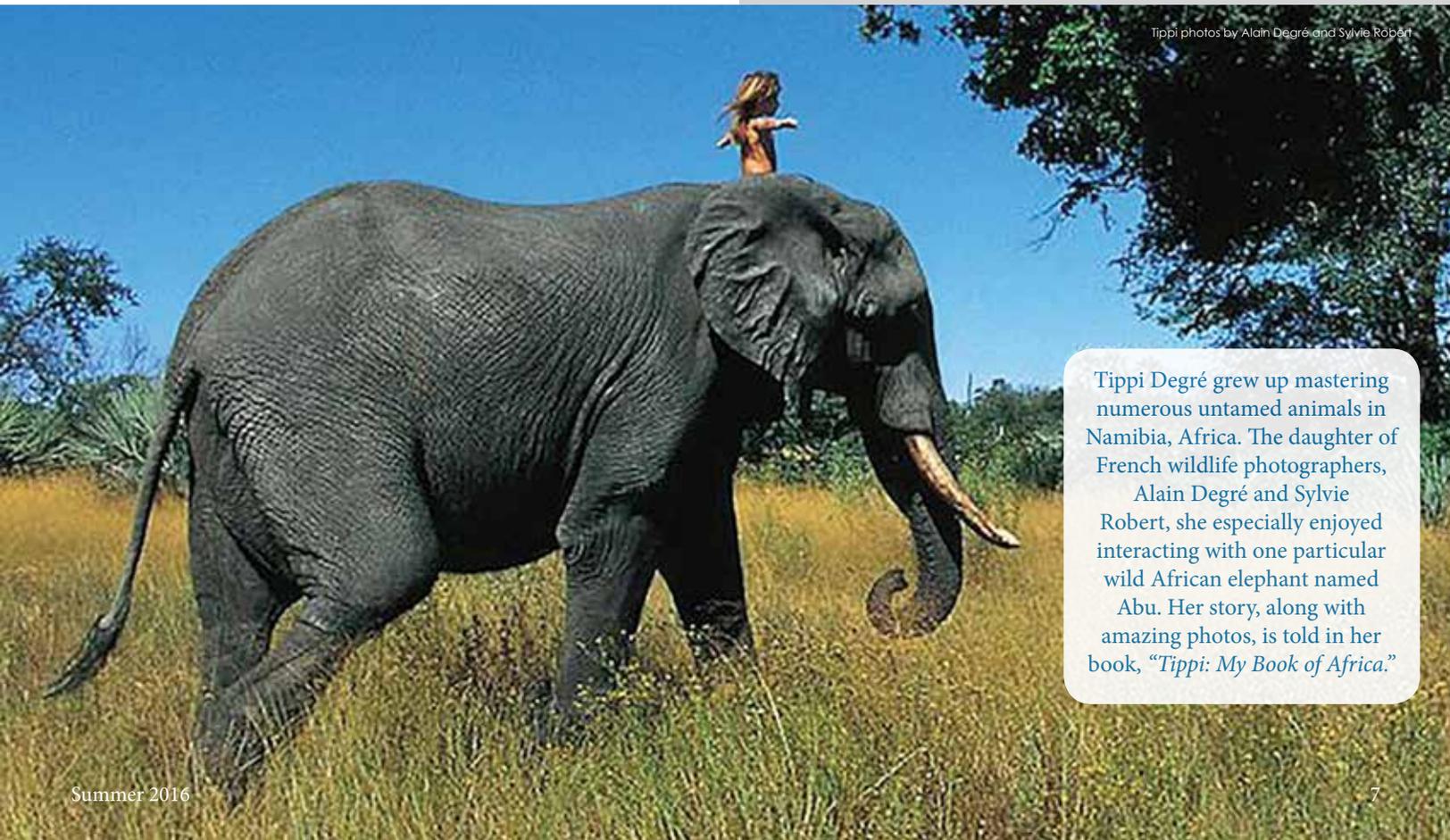
Meat and Potatoes for the Soul 2

Explore faith and doubt, good and bad, career and calling, conversion, giving, history, integrity, perception, reality, religion, sleep, and more. Meet intriguing characters like George, Facts and Opinion, and computers that debate the existence of man. An article a day for a month plus one. Stimulating, enlightening, downright fun, and perfect for creative and thought-provoking devotionals.



Plight, Revised Edition with Small Group Study Guide

An engaging mystery novel exploring four key social fundamentals always true everywhere all the time. In addition to the fiction novel itself, this revised edition with small group study guide offers an educational, entertaining, and inspirational resource for small groups, homeschoolers, and others interested in reflection on a wide range of critical, relevant, and substantive issues related to society and justice.



Tippi photos by Alain Degré and Sylvie Robert

Tippi Degré grew up mastering numerous untamed animals in Namibia, Africa. The daughter of French wildlife photographers, Alain Degré and Sylvie Robert, she especially enjoyed interacting with one particular wild African elephant named Abu. Her story, along with amazing photos, is told in her book, *"Tippi: My Book of Africa."*





Above: (L-R, Front) Paul Helbig, TBS Professor; Bette Smart (Bible Certificate); and Heidi Cerda (Bible Certificate). (Back) Dr. Steve Adamson, Provost; Gregg Sherrill (Bible Certificate); Rhonda Ward (Bible Certificate); Jeffrey Smart (Bible Certificate); Justin Johnson (Master of Divinity); Kelly Guinn (Bible Certificate); Jim Bergamo (Bible Certificate); Bill Parker (Bible Certificate); K. Lynn Lewis, President; Janice Havins-Hamric, Institute Administrative Assistant/Librarian; Kevin Alvarez (Master of Divinity); and Dr. Linda Pattillo, TBS Professor. Bible Certificate graduates not shown include Terri Baker, Suzanne Ewell, Pamela Hughes, and Ralph Peil.

The Bible Seminary gathered at Katy Community Fellowship on Friday, May 20, 2016 to celebrate 14 graduates, including twelve who earned Bible Certificates and two who earned Master of Divinity degrees.

Following a prelude and processional by accompanist, Kay Lowery, Board Chair Heidi Arneson gave an invocation, followed by a welcome from Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, President of The Bible Seminary.

Professor Paul Helbig then gave an outstanding keynote address entitled, “Abnormal,” pointing out that many characters in scripture were abnormal people who said and did abnormal things, and TBS students are similarly weird.

