

THE OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE SEMINARY

# THE SENTINEL



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## The Sentinel

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## ABOUT US

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. Programs include Bible Certificate, Licensed Professional, Dual Degree Completion, Master of Arts, and Master of Divinity. TBS 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.

## 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 (INQAAHE).

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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.

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## ABOUT THE COVER

Photo by Kimberly Coolidge, youngest daughter of TBS alum Karen Coolidge (shown in photo and author of the article that begins on page 16, "Life in Minor Key").



# TBS ACHIEVES CANDIDATE STATUS

The Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) Accrediting Commission notified TBS representatives appearing before the commissioner's Spring Meeting in Garden Grove, California on April 16, 2019 that TBS had successfully achieved CANDIDATE status!

The notification capped an intensive 15-month process following the achievement of APPLICANT status in January 2018.


The official journey toward TRACS accreditation began in the fall of 2013 and has progressed through several major stages to reach this significant milestone. The latest phase included a sweeping review and revision of TBS educational programs that resulted in four new majors, reduction in hours to earn a Master of Divinity, and other changes; an intensive six month self-study that included evaluation of every official TBS person, policy, procedure, program, and publication; a site visit by other

educational professionals from across the country that included a review of the more than 200 documents related to the self-study; and the appearance of TBS leaders before the TRACS Commissioners. This means that TBS is approved to begin working toward accredited status.

The early Tuesday afternoon activities included a brief time of preparation outside the meeting room with TRACS staff, an invitation to enter the commission meeting room with TBS leaders sitting at a table facing a U-shaped configuration of tables hosting the 22 commissioners, an introduction of TBS team leaders present (*see photo below*), and then an opportunity for the commissioners to comment or ask questions. The two TRACS commissioners assigned to review the hundreds of TBS documents and TRACS Site Team Visit Report and responses offered three compliments that indicated that they were quite impressed with TBS, and only three minor questions essentially confirming that

TBS leaders were following up on promised activities over the last few months. No other commissioners offered comments or questions. TBS leaders were then asked to exit the room while the commissioners voted and were brought back in a few minutes later for the announcement of approval of Candidacy status. These actions culminating the last 15 months lasted approximately 30 minutes.

Next steps include conducting another self-study, another site team visit, site team visit reports and responses, and finally an appearance seeking Accreditation from the TRACS Commission at their meeting in Orlando, Florida either in April 2020 or October 2020.

We are grateful for everyone from administration, as well as board, donors, faculty, staff, students, and volunteers who have helped TBS reach this point, and rejoice together that this exciting achievement of Candidacy puts TBS much closer to finally attaining Accredited status. 



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TBS Representatives who attended the April 16, 2019 TRACS Commission Meeting in Garden Grove, California. (L-R, front): Dr. Scott Stripling, Provost; Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, President; Mrs. Heidi Arneson, Board Chair; and Mr. Rick McCallip, Vice-President of Finance and Administration.

Photo by Elaine McCallip

TBS  
**welcome** »»»

# NEW STAFF MEMBERS



## YAMILE SOTO, BUSINESS MANAGER

Yami has a professional background working as Senior Financial Accountant at Opportune LLC 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 three children – Jesus (23), Alyette (17) and Dalilah (9) – and is married to Omar Soto. Her multi-cultural background includes a Hispanic mother, Lebanese grandmother and Palestinian Christian grandfather (born in Bethlehem, Israel) who migrated to Cuba during World War II and then to Miami. She speaks English and Spanish fluently.

- » Bachelor of Accounting (2008), Florida Gulf Coast University
- » Master of Accounting (2015), Liberty University



## CAROUSEL PIETERSE, OFFICE MANAGER/REGISTRAR

Carousel is a native of South Africa and has served as Chief of Customer Relations and Billing for Wise Information Technology (2018-19), volunteer Program Director for Katy Cares (2016-present), CEO and Managing Director of Heartware Life Skills Upgrade for Teens, CEO and 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). In addition to her Bachelor's degree, she completed the Executive Leadership Facilitator's Development Course at the University of the Orange Free State, completed the National Aids/HIV Organizational Program Development at the University of the Orange Free State, and completed the Officer's Development Course at the South African Police Service Academy. Carousel and her husband, Dawid, have two children: Davied (20) and Eanthe (16). She speaks Afrikaans, English, and understands Dutch.

- » Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, University of Stellenbosch in the Republic of South Africa



## ABIGAIL LEAVITT, STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

A native of northwestern Idaho and 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 earned a General Bible Certificate from Frontier School of the Bible in 2017, worked on her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Pikeville, and is currently enrolled in the Dual Degree Completion program and pursuing a Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology at TBS.

- » General Bible Certificate (2017), Frontier School of the Bible
- » Bachelor of Arts (*in process*), University of Pikeville and The Bible Seminary
- » Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (*in process*), The Bible Seminary



TBS  
*welcome* »»

# NEW BOARD MEMBERS



## DR. HARRY CHAPMAN

Dr. Harry Chapman, Ph.D., serves as CEO of Chapman Schewe, a National company that he founded in 1992 and is a Managing Director for Higginbotham, Inc. He is a member of The Board of Directors of Houston based U. S. Physical Therapy, a New York Stock Exchange public company, where he chairs the Compensation Committee and serves on the Compliance Committee. In addition, he serves as Board Chair of Katy Cares and on the Boards of Christ Clinic and Barnabus of Katy. He has served on over ten non-profit boards in his past and was a Mayor of a medium sized city. He and wife, Pam, have four children and have resided in Katy since 1999.



## MR. RON DAGLEY

Ron Dagley is President of the commercial real estate investment company, The Betz Companies and has been active in commercial real estate marketing, development and management beginning in 1972 and with The Betz Companies since March of 1992. Ron graduated in 1970 from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Behavioral Management Science. A native Texan, Ron has lived in the Houston area since 1964. He currently lives in the west Houston/Katy area where he and his wife of fifty years, Terrie, raised three children and are in the process of spoiling their eleven grandchildren. Ron is an avid golfer and enjoys time with his family and travelling. He is an active member of Grace Fellowship UMC where he has held several leadership positions, serves as a small group leader and is active in the mentoring ministry.



