



The Bible Seminary
ROOTED IN THE WORD

2020 VISION





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The Bible Seminary (TBS) is an independent, non-denominational, 501(c)(3) charitable institution of higher education incorporated in Texas in 2010 to offer training for laity and vocational ministry professionals.

The seminary is a pre-accredited member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), having been awarded Candidate Status in April 2019. TBS has been an Affiliate of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) since 2012, an approved Continuing Education Unit (CEU) provider for the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) since 2015 and approved by the Texas Veterans Commission since 2017. The Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted exemptions to TBS in 2011.

TBS aims to help nurture biblical literacy in all 66 books of the Bible via comprehensive, strategic, Bible-based training in partnership with local churches and ministries.

Key Verse

“They read from the book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.” - Nehemiah 8:8

Mission

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.

Core Values

- **Lordship** – Because He is Lord we will continually ask Jesus to sit on the throne of the seminary and the lives of its faculty, administrators, and students for the glory of God.
- **Bible** – The Bible is the fully true Word of God, we will offer and require the study of all 66 books of the Bible.
- **Prayer** – Because apart from Him we can do nothing, we will continually seek to plug into the Vine Jesus Christ through yielding to Him in prayer.
- **Unreached Peoples** – 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 by seeking to reach millions of souls for Jesus Christ.
- **Local Church** – We will be based in the local church and have a symbiotic relationship of service and training with local churches and parachurch ministries.
- **Community** – We will seek to build a campus-based fellowship where the “one another’s” of Scripture are lived out, authenticity and accountability are practiced and integrity is modeled and taught.
- **Compassion** – Because God has a huge heart for the poor and overlooked, we will strive to motivate, equip, and train students to minister to “the least of these” as a lifestyle.

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Publisher: The Bible Seminary
Editor-in-Chief: Dr. K. Lynn Lewis
Graphic Designer: Dr. K. Lynn Lewis

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Tree imagery spans the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. At least 36 types are mentioned in association with creation, beauty, blessings, fruitfulness, healing, provision, resilience, strength, and worship.

Isaiah prophesies about a people “called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3). Blessed and favored by God, they rebuild, repair, tend, and are called “priests of the Lord” and “ministers of our God” (61:4-6).

Founders of The Bible Seminary (TBS) were inspired by the story of visionaries who planted a forest of oaks centuries ahead in preparation for the eventual need to replace giant oak beams used in the construction of Oxford’s New College.

Our mission similarly includes planting and nurturing a forest of godly pastors, godly worship leaders, godly youth pastors, godly missionaries, and godly small group leaders.

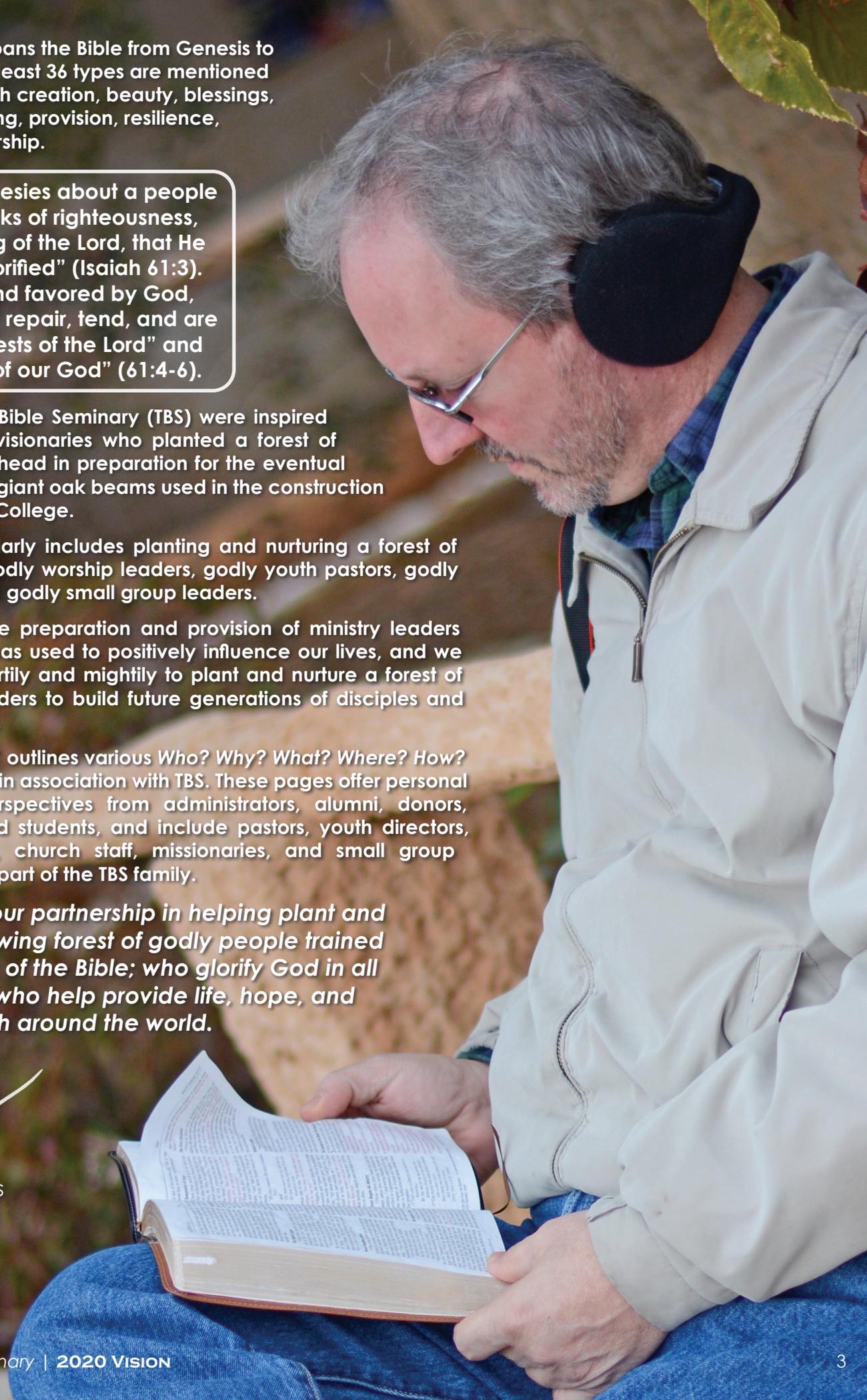
We rejoice in the preparation and provision of ministry leaders whom the Lord has used to positively influence our lives, and we are working heartily and mightily to plant and nurture a forest of new ministry leaders to build future generations of disciples and Christian leaders.

This “2020 Vision” outlines various *Who? Why? What? Where? How? and How much?* in association with TBS. These pages offer personal insights and perspectives from administrators, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students, and include pastors, youth directors, worship leaders, church staff, missionaries, and small group leaders who are part of the TBS family.

We invite your partnership in helping plant and nurture a growing forest of godly people trained in all 66 books of the Bible; who glorify God in all they do; and who help provide life, hope, and truth around the world.



