

# The Sentinel

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The official news publication of The Bible Seminary

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# The Sentinel

The official news publication of The Bible Seminary

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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 is an independent, non-denominational, 501(c)(3) institution of higher education incorporated in the state of Texas in 2010. The seminary offers an 8-course Bible Certificate program, and a 32-course, 96-hour Master of Divinity program for professional, vocational ministry training.

### 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 holidays are upon us. Feasts, celebrations, presents, family and friends, a new year with new opportunities.

Yet, many seem so frantic. Life is lived at such a fast pace that days, weeks, months and years pass by in a blur of acquaintances, places, meetings and events, and projects. The volume is loud, everyone and everything demands undivided attention, and we find ourselves constantly overworking and seeking ways to get ahead so we can, finally, rest, take a break, kick back and enjoy life a little.

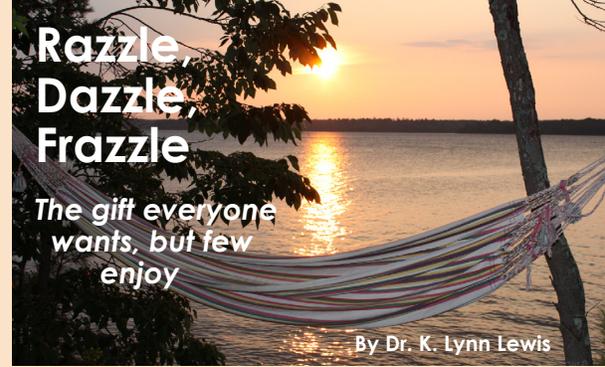
Shoppers dazzled by advertised prospects voluntarily leave their comfortable homes, delicious meals, and loved families and friends to dive headlong into fierce, crowded battles to get the earliest and cheapest gifts, or the latest last minute gifts, no matter the cost, their efforts can obtain.

The irony is that we have an opportunity given to us freely every week to exit the fray. For many, this is an unopened gift. For some, this thing is viewed as an anomaly, a strange concept thrust upon them by a mean God and a zealous people who have no understanding of reality. For others, it seems like a great idea, but completely unworkable in today's society.

## Razzle, Dazzle, Frazzle

The gift everyone  
wants, but few  
enjoy

By Dr. K. Lynn Lewis



## Do nothing *One day a week* for the glory of God



This gift is none other than the Sabbath. This weekly day, and other holy days (holidays), including some of which were to last as long as a week during which there was to be no regular work but joyous feasting and celebration and worship. Grilled meat, fresh bread and vegetables, abundant drink, rest and worship sounds

like a good thing, but so many are loath to consider this 4th commandment a gift, or fully embrace it as a routine practice in life.

I am amazed at how often God refers to the command and concept of Sabbath in Scripture. From the account of creation in Genesis to the promise of a new creation in Revelation, God reiterates His design and intent to provide rest, especially to those who are faithful.

Moses is instructed to direct the entire nation to celebrate the Sabbath every week, and is reminded that - even though the Lord created and owns the entire world - even He can take a break and rest. Prepare double on the sixth day, the Lord instructed, then shut everything down to rest yourselves and honor Me on the seventh day.

David recognized God's bountiful blessing in his life when he noted appreciatively, "He makes me lie down in green pastures" (Psalm 23). Remember that feeling, perhaps when you were a kid, of just laying in the grass and not having a single other care in the world?

My parents and grandparents used to make me take naps as a youngster, and I remember trying to find ways to fake naps, or avoid them altogether, as if that was a good thing. However, now that I am older and wiser, and like citizens of many cultures around the world, I believe everyone should take a break every day after lunch, and enjoy one day a week that is completely different, markedly unselfish, holy, and restful.

Evidence exists that those who take time to sharpen their axe can cut more wood in a given time span than those who insist on not stopping and, yet, continue to whack away with a duller and duller tool.

As one highly acclaimed author asserts in one of his management books - some of our best people may spend some of their best time staring at the wall ("Swim with the Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive", Harvey B. Mackay) - this Lesson 44 recognizes what God has instructed all along. Take a break, and good things can happen.

God believes in His design so much that He actually promises good things to those who open this weekly gift (keep this commandment), and warns of bad things for those who ignore it. We can fight it, but we are not a people of our own design, nor do we control most of what happens in the universe.

Our culture is full of much razzle, dazzle, and frazzle, but God wills that we fill our lives with meaningful work, and intentional rest that glorifies Him.

So, how about opening the gift of the Sabbath this year? Lay aside yourself, your plans, your regular work, and at least one day a week, do nothing.

Then, if anyone asks you what you are doing, say, "Nothing. Nothing today. Today is a day to honor the Lord. Today is a holy day, a day separate, given as a gift for me, for us, for everyone. Tomorrow, and the other five days of the week, we will work, hard, and bring glory to God in all that we do. But, today, why don't you join me in exiting the fray? Let's ignore the razzle and dazzle, avoid the frazzle, and do nothing, together, today, all day, once a week, every week all year, for the glory of God."

*We can fight it, but we are not a people of our own design, nor do we control most of what happens in the universe.*



By Matt Larsen

Even after twelve years, something was missing.

Grace Fellowship UMC, planted by pastor Jim Leggett in Katy, Texas in 1996, still seemed to be missing something – something crucial to the ongoing mission of the church, and something that could be built around once established.

“Bible Study Methods happened because Jim saw a hole in basic biblical discipleship at Grace Fellowship,” says Paul Helbig, professor at The Bible Seminary (TBS) and teacher of Bible Study Methods, “and our goal was to take it beyond Grace Fellowship.”

What started as one class in the spring of 2008 – Bible Study Methods – has grown into an eight-course program in which more than 800 students have enrolled in classes offered during ten semesters over the past five years. The first ten students to complete the program and earn their Bible Certificate graduated in December 2011.

The vision, however, remains the same. From the beginning Leggett and Helbig sought to establish a series of structured classes for hungry disciples to go deeper and lay leaders to gain biblically-based, Christ-centered training. The eight-course Bible Certificate program arose in response to the desire to offer foundational Christian discipleship to leaders and potential leaders in the local church and community.