## MRS. MICKEY ELLIS

Mickey Ellis is a Master of Divinity (2018) graduate of The Bible Seminary. A vibrant leader of the prayer and worship movement within the West Houston/Katy community, she leads the Freedom and Healing team at the Great Southwest Prayer Center. She is also co-founder with her husband, Mike, and former Board member of Alta Mesa Services, Oil & Gas Exploration and Production company. Mickey serves on the Board of the Confessing Movement within the United Methodist Church, and has served as a leader in charity and service organizations related to cancer and autism, as well as Christian education at Mission Bend Christian Academy. Mickey and Mike have two children and two grandchildren.

# A Majestic View

BY RICK McCALIP

Recently my wife, Elaine, and I had the chance to visit some very dear friends in Montana. We also visited Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. During this trip and other travels, we have seen some truly beautiful sights. God has blessed us with many wonderful opportunities and experiences.

Throughout our travels, the Majesty of God's Creation continually overwhelms me. The earth's history as revealed through mountains, river valleys, vast plains, oceans, and seas, displays so vividly just how massively enormous our world truly is and how it can only have resulted from the incredible wisdom and capabilities of our Creator.


This earth is awesome. We humans are divinely placed in the only known environment that will support life. Our little planet is set at the perfect distance from the sun, with an atmosphere that supports and protects us. We orbit the sun along with other planets in our solar system, surrounded by other solar systems in the Milky Way galaxy, in an immeasurable universe. There is no

boundary beyond which there is no more universe. This is all God's work.

And here on this little collection of magma, rocks, soil, water, and air, the amazing living nature of the earth is fully on display. As we travel and view the world, you can only imagine the massive forces that lifted layers of rock to incredible heights. Sediments that were deposited along the bottom of ancient inland seas are now deformed and reshaped in all angles. You can clearly see the pathways of ancient glaciers and the obvious locations of great inland seas. Glaciers have receded over time, leaving behind incredible formations in the mountain ranges, that continue to be sculpted by the rivers that now flow through those valleys.

I must admit there are many things I don't understand. The Bible records Creation occurring in six days, and Biblical history, using mostly genealogy, indicates Creation happened around 6,000 years ago. Radiometric dating has estimated rocks in Grand Teton National Park to be 2.7 billion years old, the oldest

rocks found in all National Parks. The earth's age is scientifically estimated at 4.54 billion years. Some people suggest that God did not create the earth, moon, and stars as "new," but created the universe as "aged." Also, the impact of Noah's global flood on scientific age estimates really is not known.

I believe everything written in the Holy Bible is divinely inspired and fully true. Those of us who like photography know how difficult it is to capture colors, textures, and full views of beautiful, vast landscapes through a camera lens. The Majesty of Creation may simply surpass our ability to document it through simple language, regardless if the language is Hebrew, Greek, or English. Someday, we will understand, and we will find that the Holy Bible is correct. In the meantime, love one another, believe in Jesus, and trust God. And, whether in a National Park, at a dig site in the Holy Land, or simply looking out your window, take time to observe and absorb the Majesty of Creation all around us. 

## Rick McCalip

serves as the TBS Vice-President of Finance and Administration



Genesis  
1:31 (NLT)





**THEN GOD LOOKED OVER ALL HE HAD MADE,  
AND HE SAW THAT IT WAS *very* GOOD!**



## CASSIA GLASS

LIVES AND WRITES IN NORTHWEST HOUSTON WHERE SHE ATTENDS TBS CLASSES AT TBS@FAITHBRIDGE IN NORTHWEST HOUSTON. SHE BLOGS ABOUT FAITH, FAMILY, AND FINDING PURPOSE ON [CASSIAGLASS.COM](http://CASSIAGLASS.COM) AND HER BOOK, *NEW WOMAN, NEW CLOTHES: OUTFIT YOUR SOUL TO LIVE, LEAD, LOVE* IS AVAILABLE AT [AMAZON.COM](http://AMAZON.COM).

Three years ago, I was part-way through writing my first book, a study of Colossians for women, when my pastor announced an information session after worship service about a seminary that was expanding classes to northwest Houston. Instantly, I knew I needed to find out more, even though my first thought was that only those with a clear call to vocational ministry attended seminary. I was not sure there would be a program for a forty-something-year-old mom who was beginning to write and speak to women about faith, family, and finding purpose. However, when Dr. Lewis introduced me to the Licensed Professional (LP) program at TBS during the information session, I found an excellent avenue for advanced education.

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 areas like 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 who are already in ministry roles but want to continue honing their skills as pastors, teachers, or leaders while diving deeply into God's Word. Because the classes are also part of the larger degree programs at TBS, students can later apply the credits they earn toward future Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees should they decide to do so.

The LP program has proven to be a great fit. 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 from various backgrounds who are passionate about caring for God's people. My classmate Dobie Weise, for instance, comes from an accounting and business background but helps serve a Spanish-speaking congregation at his church. When I asked him what prompted him to apply for the LP program, he said, "As a part of God's calling me to be more deeply involved in ministry and prepare for serving





# FOR NOT-SO-TRADITIONAL SEMINARIANS:

## *A Look at the Licensed Professional Program*




(L-R, front): Cassia Glass and Rosalie Brown;  
(back): Ron Torbert, Dobie Weise, Dr. Lewis, and Victor Gaddie.

as a pastor, I knew I needed theological education. The LP program was attractive to me because it provided graduate level courses covering the topics I needed to address.” Dobie, who completed the program in the spring semester, also liked that he has the equivalent of half of a Master’s degree program under his belt.

Rosalie Brown, another member of our LP cohort, said, “I started classes at TBS because I wanted to increase my understanding and be challenged academically and theologically. Listening to John MacArthur and Alistair Begg sermons whet my appetite for knowing more of the Bible.” Rosalie is currently a stay-at-home-mom actively engaged in volunteerism through her local school system. As her youngest child heads into his senior year of high school, she is seeking what next steps God has for her and, like Dobie, is pleased that the LP coursework will benefit her when she transitions to a Master’s degree in the future. She has also been able to combine her coursework with her experiences of working with parents, teachers, and students to develop meaningful projects for class.

Our projects do not simply stay in the classroom, either. LP students, like all TBS students, are actively engaged in their communities and churches.

Often, the projects we develop for our coursework go on to serve others. One of my highlights from the past year was conducting a workshop for over seventy parents of teenagers in my church’s youth group based on my final project from the Pastor-Leader 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 the transition into adulthood.

The feedback and encouragement I received from my professor and classmates while I developed the workshop helped me to serve my community well. That makes the Licensed Professional program a worthwhile investment with kingdom dividends. 