Dr. K. Lynn Lewis
President



PROGRAMS

Non-degree



Bible Certificate

A 10-credit hour non-degree program designed to nurture a biblically literate populace via *comprehensive, strategic* Bible-based studies. Seven CORE courses cover all 66 books of the Bible, teach how to study Scripture, and mentor the practice of studying specific passages and engaging in personal spiritual formation. ELECTIVES offer additional Bible-based opportunities. Most courses are eligible for CEU credit through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). *Registration required.*



Licensed Professional

A 27-credit hour non-degree program that offers core, graduate-level education beneficial for anyone serving or who wants to serve in Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry leadership. *Non-degree application required.*

Degree



Dual Degree Completion

A program that allows students with an Associate's degree, an unfinished undergraduate degree, and life experiences that may count toward college credit to enroll in a degree track to earn both a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS) and either a companion Master of Arts (MA) or a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree. *Degree application required.*



Master of Arts

Programs that integrate topically focused in-depth studies of the Bible. *Degree application required.* Major options:

- Church History and Theology (MACHT), 48-credit hours
- Biblical Languages and Culture (MABLC), 54-credit hours
- Biblical Studies (MABS), 60-credit hours
- Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA), 60-credit hours



Master of Divinity

An 84-credit hour graduate degree program that teaches all 66 books of the Bible over a 3-year course of study in conjunction with historical, theological and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for ministry in the 21st century. *Degree application required.*

For admissions information, contact Dr. Scott Stripling, Provost, or visit "Admissions" at TheBibleSeminary.org.

Non-discrimination 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.



SEEDLINGS

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we all share one clear purpose: To “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and TEACHING them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us to do” (Matthew 28:19-20). As I have seen in my own life and lives of those around me,

**+ transformational life change occurs
when each of us begins
a relationship with God
on His terms through His Word.**

At The Bible Seminary we began a culture that knows and loves both the Bible and the God that wrote this old book we call “the Scriptures.” We started in 2008 with a certificate level course called *Bible Study Methods* (BSM) and followed it with 6 more courses covering every book of both the Old and New Testaments. Students engage in required assignments that challenge their minds and build confidence as they experience their own personal growth, and they pay to take classes since having your own skin in the game is vital to individual commitment and program success.

I start BSM by telling students that God wrote a book, you can understand it, live it, and teach it to others. I continue by teaching these three steps:

- 1) OBSERVE the text: What do I see?
- 2) INTERPRET the text: What does it mean?
- 3) APPLY the text: How does it work?

Classes begin with students learning, but progress as they truly engage Scripture and the Holy Spirit reveals truths through God’s Word (John 16:13).

Since 2008, hundreds have taken classes and some have gone through the entire program. Many have gone on to use these tools as Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, on the mission field, in various work and career fields, and as pastors and staff in churches and ministries.



*“Oh, how I love your law!
It is my meditation all the day.”
- Psalm 119:97*

Rev. Paul Helbig, TBS Co-founder and former Bible Institute Dean, Chaplain, and Professor of Biblical Studies



LEADERSHIP

Full-time leadership includes two administrators, two faculty members, and a Business Manager. The teaching team includes these leaders, numerous adjunct faculty, ministry professionals, and mentors. Part-time and volunteer leaders include additional staff and a Board of Trustees.



Dr. K. Lynn Lewis
President

A seasoned entrepreneur with a diverse professional background in business, education, and ministry, Dr. Lewis is an author, publisher, and producer. He has a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering

(1985) from the University of Georgia; a Master of Divinity (1989) from Asbury Theological Seminary; a Doctor of Ministry (2002) from Asbury Theological Seminary; and a Beeson Pastor Certificate in Biblical Preaching & Church Leadership (2002) from Asbury Theological Seminary.



Dr. Douglas N. Petrovich
Dean of the Bible Certificate Program and Professor of Biblical History and Exegesis

A pastor in California and Siberia, Russia, Dr. Petrovich helped lead the founding of a seminary in Akademgorodok (Russia) where he served as

Academic Dean and Assistant to the President for 10 years. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Evangelism (1992) from Moody Bible Institute; a Master of Divinity (1996) from The Master's Seminary; a Master of Theology (1998) from The Master's Seminary; a Master of Arts (2009) from The University of Toronto; and a Doctor of Philosophy (2016) from The University of Toronto.



Dr. Scott Stripling
Provost

A pastor, principal, superintendent, professor, teacher, coach and more, Dr. Stripling is an author, archaeologist, and Director of Excavations at Shiloh. He has a Bachelor of Science in Physical Edu-

cation and English (1984) from UT Pan American; a Master of Arts in English (1988) from UT Pan American; a Master of Arts in Biblical Literature (1995) from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary; a Ph. D. in Archaeology and Biblical History (ABD) from Veritas International University; and a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership (2006) from Vision International University.



Mr. Rick McCalip
Vice-President of Finance and Administration

After retiring from Conoco-Phillips in August 2010 after 34 years of service primarily in safety and environmental program management, Rick began immediately serving

as a volunteer for The Bible Seminary. He assisted with the initial capital campaign and establishing initial organizational plans and accounting procedures. He continues his volunteer service in his current role. He has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (1976) from the University of Oklahoma.



Dr. J. Paul Nyquist
Dean of Graduate Programs and Professor of Biblical Preaching, Leadership, and Theology

A seasoned Christian ministry leader, Dr. Nyquist served as President and CEO of Moody Bible Institute from 2009-

18 and President and CEO of Avant Ministries from 2001-09. He has a Bachelor of Science Architecture Studies (1976) from the University of Nebraska; a ThM in Systematic Theology (1981) from Dallas Theological Seminary; and a PhD in Systematic Theology (1984), Dallas Theological Seminary.



Mrs. Yamile Soto
Business Manager

A business professional, Yami has a background as a Senior Financial Accountant at Opportune in Houston (2016-19), Accounting Manager at Element Materials Technology in Houston (2014-

16), and Controller/Operations Manager at Superior Foods in Miami, Florida (1995-2014). A native of Miami, Florida, she has a Bachelor of Accounting (2008) from Florida Gulf Coast University and a Master of Accounting (2015) from Liberty University.



Mrs. Carousel Pieterse
Office Manager/Registrar

A native of South Africa, Carousel served as Chief of Customer Relations and Billing for Wise Information Technology (2018-19), volunteer Program Director for Katy Cares (2016-present), CEO/Managing Director of Heartware Life Skills Upgrade for Teens, CEO/Managing Director of Puisano Training Institute (2005-10), Executive Director and Chief of Strategic Relations and Corporate Communications for Puisano Business Development Group (1998-2005), National Marketing Manager of Perskor and Orion Publishers (1996-98), National Coordinating Officer (1995-96), Captain (1995-96), and Lieutenant in the South African Police Service (1993-96). She has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Stellenbosch in the Republic of South Africa.



Janice Havins-Hamric
Librarian

A retired Katy ISD teacher and librarian, Janice served at Grace Fellowship UMC on the Prayer Altar Ministry Team, Freedom and Healing Prayer Team, and worked as an assistant to Teaching Pastor, Paul Helbig. She served as TBS Institute Administrative Coordinator from 2011-16. She has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a minor in Geography (1975) from Southwest Texas State University, a Master of Education (1979) from Prairie View A&M University, and a Master of Library Science (1983) from Sam Houston State University.



Abigail Leavitt
Student Services Coordinator

A veteran of nearly twenty archaeological digs, Abigail has served on excavation teams as Objects Registrar and a Square Supervisor for the Associates for Biblical Research since 2010. Her career journey includes stints as an assistant librarian, barista, housekeeper, janitor, maintenance worker, receptionist, and sales representative. She has a General Bible Certificate (2017) from Frontier School of the Bible, a Bachelor of Arts (*in process*) from the University of Pikeville and TBS, and a Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (*in process*) from TBS.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Dr. Jim Leggett
Pastor and founding Pastor of Grace Fellowship UMC, and founding President of TBS.



Dr. Leonard Merrell, Ph. D.
Retired Superintendent of the Katy Independent School District (KISD) and former President of the Texas Association of School Administrators.

INSIGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES

WHAT is the compelling purpose of TBS? WHY does TBS offer biblically-based, Christ-centered theological education? WHY do people enroll in, work for, and financially support TBS?



Dr. J. Paul Nyquist

Dean of the Graduate Programs
Professor of Biblical Preaching,
Leadership and Theology

Every organization needs a compelling purpose which drives them relentlessly forward, every employee needs clarity on how their labors contribute to accomplishing their corporate purpose, and every investor wants assurance that their contributions will bring a desired return on the investment.