John the Baptist ate bugs and nuts, wore abnormal clothes, screamed opening sermon lines like “You brood of vipers. Who told you to escape the coming wrath?” and yet people went out of their way to go hear him preach in the wilderness. Jeremiah likewise said and did weird, unpopular things, but were both were very magnetic.

He commended the TBS graduates for their *abnormal efforts* (attending weekly classes, reading books, writing papers, preparing presentations, all in addition to their regular lives and work), *abnormal appetites* (loving God’s word, attending classes to study scripture), and *abnormal love* (engaging in crazy missions, outreach, teaching, and more to share the love of Christ).

“If reaching out to other people is an equation, and it ceases to be the love of God that so wells up in your soul that it spills over to other people, then we have a problem... But, TBS students are abnormal people who go to class to learn Scripture in order to engage others with its power, grace, mercy, and truth, and people’s lives are changed.”

- Professor Paul Helbig, in his keynote address

After Provost Adamson conferred the degrees, and all sang “Be Thou My Vision,” the two Master of Divinity students were ordained in a service that included the removing of shoes, ceremonial hand washing, anointing with oil, laying on of hands, and scripture-filled charge with the assistance of ordained clergy and TBS Administration, Board, faculty, student, and alumni representatives, as well as student family members, and friends.

Following a benediction by TBS Founding President, Dr. Jim Leggett, and recessional, the crowd enjoyed a reception prepared by Coby Jackson, Janice Havins-Hamric, and Samantha Rude. Photographic and video services were provided by MD Turner Photography.

Opposite page: (Left top) Kelly Guinn receives his Bible Certificate from Dr. Steve Adamson. (Left middle) Professor Paul Helbig gives the Keynote Address. (Left bottom) Ordinands Justin Johnson and Kevin Alvarez dry their hands on TBS hand towel gifts monogrammed by TBS Administrative Coordinator, Coby Jackson. (Left middle upper) Ordinand Justin Johnson is anointed with oil by Dr. Jim Leggett as part of the ordination service. (Left middle lower) Heidi Cerda receives congratulations for earning her Bible Certificate from TBS Board Chair, Heidi Arneson. (Both lower right photos) Administrators, faculty, staff, family, and friends gathered around ordinands Kevin Alvarez and Justin Johnson to lay hands on them and pray for them as part of the ordination service. (Middle right) Justin Johnson and Kevin Alvarez with their framed Master of Divinity degree diplomas.



From the Provost

Studying Theology

By Dr. Steve Adamson

This past academic year, I had the privilege of teaching TBS classes in Systematic Theology.

Genesis, John, Romans, and Hebrews served as the scriptural foundation for in-depth investigations into the authority and inspiration of Scripture, the nature of the Trinity, mankind's fallen nature, and the basis and justification for our salvation.

As a non-denominational seminary, our students came from different church, denominational, and theological backgrounds, with various levels of prior doctrinal understanding.

The diversity might cause one to think that subjects such as Creation, God's sovereignty, providence, original sin, depravity, the atonement, predestination, election, and justification may have been controversial and divisive; however, that was not the case in our studies. Instead, it was a time of scriptural examination that fostered Christian unity.

From its very foundation, The Bible Seminary has been rooted in the Word, where knowing God's Word changes everything.

Every one of The Bible Seminary's courses is taught from the presupposition that the Bible is TRUE and the sole authority in all matters of faith and life, and takes precedent over tradition. This is reflected in the seminary's principle doctrinal position:

We believe in the inspiration and authority of Scripture – The Bible is the only inspired Word of God, fully true, and our sole authority for all that we believe and do (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18). We hold to the inerrancy of Scripture, as outlined in the “Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy.”

As a result of our focus, students overcame their preconceptions and grew in understanding, appreciation, and respect for various theological views. Their reactions can be seen in the following feedback:

“I was afraid to take theology. I thought we would spend the time debating contentious subjects. Instead, we searched the Scripture, causing me to leave behind some unbiblical views.”

“I learned it is O.K. to say I don't know, as the mysteries of God are beyond what we can know completely.”

“The study of the Bible confirmed what I already believed, but I learned to be more gracious toward others when it comes to differences about minor issues.”

The Bible commands believers to strive for unity in truth. Four times, in John 17:21-23, Jesus prayed that all believers would be one, just as He and the Father are one. The unity Jesus prayed for, which was expounded upon by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4 and I Corinthians 12, is not organizational but is based on a common faith in Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, the visible church is divided along denominational and doctrinal views.

At The Bible Seminary, we stand firm on the Word of God, reflected in our doctrinal and creedal statements, which have been held by Christians throughout the centuries.

For this reason, we strive to teach and expose students to the Word of God, with compassion, grace, and diligence.

Background photo:
Students explore the
main hall inside The
Lanier Theological
Library in Houston,
Texas.

Refined Covenant Documents

As part of the process of and pursuing accreditation, TBS Administration and Board engaged in months of study and review of the seminary's core documents during the past year, in particular, what was and was not included, consistency with who we are and how we actually operate, as well as how the statements were worded.

As a result, we made some refinements to our core values (*see page 24*), doctrinal statement and non-discrimination policy (*see below*) to help improve the manner in which we state our beliefs and practices.

Nondiscriminatory Policy

The Bible Seminary admits students of any race, sex, color, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Seminary. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, disability, age, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its hiring policies, educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.

Doctrinal Statement

- **We believe in the inspiration and authority of Scripture** – The Bible is the only inspired Word of God, fully true, and our sole authority for all that we believe and do (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18). We hold to the inerrancy of Scripture, as outlined in the “Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy.”
- **We believe in one God** – There is only one true God who exists eternally in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 14:9; Acts 5:3-4,9; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3, 1 John 5:7).
- **We believe in the deity and humanity of Christ** – Jesus Christ is Lord, being fully God and yet fully Man, born of a virgin, as affirmed in the Nicene, and Apostles’ Creeds (Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-2,14; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:13-20; Hebrews 1:8).
- **We believe in substitutionary atonement** – Jesus Christ died on the cross as our substitute – taking upon Himself the penalty of the sins of fallen humans (John 1:29; Romans 3:25-26; 5:8, 12-19; Galatians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18).
- **We believe in the resurrection of Christ** – Jesus rose from the dead in a bodily resurrection defeating sin and death (Romans 6:4-9; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6).
- **We believe in salvation by grace through faith alone** – A person is saved from eternal separation from God as a free gift when that person places their faith in Jesus Christ who is the only way to the Father (John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 21:27).
- **We believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ** – Jesus Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead (Matthew 24-25; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19-21).
- **We believe in heaven and hell** – Believers in Jesus Christ will be resurrected to everlasting blessedness and joy in eternal fellowship with God (1 Corinthians 15:35-57; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-5). Unbelievers will be resurrected to conscious separation from God and eternal punishment (Matthew 25:41,46; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 14:9-11;20:10-15; 21:8).