The Gospel, a translation of the Greek word *euangelion* (meaning “good news”) concerns Christ and the way of salvation. No human could perfectly obey the Old Testament Law which established that only the blood sacrifice of the innocent for the guilty cleansed sin (Deuteronomy 5:1). As Paul explained in his epistle to the Romans, “All have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), thus humans are spiritually separated from God.

Acceptability to a Holy God requires righteousness. To remedy this universal sin and separation from God, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, fully man and fully God, to die on the cross and rise from the grave “while we were yet sinners” (Romans 5:8), i.e. before we were even born, so “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

Have you ever wondered what is it about hearing the true biblical Gospel of Jesus Christ that causes some speakers to avoid it and instead present a distorted, feel good, moralistic, self-

so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12); “If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, who could stand?” (Psalm 130:3)

To receive Christ as Savior, we must first acknowledge that we are sinners in need of a Savior. We cannot save ourselves; we cannot redeem ourselves. Christianity is about dying. We must die to self. Money, prosperity, self-confidence and positive thinking do not cause us to die to self. God gave His Son, who was born to die, to save us from ourselves. As John recorded in his gospel account, Jesus said, “For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world” (John 14:27), and “My sheep hear My voice . . . and they follow me and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish” (John 10: 27-28).

Even though Jesus could have, He did not operate out of His Deity, rather, he “emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:7). The Father told Him what to speak and when to speak it (John 12: 49) and at the same time Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14: 9).

Jesus spoke of being the Good Shepherd and that He lay down

# GOOD NEWS

BY JANICE HAMRIC, TBS Librarian

The Gospel, a translation of the Greek word *euangelion* (meaning “good news”) concerns Christ and the way of salvation.

improvement therapy session from their pulpit? Could this type of Sunday message – where “self” learns regularly how to, without supernatural assistance, to be happy, prosperous, self-confident, and live a good life through the power of positive thinking with no focus on the promises of the Good News and the work of Jesus Christ – be leading listeners through the wide gate that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14)?

The universality of sin may be the hardest part of the Gospel to accept – our sinful nature is rooted in our earthly nature. Because of the Fall of Adam and Eve, all we have to do to receive our sin nature is to be born, as evidenced in the following scriptures: “Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins” (Ecclesiastes 7:20); “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8); “There is no one who does good...the Lord has looked down from heaven...to see if there are any...who seek after God...There is no one who does good, not even one” (Psalm 14:1-3); “Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death through sin (separation from God), and

His life for the sheep (John 10: 1-15). In this Great Exchange, His life for ours, “Our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin” (Romans 6:6). God saw the sinners we were and placed us into Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary (Colossians 3:3). Paul wrote to the Galatians, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20). Our sins are laid on Christ and when we believe in Him, by faith alone, His righteousness is laid on us. “By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).


When we believe in Jesus Christ, our identity as a sinner is removed. “It is finished!” Jesus announced at his death on the cross (John 19:30). Our sin nature dies as we are spiritually circumcised (Colossians 2:11). No longer sinners in need of a savior, we are transformed into saints who sometimes sin.



**WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES;  
WE CANNOT REDEEM OURSELVES.  
CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT DYING.  
WE MUST DIE TO SELF.**



Janice Hamric serves as Librarian for The Bible Seminary. She and her husband, Steve, recently participated in the 2019 TBS tour of Israel and visited the remains of a synagogue in Capernaum where Jesus preached the Good News.

We are washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11), born again (John 3:3), and a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). 

**NOW THAT'S GOOD NEWS!**



Archaeologists working in the southern Levant who view the Bible as a serious historical text are rare, but I am on a mission to change that. Biblical skepticism often grows out of flawed chronology or biased ideological paradigms. Nadav Na'aman, a leading Israeli archaeologist, summarizes the majority view held by contemporary archaeologists, "...the narratives of the capture of Jericho and Ai and the conquest of the six cities of the Shephelah and hill country of Judah are devoid of historical reality."\* This unambiguous statement leaves no doubt as to where many of my secular colleagues stand. They hold similar views on the historicity of the Exodus and much of the rest of the Bible.

Interestingly, texts from Egypt and Mesopotamia are scoured for help in reconstructing the history of the Ancient Near East while biblical narratives are viewed as ahistorical. Stated bluntly, an antibiblical bias exists in much of the academic world. *Biblical Archaeology Review* publishes a high-quality magazine that explains in great detail why the Bible must be taken with a grain of salt. A few years back I lectured at the University of Holy Land Studies at Hebrew University to a large class of students pursuing MAs or PhDs in Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology, also known as Biblical Archaeology. In 45 minutes, I laid out a series of synchronisms between the archaeological data and the biblical text. Afterward, many of the students stood in line to tell me how impressed they were that I had used the Bible as a serious historical text. I was the first one all year to do so. They were not

opposed to it, nor had they been exposed to it.

There are no extrabiblical texts to illuminate the history and significance of Khirbet el-Maqatir, the likely site of biblical Ai, and Shiloh, Israel's first capitol. I have been fortunate to direct the excavations at these sites in Israel's Central Hill Country. Only the Bible mentions them. I wrote *The Trowel and the Truth* to provide a resource for archaeology students and interested laymen which would empower them with evidence-based research on the consistency between the archaeological data and the biblical text. In short, my goal was to set the record straight concerning supposed errors in the Bible. After introducing biblical geography and chronology, I explore dozens of synchronisms which demonstrate the reliability of the Bible. I begin with geography and chronology because if we look in the wrong place or the wrong time, we are certain to find the wrong stuff. Such has been the case with the flawed 13th century B.C. exodus theory which is now the dominant view in academia. Biblical passages such as 1 Kings 6:1, Judges 11:26, and 1 Chronicles 6:33-37 establish the exodus and conquest in the 15th century B.C. and the archaeological evidence that I present confirms this date with a high degree of specificity.

The juxtaposition of 1 Kings 9:15 with the six-chambered gates at Gezer, Hazor, and Megiddo provides another significant synchronism. This text states that Solomon commissioned building works in these regional centers, along with Jerusalem. Due to topography, there are slight differences in the gates' dimensions, but the designs are


# THINKER



virtually identical. For almost four decades, most archaeologists dated the gate in Megiddo centuries after Solomon. Thus, the connection between 1 Kings 9:15 to the gates in Megiddo, Hazor, and Gezer was derided. Last summer however, the current excavator of Megiddo, Professor Israel Finkelstein, uncovered evidence that the gate was built in a period which is dated to Solomon by conservative scholars. Even though Professor Finkelstein does not agree with Solomon as its builder, his professional publication about the redating is pending in *Tel Aviv* journal. On these grounds, it is now possible to date all three gates to the period when Solomon lived.