Operating in the Bible Belt, casual observers could conclude that there is already a church on every corner and the market is sufficiently saturated with well-trained pastors and ministry leaders. However, nothing could be further from the truth either domestically or globally.

When I attended and spoke at the historic Global Proclamation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2016, it was the first known gathering of pastoral trainers (not mission agencies or strategists) in the history of the church. Of the thousands in attendance, my fellow Caucasians and I represented less than 10% of attendees. The majority were from third world countries where the church is experiencing explosive growth. During the past century, the central balance of Christianity has moved from west to east and from north to south. Today, while the church is stagnant or declining in most western countries (including the United States), the church is growing exponentially in the southern hemisphere. Over 20,000 people come to faith in Christ every day on the continent of Africa and over 50,000 per day worldwide.

This should elicit a resounding "Praise the Lord!" But, in the words of Tom Hanks' dramatization of astronauts Jack Swigert and Jim Lovell's conversations with ground control operators in the movie *Apollo 13*, "Houston, we have a problem!"

The problem is only 5% of the 2.1 million pastors in the world have been adequately trained. That means only one pastor out of twenty across the globe has sufficient education to rightly lead and teach the Lord's growing flocks.

But the problem gets worse. With the rapid growth of the global church, the need for more trained pastors grows daily. If the average church contains 50 souls, and if the church is growing at a rate of 50,000 people a day, that means we need 1000 more trained pastors every day to feed the sheep. Thus, we are not only behind in the global training

of pastors, we fall further behind every day.

Domestically, it could appear that our country is flush with biblically trained seminary graduates leading churches. Although I would agree we seem to have an ample supply, I strongly disagree that most have been biblically trained.

Of 270 theological institutions who are members of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) – the main accrediting agency for seminaries in North America – over 70% do NOT take the Bible literally.

In seminary courses offered at such schools, students barely glance at the Word of God and the instruction they receive encourages them to interpret the Bible as a collection of myths and moral platitudes.

The result is many pastors and ministry leaders gain a degree but lack comprehensive, strategic biblical training and nurture by faithful believers.

Sadly, numerous pulpits across this great country demonstrate this lack. Even more disturbing, the sheep of God's flock in attendance therein are not fed or instructed from God's marvelous revelation in His Word. Biblical literacy is alarmingly low in the pew, and when God's people do not know or understand the Bible, they do not know how God expects them to live in this life.

*So, why does TBS offer biblical and theological training? **Because the need for such training has never been greater in the history of the church.** We exist in a pivotal time in which God is moving powerfully to expand His Church in virtually every country in the world and fulfill the Great Commission. The need is great for ministry leaders who are godly shepherds who love the Lord and who know and teach the Bible.*

TBS strives to address this by comprehensively and strategically teaching all 66 books of the Bible so our graduates can "rightly divide" the Word of God and "equip the saints for the work of ministry." We invite your partnership in this noble cause and thank you for your support.



Since the earliest days of the Christian church, one charge to those who teach is to “retain the standard of sound words which you have heard” (2 Timothy 1:10). Teaching the fundamentals of God’s truth is integral to maintaining the purity of scriptural messages.



Dr. Phil and Dr. Linda Pattillo serve as TBS Adjunct Faculty. Phil is retired from a 40+ year career at Amoco and BP. Linda is a career educator and missionary, including 30+ years with Natan Ministries teaching biblical studies, pastoral development, and spiritual formation in Argentina, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia (Slovak Republic), Latvia, Norway, Poland and various domestic locations. They currently attend a house church in Tomball, Texas.

When Israel abandoned its command to guard the LORD's message, the result was a steady descent into chaos (see Judges 17:6 and 21:25). Even today, the importance of the written Word to the health of the church commits Christian teachers to ensure listeners' ears are **tested by scriptural truth, not tickled.**

And teachers are needed. Whether an elder (2 Timothy 3:2), small group leader (Romans 12:6-7), or parent (Ephesians 6:4), there remains a constant need to convey the Word of Truth accurately (2 Timothy 2:15).

TBS responds to this need in multiple ways. From hands-on participation in archaeology to textbook instruction, TBS supports both vocational and avocational students in increasing Bible knowledge and leadership skills.

In addition to degree programs for professional ministry training, TBS offers a strong non-degree Bible Certificate (BC) program for laity.

Foundational courses such as *Bible Panorama* (14 weeks) and *Bible Study Methods* (8 weeks) offer concentrated introductions to the Bible as a whole and specific learning skills that can take years to acquire by osmosis. Both courses can enhance individual study and small group leadership. The former includes an excellent resource booklet for future reference, and the latter is built around a classic teaching text by Howard Hendricks.

TBS offers a strong Bible Certificate (BC) program for laity

These BC courses include weekly assignments that reinforce information presented in class, and homework review provides opportunities for students to test acquired knowledge and skills in a friendly, supportive environment. Students complete these courses with information and skills that can then be passed along to others.

Additional BC courses delve more deeply into both the Old and New Testament: *Old Testament History*, *Old Testament Poetry*, *Old Testament Prophets*, *New Testament Gospels/Acts*, and *New Testament Epistles/Revelation*.

Special interest courses for further study include historical geography (*Holy Land Prep* – an 8-week course teaching the geography and culture of the Holy Land in the context of the Bible message), scientific studies (*God and Science*), biblical counseling (*Soul Care*), and missions (*Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*). BC students can also audit

any graduate degree course for BC program credit, and graduate course auditors who complete all class assignments have the option to convert their hours to graduate degree credit.

As a whole, the BC program fills a unique gap between conventional Bible studies and seminary curricula by exposing attendees to professional instructors and higher-level material while maintaining a casual learning atmosphere.



Rhonda Ward (standing, back row, second from left) is a 2016 graduate of the Bible Certificate (BC) program and works for Katy Independent School District (KISD) as Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services.

When I entered my first class at TBS, *Bible Study Methods*, with Paul Helbig (seated at left in the photo at right), I was a public school educator and used to being in a classroom. But, I felt anxious.

Then, when Dr. Charles Wisdom – a neighbor, friend, longtime local pastor, and a TBS Trustee – sat in the empty seat next to me and wanted to share my Bible, I became even more nervous. As Professor Helbig prayed and began teaching, I was embarrassed because I did not always know which way to turn when he referred to various passages, and I knew Dr. Wisdom would notice that I didn't know my Bible very well. But, nearly a decade later, Dr. Wisdom remains a warm, kind encourager, and God has opened doors for me into ministry leadership in ways I could never have imagined.

Most of my biblical knowledge came from Charlton Heston in the movie, *The Ten Commandments*.

When I first enrolled in TBS, I had no goal; I just wanted to learn. Despite attending church all my adult life, I did not attend Sunday School. Most of my biblical knowledge came from Charlton Heston in the movie, *The Ten Commandments*.

As the semesters rolled along, I kept registering for new courses and continued my studies for six years. I even repeated some courses because of the outstanding professors. When friends and family asked, "Why are you doing this?" I was not sure how to answer. I just knew God had something in store for me. Today, my TBS Bible Certificate dated May 2016 hangs in my office and includes Dr. Wisdom's signature.

Since then, I have discovered some of God's intentions. About the time I enrolled in TBS, I began attending a Sunday School class at my church. When the teacher announced that he had a malignant melanoma and would be unable to continue teaching after 25 years, his eyes never left mine in a clear look indicating he expected me to take his place. As Gary King endured treatments and his condition worsened, he never returned to class and passed away three years later. I have taught the course for six years now – renamed "Disciples of the King."