### Capturing Hearts

The school's educational purpose is rooted in Nehemiah 8:8: “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.”

Teaching the Scriptures in a clear, understandable way is exactly what grabbed Lin Ermon, a member of both Grace Fellowship and the first Bible Certificate graduating class.

“When I was in the classes, I'd go home and wake my husband Jimmy up, ‘You won't believe what I found out today! Did you know this is in the Bible?’ she says. “That was a time of awakening and excitement that created more of a hunger. It was something we could share together. It made him come alive more, too.”

Randall Aikman, a fellow Grace Fellowship member and more recent graduate, found himself drawn by the two-way communication he started experiencing with God. His No. 1 reason for signing up for Bible Study Methods was that he wanted to hear from God.

“I was reading the Bible,” Aikman recalls. “And saying, ‘Wait a minute. He is talking to Abraham, He is talking to Moses, why can't He talk to Randall?’”

As it turns out, Aikman discovered that God has plenty to tell him. After studying the characteristics of people God frequently spoke to in the Bible and trying to exhibit those same character traits, Aikman found himself right in the midst of a dialogue with the Almighty.

“Once you start feeling like He is talking to you. Its kind of a big deal,” he says. “If that is what you're searching for, to actually hear from God, and you start hearing from him . . . Why would you stop? I've never done drugs, but I'd imagine that it is like getting in the Bible and hearing from



# NEW AWAKENING

*Bible Certificate classes changing lives, families, businesses, and communities*

Him, that it would just be addictive. I've got to go back. I've got to go back.”

### Transformation Close to Home

Like most addictive habits, getting in the Bible and hearing from God began to transform Aikman's life. Unlike most addictions, however, this one brought nothing but life.

“You want to talk about somebody who has changed?” Helbig asks rhetorically. “I don't think Randall knew much of anything when he came in, and he devours Scripture. He sends emails to Jim and I; he has biblical questions, ‘What exactly is going on here in Jeremiah 28? God spoke to Jeremiah, but He's not doing what He said'. We love that. Pastors aren't bothered by that.”

Aikman couldn't help but look at the Word of God differently. From there, he found himself thinking differently, working differently and leading his family differently.

“My son, Zac, when he was three, would come downstairs in his pajamas dragging his blanket,” Aikman says. “Dad is sitting there on the couch in the morning drinking his cup of coffee watching Sportscenter. Zac would come in and climb up on the couch and sit in my lap while I'm watching. I just looked around one day and thought, ‘You're teaching your son to worship this idol.’”

Aikman holds that watching Sportscenter is usually not inherently sinful activity. But he knows the religious manner in which he was teaching his son to watch it was nothing short of idolatry.



**The Aikmans (L-R):** Zac, Jessica, Randall, and Amy.

*What started as one class in the spring of 2008 – Bible Study Methods – has grown into an eight-course program in which more than 800 students have enrolled in classes offered during ten semesters over the past five years. The first ten students to complete the program and earn their Bible Certificate graduated in December 2011.*

“To your kids, you are God,” he says. “Because you are showing them this is right and this is wrong. They are learning from you all the time.”

Aikman identified his religious watching of Sportscenter long before he enrolled in Bible Study Methods. However, his increased dialoguing with God while in the classes fuels him to go one step further in teaching his children. He desires for them to not just remove idols, but to replace them. Modeling that concept, Aikman has essentially swapped his religious Sportscenter watching for daily Bible studies with his children Zac (now 13) and Jessica (12). The three have a planned passage in Scripture to discuss together, however, the fact that their Bible Study time often comes right after Aikman returns from his Bible class in the evening means only one thing.

“Dad, you are off topic. We're supposed to be studying in Ezekiel and you're over here in Luke doing something that y'all studied.” Whatever I learned in class that day is just buzzing in me,” Aikman says grinning. “So the best thing of the class for me is that I have the opportunity to share that.”

Ermon, too, found herself passing so much of what she was learning straight on to her children. Though she didn't set up an official time where she discussed the Word with her kids, she found it flowing out of her in everyday conversation.

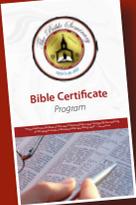
“I was able to really give them more of the Word, not just my advice, but lead them to the Word also,” she says. “As a parent, mother, it was more meat than I was used to having, and I was able to pass that on to the kids.”

*(continued on page 4)*

## Bible Certificate courses for the Spring 2013 semester include:

- **Bible Study Methods** - Tuesdays, starting Jan. 22, taught by Paul Helbig
- **Old Testament I** - Mondays, starting Jan. 28, taught by Israel Loken
- **New Testament I** - Thursdays, starting Jan. 24, taught by Blake Wilson

Register online at [TheBibleSeminary.org](http://TheBibleSeminary.org), or call 281-646-1109



**Awakening** (continued from page 3)

### Taking Food Further From Home

The passing on of truth didn't stop with her family either. Ermon found herself serving up "meat" to spiritually hungry people in just about every area of her life.

"The change is in me. I feel like God works through me more effectively," Ermon says. "The Word becomes something I need more daily. I am able then to affect whomever I come across. You don't have to use Bible training in a formal place of leadership. If I'm different, then everybody I come across will feel that, see that, be touched by that."



Lin Ermon

While she doesn't serve in a formal leadership position, Ermon does volunteer as a mentor for younger women through a ministry at Grace. Her study of God's Word has even found its way into her conversations with the women she mentors.

"I don't have to have a degree in Christian counseling," she says. "I can see that God has brought people to me that have deep needs, and I feel more equipped to offer them not just psychological stuff, but spiritual food in their crisis. Not just the counseling background, but add the Word, too."

Aikman also now has more than just his own son looking up to him. When Zac entered fourth grade, Aikman began to help teach his class of fourth grade boys on Sunday mornings. "His boys" as Aikman affectionately calls them, are now 8th graders. This act of service quickly turned into yet another motivating factor for going deeper with the Lord by way of Bible classes.