*The Trowel and the Truth* empowers readers to engage in the critical arena of ideas with issues like those mentioned above and to better understand the authorial intent and the cultural background of the Bible. The stakes could not be any higher.

A helpful glossary enables the reader to understand the archaeological verbiage, and maps and illustrations illuminate the topics. This second edition incorporates the latest discoveries and proposals in Biblical Archaeology through 2017, including information on Khirbet el-Maqatir, the probable Ai of Joshua 7-8 and Ephraim of John 11:54, and Shiloh.

No reason exists to exclude the Bible in the process of historiography. It presents real people, real places, and real events. The Bible stands the test of time. 



Numerous news and video production crews interview Dr. Stripling on site during the archaeological dig season at Tel Shiloh in Israel each year.

# UPDATE

BY SCOTT STRIPLING

\*Nadav Na'aman, *From Nomadism to Monarchy*, 1994, p. 280.



# What readers are saying

*The Trowel and the Truth* changed my biblical studies and sermon preparation in many ways. The two most significant are resources and chronology. I had been interested in Biblical Archaeology for many years, but I have had limited resources from which I could discover and use to illuminate the biblical text. This book was a turning point in what and how to find those kinds of resources. The second, and most significant is about biblical chronology. The simplest example was that I had been taught and had accepted a later date for the Israelite exodus and conquest of Canaan. That is actually too simplified. In fact, I had assumed that information was absolutely accepted and factual and even “biblical.” After all, it was presented as a matter of fact by most authors that discussed the topic. Accepting it as truth was assumed, and there was no other option. This book opened my eyes to the possibility that there are other options, and again, in fact – more biblical ones. I didn’t realize the later date chronology had inundated so much of Christianity, and the biblical conflicts that were there were simply not brought up or discussed. Those experts, books, and pedagogical resources had chosen to ignore the conflicts rather than address them.

– Brent Hoefling, Texas

As a pastor, I teach and preach God’s Word. As an archaeologist, I am constantly learning how the Scripture is illuminated by what we discover in the field. *The Trowel and the Truth* is an extremely valuable introduction into the world of biblical archaeology. The overview of geography in the land of the Bible, the chronology and description of the archaeological ages, and the introduction to fieldwork and methodology have all served to form a foundation for me as I have moved from a casual interest in biblical archaeology to a Square Supervisor serving with Dr. Stripling at two sites in Israel. This book has positively impacted me as an archaeologist and as a pastor. Anyone at any interest level in Biblical Archaeology will benefit from this work.

– Durwin Kicker, Missouri



TBS graduate students and administrators at the Three Seas Outlook in Israel

(L-R) Durwin Kicker, Jordan McClinton, Dr. Scott Stripling, Brent Hoefling, and Dr. K. Lynn Lewis.



# TBS STUDENT REACHES *Houston Through Art*

BY CASSIA GLASS



*With Christ*, painting by Victor Gaddie.




**On the set of *Great Day Houston*** with (L-R, seated) parents Lee and Pearl Gaddie, daughter Trinity, wife Fonda, and Victor Gaddie; (standing) friends, and host Deborah Duncan (3rd from right).



TBS student Victor Gaddie understands the hard work of stewarding multiple gifts in obedience to Christ. Gaddie, the founding pastor of Higher Calling Church in the Spring-Klein area, is not only a dedicated family man, a full-time minister, and a diligent seminary student in the Licensed Professional program, but also a talented painter. A self-taught artist who has spent years honing his craft, he was recently honored by the city of Houston for his mural commissioned by Alfreda's Soul Food restaurant (*at left*), celebrating influential African Americans. Gaddie, joined by his wife Fonda as well as his children and grandchildren, received a proclamation from the mayor's office and met with city representatives. While at City Hall, Gaddie also unveiled and presented a portrait of Mayor Sylvester Turner as a gift. Gaddie was recently commissioned to begin a new mural that will continue to beautify the city.

Gaddie's work recently caught the attention of local CBS-affiliate KHOU. In May he was featured on "Great Day Houston," where he shared about his journey as an artist. He spoke with host Deborah Duncan about being a young boy who continued to bring home blue ribbons in school art competitions until it became apparent to him and everyone else that he was truly gifted in this area. The host and audience were captivated by Gaddie's paintings, primarily portraits where he can convey what he calls "the narrative in their faces." He particularly enjoyed discussing a painting series called "Thirsty," which explores the relationship between humans and that life-giving resource. The idea for the series came from a well-digging project in Johannesburg, South Africa, and exemplifies Gaddie's ability to imbue his art with emotional and spiritual depth. His series based on the record-breaking Marvel movie, *Black Panther*, likewise draws the viewer into the faces of actors Danai Gurira and Chadwick Boseman but with background elements that tell a larger story of mission, calling, and strength.

Gaddie is quick to admit that developing as a visual artist requires time and effort but that such development does not always follow a clear-cut path. In discussions with his fellow TBS classmates, he has been open about the struggles of reconciling his passion for equipping God's church through full-time vocational ministry with his passion for art. Gaddie stated during a class discussion, "I thought that when I received a call to full-time ministry I would have to give up being an artist. For a long time I stopped painting, but then I felt God was asking me, 'Who told you to give up art?'" Since then, Gaddie has worked to include studio time into his schedule of sermon preparation, pastoral care, and TBS coursework, trusting that painting is also a part of God's plan to use him to reach others for kingdom purposes. 



# Life in Minor Key

## Lessons Learned Through Suffering

BY KAREN COOLIDGE

Grandson and grandfather began chemotherapy on the same day. My 23-year-old son embarked on his battle with acute myeloid leukemia while my 83-year-old father-in-law neared the end of his with bone cancer. Traveling between their rooms, I saw desperation at every glance.

Unfiltered faces revealed the pain, anguish and anxiety that festered inside weary bodies floating the bleak halls. I pitied and feared in equal measure, not realizing my own face mirrored theirs. Wafting antiseptic odors imposed a visceral reaction as waves of unwelcomed memories surfaced from my own cancer treatments.