I also lead a weekly women's Bible study at another church in which we study verse by verse through biblical books (we took two and a half years to study through the Gospel of Luke). As a school teacher, **I already knew HOW to teach, but TBS helped me with WHAT to teach.** In preparing lessons, I am mindful that Bible study is not merely an academic exercise to gain information but also a study for inspiration. How can I live the way Jesus lived if I don't know Him and know His story?

My TBS studies also sparked a burning light in me for the Emmaus Community. An "Emmaus Walk" is a 3-day retreat where fellow believers deeply experience the love of Jesus. This October will mark my third opportunity to help lead a Walk during which I give substantial talks on topics such as the priesthood of all believers, discipleship, and growing through study.

TBS has served as the anchor and foundation for my scriptural studies and given me credibility and confidence as a ministry and spiritual leader.

My ministry does not always involve a church building. I believe my career is sacred, too, I pray before meetings and presentations. I know that sometimes the only thing people know about Jesus is what they observe in us. I also believe the Holy Spirit strategically places people in our paths. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Houston Lay School of the SMU Perkins School of Theology and have input on planning speakers with SMU and marketing events. I also serve in ministry leadership with Amazing Place, a faith-based mission seeking to empower lives disrupted by dementia and where my Board membership provides opportunities for me to train staff on how to build relationships and respond positively to each other in a stressful work environment.

In God's abundant grace, I have come a long way on my path, and I invite you to consider how TBS could positively influence your discipleship, spiritual formation, and love for God's Word. 





Rev. Kevin Alvarez (standing, 2nd from right) received a Master of Divinity from TBS in 2016. He serves as Pastor of Long Point Baptist Church in Houston, Texas where he formerly served as Youth Pastor. His wife, Yvette, is currently a graduate student at TBS and teaches in a Christian school in Houston.

Of the many places I don't mind going with my wife, IKEA is not one of them. Although I wish I had the "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay" mentality of Ruth, I typically draw the line at IKEA.

Even so, in striving to be the godly husband my wife deserves, I boldly walked where few men have walked before to purchase a lamp my wife deeply desired. With that one thing on my list, we walked straight through the door to the lamp section so we could quickly run in and out. But, alas, I found myself drawn into the various strategically placed departments along the way. After checking out lamp shades, light bulbs, and other items, we ended up walking away with much more than we expected, but it all complimented each other and ultimately makes our lamp stand out.

and other items, we ended up walking away with much more than we expected, but it all complimented each other and ultimately makes our lamp stand out.

When I walked into TBS, the only thing on my list was to get a Master of Divinity degree. But, like shopping, I found myself drawn to various strategically placed opportunities along the way. I checked out the "Pastor Shepherd" section and learned how to counsel persons in crisis. I perused "Spiritual Formation" and obtained tools to organize my own personal life to better invest in others. I know I came in for just a "Master of Divinity" degree, but in the end, I walked away with much more than I could have ever expected, and it all compliments each other and ultimately makes the Lord stand out.

I came in for just a Master of Divinity degree, but in the end, I walked away with much more than I could have ever expected.



I fall squarely in the "late bloomer" category. Although saved at age 14 at a Billy Graham Crusade at Rice Stadium in Houston Texas in 1981, 25 years passed before I explored the Bible with any real intent. Around age 40, life circumstances drew me back to the Lord and His Word. When I needed it most, Scripture came alive to me. I worshiped more regularly, attended Sunday School and Bible studies, served in homeless care ministries, as well as ministries for persons experiencing the pain of divorce.

During that time, my wife Toby introduced me to BSF (Bible Study Fellowship). I joined a men's group in our Cypress, Texas

Rev. Ed Thomas (standing 3rd from right above) graduated Valedictorian and received his Master of Divinity degree in 2019. He began his seminary journey while working as Sr. Clinical Engineer at LivaNova (formerly known as Cyberonics, Inc.), then worked as Sr. Trial Safety Manager at Boston Scientific, and recently accepted a position as an Exclusive Consultant with Japan Lifeline Company.

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area and attended regularly for several years. As I systematically studied books of the Bible for the first time, the Lord brought His Word to life in new ways. I could not get enough! I hungered to explore God's Word "cover-to-cover" and give Him my entire life. I began earnestly praying and contemplating how I could best serve the Lord with the rest of my earthly days. As I explored options and prayed with my wife and our pastor, seminary came up. *Wait? What? Me, in seminary?* Although the answer seemed clearer and clearer, many questions remained. *Why? And for what purpose?*

As I searched the Internet for seminaries and theological schools, I discovered Houston had several high-quality seminaries, but most either offered classes primarily online or at night, which did not fit with my work/life balance at the time. However, when I discovered The Bible Seminary in Katy – closest one to my house, classroom-based, focus on studying all 66 books of the Bible and hands-on ministry training, trips to the Holy Land, and a vision to train up 5000 graduates to reach 1 million souls for Christ – I was more than intrigued. I called the number on the website, and spoke with TBS President, Dr. Lewis, and scheduled a meeting the following week.

During our initial meeting, I shared my sense of an unclear call, other than a desire to deeply study the entire the Bible. He reassured me that I was not alone, and that a seminary degree can help prepare one to serve the Lord in many ways – from pastoring a church, to leading a para-church ministry, to building water wells in Africa, or even working in a "normal" professional career. I was sold, applied, was accepted, and the Lord worked out things with my employer for me to work fewer hours to allow me to take 6 to 9-credit hours of seminary courses per semester. At age 47, I was now a seminarian. Gulp!

Now, five years later, I have completed a 96-credit hour Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree and can wholeheartedly say that any expectations I had prior to entering TBS were entirely blown away. We indeed explored all 66 amazing books of the Bible. But, the servants the Lord at TBS (a.k.a. the professors) were unbelievable! I studied under leading scholars in areas nowhere on my radar

screen when I contemplated seminary. I indeed engaged in hands-on ministry training in a variety of settings while attending TBS. I served as a Stephen Minister in my local church, eventually became a Stephen Leader, taught the Word to high school boys on Sunday mornings, hosted Bible studies in our home for family and friends, and our family served on mission trips in the U.S. and abroad and traveled to Israel together.

My courses included times for reflection, consideration of our gifts and talents, and prayer about ministry service. I knew I had a heart for care and support ministries, but "Where?" and "What format?" Over time, I began to realize that perhaps my 8 years working in Japan, rudimentary knowledge of Japanese language and culture, and other life events, were the Lord's work in preparing me for my unexpected future.

As I explored various Japan-based ministry organizations, missionary opportunities, and even found a Japanese-English church in Houston, I had the opportunity to spend nearly three months in Sapporo, Japan conducting church-planting research for Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF). While on that assignment, I accepted a job with a

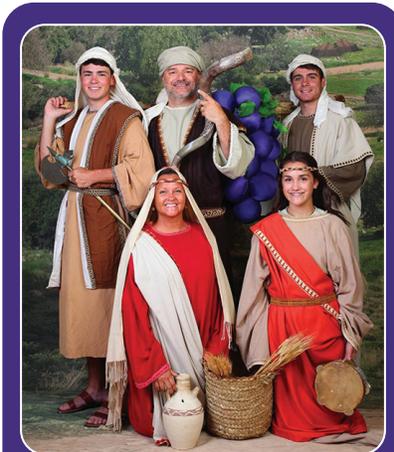
Japan-based medical device firm with 60% of my time based in the US and 40% in Japan. My employer even granted me a flexible work schedule in order to connect with missionaries and mission groups. How can any of this happen without the Lord?

So, as of now, we plan to eventually relocate to Japan to serve as full-time missionaries.

Looking back, I can clearly see the hand of God orchestrating events throughout my life. Good times, bad, and everything in between – past, present, and future – fits within the scope of His planned and redemptive purposes. His!