Where We Stand on Some Controversial Social Issues

We acknowledge that the following social issues have brought much pain and division in some churches, and we do not approach these issues lightly or glibly. But we also acknowledge that, at the heart, these are authority of Scripture issues. We believe the Bible is clear about the following:

- **Abortion** – We believe human life inside a mother's womb begins at conception and is a real human being created in the image of God (Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Luke 1:39-45) and, therefore, that abortion is murder and wrong/sin (Exodus 20:13). We believe God offers full forgiveness to an abortive mother/father who has turned to Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:13-15; Ephesians 1:7).
- **Celibacy, Marriage, and Sexuality** – We believe God created humans in His image, intentionally and immutably male and female, each bringing unique and complementary qualities to sexuality and relationships (Genesis 1:27, 2:21-24, 3:16-20, 4:1; Matthew 19:4-5; Ephesians 5:22-33). Celibacy, marriage, and sexuality in general are gifts from God to be expressed: (1) within specific boundaries He designed for our safety and pleasure, and, (2) within the confines of His purposes, which include gratefully honoring the Lord with our bodies and minds (Proverbs 6:20-7:27; Matthew 6:27-30; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 7:19-20; Ephesians 4:17-5:20; Philippians 1:20-2:16).
Sexual acts within marriage are God's solely ordained method for moral human procreation (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-9; Mark 10:5-9; Ephesians 5:31). Sexual acts condemned in the Bible include but are not limited to adultery, bestiality, fornication, incest, lust, prostitution, same-sex sexual acts, sodomy, and voyeurism (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:7-23, 20:10-21, 21:9; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27-28, 15:19; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-13; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 4:17-19; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, we believe variant sexual behaviors such as bi-sexuality, homosexuality, lesbianism, pedophilia, transgenderism, and transsexualism are sinful and defy God's natural order, plans, and purposes (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Genesis 19; Jude 7; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Timothy 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We do not believe in ordaining self-avowed practitioners of any of these or any other sexual sins, and do not believe in ceremonies that celebrate same-sex unions (Romans 1:18-32).
- **Ministry Leadership** – We believe persons engaged in willful, ongoing sinful practice(s) should not serve in ministry leadership (Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 and 6:9-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9), and those already serving in leadership that engage in ongoing sinful behavior(s) should be disciplined and removed from leadership, at least for a season (Deuteronomy 17:1-7; 1 Samuel 15; 2 Samuel 11-12 and 24; Daniel 4; 1 Corinthians 5-6; Revelation 2-3). We believe true repentance and conversion are first steps toward salvation, and essential for engaging in the process of sanctification (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8). Therefore, anyone considering ministry leadership via a path that includes seeking a degree from and/or working for The Bible Seminary should evidence public and private freedom from sinful behavior(s) over time (Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:20; James 2:14-26), since ministry leadership is incorporated into official positions and roles at The Bible Seminary including administration, board, faculty, staff, and students.

Background photo: One of 22 3rd century BC olive oil presses discovered in underground caves at Tel Maresha in Be'it Guvrin-Maresha National Park, Israel.



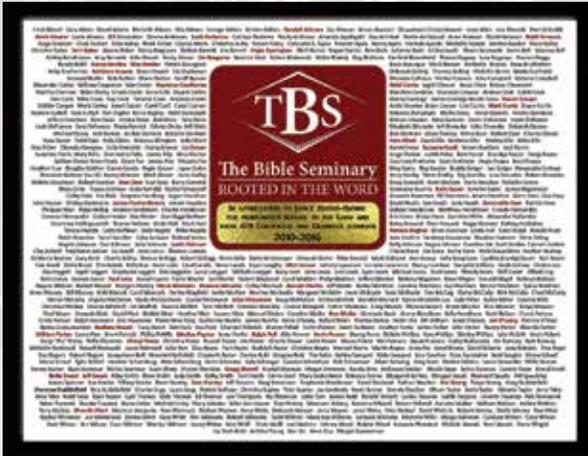
Celebrating Janice: Local Table, Katy, TX, 6/2/2016. (L-R, front) Paul Helbig, Janice Havins-Hamric. (Back) Coby Jackson, Krystal Helbig, Lynn Lewis, Nena Leake, and Rick McCalip.

Havins-Hamric Retires

With six years of fruitful ministry as Institute Administrative Assistant and Librarian for TBS, Janice Havins-Hamric officially retired at the end of May, 2016. However, she still plans to volunteer as the official TBS Librarian.

While at TBS, Janice helped manage approximately 670 Bible Certificate and graduate students who attended TBS classes between 2008 and 2016. She also helped create and build the TBS library from nothing to currently approximately 1800 cataloged books and resources.

She has a B.S. in Elementary Education from Southwest Texas State University (1975), a Master of Education from Prairie View A&M University (1979), and a Master of Library Science from Sam Houston State University (1983). She retired in June 2010 from 35 years with Katy ISD as a teacher and librarian, and began serving with Paul Helbig and The Bible Institute at Grace Fellowship UMC that same month. She looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Steve (*at right*); dad, Bill Hamric; daughter, Christi; and granddaughter, Justice.



TBS gifted Janice with a plaque (*at left*) that includes the names of all the students she has helped over the last six years. It reads, "In appreciation to Janice Havins-Hamric for meritorious service to the Lord and these 670 Certificate and Graduate students. 2010-2016". The names in red are the 43 students who graduated during her tenure, including her.

Paul Helbig Update

After TBS professor Paul Helbig was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in late 2013, he began a process of regenerative stem cell treatments, first in December 2015 and a follow-up in June 2016, in hopes for some improvement and reduction of advancing symptoms.

The treatments harvest adult stem cells from bone marrow and then reintroduce them into the patient's own body to hopefully help kick-start the immune system and rid the body of harmful cells.

Results from the treatments are not generally immediately apparent, but emerge over time as the body works toward any improvements that may occur.

Family and friends have joined together with the Helbig's through a "Partner with Paul" YouCaring website, as well as a golf tournament held in March 2016, to help with the overwhelming medical expenses associated with these type of treatments.