Repeatedly plunged through lengthy seasons of suffering, my family – young and old – bear the scars of seasoned warriors. Somewhat on the other side now, I look back with Holy Spirit-directed eyes and glimpse the Lord's work throughout those seasons. Although New Testament Apostles Paul and Peter expressed faithful trust in the Lord and the ability to rejoice in suffering, I did not. Instead, my life was imbued with the sadness of a mellow, minor key melody.

If you have faced similar battles or currently contend on the front lines of all-out war, take heart minor key warriors. While the Lord's full rationale for the realities of our suffering will not be revealed until we stand face-to-face with our Savior, His lessons and refinement through it better equip us to live out our Kingdom purposes.





# Verse 1

**When Peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;**

I have always loved the hymn, "It is Well With My Soul," written in 1873 by successful Chicago lawyer and businessman, Horatio G. Spafford. Tragically, he wrote this beautiful hymn while floating in the Atlantic Ocean over the site of the deaths of his four daughters, Annie, Margaret Lee, Bessie and Tanetta. Along with 222 others, the girls died when the French

liner Ville du Havre collided mid-ocean with a steel-hulled Scottish ship en route from America to England. Although Spafford's wife, Anna, managed to get the girls on deck, the ship sank in 12 minutes. A lone sailor in a small rowboat later found Anna floating on a piece of wreckage, but the girls were lost. After her arrival in Wales Anna telegraphed Horatio,

"Saved alone, what shall I do?" He immediately boarded a ship to join her. During his journey across the Atlantic, when the captain of his ship alerted Spafford that they were passing over the area of the sunken vessel, he penned the hymn with this refrain,

**Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
'It is well, it is well, with my soul.'**

This song took a deeper hold on me a few years ago. Just three weeks into his marriage, our son began his grueling, lengthy and painful treatment as my husband's father endured his a few floors down. Around the same time, my father was diagnosed with Lewy Body dementia, and my mother underwent a major surgery requiring months of recovery. My

husband's mother saw health declines; our youngest daughter had two back-to-back car accidents; our middle daughter experienced side-effects of her stem cell donation to her brother; my sister battled breast cancer; and the middle of all that, our beloved dog of fourteen years passed away. As smaller trials and everyday life accompanied these major

events, my shoulders stooped, my spirits fell, and my faith weakened. With joy seemingly out of reach, I grabbed ahold of anything I mistakenly believed I could control, and soon found myself aboard my own sinking vessel.

# Verse 2

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded  
my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul!**

During this season I happened upon a slightly different version of "It is Well With My Soul" recorded by The Sanctuary Choir and Celebration Orchestra of First Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas, in which some portions play in a minor key rather than in the more common major key. As the Holy Spirit drew me in through this hauntingly beautiful version, I felt the Lord stir my heart, and an awful truth settled into my mind, "It is *not* well with my soul."

Over the next few days, that truth made its way from my head down through my stiff neck

and into my heavy heart. Indeed, my attention focused on my afflictions and not my God. With eyes inwardly focused on my anguish, I lost sight of God's sovereignty and eternal perspective. This realization set me on the path of repentance and healing as the Lord took tool to my heart, chiseling away at the self-sufficiency to which I clung - like Anna Stafford must have with wanted to cling to the rails of the sinking ship.

The apostle Paul writes, "No trial has overtaken you that is not distinctively human; and God is faithful; he will not let you be

tested beyond what you can bear; but with the trial will also provide the way through, so that you will be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). The testing Paul references means the temptation to sin during trials - choosing worldly answers and comforts rather than relying on God's wisdom, power, and provision.

Well-meaning Christians will sometimes say that God never gives us more than we can handle, but according to The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians, that statement is simply not true. The idea that we can successfully handle extreme hardships alone, or that God knows

our individual limits and will never allow any circumstance we face to surpass our natural abilities, does not ring true. The heart of the Gospel is that without Christ, we are lost, and without His Spirit, we are insufficiently weak and powerless. Like the Spaffords, my family encountered much more than we could humanly endure. When faced with clinging to my own self-sufficiency or surrendering all – no matter what, to the Lord God Almighty maker of heaven and earth, Redeemer, Savior; and Sustainer – I chose surrender, and gained strength.

I find encouragement and camaraderie in the suffering of the first century believers. In the mid 40's A.D., James, the brother of Jesus, wrote these words to the Jewish Christians living outside of Palestine, "Consider it sheer joy, my brothers, when you encounter various kinds of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance carry out its intended purpose, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4).

Honestly, this verse initially baffled me. How could I experience joy amidst multiple miseries? My study of biblical Greek at The Bible Seminary

led me to an answer that brought a soothing balm to my weary soul – an answer so vivid, yet subtly hidden within the beautiful language of ancient Greek. I discovered that these suffering saints probably already knew there could be benefits from their suffering.

In ancient Greek, there are two words for the word "know" that carry two separate meanings. The first is *oída* (pronounced "oi-dah") which is head knowledge. You *oída* something because you intellectually learn it. The other type of 'knowing' is *γινώσκω* (pronounced "ghin-oh-skoh"), or experiential knowledge. You *γινώσκω* something because you have experienced it firsthand, and therefore know it to be true.

These ancient Christians experienced the extreme difficulties that accompanied the Jewish Dispersion when after the stoning of Stephen, they spread to outlying areas throughout Judea and Samaria – including Cyprus, Phoenicia and Antioch in Syria. This exile from their homelands left them exposed to many hardships, and James frequently mentions their persecution, poverty, and pains.<sup>2</sup>

James Matthew Henry explains that these afflictions generate temptations as the enemy seeks to draw believers to choose worldly

comfort and answers to ease pain.<sup>3</sup> James assures the brethren that as they remain steadfastly obedient to God's will and avoid temptations to sin, The Lord will strengthen them in the endurance required to pass through their trials.

Thus, James commands the believers to consider it all sheer joy because they *γινώσκοντες* (ghin-oh-skon-tes) that testing leads to endurance. The present active participle *γινώσκοντες* reflects ongoing action. These new believers experientially understood the benefits of continued resistance to temptation, which made them spiritually stronger.

Paul describes this endurance in Romans, writing "We also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that the suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:3).