From my earthly perspective, enrolling in TBS and completing a Master of Divinity degree has been one of the best decisions of my entire life.

I have entrusted my all to God for His purposes and glory and look forward to continuing amazing adventures ahead. Praise be to God!



At age 47, I was now a seminarian... Looking back, I can clearly see the hand of God orchestrating events throughout my life.

INTO THE WOODS

DISCOVERING THE BIBLICAL FEMININE

CAPSTONE RESEARCH PRESENTATION
BY SAMANTHA J. RUDE



Samantha J. Rude (standing, center, in the white jacket, after her Capstone project presentation required for graduation) serves as Worship Pastor at Katy Community Fellowship in Katy, Texas. She is the first alum to finish the TBS Dual Degree Completion program, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS) and Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture (MABLC) in 2019.

Seminary is traditionally defined as “an institution for the training of candidates for the priesthood, ministry, or rabbinate,” on the assumption that seminary graduates ultimately aim to work in one of these occupations.

However, for many reasons, I do not fit into the typical “seminary student” mold and never seriously considered seminary education either attainable or even desirable.

Until, while cleaning out my garage one day and filled with doubts and fear of the future, I tossed up a feeble prayer from my discouraged heart. I asked the Lord to give me clear direction on how to take the next step forward, how to “level up” my active service for the King of Kings. An hour or so later, I came across a box in the back corner of my messy garage that contained a sealed

envelope with college transcripts for my incomplete undergraduate degree. I have no recollection of requesting them, and no idea how they came to be in that box in my garage, but I do know this: it was the first of many miracles that led me to and through my TBS journey.

Upon enrollment, I realized TBS was different. Rather than the expected “traditional” seminary student, I found *other moms and dads* raising young families while also serving in part-time and full-time ministry positions. I found *parents of teenagers and college-age students* working full-time jobs to support their families and, yet, who were also diligently studying God's Word in both non-degree and degree programs. I found *retired men and women* – doctors, educators, lawyers, engineers, and others – all bringing their intellect and foundational knowledge into our seminary educational experiences.

I found that we all had a deep desire to know God, to understand His Word, and share what we have learned with others. This aspect of TBS culture immediately attracted me and genuinely and authentically encouraged the world-changer in me.

God's Spirit is alive and active at TBS and the lives of many that TBS impacts. I have felt lovingly shoved toward bravery with the audacious belief that God truly is who He says He is, we are who He says we are, and can be what He says we can be.

In *The Soul of the American University: From Protestant Establishment to Established Nonbelief*, George M. Marsden highlights the classroom as one of the first vehicles Reformers like Luther, Melancthon, Zwingli, and Calvin used to share what they found. By digging deep into the Word of God, including in the original languages, reformers found and shared God's truths, and set about changing the world. TBS is similarly training up people from all walks of life and engaging the Word not only in the classroom, but right smack in the middle our homes, churches, communities, ministries, and workplaces.

“The world does not need sermons; it needs a message. You can go to seminary and learn how to preach sermons, but you will have to go to God to get messages.”

- Oswald J. Smith





The author (along with his youngest child, his wife, and some fellow TBS alumni and others) is a Master of Divinity graduate of TBS and lives and works abroad with his growing family.

I love Star Wars. From epic lightsaber battles to daring missions upon which hang the entire fate of the galaxy, I soak up every second of the saga. One of my favorite parts of Star Wars is the triumph of good over evil and the fight for what's right. I also enjoy the Jedi masters who, apprenticed by more experienced masters, always play a central role in the battles. Just as most jobs require a minimum of two years of job experience because everyone knows we learn best by "doing," Jedi apprentices receive on-the-job training under the watchful eye of the master.

TBS embraces this model completely by helping provide students with real-life experiences under the tutelage of trained masters rather than just fill heads with book learning.

I read many books about missions before moving my family overseas, and we seek to put into practice much of what we learned. However, practicing and working out these principles in real-life educational contexts has proven invaluable.

TBS encouraged ministry service by building internships, mission trips, and other assignments into classes so students could gain real-life experiences before ever donning a graduation cap.

My short-term overseas trips, summer internship with my local church, and class assignments (such as actually finding a person and discipling them) were key to helping prepare me to make disciples in the former reaches of the Ottoman empire in a 99.7% Muslim country.

The spiritual pushback of the enemy would be insurmountable without a cultivated depth of maturity gained through testing in real-life ministry way beyond theorizing. I continually draw on knowledge and insight gained during my Church History classes and Holy Land Study Tour, but my field experiences were just as instrumental in helping prepare me for learning a new language, sharing our faith, nurturing a thriving family, launching "Discovery Bible Studies" (DBS), and engaging in discipleship conversations.

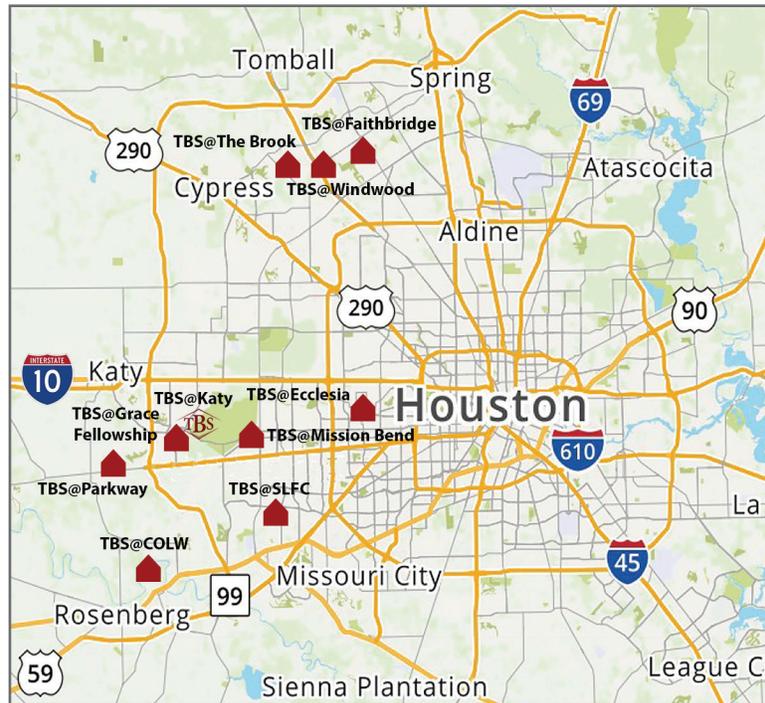
But even these would have been incomplete without our prayer training, including entering into spiritual warfare where we learned to wield weapons that mysteriously shift things in the spiritual realm and unlock doors for individuals and nations to step into abundant life. The prayer mindsets and tools I gained at TBS have served us well as our team contends daily for the souls of our nation.

Extraordinary prayer often precedes disciple-making movements. In 2019, we embarked on a campaign to raise up a network of 5,000 people willing to pray every day for our nation. Hundreds worldwide used our devotional prayer guide between Passion and Pentecost. We were blown away by the fruit of exponentially more hungry locals starting DBS groups to read with us and share within their spheres of influence. What a joy to see such inklings in our city and region!

While many TBS distinctives stand out, I remain extremely grateful for my apprenticeship. Learning by doing – the Jedi way with a biblical twist – greatly prepared me for launching into ministry in a nation that often feels like "a galaxy far, far away." 

INSTRUCTIONAL LOCATIONS

TBS currently offers course instruction at multiple locations in the Houston, Texas area, and is beta testing distance education for some courses. For detailed location maps, visit "Academics – Campus" at TheBibleSeminary.org.