For more information, visit youcaring.com/paul-helbig-441443.



The Growing Helbig Family: Pecan Springs Events, Brookshire, TX, 3/20/16, at the wedding of the Helbig's oldest son, Kanen, and new daughter-in-law, McKenzie Wright. Kanen graduated from Texas A&M with a finance degree and works as a Financial Analyst at Kings Path Partners, and McKenzie graduated from Houston Baptist University with a nursing degree and works as a Registered Nurse-NICU at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. (L-R) Cade, Summer, Paul, Krystal, Kanen, McKenzie, Hope, Hunter, and Paige.

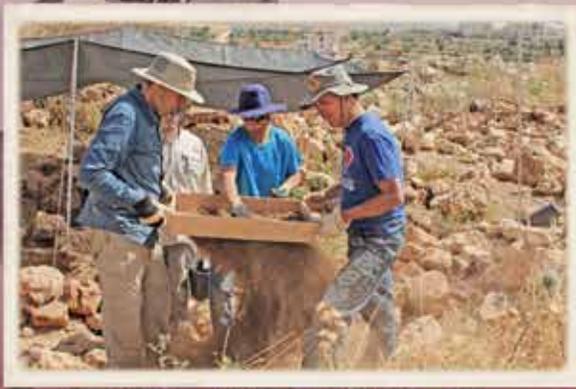


Join us this Christmas for our FINAL SEASON
 at **Khirbet el-Maqatir**
 December 19-31 2016

Artifact analysis and
 post dig touring
 through January 7th



www.maqatir.com



"the whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The country was brought under their control" Joshua 18:1

**2017 New
 Excavations!**



May 21– June 17 2017
 at Biblical Shiloh

www.DigShiloh.org



www.biblearchaeology.com

Members of Spring 2016 TBS Prayer and Worship class enjoyed classes with guest lecturers in several locations around Houston, including the Great Southwest Prayer Center at Grace Fellowship UMC in Katy, Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church in Katy with Rev. Dean Pogue, Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston with organist Kathryn White, Providence Presbyterian Church in Sugarland with Rev. Alan McCall, and The Lanier Theological Library and Stone Chapel in Houston with the Director of the Library, Charles Mickey.

The course, “PRA501: Prayer and Worship I - Leviticus , 1 & 2 Chronicles,”

Stone Chapel: Houston, TX, 2/24/2016. (L-R) Justin Johnson, Dr. Steve Adamson, Kevin Alvarez, Shannon Stubblefield, Mickey Ellis, and Uche Emenike.

is one of the eight core graduate courses that comprise part of all three TBS graduate programs - *Licensed Professional*, *Master of Arts*, and *Master of Divinity*. The course exposit Leviticus and 1 & 2 Chronicles while offering students training in personal prayer, intercessory prayer, spiritual warfare, and prayer ministry. The spring teaching team included Dr. Steve Adamson, Dr. Israel Loken, and Dr. Terry Teykl, along with the guest lecturers.

The Stone Chapel (*above*) is a reconstruction of an approximately 500 A.D. Byzantine-style church formerly located in Tomarza, Cappadocia (Turkey) using photos from the original church ruins taken in 1909 and an analysis of the site published by a Harvard student in 1971. Laid out in the shape of a cross, the chapel reconstruction includes a vast array of breathtaking images painted by Richard McCluskey that represent various stories from the Bible.

The Lanier Theological Library is open to the public during weekdays and includes a collection of over 100,000 books and journals, historical documents and artifacts with topics ranging from Church History and Biblical Studies to Egyptology and Linguistics. The Library regularly hosts events with noted authors, guest lecturers and researchers. For more information, visit LanierTheologicalLibrary.org.

“Thank you for touching on all the aspects! Experiencing God, praising and worshiping, the theology, the thought behind planning! Wow!!”

- From a student course evaluation

God & Science Class

The spring Bible Certificate “Making Sense of God & Science” course taught by geophysicist Brad Hulyk included 34 students (*some pictured at right*), including a small group from a local church who took the class together.



“Strengthened my faith in God, truth of the Bible, and that Jesus is my Savior.”

“Grew my biblical faith, and its alignment to God’s Word and my bio/chem background.”

The “Get Your Life in Order” Class

“Life skills, practically important stuff I wish I had known years ago and had someone take the time to teach and help me implement. Critically important in my life, my family and friends, and people I will be able to help in the future. Wonderful!”

The TBS graduate class, “SFM505: Spiritual Formation and Ministry V - Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes” serves as the career exploration and placement course for the Master of Divinity program.

However, it is also affectionately known as the “Get Your Life in Order” class because, while also studying Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon, students take concrete steps toward life organization and career employment. The course includes:

- Reviewing options for ministry careers in churches, parachurch ministries, and other professions.
- Discussing the results of various personality tests (DISC, Jung Typology/Myers-Briggs, PLACE).
- Gathering copies of personal documents, including background check, Birth Certificate, citizenship records, Driver’s License, Passport, Social Security card, and academic transcripts.
- Organizing financial and health records, pre-planning funerals, reviewing and/or writing wills.
- Preparing a resume/curriculum vitae, including a brief resume, extended detailed resume, a brief bio, and professional headshot photos.
- Studying social media, and reviewing and/or setting up personal social media accounts.
- On-site visits to local hospitals and funeral homes, along with special guest speakers such as chaplains, a CPA, Family Services Counselors, and Funeral Services Directors.



Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital: Katy, TX, 3/3/2016, gaining behind the scenes perspectives on hospitals and careers in chaplaincy. (L-R) Chaplain Jerry Thomas, Uche Emenike, Shannon Stubblefield, Kevin Alvarez, Justin Johnson, Chaplain Kat Hall, Rhonda Moore, and Ed Thomas.



Schmidt Funeral Home: Katy, TX, 3/10/2016, at their new location on Grand Parkway learning the inside workings of death and dying as it relates to funeral planning, funerals, funeral homes and cemeteries, and working with families and ministry professionals. (L-R, front) Shannon Stubblefield, Uche Emenike, Kevin Alvarez, and Schmidt Funeral Director and Manager, Cyndi Hoots. (Rear) Rhonda Moore, Justin Johnson, and Ed Thomas.



To Portland In Prayer

The United Methodist Church (UMC) has been wrestling with itself for over 40 years. Some say human sexuality is the central issue, but the authority of Scripture looks like the main issue to me.