"I was allowed to serve in a capacity as a fourth grade teacher," he says. "And I realized I knew little of the Bible. I call myself a Christian. I'm theoretically an adult. I'm supposed to be leading them, and I don't know that much about it!"

That next year Aikman signed up for Bible Study Methods, and both he and "his boys" are reaping the benefit of his hunger and obedi-

ence. He cherishes the light bulb moments he witnesses most often on mission trips and service activities.

"You have great conversations," he says. "Sitting around at McDonalds talking about how it's the hottest summer on record ever in Texas, and this lady is without any kind of electricity and water at this trailer she is living at with 11 other people."

When it began to click for his 8th grade boys that they were able to retire to their Big Macs, nice showers and air conditioning until they went back to help next Saturday, Aikman knew his willingness to go deeper with God in order to take them deeper was worth it.

"I sell paper bags for a living," he says. "But my life is this. An opportunity to pour into these kids the things that I learn. I keep going back because quite honestly it's addictive. You get a little taste of something that is bigger than yourself like that, and you just want to keep coming back."

But even his job selling paper bags could not escape the effects of a life submitted to Jesus. In years when the economy has caused his company to struggle mightily, Aikman finds he is having the best years ever. When he ran into the company president in the elevator at a conference, the president recognized him from seeing his name towards the top of the yearly sales list. When he asked Aikman what he attributed his success to, Aikman replied that it was all God.

"I'm in a time in life where He has decided He just really wants to bless me, and you're the beneficiary of that," he remembers telling the president.

Aikman also tries to give God the glory via his written communication at work as well.

"Every year they have an evaluation of what you've done to improve the company's standing," he says. "They're looking for, 'I've taken this course . . . I've learned PowerPoint', but mine always has, 'I took New Testament II.' Then I share a little blurb about it like, 'This company is being blessed because I'm being faithful.'"

*"My life is this. An opportunity to pour into these kids the things that I learn. I keep going back because quite honestly it's addictive. You get a little taste of something that is bigger than yourself like that, and you just want to keep coming back."*

- Randall Aikman



Aikman knows that giving himself more fully to studying the Word of God by way of the Bible classes has truly impacted every area of his life.

Helbig holds that Ermon and Aikman's ability to influence people both outside and inside their own home increased immensely as a result of Bible classes offered by TheBibleSeminary, but he knows it didn't start there.

"Hat's off, Grace Fellowship is a biblical church because we have a pastor that teaches the Bible," he says.

Fruitful as it has been in the lives of its students and faculty, The Bible Seminary was built on a foundation of biblical teaching. The seminary's Bible Certificate classes seek to enhance what

congregants gain from sermons and elsewhere by providing guided opportunities for hungry disciples to dive deeper into the Word and, hopefully, become more faithful disciples who in turn reproduce disciples of their own.

"We want people to be able to teach the Bible in context in small groups and small group discipleship, so it has a rippling and multiplying effect," Helbig says.

Whether it is blessing their own children, a young mother, or their company, Aikman, Ermon and the more than 800 current or former students are watching the life God pours into them during their weekly evening classes flow right back out of them into others, just as God intended.

For more information about our Bible Certificate program, visit "Academics - Catalog - Bible Certificate" at [TheBibleSeminary.org](http://TheBibleSeminary.org), or contact Janice Havins-Hamric at 281-646-1109. Courses meet once a week and cost \$234 for adults and \$85 for students.

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## BROOKWOOD



Located in Brookshire, Texas, 40 miles west of downtown Houston, The Brookwood Community is a non-profit (501(c)3) residential facility and vocational program for adults with disabilities.

# STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

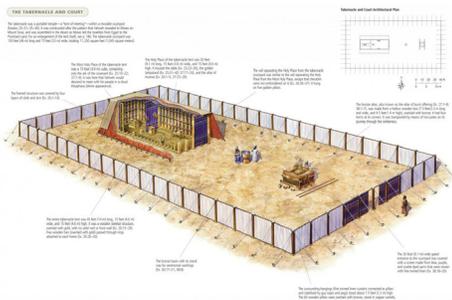
Excerpts from recent Master of Divinity student reports

**Eric Strong**, "We are at the end of the first semester of school and I have had a blast. Learning and growing is fun, but rather challenging. I have learned many exciting things, some I thought I knew already . . . We have covered an astonishing amount of the Bible in a few months – Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Esther and John, not to mention at least 6 other books supporting them . . . We have been taught by learned saints that are more concerned with us getting the Word than getting a good grade. Of course, I want both, but I am happy that the focus is on the Gospel and not just academics."

**Erica McLemore**, "I will have written 9 papers, done 34 assignments, and studied the books of Genesis, Exodus, Esther, Ruth, John, and Mark verse by verse; as well as, the book of Jonah in my Hebrew class. I will have co-taught a class on a chapter in Exodus, experienced my first scholarly lecture at Lanier Theological Library, and discussed everything from marriage, death, youth, the death penalty, and hate. But more than the studying, paper writing and test taking, I will have grown in my relationship with God and my relationships with my fellow students. I am learning that God has a bigger plan for seminary than just teaching me head knowledge about God and His Word. Rather, God is teaching me how to love my fellow students, strangers and God better. He is using seminary to draw me closer to Himself and to learn dependence on Him alone. He is refining and purifying me. I am so grateful for this experience!"



**Sara Kinsey**, "One of the coolest things we did during one of my Spiritual Formation classes; we measured out everything, foot by foot, as it would have been for the Tabernacle. We walked the sides, talked about the Brazen Altar, measured and placed each sacred thing that would have been there. I loved it! You can see below how the Tabernacle was set up - we got to imagine it in a large and empty field, next to our building. However, it wasn't empty at all, it was so alive in our imaginations. This has been one of the best times of my whole life . . . I can wholeheartedly say through Seminary God is shaping and molding me in ways I have never imagined."