TBS@Katy

TBS main campus
2655 South Mason Rd
Katy, TX 77450

TBS@Mission Bend

Mission Bend
2710 Highway 6
Houston, TX 77082

TBS@COLW

Church of Living Waters
4808 Airport Ave
Rosenberg, TX 77471

TBS@Parkway

Parkway Fellowship
27043 Farm to Market 1093
Richmond, TX 77406

TBS@Ecclesia

Ecclesia West
325 Piney Point Rd
Houston, TX 77024

TBS@SLFC

Sugar Land Family Church
1110 Burney Rd
Sugar Land, TX 77498

TBS@Faithbridge

Faithbridge
18000 Stuebner Airline Rd
Spring, TX 77379

TBS@The Brook

The Brook
11416 Spring Cypress Rd
Tomball, TX 77377

TBS@Grace Fellowship

Grace Fellowship
2655 South Mason Rd
Katy, TX 77450

TBS@Windwood

Windwood Presbyterian Church
10555 Spring Cypress Rd
Houston, TX 77070



Rick McCalip serves as TBS Vice-President of Finance and Administration



equipped to offer both imported and exported audio/video productions for live (synchronous) and recorded (asynchronous) Distance Education.

In addition to the main campus, TBS offers courses in multiple remote instructional locations, currently all within a 30-mile radius in the Houston, Texas region. TBS is also beta testing Distance Education with some online students.

Proposed expansion involves offering TBS courses and programs in partnership with regional hosts, primarily like-minded churches and ministries with:

- 1. Committed leadership**
- 2. Sufficient student interest**
- 3. Willingness to provide classroom space**

Once TBS achieves accreditation, expansion to cities and states across the U.S. as well as other regions is under consideration.

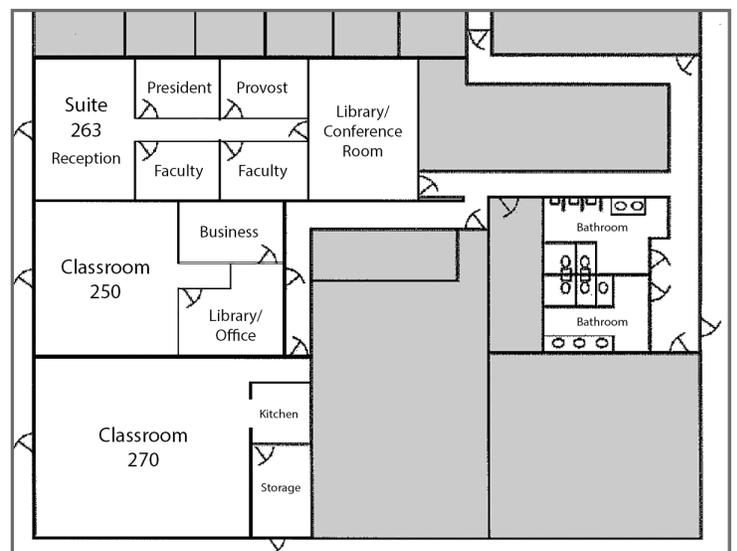
In order to maintain and grow the administrative home base necessary to support current and future operations, we routinely consider possible spaces available for lease or purchase that might offer significant improvements and justify the costs. We are committed to financial solvency and conservative expenditures while also providing high quality education and satisfying accreditation requirements.

(continued next page)

TBS established the current physical address at 2655 South Mason Road, Katy, TX 77450 in August 2010 in a 10' x 10' rented office space on the 30-acre Grace Fellowship Church campus. Bible Certificate classes that predated TBS formation had met in classrooms at the church since 2008, commemorated by a tree planted on the church campus on the date of the first class (see photo above).

In 2011, the seminary moved into our current main campus headquarters in office space leased from the adjacent 80-acre Great Southwest Equestrian Center. Leased space originally included Suite 263 (a former photography artist's studio) and Suite 270 (a former potter's studio). The first graduate degree courses were offered in Classroom 270 beginning in September 2012.

Current facilities (at right) leased through July 2020 include 3,735 sq. ft. of offices, classrooms, and libraries, with access to adjacent amenities that include bathrooms and parking. Classroom 250 (32 seats), Classroom 270 (40 seats), and the Library/Conference room (up to 18 seats) each include tables, chairs, Audio/Visual projection, and access to power and WiFi. Classroom 270 is



Current facilities at the main campus

For 41 years, Church of Living Waters (COLW) in Rosenberg, Texas has had a passion to help the body of Christ learn His word and put it into action. Our founding pastors Dr. Gene and Betty Jo Frank concurrently started a small Bible college in which many were equipped with the Word and, in turn, catapulted into serving and teaching others within the Richmond, Rosenberg, and Houston areas. COLW's passion for education eventually transitioned from a Bible college focus to building a strong PK-12 Christian School.

When COLW connected with TBS a few years ago, it reignited our desire to make strategic, comprehensive Bible education available to our community by simply adding TBS classes to our existing discipleship programs.

We began with *Bible Panorama* on Monday evenings in Fall 2018. What a tremendous blessing to sweep through the entire Bible and gain a strong framework of understanding. Most students were blown away with what they experienced as a true "incarnation" of the Word of God through the professors. Not only did they excel in knowledge, wisdom and understanding, but truly exhibited compassion while teaching. Every student left each night with a greater passion and hunger to

seek the Lord and allow Him to continue to teach them during the week.

We have continued offering classes each semester, and some of our initial students will complete the entire Bible Certificate program next year. Some plan to continue their studies at the main campus (TBS@Katy), and some are planning to experience TBS@Israel together in 2020.

A church that integrates TBS into their fabric does not simply bring in people with experience and wisdom. Rather, the church locks arms with a ministry desiring to help the global church rise up in all things. Yes, grow in the knowledge of the Bible, but most of all, raise up well-trained, loving, bold followers of Christ who offer themselves in ministry to a world in desperate need of Jesus.

We look forward to a continued partnership with TBS to offer Christian education to anyone who desires to learn the true value of God's Word and live it out through their own lives. 

Blake Quimby serves as Administrative Pastor at the Church of Living Waters and is a TBS student.



Ownership of a permanent administrative facility seems prudent in due time. We have drafted some conceptual designs and phased construction plans. Below is a summary of current facilities and potential options for growth and development.

Description	Current Facilities	New Leased Facilities	Phase I Campus	Expanded Campus (Phase I + Phase II)
Reception/Foyer	1	1	1	2
Offices	5	6	8	10
Workstations	2	4	6	8
Library Size (Capacity)	400 sq. ft. (6,000 volumes)	600 sq. ft. (10,000 volumes)	800 sq. ft. (20,000 volumes)	800 sq. ft. (20,000 volumes)
Conference (Seating)	In Library (18)	1 (24)	2 (30, 12)	2 (30, 12)
Student Commons	In Library	In Library	In Library	1
Classrooms (Seating)	2 (40,32)	2 (50 each)	2 (60 each)	2 (60 each)
Auditorium (Seating)	None	None	None	1 (100)
Work/Copy Room	In Reception	1	1	1
Kitchen/Coffee	1	1	1	2
Storage	1	1	1	2
Building Size	3,735 sq. ft.	7,500 sq. ft. minimum	10,000 sq. ft.	15,000 sq. ft.
Parking Spaces	100+	40 minimum	100	175
Total Land Area	NA	NA	5 acres	5 acres

An Expanded Campus with a multi-level auditorium could accommodate large lectures and community presentations. Student Commons could provide a comfortable lounge where students

and faculty could share and work separate from a quieter library space. This campus would likely not be enlarged in the future, instead focusing on satellite facilities supported by the resources of the home campus.

Prior to initiating any moving plans, we will complete detailed studies into capital expenses for lease build out or new construction, along with analysis of operating and utilities costs, staffing, and long-term maintenance of new facilities. Although none of these considerations may prove viable, they do provide a schematic for helping think through TBS needs and recognizing God's provision when it becomes available.