General Conference Representatives: Portland, OR, May 10-20, 2016, included (L-R) TBS M. Div. student, Mickey Ellis; Larry Smith; TBS '15 Alum, Brenda Martin; TBS Certificate student, Stephanie Leggett; and TBS mentor, Blair Lerner.

The five of us who represented Grace Fellowship UMC at the legislative gathering held every four years and attended by Methodists worldwide went to Portland simply to pray: for purity and righteousness in the UMC; for God's will to prevail; for justice; and for the UMC to stand firm on the authority of Scripture.

To that end we saw some victories. We were kind to demonstrators. We met groups from other cities who also came to pray. We witnessed the election of an ethnically diverse Judicial

Council with many evangelicals. We saw the UMC disassociate from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a radical pro-abortion group. Bishops were given authority to hold each other accountable to the Book of Discipline. There was a vote to support Israel, and Africa University's financial support was increased. Each of these represented victory in upholding biblical principles.

According to TBS Founding President, Dr. Jim Leggett, "God planted an amazing movement through John and Charles Wesley in the 1700's, and that movement is worth fighting for on our knees."

So that's what we did, and will continue to do. To join us, or for more information, visit TheGreatSouthwestPrayerCenter.org.



The National Day of Prayer Ignites Fire on the Altar

One event, two locations, three days

Katy, Texas is special for many reasons. We have outstanding schools, a church on every corner, and fine dining from all corners of the world. We are an international city with a small town feel. But what is really unique is that the churches, from all denominations and backgrounds, stand together in unity. It is highly unusual. The pastors meet regularly to pray for one another and for our city, and once a year we all come together for the National Day of Prayer (NDP) in early May.

On May 5, 2016, at the Merrell Center in Katy, an estimated 4,700 people from at least 63 churches agreed in prayer for our nation, schools, teachers, churches, and city. Eleven pastors led different prayer segments while popular Christian artist, Phil Wickham, led us in worship. It was not a concert. We didn't talk about prayer. We prayed.

The atmosphere was electric. Young and old stood together. Black, white, Asian and Hispanic were shoulder to shoulder with one goal: to ask God to bless America.

As phase one was wrapping up at the National Day of Prayer, phase two was just kicking off on the other side of town at Fire on the Altar. Churches took turns to keep the worship and prayer going for a total of 50 hours spanning three days, four different languages, and a wide variety of music styles.



Stephanie Leggett serves as Director of Community Relations for The Great Southwest Prayer Center.

What happens at the National Day of Prayer and Fire on the Altar is unique and powerful. Individual lives are touched, and our nation benefits.

According to Dion Elmore, Chief Communications Officer of the NDP Task Force in Colorado Springs, "The bottom line is that no one can pray more effectively and fervently for a community than those who live, work, and worship there! And if you pray for your community, and I pray for mine, and they pray for theirs – before you know it, we've all prayed for America – one city at a time!"

For more information, visit TheKatyChurch.org or KatyPrays.org.



Thank you to Prosperity Bank on Grand Parkway in Katy for promoting TBS and community events on their sign!



The 2016 dig team at Khirbet el-Maqatir continued confirming their site located 9 miles north of Jerusalem as the most probable location of the Biblical city of Ai that was destroyed by Joshua and referenced in Joshua 7-8. Dr. Bryant Wood, and Dig Director and TBS Professor Dr. Scott Stripling (L-R above) kneel beside one of the two final Late Bronze fortress gate socket stones from the city gate. Discoveries now include 1,000+ coins, including the Tyrian Shekel (below), and a totally unique intact mosaic floor at the bottom of a plastered cistern (bottom photo).





From the Board Chair

By Heidi Arneson

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

God is good! All the time God is good! No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly!

The summer season marks a season of rest and relaxation for many families and a time of preparation for the school year ahead with anticipation of all that a new year brings, new friends, new schedules, new learning opportunities.

At TBS the summer season marks the start of our fiscal year and a time of preparation for the school year ahead as well. As we start the new year I want to personally extend heartfelt thanks to those of you that have partnered with TBS these past years. This includes students, staff, faculty, administration, Trustees, prayer warriors, volunteers, and financial supporters. Every single person that has joined the TBS journey is a blessing and we are grateful for you. May you be blessed in return.

We have seen and experienced the goodness of God at The Bible Seminary. On November 1, 2015 the Board of Trustees – along with the Administration, faculty, students and many of you – began a 40 day prayer campaign thanking the Lord for what He has done and seeking the Lord for wisdom, direction, and provision of all that TBS needs to be successful. We rejoice greatly as the Lord has been faithful to TBS through you, the TBS family, and on May 31, 2016 (the end of the fiscal year) TBS financially ended the year ahead of budget and was in a position to restore our savings account to a normal operating level.

Although the work is by no means complete, we remember with thanks and praise to the Lord for His faithfulness through your generosity. Additionally these are critical milestones for the accreditation process, which remains an important activity and focus of The Bible Seminary. TBS fully recognizes that the proper accreditation brings legitimacy across many fronts and it is a sign of health and vitality in the academia world that TBS respects and desires.

The TBS vision to be a trusted seminary that supports the ministry of local churches by equipping lay people and ministers with the truth of God's Word remains steady and strong. TBS is a special place marked by the blessing of the Lord. Thank you for taking this journey with us and we look forward to the days ahead at what God has in mind to do. Keep up the good work!

In His Kingdom and for His glory!

2016 TBS Prayer Card

1. **Students:** 25 new graduate students for Fall 2016
2. **Finances:**
 - Increase average monthly donations to \$65,000 and total annual giving to \$800,000
 - Receive charitable contributions from at least 150 donors
 - Receive at least two six figure major gifts from individuals/families
 - Secure major gift funding from at least one new foundation
3. **Growth:** Expand TBS reach & response (students, professors, partners)
4. **Outreach:** Greater effectiveness in service to the community
5. **Wisdom:** Direction in increasing engagement from constituents

Board Membership Changes

Two founding members rotated off the board recently, both after serving two sequential 3-year terms.

Doug Johnson, Vice-Chair, recently retired from working as Vice-President and Controller of Phillips 66 after having previously served at ConocoPhillips as General Manager, Upstream Finance, Strategy and Planning, as General Manager, Downstream Finance, and as General Manager, Upstream Finance. He and his wife, Diana, live near Austin, Texas and they have two children.