(Continued on page 9)

## Watch and listen for The Bible Seminary



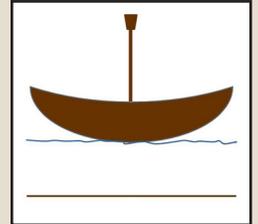
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Katy Magazine  
Katy Christian Magazine  
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YouTube (see our new video!)

## POCKET LESSON

### Remembering the 10 Commandments

Here is an easy way to remember Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:7-21, commonly called "The 10 Commandments".

1. First, draw a straight horizontal line (representing the **G**round), then a wavy horizontal line (representing the water **S**urface), and then a simple boat with a mast and a crow's nest.



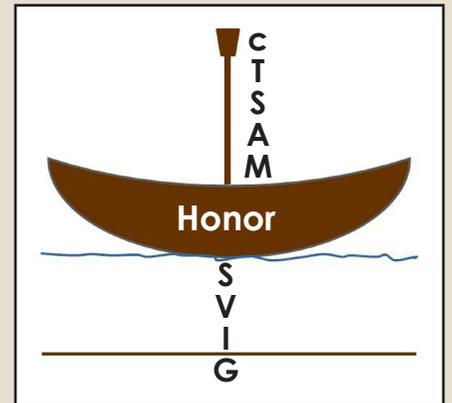
2. Next, starting at the bottom:

Add the letters  
"G, I, V, S"

Then label the boat  
"Honor"

Then write the letters  
"M, A, S, T"  
beside the mast

Then add a little  
"c" for the Crow's  
nest lookout.



3. Now, starting at the bottom, you can easily remember the 10 Commandments:

G = You shall have no other **G**ods besides me.  
I = No **I**dols  
V = Do not take the Lord's name in **V**ain  
S = Remember the **S**abbath and keep it holy  
Honor = **H**onor your father and mother  
M = No **M**urder  
A = No **A**dultery  
S = No **S**tealing  
T = No false **T**estimony  
c = No **C**oveting (looking around jealously...)

Practice drawing this outline, and you should be able to master remembering and quoting The 10 Commandments in less than 20 seconds.

Also, use this exercise as a devotion regularly to:

Contemplate → Evaluate → Take action, if necessary

After all, these are not rules through which we can earn salvation, but characteristics that define who we are. When we are truly converted through belief in Jesus Christ and sanctified through His Holy Spirit at work in us, these 10 commandments help serve as proofs of identification marking faithful followers of the Lord. They can also serve as check points for how consistently, or inconsistently, we are living obedient Christian lives that glorify, or dishonor, God.

*Christians should be ready to pray, preach, give, serve, or die at a moment's notice. This "Pocket Lesson" is provided to you from The Bible Seminary to help you be ready. For more information, visit [TheBibleSeminary.org](http://TheBibleSeminary.org). "Remembering The 10 Commandments" is copyright 1991 and used by permission from K. Lynn Lewis.*

# HUNTING FOR PEARLS

TBS Hebrew language professor has world-impacting career

By Matt Larsen

"God has held this plane for 30 minutes," Dr. Linda Pattillo remembers Jim Hiskey saying as they sat in a car watching through a chain link fence as his little prop plane's propeller began to spin. "You're time is up. Heaven or Hell. Take it or leave it."

Pattillo, currently serving as professor of Hebrew Language at The Bible Seminary (TBS), is sure that Hiskey – a professional golfer who happened to be speaking at a leadership conference she attended while a student at Louisiana State University (LSU) – had spent the last 45 minutes skillfully laying out the finer points of the Gospel. She just doesn't remember a word he said prior to his dramatic ending.

"So, yes, I remember a distinct moment when I accepted Christ," she notes with a smile. "Very distinct."

"Take care of her," Hiskey instructed Randy Gurie, the other LSU student who rode along to see Hiskey off at the airport. And Gurie did just that. Pattillo remembers the first words out of Randy's mouth once they began the drive back to campus, "You need to meet Phil Pattillo."

## Two Walls

"I met the Lord," Pattillo recalls, "and a week later I met my husband."

Sitting at a prayer breakfast a week after her conversion, Pattillo found herself understanding virtually nothing the group talked about until Phil Pattillo spoke from his seat just down the table and everyone went silent. In response, a student sitting across from Linda looked up and down the table and asked, "Did anyone understand that?"

"How stupid are these people? It is so clear," Linda remembers thinking before proceeding to interpret her future husband's statement.

"Finally, someone who speaks Pattillo-nese!" the student sitting across from Linda exclaimed. "We've been waiting for you."

"We married shortly thereafter, which I would not recommend to anybody," Pattillo

says with a grin. "We call it the wisest dumb thing we ever did, and the best mistake we ever made."

Neither remembers what drew them together or even discussions about whether they should get married. They just remember talking about when they wanted to marry.

*"If we want to know Him and we want to know His Word, we can't be swine that just eat and gobble up anything and everything. We have to be careful what we eat, how we eat. You then discover the sweet, beautiful little links from one piece of Scripture to another, and the pearls you gather you begin to string on a strand."*

During her season as a young Christian and young wife, Pattillo does remember looking enviously on other young women who had spiritual mothers to mentor them.

"How come I don't have that?" she remembers asking God while sitting to the right of her husband one day. "Gripe, gripe, gripe."

"Who's that to your left?" God replied.

The envy died that day.

"Phil has been my mentor," Pattillo says. "He is the most Christ-like person you will ever meet on the face of this earth, and I know him behind closed doors. He is exactly what you see in public. He has been strategic in my life, my best supporter. He has shown me, without words, just living it out in front of me, this is the Christian life. I've never met anyone, man or woman, like him."

Pattillo knows she was not always the biggest blessing during their first few years of marriage.

"I'm the bumper car of our marriage. He was the boundaries," she said. "God is my

wall of fire. Nehemiah talks about walls. Inside of that wall is my wall of earth, my husband. I spent the next 8-10 years trying to dig up that wall, chew up that wall and get it out of my way. Then I came to realize this wall of earth is a gift from God. This is here to protect me, to help me, to support me."

Many wives love to talk about their husband behind their back, and Pattillo does too. She simply chose a long time ago to stop trying to "chew up" her God-given wall of earth. Instead, she tries to build him up.