## Verse 3

**My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but in whole, Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

As the symphony of my life drifts back into major key, I understand now that although suffering poses as punishment, it is compulsory to Christianity. I recognize the ways God carried, taught, and refined me. Our ultimate example is Jesus Christ, who though beaten, tortured, and crucified, kept His focus on His Father. So must I; so must we.

As Paul writes, "Therefore since we ourselves, have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every impediment, and the sin that so easily distracts, and let us run with endurance the race that is prescribed for us, fixing our gaze upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who

rather than the joy set before Him endured a cross, disregarding its shame, and has now taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

As we keep our eyes on our Savior; we learn the Holy Spirit provides comfort when we allow Him to act rather than seek what the world offers.

We learn that the Holy Spirit provides wisdom when we ask Him to guide our decisions, and wait for His answer rather than jump ahead of Him and His plan.

We learn that God controls all the songs of our lives in both major and minor keys when we let go and watch His perfect plan unfold

rather than strive to control what we cannot. And through obedience, we learn to trust His plan, even when circumstances do not turn out as we had wished, fail to fit into our personal master plan, or simply hurt incredibly bad.

As we grow in trust and our faith muscles strengthen, our hearts – and faces – reflect peace and joy rather than anxiety and anguish. We know He plans good for us, because we have learned of his goodness, not from a book, but by experiencing Him as "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).



# A Newly Learned Verse

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul!

As I surrendered and sought God for strength, refuge, and wisdom, He taught me practical ways to keep my head above water, wind in my sails, and peace in my soul:

- » When you find yourself in a minor key season, prioritize spending time with the Lord, and allow Him to identify weaknesses that could cause you to stumble. Pray through Psalm 139 asking God to search your heart and reveal any known or unknown sins or weaknesses.
- » Pour out your heart to God. Lament. Share your sorrows with the One who created you. Broken, hurting and devoid of hope, cry out to God as you grieve the onslaught of painful circumstances. Allow Him to lead you to rest. Pray through Psalm 142 which begins, "With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD. I pour out my complaint before Him; I tell my trouble before Him" (Psalm 142:1-2).
- » Worship God through praise. Create a playlist and listen to your favorite worship songs. Worship God for Who He Is. I personally found this to be one of the most profound ways God ministered to my greiving soul.
- » Stay rooted in God's Word through daily study. Even as time and energy run short, intentionally prioritize the Word of God and listen to and obey our primary Counselor, Rock, and Refuge.
- » Put on and remain clothed in the full armor of God, as temptations strike from all sides. The enemy retains no gentlemanly qualities and wickedly attacks in our weaknesses. Pray through Ephesians 6:10-20 to arm yourself for daily battle.
- » Surround yourself with trusted prayer warriors who will share your burdens. Ask faithful partners to carry you in prayer when you grow weary. Just as Aaron and Hur lifted the arms of weary Moses to ensure Israelite victory over Amalek, your lifters can help you (Exodus 17:12-14).
- » Accept help. Meals, rides, financial support, babysitting, caregiving, house cleaning and repair —your family and friends want to help, and when you allow their partnership, blessings await you both.
- » If you feel weak in your trials and find yourself stumbling under the weight of the suffering, find a fellow believer who has faced similar trials and glean from the *ginvoskw* of their life. Find a counselor who specializes in trauma to help guide you through your specific storms.
- » Finally, if you see someone suffering and *γινώσκω* their pain, reach out and comfort them in the ways that you have found comfort (1 Corinthians 1:4).

Peter encouraged hard-pressed believers struggling in the Roman Provinces of Asia Minor with these words, "Humble yourselves under the mighty Hand of God that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares about you. Be sober-minded! Be alert! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being endured by your fellow believers throughout the world. And the God of all grace, the One who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ, will, after you have suffered a little while, himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be the power for all time. Amen" (1 Peter 5:6-11).

Minor  
key  
warrior

rest, submit, trust God and allow  
Him to do His perfect work.

"It is well  
with my soul."

## Final Verse

"O, Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound and the LORD shall descend  
Even so, it is well with my soul!"

Our son remains cancer-free nearly four years after his initial diagnosis, but we lost his grandpa in the spring of 2017. My family continues to heal emotionally even as my

father rapidly declines physically and mentally. Life continues as major and minor melodies merge into a harmony orchestrated by God. Through it all, I strive to keep an eternal

perspective, remembering that "our light and momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians. 4:17).

## Refrain

Looking back, I recognize ways in which my unpreparedness left me vulnerable. While there is much more to glean, I remain grateful for the Lord's teaching, His refining work, and His continued strengthening, as He

better equips me for daily life and whatever lies ahead. I pray that we all, as His beloved children, seek to remain steadfast in looking upward rather than inward during the song of our lives. And should life take a minor key shift,

I pray that we fully trust our Sovereign God, and like Hymnist Horatio Spafford, *yivwoku*, "It is well with my soul."



Author Karen Coolidge is a Master of Divinity (MDiv) graduate of The Bible Seminary.

1. For more details, see Morgan, Robert, J., *Then Sings My Soul – 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories*, Thompson Nelson Publishers, 1979, p. 184.
2. I. H. Marshall, *New Testament Theology: Many Witnesses, One Gospel* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004), pg. 628.
3. Henry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible, Vol. VI*, Fleming H. Revell Company, pg. 968.





# BREVOORT HOUSE

ON THE EUROPEAN PLAN,

Madison Street, between Clark and La Salle Streets

H. M. THOMPSON, Proprietor.  
W. H. GRAY, Chief Clerk.  
W. K. STEELE, Cashier.

Chicago,

When peace like a dove, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea-bellows, roll -  
I bobated my staff, then best taught me to know  
It is well, it is well with my soul -

Though Satan should buffet, - though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control, -  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed his own blood for my soul -

My sin, - Oh the bliss of this glorious thought, -  
My sin, - not in fact but the guilt, -  
Is nailed to the cross, & I hear it no more -  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Oh my soul -

And Lord, haste the day, when the faith shall be sight





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dr. K. Lynn Lewis*



OF ALL THAT TBS IS, DOES, AND  
ASPIRES TO BECOME, I AM MOST  
PLEASED WITH AND COMMITTED  
TO OUR PRIMARY DISTINCTIVE –

*authentic  
Christian education*

BASED ON THE GOSPEL  
OF JESUS CHRIST AND ROOTED  
IN ALL 66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.