Jim O'Leary currently serves as the Asia Pacific Regional Resource Authority for BP. He has a BS in Petroleum Engineering from Texas A&M and an MBA from Houston Baptist University. He and his wife, Janet, have two children and eight grandchildren. Jim is a member of Grace Fellowship UMC, earned a Bible Certificate from TBS in 2015, and was privileged to serve on the original team that crafted the bylaws and framed the vision for The Bible Seminary.



Two new members also joined the Board in May.

Scott Boulware is a Trial Presentation Consultant with Z-Axis, a consulting firm specializing in visual communications strategy and legal presentation development. He previously worked in business development for a corporate entertainment events company, and as senior producer for a number of award-winning, multi-million dollar events. He also served as co-founder of a faith-based internet communications start-up as well.



A graduate of Northwestern University's theatre program, Scott worked as a professional actor across the country for 15 years. He has served in board roles for Katy Youth Basketball and Champion Gymnastics Foundation. He and his wife, Mollie, have two boys, Eli and Ezra, and two dogs, Bubba and Lulu. They attend Grand Lakes Presbyterian Church and reside in Katy, Texas.

Dave Russell has served as Executive Director of a regional collegiate campus ministry since 2000. The ministry currently includes 250 staff ministering on 20 campuses in the U.S. and 8 major cities in Asia. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of a traveling ministry which shares God's heart for the world and the biblical basis for missions to hundreds of campuses and churches nationwide. He began his career as an engineer for Phillips Petroleum Company, and has a degree in biomedical and chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University, and an MBA from the University of Arkansas.

Dave's wife is the CEO of her own national franchise business. They attend Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and have three children.

For more information about TBS Board members, click on "People - Our Board" at TheBibleSeminary.org.





From the President

Glimpse of Glory

I saw Jesus, smiling and holding out his arms to me

I recently returned to the exact spot where I was sitting during a summer camp vespers service the year I turned 13, and the moment I truly believed in Jesus Christ.

From my vantage point (*above*) on the back row of the Camp Lookout outdoor chapel, near the far right middle row of benches, I listened to the speaker standing at the lectern as he asked if we trusted what the Bible said about God, particularly the good news about His Son's atoning death on the cross for our sins and the offer of eternal life for all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Prior to that moment, I had grown up in the church, been baptized, taken membership classes, met with the preacher for a dutiful question and answer session about what I believed and my desire to be a Christian, joined the church officially when I was almost 11 years old, and been recognized as a member – free and clear for communion, and all the rights and privileges of membership. As far as I knew, I was as “real” a Christian as I could be.

However, while the speaker that day was asking those questions, I realized that, “Yes!” I actually did believe all that, and that I, personally, all by myself with nobody forcing me, did want to follow Jesus Christ and trust Him, and Him alone, as my Savior and Lord.

At that very moment, heaven opened and I saw Jesus standing in front of the cross and the altar – with a crowd of angels around Him – smiling and holding out his arms to me. Then, just as suddenly, the vision disappeared.

My heart, mind, and soul were on fire! The preacher continued inviting anyone who wanted to commit their life to Jesus to come forward, and several of my fellow campers did.

But, I did not. As far as I knew, I had already done all the things I was supposed to do to be a public Christian, so I just stayed put, silently rejoiced, and told no one about what happened at the time.

However, I did make several private commitments, including to pray and read my Bible daily, to honor the Lord by tithing, and to seek first the Kingdom of God and trust that all the other things I needed would be taken care of (Matthew 6:33).

My faith journey, both before and after that moment, has included other exciting seasons and highlight events. The

Lord has blessed me abundantly, and continually seems to be working to discipline, educate, nurture, prepare, train, and use me for His purposes and glory in the service of His Kingdom.

Even so, that single moment still blazes in my memory, when I, Kenneth Lynn Lewis, Jr., truly believed in Jesus Christ, and experienced a brief glimpse of glory.

My heart, mind, and soul were on fire! That single moment still blazes in my memory, when I, Kenneth Lynn Lewis, Jr., truly believed in Jesus Christ, and experienced a brief glimpse of glory.

Just as the gentle rustle of leaves, bending trees, and blowing clouds evidence wind's existence,

And sweet kisses, tender romance, and willing self-sacrifice demonstrate the existence of love,

Neither of which - wind or love - anyone has ever actually physically seen, but none deny is real,

**All that exists - visible and *invisible* - evidences
the existence of God.**

Theology

From Greek "theos" (god) + "logos" (word, logic)

A system of religious beliefs rooted in God's Word.

Mytheology

*From "my" + "theology"
or "myth" + "theology"*

A system of religious beliefs drafted from a mix of God's Word and personal opinions and myths.

Theology is supposed to be rooted in God's Word, i.e. what God thinks/knows. However, most of us lean toward "mytheology" - what we think based on various ideas and opinions that are often influenced by arrogance, ignorance, and selfishness.

This temptation maligns God's Word by reforming our "beliefs" to conform to our own preferences in order to feel better about ourselves and co-opt other people, groups, and organizations to accommodate, reinforce, and sometimes, enforce, our own mytheological opinions.

TBS Tithing

The Bible Seminary is committed to modeling tithing as an institution by giving away to other ministries at least 10% of our income from both tuition and fees, and investments.



Antioch Ministries International (AMI) is a non-profit, church-planting organization that launches and supports

church-planting movements.

Through a network of churches connected through the power and work of the Holy Spirit, a desire to love God, love one another and love those who do not know Jesus, AMI believes local churches committed to evangelism and discipleship can change the world, and they have a passion to see the Church advance the Kingdom of God worldwide.

They currently have more than 140 full-time workers serving in more than 20 countries.

TBS alum, Matt Larsen, and his family, have been engaged in AMI's Discipleship School and Church Planting School at Antioch Houston since Matt's graduation last year. This summer, their family will move to a country in the 10/40 window to live abroad in partnership with Antioch Houston. See the article on page 21 (*facing page*) for more details.

TBS is pleased to continue to invest in the Larsen family, especially as they embark on this exciting adventure!



West Africa Theological Seminary

Lagos, Nigeria

WATS Master's degree graduates
May 2016

West Africa Theological Seminary (WATS) is a non-denominational school that aims to be the theological seminary of choice in Africa.

Combining academic excellence and Christian spiritual formation, WATS works to transform and equip Holy Spirit anointed leaders for spiritual awakening and holy living to advance God's kingdom to all people groups.