The 42 years of encouragement and love Phil has shown her make it easy to build up and talk about her wall of earth. She affectionately calls him her second favorite topic, after Jesus.

"I am firmly convinced to this day that he does not see me as I am," Pattillo says. "That he sees me as God sees me, and that he has seen me that way since the day we met."

Though the reasons for their attraction may have seemed nebulous when they tied the knot, 42 years later is a different story.

"Now what draws me to him?" Pattillo asks, grinning. "Name a quality of Christ."

## From Chicken Scratch to Pearls

While Phil worked on his Ph.D. in the mid-1970s a thought kept popping into his mind, "What am I going to do with Linda?"

The thought bewildered him mostly because he never recalls logically arriving at it. It seemed to simply slip into his mind whenever he least expected it.

Around the same time, Linda swung by the Oral Roberts University (ORU) admissions office with the goal of looking into their counseling program. She found herself leaving, however, with a brochure about their Master of Divinity program and a rapidly rising desire to become a seminary student.

She didn't last long after arriving home.

"This isn't good," she remembers telling her husband. "I want to go to seminary."

(continued)



Dr. Phillip Pattillo, recently retired from BP America, and Dr. Linda Pattillo, TBS Hebrew Language professor, have two children and several grandchildren.



Without hesitation, he looked up and said, "That's what I am going to do with Linda!"

After a remarkably supernatural chain of events involving a random run-in with none other than Jim Hiskey (whom she hasn't seen since) and an invitation to the home of the ORU President, Pattillo found herself accepted and enrolled in their M. Div. program the next fall.

The idea seemed great until the first time she opened the Hebrew Bible she was required to purchase.

"It looks like a chicken walked across the page when you first look at it," she says.

With painful memories of high school language courses creeping back into her mind, Pattillo walked up to her husband, plopped the Hebrew Bible in his lap and said, "You realize there's some fool out there who thinks he can teach me how to read this?"

When she graduated in 1983, ORU asked her to teach Hebrew.

"The first year they hired me to teach Hebrew," she remembers, "Phil brought the Bible to me, opened it up, put it on my desk, and said, 'You are now that fool.'"

Along the way, Pattillo discovered she had a passion for unearthing the treasure she kept finding buried in the Hebrew Scriptures.

"He won't cast His pearls before swine that will just eat anything," she says. "If we want to know Him and we want to know His Word, we can't be swine that just eat and gobble up anything and everything. We have to be careful what we eat, how we eat. You then discover the sweet, beautiful little links from one piece of Scripture to another, and the pearls you gather you begin to string on a strand."

### Plenty of Pearls to Go Around

The more pearls Pattillo gathered, the more she developed a passion for giving those pearls away. Over the past 30 years, this habit led her to seven different countries across four different continents to teach biblical studies, pastoral development and spiritual formation. The Pattillos have essentially become the biblical studies department for an organization in Argentina where Linda has gone nearly every year since 1989, and sometimes as many as three times a year.

In addition to the Holy Spirit, a statistic re-motivates Pattillo any time she finds herself growing a bit weary of travel or less-than-luxurious accommodations. If someone took all the Christians in the world and reduced them to 10, eight of them would live outside the United States. However, if someone took all the trained Christian leaders in the world (Bible school training and up) and reduced them to 10, nine would live in the United States.

"That means 90 percent of the trained leadership in the world is fighting over 20 percent of the Christians in the world," she says. "We are not doing our job. We, in the States, who have the resources for the education and the resources to go, aren't going."

"I could take you to places where people live a block off the main street that have no clothes, literally no clothes," she says. "They live naked, and they live in trees."

While in a region hostile to Christianity, Pattillo met a young man about age 15 at a Bible school. After giving his life to Jesus, this young man told his family of his decision to follow Jesus. In response, they told him that they would kill him if he refused to reject Christ. When he refused, his uncle took him out into the jungle, hung him from a tree and walked off. After he left, two little boys walked up.

"These two little boys keep appearing in this country," Pattillo says, noting that she has heard story after story where seemingly these same two boys manage to show up at just the right moment. "When you talk to Christians, two little boys always show up at critical times. And in his case, these two little boys came to where he was in the tree, saw him, cut him down and told him where to go."

Following the boys' directions, the young man walked out of the jungle, into a nearby city, found the driveway with the



Dr. Pattillo has focused her efforts on educating leaders around the globe, spending an average of four months per year overseas.

crosses just like they instructed and walked into a Bible school.

These are some of the students Pattillo most loves to teach. She focuses her overseas efforts on equipping local teachers and future teachers to reach their own nations.

"These people literally give their lives for what they believe," Pattillo says. "Why can we not go and teach, and support, and care for them, encourage them?"

And so she does. In fact, by helping students at The Bible Seminary learn to read and understand what might appear to be "chicken scratch", she works to multiply her efforts by training new generations of students to take off and deliver even more pearls across America and around the world.



Close-up of a 300 year-old scroll of a portion of Genesis written in black ink on red calfskin. Notice the horizontal and vertical score marks cut into the leather and used as guide lines. Hebrew language is read from right to left.

## A Hebrew Mini-Lesson

Remember as a child when your mom yelled up the stairs asking whether you had finished cleaning your room yet? She was asking a good Hebrew question.

Biblical Hebrew has no past, present or future tense. The Hebrew people thought simply in terms of whether a task was done or not, and their verb forms reflect that.

The perfect verb form is a commonly used verb form and signifies that the action is complete. Imperfect, another commonly used form, signifies that the action being described is incomplete. Whether that action is incomplete because it hasn't started or simply because it is in progress is a distinction we English speakers make. A Hebrew mother cares only whether the room is clean or not, whether the job is done, not that you're almost done or even when you completed the job. She only wants to know if it is finished.

Therefore, when translating a Hebrew imperfect verb into English for a Western, Greek-shaped mind, the action is understood as either presently occurring but not yet complete, or that the action has yet to take place but will occur in the future. Thus, the imperfect form translates into English as either the present or future tense even though the Hebrew verbs carry no sense of time. Meanwhile, the Hebrew perfect form translates as English past tense to signify that the action is complete, done, finished.