THE SPURIOUS WAY OF JEROBOAM

A seasoned educational leader asked me recently what makes The Bible Seminary unique. As I reeled off my dizzying inspirational list (see “Some TBS Distinctives” on p. 24), he was impressed by our vision, surprised by the exceptional depth and range of our programs and policies, and amazed by our growing success during a time when many schools are closing, standard educational models are facing drastic changes, and mainstream culture is flowing in other directions.

Of all that TBS is, does, and aspires to become, I am most pleased with and committed to our primary distinctive – authentic Christian education based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and rooted in all 66 books of the Bible. Although in bygone years this position would have placed TBS firmly in the mainstream of society and education nationwide, we now find ourselves in what some would describe as the antiquated, marginal backwaters of ignorance and intolerance.

As I sit here on the breezy rooftop terrace of my hotel overlooking the modern-day city of Jerusalem, I am reminded of God’s words to Solomon and Jeroboam nearly 3000 years ago most likely spoken within proximity range of my vision.

When the Lord blessed Solomon with the throne of His united nation, unparalleled majesty, riches, and wisdom, He told him, “If you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel” (I Kings 6:12-13) and “If you walk before me faithfully with integrity of heart and uprightness . . . and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever” (I Kings 9:4-5). However, “the Lord became angry when Solomon turned his heart away from the Lord” (I Kings 11:9). “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you,” the Lord told Solomon, “I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates” (I Kings 11:11).

**ONE QUESTION REPEATEDLY ASKED IN OUR CLASSES IS, “IF SOLOMON WAS SO WISE, WHY DID HE SIN AGAINST THE LORD?” WE THEN DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WISDOM AND OBEDIENCE, NAMELY THAT KNOWING RIGHT IS NOT THE SAME AS DOING RIGHT.**

The Lord then offered one of Solomon’s stellar employees, Jeroboam, the ten tribes comprising the northern kingdom of Israel. He promised Jeroboam, “I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel. If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you. I will build you a dynasty as enduring as the one I built for David and will give Israel to you” (I Kings 11:37-38). Yet, Jeroboam sought bad advice and instituted alternate worship practices. He fashioned golden calf idols, assigned places



to conveniently worship them at Bethel and Dan so his subjects would not have travel all the way to Jerusalem to worship the Lord at the temple, appointed ineligible priests, instituted new festivals on his own special days, and offered his own sacrifices – all clear violations of the Lord’s commands. Although the Lord sent prophets to warn him, “Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places. This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth” (I Kings 13:33-34). The Lord responded through the prophet Ahijah, “I raised you up from among the people and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you...have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods...you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me” (I Kings 14:7-9). The Lord then promised to destroy Jeroboam’s family, a promise fulfilled within two years of his death (I Kings 15:29).

Unfortunately, God’s chosen servant to carry out His punishment against Jeroboam was himself punished for continuing Jeroboam’s counterfeit ways. “I exalted you out of the dust and made you leader over my people Israel,” the Lord berated Baasha, the third king of Israel, “and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam, and have caused my people Israel to sin, provoking me to anger with their sins. Therefore, I will consume Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam” (I Kings 16:2-3). Ultimately, all twenty kings of Israel followed the way of Jeroboam – routinely summarized as “did what was evil in the sight of the Lord” – and the northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians within 200 years.

Regrettably, these same sins of arrogance, distraction, self-centeredness, listening to bad advice, desire for convenience, rejection of God’s standards, appointment of ineligible ministry leaders, and engaging in counterfeit worship are rampant today. Just like in ancient times, our responses to God’s “if’s” can bring blessings or curses.

**ALL LEADERS – PRIESTS AND PROPHETS, PASTORS AND PRESIDENTS, PARENTS AND PRINCIPALS, PHYSICIANS AND PROPRIETORS – HAVE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE AND BE BLESSED FOR WHAT THEY DO RIGHT AND PUNISHED FOR WHAT THEY DO WRONG.**

Recent decades have witnessed significant mainline denominational fractures, including a current battle underway in the historic United Methodist Church (UMC) between so-called “Traditionalists” and “Progressives.” Although the UMC recently took global actions to uphold scriptural standards, the leader of a “resist” effort formed in opposition echoes the ways of Jeroboam in saying, “We are going to live and be the kind of church we want to be, regardless what the denominational rules say.”<sup>1</sup>

This historic pattern of engaging in ultimate copyright violation uses the Lord’s name, knocks-off elements of authentic worship, and twists biblical teachings of sin, repentance, redemption, resurrection, eternal life, salvation, justice, grace, mercy, love and qualifications for ministry. The spurious way of Jeroboam is alive and well among “progressives” who fabricate their own contemporary versions of religion and ignore or reimagine primary themes of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Modern day remains of Jeroboam’s alternate worship center at Tel Dan include an altar (reconstructed outline made of aluminum) twice as big as the one at the temple in Jerusalem, houses for priests located west of the altar, and a 60’ x 60’ raised platform (“bamah”) up the wide set of stairs north (upper right) of the altar.

Consider repentance. According to the Bible, “There is no one who does good, no, not one” (Psalm 14:3); “Repent and turn from all your transgressions” (Ezekiel 18:30); “John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4); “Repent and believe the good news” (Jesus, in Mark 1:15); and “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven” (Peter, in Acts 2:38). Yet, according to those who follow the way of Jeroboam, people are basically good, convenient religion accommodates personal preferences, and some behaviors the Bible seems to define as “sin” are, instead, explained away as misinterpretations of scripture and claimed as blessed activities that should be affirmed, celebrated, and legally permissible.


The news these days often includes examples of these scriptures: “The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men” (Psalm 12:2), and “Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them” (Romans 1:32).

These things matter because TBS finds itself among an increasingly shrinking group of religious educational leaders who believe God exists, that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that the Bible is the Word of God. According to a recent article by Michael Foust:

The president of a seminary founded in 1836 on the “infallible” Word of God says in a new interview she doesn’t believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, the power of prayer, a literal heaven, or miracles. Serene Jones, president of Union Theological Seminary in New York, made the comments in an interview with Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times* for an article published Easter weekend. Although the author’s intent may have been to inspire readers, it also served to spotlight the leftward drift of many seminaries. Union Theological Seminary’s founding constitution stated the seminary’s goal was to “promote” the “Kingdom of Christ.” Professors were required to affirm they believed “the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God” and the “only infallible rule of faith and practice.” But as Jones made clear, the seminary is a very different school today.<sup>2</sup>

Jones is not alone in her views, as evidenced by the teaching of leaders and graduates of numerous seminaries and “Christian” colleges. This past January, the presidents of 93 colleges and universities representing the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church unanimously called on leaders of the 2019 Called General Conference to amend “their policies and practices to affirm full inclusion in the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church of all persons regardless of their race, ethnicity, creed, national origin, gender, gender identity/expression or sexual orientation.”<sup>3</sup> Many of these Presidents then publicly expressed extreme disappointment when the Conference voted instead to continue to uphold traditional scriptural and historic United Methodist standards.