Thank you for your prayers for divine guidance on how, when, and where to move forward with future campus development for TBS and for the Kingdom!

TBS@FAITHBRIDGE

I was part-way through writing my first book when my pastor announced an information session about a seminary planning to expand to northwest Houston. Although my first thought was that only those with a clear call to vocational ministry attended seminary, I wanted to know more.

Would there be a program for a forty-something-year-old mom beginning to write and speak to women about faith, family, and finding purpose?

My answer came in the form of the Licensed Professional (LP) program.

A 9-course, 27-credit hour program, the LP program offers core, graduate-level classes for those who, like me, want to gain knowledge in Christ-centered leadership, Bible study methods, and theology, but may be pursuing opportunities outside of traditional church ministry. The program is also excellent for those already serving in ministry roles who are seeking to hone their skills as pastors, teachers, or leaders while diving deeply into God's Word. Because the classes also serve as the core of all of the graduate programs at TBS, students can apply the LP credits they earn toward future Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees should they decide to do so. This opportunity hosted by my own local

As a writer serving a Christian audience, I rely on the solid principles I have learned for studying the Bible and teaching it to others. I am also able to engage with others with similar passions serving elsewhere in our community and from various backgrounds.

The Licensed Professional program strives to combine coursework with life experiences, including the development of meaningful class projects that can be used in ministry.

church and offered to our regional community has proven to be a great fit.

One of my program highlights was conducting a workshop for over seventy parents of teenagers in my church's youth group based on my final project from my "Pastor-Leader" graduate course. Using leadership principles we studied from First and Second Kings and Titus, I helped parents develop "launch strategies" to better prepare their teens for transition into adulthood. The feedback and encouragement from my professor and classmates while developing

the workshop helped me better serve my church and community. 

Cassia Glass blogs about faith, family, and finding purpose on cassianglass.com.



TBS@SLFC

Sugar Land Family Church (SLFC) is blessed to partner with TBS as we teach, lead and empower Christian believers to fulfill the Great Commission.

For the past three years, TBS has come alongside SLFC by offering courses at our main campus helping train members in all 66 books of the Bible.



As faculty train students from our church, momentum builds as members become confident to serve in ministry. More people serving means more people reached – the Kingdom advanced in the earth!

The TBS mission to equip believers to serve in the local church is a gift that keeps on giving.

It's said that, "Being On-site Brings Insight." This summer we had the opportunity to prove this by joining TBS for our very first Holy Land pilgrimage. As we toured various sites, the teachings of Dr. Scott Stripling and Dr. Lynn Lewis illuminated the Word in a brand new way. What a treasure!

Recently, TBS adapted curriculum to small group video format for our church. We can't wait to see how this pilot program helps those who participate in our small groups this upcoming session.

We thank God for the deep well of knowledge and experience we have discovered through our relationship with TBS. Better Together! 

Nathan Keller serves as Pastor of Sugar Land Family Church in Sugar Land, Texas.

TBS instruction in all 66 books of the Bible includes opportunities to both study the TEXT and experience the CONTEXT of Scripture. Primarily through study tours and archaeology, TBS students read the Bible and have opportunities to engage in multi-dimensional, multi-sensory adventures seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and feeling the Bible in locations where many biblical events occurred.



Classroom instruction serves a vital role in modern education, but on-location apprenticeship with professionals has served as a primary method of education for millennia.

Studying in Israel is not required to complete a TBS program but it is highly recommended, and opportunities to do so with faculty, administration, and other professionals are provided annually to students, alumni, families, and friends.

In conjunction with my role as Director of Excavations at Tel Shiloh in association with the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR),

TBS essentially has a de facto campus in Israel with lodging, eating, instruction and office facilities at the Ritz Hotel in Jerusalem, private access to the adjacent Albright Institute, and a 15-acre ARCHAEOLOGICAL LABORATORY and office at Tel Shiloh.

Over 100 family members and friends have traveled to Israel on TBS trips since 2015. The 2019 season included 40 participants, including 10 Bible Certificate and 7 graduate students, touring Israel and/or excavating at Tel Shiloh. Five are members of the initial cohort of Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology. These students earned degree credit conducting fieldwork as part of a 150+ member worldwide team, including mentoring by renowned experts such as TBS staff Drs. Stripling and Petrovich, Dutch archaeological architect Dr. Leen Ritmeyer, conservator Dr. Orna Cohen, pottery restorationist Leah Tramer of Ariel University, and ceramics experts Dr. Liora Freud from Tel Aviv University and Peretz Reuven from Hebrew University.

TBS believes the Bible is the Word of God, teaches all 66 books, and provides unique opportunities to experience both the reality and the reliability of the biblical text, up close and personal. 

Dr. Scott Stripling serves as Provost of The Bible Seminary and as Director of Excavations at Tel Shiloh.



As a prosecuting attorney in my hometown and the father of an active three year old girl it would seem I have little time (or money) to pursue another degree.

Tommy Chamberlin, Attorney in Pikeville, Kentucky

fields have been challenging and engaging. Occasionally, I have had the opportunity to also attend a class at the main campus in Katy, and I attend classes at TBS@Israel annually as part of my degree program. I enjoy the comradery with everyone, especially my professors and fellow distance students, and find them to be willing partners in studies for exams and other projects.

I am currently a staff member on the Tel Shiloh excavation and direct traveling museum projects for the Associates of Biblical Research and other partners. I speak frequently at churches about Biblical archaeology and apologetics.

My “educational ministry” is directly impacted by my experiences as a TBS student. In pursuing a TBS degree, I am better and factually prepared to engage in opportunities that help demonstrate the historical reliability of the Bible.

I would encourage anyone interested in ministry, history, theology, or biblical archaeology to seek education through TBS. Perhaps, like me, you live in a rural area and considered such an education inaccessible, but with the wonders of modern technology, the best of educational opportunities can come right into your home. Hope to “see” you in class on my video screen!

TBS@ONLINE

I have had a passion for the archaeology of the lands of the Bible since my early teen years. Unfortunately, due to my remote location in the mountains of eastern Kentucky I was never able to pursue that passion beyond simply being a “fan.” The opportunity to pursue a formal education in Biblical archaeology was inaccessible without turning my families’ entire life upside down. All of that changed with The Bible Seminary.

I am now entering my third year as a distance student at TBS, and being a TBS student has opened a door I thought would only be available once I reach retirement age. I am pursuing a Masters in Biblical History and Archaeology one class at a time and at an expense that we can handle on a family budget.

Every week I log in and attend class online. My classes with professors who are experts in their



As a full-time bi-vocational pastor of a church in east Texas, I always had interest in biblical history and archaeology.

Brent Hoefling serves as Pastor of Wake Village Church of God of Prophecy in Wake Village, Texas, and works as Computer Support Specialist for Community Healthcare.

When I discovered the program at The Bible Seminary, especially since I knew Dr. Petrovich and Dr. Stripling, I only wished I could attend. After further research, when I found out that they were beta testing a virtual learning environment, I enrolled that fall. I am already a pastor, and so my degree program is not towards becoming a pastor, but it has helped me be a better pastor for my congregation.

Through a streaming video platform, I am able to interact with the class and professor during class. Since classes are also recorded, I can watch any classes I miss later. The Professors are very accommodating. I also interact with my professors to ask questions via email, and I know there will be a quick reply, and they may even set up a video session to chat if needed. In conjunction with doing some coursework in Israel and visiting the main campus occasionally, I love being an online student at TBS!



Our mission at Windwood Church is to glorify God and make disciples by sharing the truth of God's Word to connect our community to Christ and each other. As individuals at Windwood, we strive to live Christ-centered lives through 4Cs - Clarity of scripture, display of Christ-like Character, Commitment to His call and engagement in our Community. The mission of our Adult Discipleship Council (ADC) is to build up Christ-following disciples that seek to mature in their spiritual journey and reflect the light of Christ where they are called. ADC offers classes and gatherings in a variety of settings including Sunday school, small groups, affinity groups, and Wednesdays at Windwood.