Yet, God himself uses the perfect verb form to describe the dependability of His actions promised by His words that we have still to see occur. Our first tendency is to assume someone, either the translator or God, made a mistake. Surely God didn't mean to imply His prophetic words in Isaiah

had already completed their purpose. "But it accomplished that which I desired and succeed for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11b, translating the four perfect verbs as completed action. If you read a modern translation however, it more than likely translates those four perfect verbs as incomplete actions.)

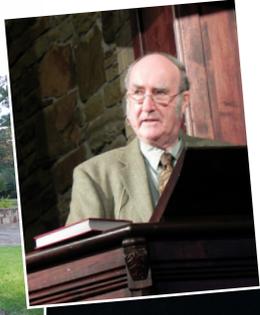
On the contrary, God did mean that His words and actions are to be recognized as complete. He is telling His followers He is trustworthy for His actions and words are sure. While man may fall short of fulfilling his promises, God's people should count God's promises as complete. To a God who lives outside of time, they were complete when He spoke them.

Carrying this idea of the Hebrew verb as communicating action complete or incomplete forward lends weight to our understanding of the record of God's acts in the New Testament. Consider that Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20) and crucified according to the plan and foreknowledge of God (Acts 2:23), and that we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Thus, what better phrase for the King of the Jews to declare from the cross than, "It is finished."

# FALL SEMESTER 2012



**A Wedding** - In a ceremony that sought to glorify and point others toward their Heavenly Bridegroom, two of our own took vows Saturday Oct. 13 and left the ceremony as Mr. and Mrs. Matt and Abbey Larsen. Abbey serves as the Administrative Coordinator for the seminary while Matt works as the Communications Director and is an M. Div. student at TBS.



**A Seminar** - Several M. Div. students, family, and friends attended Dr. Alan Millard's seminar, "Did Moses know the Alphabet and was there Writing in Ancient Israel?" hosted by Lanier Theological Library, located in northeast Houston, Texas.



**A Seder Meal** - M. Div. student Esmeralda Heer modeled a Seder meal (Jewish Passover) for the students for her final Exodus project in Spiritual Formation and Ministry I, except we used grape juice instead of wine.



**A Prayer** - A number of administrators, donors, faculty, family, friends, and students, joined together in prayer the morning of September 4, 2012, prior to opening the classroom to our first M. Div. class ever at The Bible Seminary. Hundreds have continued to pray for the facilities and finances, people and programs, of the seminary, and God has blessed us greatly.



**A Graduate** - Among the more than 100 students enrolled in one of three Bible Certificate classes offered during the Fall 2012 semester, we congratulate Mrs. Cheryl Poese (shown at right) for completing the 8-course program and receiving her Bible Certificate in December 2012.



**A Baby** - M. Div. student Uche Emenike and his wife, Chikamso, had a baby on the last day of Fall semester! Danielle was born at 12:40 a.m., then Uche drove to class from the hospital to present his final project, a sermon entitled "Saved to Serve" based on Exodus 8:1, during which he noted that God has delivered His people for a purpose, and we are called to be faithful - no matter the circumstances.

**A Tabernacle** - Some M. Div. students marked off the dimensions of the Hebrew's wilderness tabernacle in a nearby field during one outdoor excursion as part of class.



*"We would like students at The Bible Seminary to not only read and study the Bible, but also see, hear, smell, taste, and feel the Bible. This is experiential learning - immersion in the WORD." - Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, Provost*

**Israel Rivera,** "I am learning a lot more about the Word of God than I would have imagined. Funny thing is, you go to church for years on end and think you know everything about Christianity, or at least much of it, and then you crack open your Bible and realize you know nothing! For example, we are walking through Exodus seeking and understanding the character of God. We are learning about the tabernacle and the specific ways in which it was to be built, decorated, and used. From the curtains, to the bronze altar, to the altar of incense, and various offerings given to God, you will find that God is most certainly very specific in the way He commands His people to set up shop and worship Him. He is a meticulous God and honestly cares much for the smallest of details."



**Esmeralda Heer** is a native, Spanish-speaking Columbian. In addition to taking a full-time load at the seminary - including Hebrew, she takes twice weekly two-hour long English lessons from a local community teacher. "Writing is my weakness . . . In one of the sessions we talked about various aspects of life and also my teacher checked some of my papers. I read and she corrects my pronunciation. Two classes ago, she told me that she is learning a lot through my papers about the God in the Bible. She even listens to programs where pastors and/or teachers are talking and brings the topics up in class to discuss it (covenant, love, the roll of woman in society, marriage, death). She knows about God, but I don't think she has a relationship with Him. In one of our conversations, I told her to read the book of Judges (she has a King James Bible version) to see how we are not so far from the apostasy and anarchy revealed in the time of Judges. Somehow, I saw her interest to have another version of the Bible. I have given her an ESV study Bible for Christmas. She has not opened the present yet, but she said, 'I know that what you have given me is what I need'. I am looking forward to my English classes because I know God is working through my weakness for His glory."



**Kevin Penner,** "What I'm learning about leadership is that it requires much, and often what it requires is a thankless position. It seems

that a good leader first and foremost follows God, especially when God is leading in an unpopular direction. The good leader then relates where his people are going, and how they are going to get there. Then he delegates to trusted men certain responsibilities he is unfit or unable to accomplish, while taking up

the least and lowliest jobs for himself. All the while he also carries the responsibility for the people he is leading. This form of leadership seems to work in every situation in life, from pastor, to father, to boss."

**Karen Coolidge,** "We are in the process of presenting our projects to the class. I prepared a 12-minute documentary on the history of the Radical Praise Movement, the youth worship ministry at Grace Fellowship. Today, we enjoyed a Seder Meal, learning all about the tradition, and how each aspect of the meal relates to God's deliverance and His people and points toward the coming of Jesus Christ. Another student prepared a skit on the grumbling Israelites, and another prepared a book on how to worship through the Tabernacle. And to top things off today, one very creative student prepared a contemplative prayer slideshow of *An Exodus Journey*, prompting us all to examine our hearts prayerfully,



remembering our salvation, freedom through Christ, and our desires to walk out our salvation with fear and trembling."