WATS began in April 1989 when some Nigerian and expatriate Christian leaders met to consider the needs of the Church in Nigeria, particularly how to provide sound theological training to as many pastors as possible. Led by Rev. Gary S. Maxey, the group established a strong, academically competent, nondenominational theological seminary in Owerri, Imo State, in eastern Nigeria. Originally named Wesley International Bible College, then Wesley International Theological Seminary, it became West Africa Theological Seminary (WATS) in 2001. After twelve years, the seminary moved to its present location in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city.

The Bible Seminary invests into WATS scholarships for students in their two BA programs, five Masters' programs, and Doctor of Ministry program. WATS graduates include more than 1,000 pastors from a broad spectrum of churches, language groups and countries, including at least 30 Nigerian states, 40+ native languages, 10+ other African countries, and 80+ different church groups.

For more information, visit wats.edu.ng.



BOYS & GIRLS
C O U N T R Y

Boys and Girls Country is a not-for-profit organization located 35 miles northwest of Houston that provides at-risk children a safe place to grow up and become productive, successful adults.

The program includes 11 cottages (6 for boys, 5 for girls). Up to eight children ages 5 to 18 live in each cottage with a married "Teaching Parent" couple (and any children they may have), and two single Teaching Parents, who raise these children as their own. About 20 young adults also live at the College and Career Campus while attending college, working, or joining the military. The

program includes an extended Christian neighborhood that supports the children as they learn and grow, and receive educational, emotional, and spiritual support.

The average length of stay for a child at Boys and Girls Country is three years; some children stay a short time, and others grow up there. More than 100 children live on campus each year, and more than 1400 children have lived on campus since inception in 1971. For more information, visit BoysAndGirlsCountry.org.

Adventuring With Jesus

Adventure. When you hear that word, what comes to mind? Scaling Mount Everest? Investing on Wall Street? Exploring the world's largest shopping mall? Wrestling alligators?

The word adventure seems to have a luring effect on the human heart, drawing out that longing for thrill that exists in every soul. It's a nearly-insatiable, God-given longing, quenchable only as we follow our Creator into the wildly unique adventure He has in store for each of our lives. Though the adventurous longing may be buried under years of dust-like fear and compromise, its there. It will always be there, like an undiscovered musical prodigy, just waiting to be called out.

The Call to Go

For us, our call to adventure with Jesus came in the form of a call to move overseas as long-term missionaries. As part of our church college ministry, we had the opportunity to enjoy numerous short-term trips to various countries, during which God planted a desire in our hearts to share the transforming love of Jesus with people who had never heard before.

In August of 2014, I had a dream through which God clearly indicated we should get ready, because our time to journey overseas was coming soon. Six months later, we were asked to pray about joining a team planning to move to the Middle East! Though this country had never been on our radar, we were open to wherever God would lead us.

After a month praying and seeking God's guidance, God was saying, "YES!" It was such a peaceful and thrilling opportunity all at once. Though we had the desire to move overseas for some time, we did not have to find a way to make it happen on our own. This was clearly an invitation into an adventure with God to which we only had to respond with a "yes!"

The Vision

Ever read one of the many wild stories in the book of Acts and wish you could spend a day in Paul's shoes? While we will not get to slip on Paul's sandals, we will get to walk where he walked. Acts 19:10 says that "all of Asia heard [the gospel]," and the "Asia" he refers to is actually Asia Minor.

Although the gospel was shared in this region and numerous churches were started, namely all 7 churches listed in the book of Revelation, out of the millions of persons current populating that area, 99.8% profess to be Muslim, despite the fact that this region once had a thriving church.

But, God is not intimidated by recent history; He has been moving through the ages, and we have faith that His heart is that the church's ruins will be restored!



670 Students have taken at least 1 course

50+ Churches represented among students

43 Alumni, including 33 Bible Certificates and 10 Master's degrees

70+ Teachers, including 20 Adjuncts and 50+ professionals that serve on our TBS teaching team

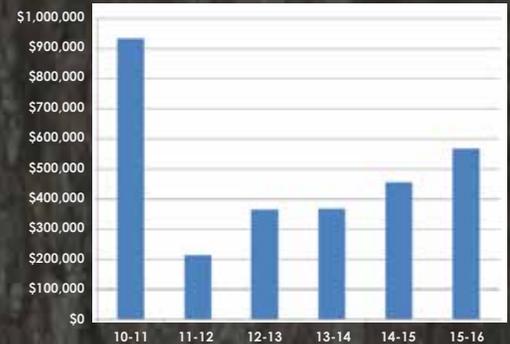
70+ Teaching Sites, including 30+ places in the U.S. (classrooms, churches, camps and retreat centers, hospitals, funeral homes, a sheep farm, and more), and 40+ teaching locations in Israel.

\$3.4 million Income, including \$2.9 million in donations and \$500,000 in tuition/fees and other

\$3.1 million Expenses

TBS Donation Income

Fiscal Years, 2010-2016



The above graph depicts TBS donation income for fiscal years 2010-2016.

The table below shows our 2016 Fundraising status as of 5/31/2016. The left columns contain our target goals, including the number of donors and amounts needed, and the right columns show the latest status on the number of donors and amounts pledged.

Young and Growing

As an organization, The Bible Seminary is still quite young and tender, much like the small oak saplings above.

Much indicates great promise thus far – the approximately 670 students from 50+ churches who have taken at least one TBS course, our first 43 graduates, the laity-to-professional range of our five programs, the expertise of our 20 faculty and 50+ other professionals who are part of our teaching team, and the \$3.4 million dollars of income we have received since 2010.

Our optimum plans include:

- Continuing to offer classes in the Katy/West Houston region and expanding classes into northwest Houston (see the “Fall Semester” schedule on page 3).
- Considering expansion into other regional locations.
- Graduating students with no seminary debt. All 10 master’s degree graduates have done so thus far!

- Sponsoring a Spring 2017 Holy Land Study Tour (see page 3).
- Raising enough Holy Land Study Tour and general scholarships to provide students scholarships and amazing experiences.
- Possibly launching a Christian archaeology master’s degree with TBS Church History professor Dr. Scott Stripling. Beginning in 2017, he will be leading an extraordinary dig in Shiloh where the tabernacle was for 300+ years. This could give TBS worldwide exposure, as well as continue to help affirm the accuracy and reliability of the Bible.
- Gaining academic accreditation through the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).

God is at work through TBS, and we hope to continue to glorify God by training Christian believers in a context of biblical community in all 66 books of the Bible so that they can serve the local church and fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God’s Spirit.