We follow dinner with a menu of course options, including courses offered by The Bible Seminary



Our **Wednesdays at Windwood** program offers Bible Study for all ages. It helps us live out the 4Cs by providing clarity on the Scriptures and insight into God's character, committing to spiritual growth, and engaging in community group discussions in class. Through dinner before classes, we promote multi-generational engagement. We follow dinner with a menu of course options, including courses offered by The Bible Seminary, to help us fulfill the desire for our church and our community to know God more personally by learning more about Him and His Word more fully. 

Meredith Ridenour serves as Director of Community Development at Windwood Presbyterian Church.

TBS@YOUR LOCATION

Preparation and provision for you and your church

I graduated from The Bible Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree one year ago. As I've since sorted through my books, notes upon notes, essays, quizzes and tests and placed them neatly on my bookshelves, I am so thankful for what each represents in the larger scheme of my ministry.

Yet, those resources do not stay on my shelf; they are not just nostalgic memorabilia. I use them weekly in my role as Executive Pastor at The Waters Church. I regularly leaf through them looking for answers to challenges I face in ministry.

TBS prepared me through information and training. I learned and practiced skills to help support people in crisis, to lead meetings, to exegete scripture, to translate ancient biblical languages, to build a church budget, and I actively use these skills in my career.

TBS prepared me through the wisdom and insight of our professors. When I find myself confused, concerned, or downright frustrated, it seems I can always turn back to a moment in class in which a professor shared an actual ministry experience and infused it with grace, love, perspective, and hope.

They poured mentorship, investment, and wisdom into each student.

TBS provided an environment that deepened my personal faith. I learned how to sit at the Lord's feet first and foremost, how to balance confidence with humility, and how to lay aside my agenda and desires for the good of others. I learned that when there seems to be no



I learned to be a lifelong learner

answer, the Lord still guides and leads. I learned to say "Yes!" to the Holy Spirit in unfamiliar ways that went against my human nature. I learned that pursuing Jesus and church ministry are both journeys.

Honesty, I entered TBS passionate and called, but not quite refined or humble. The Lord used TBS to help equip me, and continues to use my seminary experience to teach me so much about myself, ministry, and His overwhelming goodness. 

Angela McClinton serves as Executive Pastor of The Waters Church in Katy, Texas. Her husband, Jordan, serves as Worship Pastor and is a TBS graduate student.

Yesterday I entered my art teacher's classroom. Creative touches were everywhere. The lights were dimmed, the scent of essential oils wafted through the air, and quiet music was playing. The students were peacefully engaged in a drawing project. I was struck with how beautifully the teacher had integrated everything in her environment to facilitate artistic expression. Mrs. Kari was the key.

As the Head of School at Mission Bend Christian Academy, my goal has been to address this training gap, so that our teachers are qualified to create a classroom culture, cultivate relationships, and craft lessons that are inherently Christlike. The Bible Seminary has been God's answer to our needs.

The Bible Seminary has even accommodated our needs by bringing courses to our campus and scheduling classes at times that allow the most staff participation! Every professor who has taught us has



During the past two years, 28 of our teachers, administrators, and board members have taken classes taught by outstanding professors who have grounded them in the knowledge and wisdom of the Bible.

Similarly, in a Christian school, the classroom teacher is the key to creating a Christ-centered classroom that facilitates students' spiritual growth as it develops their intellect. It doesn't happen by accident, and it can't happen if the teacher is not herself a committed believer, growing in knowledge of the Scriptures and modeling Christlike behavior and wisdom. Finding teachers who have a deep understanding of the Bible and the ability to integrate faith and learning in the classroom is difficult. The majority of Christian school teachers attended public schools and public colleges and lack training in these important skills.

been a respected biblical scholar and their insights have kept us thoroughly engaged and eager to learn more.

If you visit our classes at MBCA, you will see children eagerly soaking in Kingdom principles taught by teachers filled with God's Spirit and increasingly knowledgeable about the deep truths of the Bible. We are deeply thankful for The Bible Seminary for preparing and inspiring us in our high calling of Christian education! 



Dr. Wendy K. Lewis serves as Head of School at Mission Bend Christian Academy in Houston, Texas.

Accreditation: The Bible Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e-mail: info@tracs.org] having been awarded Candidate Status as a Category III institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 16, 2019. This status is effective for a period of up to five years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQMH).

Affiliation: TBS is an Affiliate institution of The Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). 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.



HOW MUCH?

Annual Budget

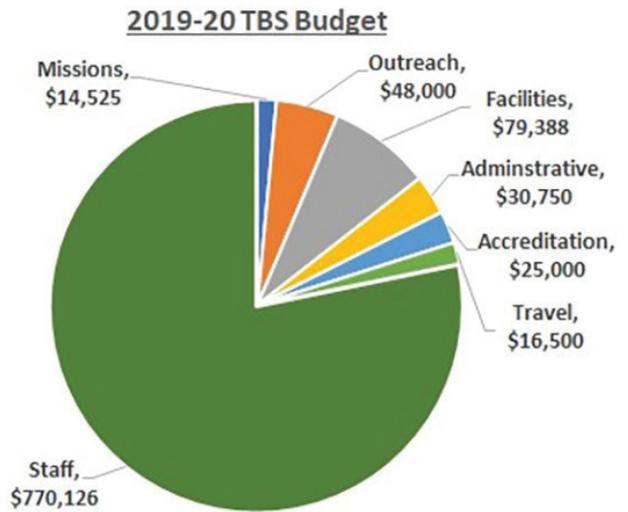
TBS has operated with an annual budget, engaged an outside auditor to conduct an annual audit, and filed a Form 990 with the IRS every year since inception.



Fiscal years run June 1 – May 31, audits are usually complete by September, and Form 990's are filed in January and publicly available through GuideStar.org with whom TBS holds a Gold Star Rating.

The 2019-20 budget totals \$984,289. Since TBS partners with other ministries to provide remote instructional locations, our model alleviates the more common need for higher facility expenditures. Thus, TBS spends most of our budget on people, assuring the well-being of our faculty and staff by providing competitive wages and a strong benefits program. Benefits include employer assisted health and dental benefits, a retirement (401k) plan, and paid life and disability insurance.

Facilities expenditures are our second largest expense, and include expenses for offices, classrooms, and libraries. Missions tithe is estimated at 10% of tuition and fee income. Outreach includes recruiting, advertising, fundraising, and student services. Accreditation expenses are higher than normal this year due to costs incurred in the accrediting process.



TBS accreditation depends on demonstrating annual net asset growth, generally meaning income must exceed expenses. Total donations in excess of \$850,000 during the 2019-20 fiscal year are needed to help demonstrate financial solvency.

As of August 31, 2019 – the end of the first quarter – TBS cash assets were as follows:

Operating Funds	\$ 84,492
Reserve Fund	\$ 201,231
Total Cash	\$ 285,723

Reserve Fund and Endowment

TBS is required to maintain a reserve fund minimum of 10% of the approved annual budget and aims to keep it at \$250,000 or above with the fund invested in an interest-bearing cash account. Expanding our reserve into an endowment fund is a high priority to help ensure financial stability.

Please consider investing in endowments in TBS leadership and faculty chairs, facilities, programs, projects or general endowment.

Donate

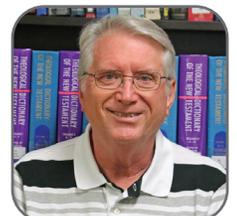
1. Visit TheBibleSeminary.org and click "Support"
2. Mail checks payable to "The Bible Seminary" to:

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