**Leo Butler,** "One eye opening experience from (Exodus) was when Moses went to meet God and spent that time receiving the commandments for the people, only to return and find them in an all-out party. I can only imagine his surprise, disappointment, anger, frustration and fear. We so often seek God for his best, only to have very short memories of the awesome things He has accomplished just months ago. In this state we dishonor God, often times, by being impatient, disobedient and unreasonably demanding. Selfishness often shortens our ability to see past the moment of temptation. This leaves us open to considering pleasing ourselves and not the God who saved us."

**Rowena Marable,** "Our professor frequently demonstrates the passages of the Word so that we can taste, smell, feel and experience what's going on in Scripture. I absolutely love the experiential learning; it adds another dimension to learning."



**Matt Larsen,** "John 15-17 consists of the final words Jesus spoke to His disciples before going to the cross, and of all the things Jesus could have been concerned about during the hours before His death, He was concerned that His disciples experience His

*"Funny thing is, you go to church for years on end and think you know everything about Christianity, or at least much of it, and then you crack open your Bible and realize you know nothing!" - Israel Rivera*

joy made full in their lives . . . God is also using articles by Ralph D. Winter in our *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* book to re-stir my heart for bringing the name of Jesus to people around the world, particularly those 'unreached' peoples of the world who have never even met a Christian, let alone heard about Christ. My desire to give my life for the sake of others knowing Jesus is anything but decreasing as I allow my heart to engage with the Bible and articles about missions."

**Brenda Martin,** "In Hebrew class today, Dr. Pattillo began class with a question: 'Would Paul say he preferred 3 years in the wilderness with Jesus, or all his years doing ministry?' She went on to speak to those 3 years in the wilderness with Jesus and compared it to our time as M.Div. students. Three years to know Him, to learn from Him, and to become more like Him, compared to all the years that we will be in ministry. Yes, we want to minister, but let Him teach you and mold you. These three years are you and Him. She ended exhorting us — and in the midst of her words, the whole class disappeared and it was if God and I were alone in the class. The question hung in the air and landed on my heart with a thud, 'What do You (God) want to teach me that I need to know?' Thank you God that You are speaking to me on the third row, first seat, of my Hebrew class through my instructor. You truly are amazing and faithful. I love You."

**Uche Emenike,** "The ministrations I give in church since I took over from Dr. Joshua Uhiara, who went back to Nigeria, has greatly improved. I have worked into my sermons a lot of the things that I learned in class, and it is really so refreshing to minister with confidence (of course, depending on the Holy Spirit). Also, my perspectives on some things and people have changed. From my Missions I class, I have come to see people the way God wants me to see them — people that He loves and wants to save at all cost. They are people I must look for ways to identify with in order to reach them, and not separate from them. This has been a mighty deliverance."

To read more, visit "Student Perspectives" under "News" at [TheBibleSeminary.org](http://TheBibleSeminary.org).

# FROM THE BOARD

By Dan Dunham, Chair

The Bible Seminary Board of Trustees

The 2012 year has been a remarkable year for The Bible Seminary. President Leggett and Provost Lewis have provided outstanding leadership during a year of rapid expansion. Coming into the year, there were no students, no course curriculum and TBS was operating out of a spare office in the Mansion. Now twelve courageous and faithful students are receiving seminary training in a dedicated facility operated by TBS.

Thinking just a few years further back, I clearly recollect six of your brethren praying around a box of doughnuts on a cold Saturday morning, asking God to lead and guide them towards His vision of a seminary. The rate of progress is beyond remarkable, it is truly miraculous and only God can be credited with such an achievement. Also,

God has used so many people to accomplish His plan including each of you receiving this *Sentinel*. Our Board, administration and faculty are focused on ensuring that the students receive superior Bible-based training and are adequately equipped to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost and unreached. Each of you has supported this effort with your prayers and finances. Collectively, we have reached and surpassed amazing milestones. But, there is always a "but".

We are still very much an infant in the corporate sense. The gracious outpouring from Grace Fellowship and our extended supporters has allowed for us to get this far and will continue to sustain TBS for a while into the future, but a time is coming when fresh funding will be required. Even well-established seminaries require financial support above tuition revenue to cover their expenses. We are reaching out to donors and foundations to attract additional funding, but we are new and those individuals and entities are cautious with their giving. It is a catch-22 in many cases; we are new and need funding to get well-established and they are looking for well-established enterprises to fund. But, there is always a "but".

God is greater than any problem. There is a need for concern, but not for fear. I believe that God has us right where He wants us; fully dependent on Him. So, how can you help? The following lists some practical ways that each of you can continue to support your seminary. All are important, but I have prioritized them for the long-term success of The Bible Seminary.

*I clearly recollect six of your brethren praying around a box of doughnuts on a cold Saturday morning, asking God to lead and guide them towards His vision of a seminary.*



The Dunhams (L-R): Babette, Krista, Karley, Amanda (Frevert), and Dan

- 1. Prayer.** God desires our heart-felt prayers. He wants to bless The Bible Seminary and answer our calls. Please take a moment to thank Him for all His blessings up to now and ask Him to continue to pour His glory onto The Bible Seminary.
- 2. Contacts.** We are seeking individuals and institutions that will catch what God is doing through The Bible Seminary and consider supporting us as we continue to grow. Lynn loves to meet with prospective donors. It is a wonderful story to tell with a solid plan to back it up!
- 3. Students.** Spread the word wherever you can. It is an awesome opportunity to get the highest level of quality training while living at, or near home. Opportunities range from the full-time Master of Divinity program to evening Bible Institute classes. Maybe you need to apply!
- 4. Participants.** Right now we are seeking nominations for the Board of Directors. Each year we renew our membership which brings in fresh talent and allows for others to rest. We have a limited number of openings so not all nominees will be selected, but it is great to maintain a list for future consideration. If you know of someone that might like to join our Board of Directors, please contact me by the end of December through TBS and I will provide a nominating form.
- 5. Funds.** If you feel called to contribute, please visit the TBS web page for the updated list of giving opportunities and various methods of payment. You have already done so much and we are beyond appreciative. But, if you feel about TBS like I do, then it is the best investment that we make each month. Those dollars are invested in eternal stock and the dividends are paid in the form of saved souls.