2016 Goals			Pledged as of 5/31/16	
# Donors	\$/year	Total \$	# Donors	Total \$
Endowment, special projects, and cash reserves				
1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	0	\$0
1	\$500,000	\$500,000	0	\$0
1	\$250,000	\$250,000	0	\$0
3	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000	0	\$0
General operations, scholarships, and program support				
1	\$100,000	\$100,000	0	\$0
1	\$75,000	\$75,000	1	\$75,000
1	\$50,000	\$50,000	1	\$50,000
2	\$25,000	\$50,000	1	\$35,000
3	\$20,000	\$60,000	0	\$0
4	\$15,000	\$60,000	2	\$32,398
6	\$10,000	\$60,000	1	\$10,000
8	\$7,500	\$60,000	2	\$18,500
10	\$5,000	\$50,000	5	\$26,200
15	\$3,800	\$60,000	1	\$3,800
20	\$3,000	\$60,000	3	\$9,000
25	\$2,400	\$60,000	6	\$15,000
30	\$1,200	\$36,000	10	\$18,000
35	\$600	\$21,000	13	\$11,000
40	\$300	\$12,000	13	\$5,953
45	\$240	\$10,800	4	\$1,030
50	\$180	\$9,000	4	\$780
xx	Other		8	\$610
300		\$827,800	75	\$314,071
2016 Goals			Pledged as of 5/31/16	

Financial Update

By Rick McCalip
VP of Finance and Administration



The Bible Seminary's 2015-16 fiscal year was a break-through year. Through the great generosity of our donors, for the first time since our very first fiscal year in 2010-11, our total income for the year exceeded expenses.

Our staff undertook every opportunity to control expenses, finishing the year with total expenses reduced to almost \$175,000 under the approved budget.

Our donors were very supportive, increasing total donations by more than \$110,000 over the 2014-15 fiscal year (a 24% increase).

This should help demonstrate to our potential academic accrediting agency that we have good financial support and expense controls necessary to proceed with the accreditation process. *Their standards require that we demonstrate this level of performance for at least two successive years, so the first is in hand! Thank you!!*

Along with this great financial accomplishment, TBS was able to record several additional achievements:

- Our two Master's degree graduates this year completed their studies with all tuition and fees fully paid, through their own payments and donor support through the TBS Student Scholarship Fund.
- The "reserve fund" of emergency cash was restored to just under \$74,000, which also meets the accreditation standard of maintaining a reserve of at least 10% of the currently approved budget. It was necessary for us to dip into this reserve fund in late 2015, due to a temporary shortage of available cash to meet expenses.
- From the original formation of The Bible Seminary, the board had established a policy that a tithe of our net tuition, fee, and other income (excluding donor contributions) would be committed to outside purposes consistent with TBS's mission. Due to cash flow restrictions in past years, the tithe had not been distributed, but we had kept track all those years of the amount of the total tithe. This fiscal year, the total amount of past and current year tithe commitment was fully distributed through contributions to student scholarships at West Africa Theological Seminary, an international church plant project being led by a TBS graduate, and to Boys and Girls Country in Hockley, Texas (see pages 20-21).

Goal = \$90,000 during May
Actual = \$125,000!

May 31

THANK YOU!!!

At the beginning of May, we asked for a significant infusion of at least \$90,000 in donations from people and organizations who believe in the mission and work of TBS. We asked because, primarily, the sole issue holding us back from moving ahead with accreditation is annually increasing net assets, since we currently meet all 32 other criteria.

Completing the fiscal year of June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016 fully funded presented a historic opportunity to take a giant leap forward in firmly establishing The Bible Seminary as an official, accredited educational institution approved by the U. S. Department of Education.

We are pleased to report that we received more than \$125,000 from 27 donors during May and EXCEEDED our goal!

- All bills are current and all financial responsibilities have been satisfied as of May 31, 2016.
- We are initiating our sixth annual financial audit.

As our financial position continues to improve, we hope to initiate membership with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ecfa.org). ECFA provides financial credibility to Christian non-profit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, transparency, fundraising, and board governance. Their statement of faith is quite compatible with TBS's Core Values and would assist us in sustaining our commitment to financial responsibility, as well as honoring our donor's wishes.

Through your continued prayers, financial, and other support, TBS is truly on the path to becoming the world-class Christian educational institution that our founders envisioned. Hallelujah!



By mail: The Bible Seminary
2655 S Mason Rd
Katy, TX 77450

Online: Visit "Support" at TheBibleSeminary.org



"They read from the Book of the Law of God making it clear and giving the meaning so the people could understand what was being read." - Nehemiah 8:8

Core Values

Lordship – Because He is Lord (Phil. 2:11), we will continually ask Jesus Christ to sit on the throne of the seminary and on the throne of the lives of its faculty, administrators, and students for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).

Bible – Because the Bible is the fully true Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16), we will offer and require the study of all 66 books of the Bible before graduation with a degree. We will seek to creatively integrate classical theological disciplines and ministry training by studying books of the Bible...

Prayer – Because apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5), we will continually seek to plug into the Vine Jesus Christ through yielding to Him in prayer. We will offer a unique emphasis on prayer...

Unreached Peoples – Because the return of Christ awaits the evangelization of all people groups (Mt. 24:14), we will keep our eyes on the unreached peoples of the world and train our students to have a heart for the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20) by seeking to reach millions of souls for Jesus Christ.

Local Church – Because the local church is God's plan (Mt. 16:18), we will be based in the local church and have a symbiotic relationship of service and training with local churches and parachurch ministries.

Community – Because we were created for community (Gen. 1:26; Rom. 12:5). We will seek to build a campus-based fellowship where the "one anothers" of Scripture are lived out, where authenticity and accountability are practiced, and where integrity is modeled and taught.

Compassion – Because God has a huge heart for the poor and overlooked (Mt. 25:31-46), we will strive to motivate, equip, and train students to minister to "the least of these" as a lifestyle.

Programs Available



Certificate-level training for laity not necessarily seeking a degree, but who want basic Biblical training in all 66 books of the Bible.



Graduate-level basic leadership training for persons who may not have or are not seeking a degree, but who do want graduate-level training in core areas of ministry leadership.



A path toward completing both a Bachelor's and Master's degree simultaneously.



Professional ministry leadership training for those who already have a Bachelor's degree.



Advanced professional ministry training that includes all 32 graduate courses offered.