We have a fruitful past, an exciting present, and a promising future, and we are so glad that you are sharing this journey!

**If you are not already doing so, please consider financially supporting The Bible Seminary as a means of:**

- **Worshiping God** through a free will offering (Exodus 35:29).
- **Investing in something eternal** that will outlast your life (1 Peter 1:24-25).
- **Helping fulfill the Great Commission** to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).
- **Helping bring revival** to America (Psalm 85:6).
- **Helping train** future leaders, pastors, church planters, and missionaries (2 Timothy 2:2).
- **Helping promote the Bible** as fully true in the American church (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- **Helping fulfill a vision** that God has put in our hearts (Nehemiah 8:8).



## Meet our Board of Directors

By Dr. Jim Leggett, *President*



I want to highlight the Seminary's Board of Directors for you. This is an amazing group of men and women who are passionate about the Lord and the cause of training students in all 66 books of the Bible in preparation for ministry.

At our last Board meeting, we took the time to go around the table and share about a moment from our past when we have cried out to God and saw Him answer. The testimonies were amazing, and I remember thinking, "There could be no better Board for The Bible Seminary." These are people of great faith, and I would like for you to meet them:



**Dan Dunham**, *Chair*  
Engineer with Chevron. Amazing project manager who took my invitation 4 years ago to form a Task Force to create Bylaws for the seminary. God's leader. Man of great faith.



**Gene Chambers**  
Co-owner of Tristar Electronics. "Master of the obvious." Strategic thinker. Practical. Intuitive. Christ-follower.



**Doug Johnson**, *Vice-Chair*  
Comptroller for Phillips66. Brilliant financial thinker and man of practical faith. Also helped start the original task force.



**William Chumchal**  
Project Manager with Mustang who just returned from living in England. Leads our Campus Planning Team. On the original start-up team. Man of God.



**Mitch Pearson**, *Treas./Sec.*  
Executive Pastor with decades of experience in commercial real estate. Big picture thinker. Man of integrity. Practical. Full of faith.



**David Muir**  
Engineer with BP. Author of "Life is Simple... It's Just Not Easy." Project manager. Makes amazing graphs! Godly husband and father.



**Heidi Arneson**, *Chair-Elect*  
Executive for Indofin Group with an amazing financial mind and spiritual heart. Prayer warrior. In the first graduating class of the Bible Certificate program.



**Jim O'Leary**  
Engineer. Bible student. High standards of excellence with details. Leads our Bible Institute Team.



**Dr. Joel Anthis**  
ENT Doctor and former missionary. Well respected in the Katy community. Member of Kingsland Baptist Church. Lots of heart. Spirit-filled.



**Dr. Charles Wisdom**  
Retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Katy. Considered to be the elder (mentor) of all the pastors in Katy. Highly respected in our community. Wise.



**Bob Button**  
President of Glori Holdings. Leader. Practical. Full of faith. Business smart. Married to a saxophone player.

The Bible Seminary is in good hands who place us in His Hands,

*Dr. Jim Leggett, President of The Bible Seminary, is the founding pastor of Grace Fellowship UMC in Katy, Texas.*

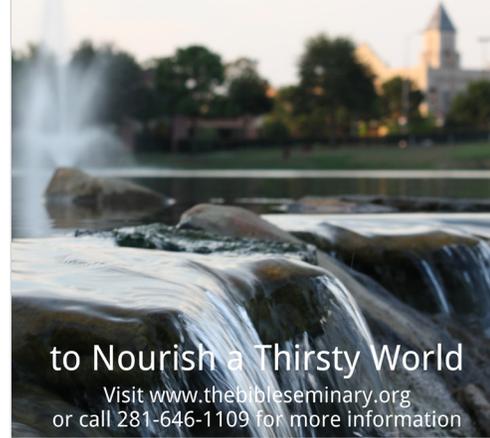
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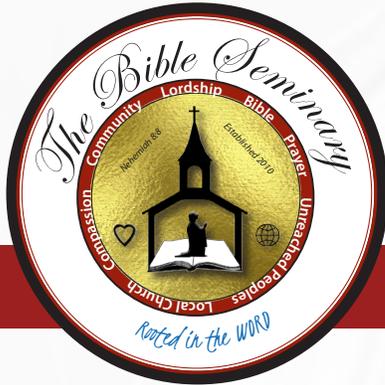
June 2012-May 2013 Budget  
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Received  
\$141,702

Still Needed  
\$550,027



Contact  
**Rick McCallip**,  
Vice-President  
of Finance and  
Administration,  
at 281-646-1109



"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

## Our Core Values



**Lordship** – Because He is Lord (Philippians 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 Corinthians 10:31).



**Bible** – Because the Bible is the fully true Word of God (2 Timothy 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 (i.e. Church History will begin with the Book of Acts and keep going; Pastoral Leadership will come through the study of the Pastoral Epistles; Systematic Theology will flow out of the study of the Pauline Epistles)



**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 including classes on prayer, a school of prayer, prayer faculty, and multiple prayer opportunities in the life of the seminary.



**Unreached Peoples** – Because the return of Christ awaits the evangelization of all people groups (Matthew 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 (Matthew 28:18-20) by seeking to reach millions of souls for Jesus Christ.



**Local Church** – Because the local church is God's plan (Matthew 16:18), we will be based at a local church and have a symbiotic relationship of service and training including internships, volunteerism, and prayer/worship opportunities.



**Community** – Because we were created for community (Genesis 1:26; Romans 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 (Matthew 25:31-46), we will strive to motivate, equip, and train students to minister to "the least of these" as a lifestyle.