Conversely, as President of The Bible Seminary, I want to assure everyone of our intent to wholeheartedly and without reservation continue to provide authentic Christian education based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and rooted in all 66 books of the Bible. The way of Jeroboam should have no place in any of our hearts, homes, offices, classrooms, or pulpits.

In light of biblical history and God’s record of keeping His promises, I far prefer to live and die seeking to obey the Lord’s conditional “if” clauses that lead to blessings. TBS is and will continue to be a unique seminary in many ways, and we invite your support and partnership in serving as a vibrant witness of faith that brings glory to God in all that we do everywhere we go. 

## SOME TBS DISTINCTIVES

- » Authentic Christian education based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and rooted in all 66 books of the Bible.
- » Independent, non-denominational education that uses the Bible as the primary training manual for ministry along with studies of standard historical, theological, and practical disciplines, cutting-edge tools, and extraordinary experiences.
- » Degree and non-degree program options for both laity and ministry professionals.
- » Experiential education in which students engage in ministry while simultaneously pursuing ministry training.
- » Debt-free graduation policy in which TBS chooses not to participate in federal or state funding programs, discourages student loans, provides scholarship assistance and teaches students how to raise funds, encourages students to go at a pace they can afford, and requires payment in-full for each previous semester prior to enrollment in a new semester.
- » Proximity perspective where TBS views the world as our campus, teaches in classrooms based in host locations in regional community areas, and offers education in biblical locations to provide hands-on multi-dimensional learning experiences.
- » Faculty team approach consisting of TBS administrators, full-time professors, adjunct professors, community ministry leaders, and industry professionals with significant experience in their area(s) of teaching. The average Master of Divinity student receives instruction from more than 75 people in 35 locations statewide, plus teaching from various ministry leaders throughout Israel.

Metal impression of a jasper seal found at Tel Meggido in 1904 that reads, “(Belonging) to Shema servant of Jeroboam.” Notice that King Jeroboam apparently used the lion symbol of the kingdom of Judah, perhaps as an indirect challenge to Solomon’s son, King Rehoboam, who retained leadership of the southern kingdom. This usage also evidences Jeroboam’s thieving ways – whether God or man, religion or politics – steal what belongs to others and repurpose it to suit yourself.



1. “Group of United Methodist churches to stay, resist LGBTQ policies,” Jordan Betts, 5/22/2019, KSHB.com.
2. “Seminary President Admits She Doesn’t Believe in Heaven, Miracles or Christ’s Resurrection,” Michael Foust, 4/25/2019, ChristianHeadlines.com.
3. “Joint Statement of NASCUMC Member Presidents On the Called General Conference and the Subject of Human Sexuality,” 1/5/2019, GBHEM.org.





## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

*Heidi J. Arneson*




BECAUSE YOU HAVE  
PARTICIPATED IN SOME WAY  
WITH THE BIBLE SEMINARY,  
*this is your victory!*

TBS EXPERIENCED A VICTORY IN APRIL

John 17 records Jesus' final prayer and verse 21 in particular says that Jesus prayed "that they (all current and future disciples) would be one, just as Jesus and the Father are one – as the Father is in Jesus and that Jesus is in the Father. And that they be in us (the Father and Jesus) so that the world will believe you sent me (Jesus)."

I Samuel 30 records a Holy War conducted by David. The war was against the Amalekites who had raided the town of Ziklag while David and his men were away at war. The Amalekites took all the animals and women and children without killing anyone. David was heartbroken when he returned to Ziklag and found it burned and plundered. The text records that of the 600 men with David, 200 were too exhausted to go into battle and stayed back to guard the equipment. So, 400 men went with David to the place the Amalekites were camped and celebrating their raid of Ziklag, and David and the 400 ambushed the Amalekites and God handed over victory by getting back everything the Amalekites had taken – nothing was missing, great or small. The 400 men who went with David did not want to share the plunder with the 200 men who stayed back and guarded the equipment. Yet, as I Samuel 30:17 records, "We share and share alike – those who go to battle and those who guard the equipment," David treated everyone with oneness.

The Bible Seminary experienced a victory in April by receiving "Pre-Accreditation," or Candidacy, status with the federally approved accreditation organization Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). Because you have participated (entered the Kingdom battle) in some way with The Bible Seminary, this is your VICTORY. You have been ONE with TBS by joining the frontline battle or guarding equipment through your prayers, taking classes, teaching, working at TBS, volunteering, attending an event and/or providing financial support.

Thank you for joining the battle and doing your part! We invite you to stay in the battle with TBS as the seminary continues to grow in responsibility and influence by working to achieve full Accreditation status, teaching and training more students for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Pray for oneness! 

*Thank you*  
**FOR JOINING THE BATTLE  
AND DOING YOUR PART!**



# FROM THE PROVOST

I am writing this update from my Jerusalem desk. Below me lie the remains of the third wall built in AD 44 by Herod Agrippa I, and on the horizon I see the Temple Mount and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Twenty-three members of the TBS family – administration, faculty, students, and family members – are participating in our 2019 tour of Israel and/or the excavation at ancient Shiloh. Six TBS students in the Master of Biblical History and Archaeology program are earning academic credit for field practicum work or for ceramic processing and analysis. I call this digging the Bible.

The Bible Seminary plays a leading role, partnering with the Associates for Biblical Research, in the cutting-edge Shiloh excavation, now the largest dig and one of the most sophisticated in the land of the Bible. Dr. Lewis heads up the photography, videography, and 2D/3D aerial imaging; Dr. Petrovich serves as Epigrapher; Abigail Leavitt works as Objects Registrar; and I lead the expedition as Director of Excavations. TBS students also fill critical roles: Durwin Kicker serves as a Square Supervisor; Tommy Chamberlin and Brent Hoefling serve as Assistant Square Supervisors; and Jordan McClinton and Steve Burlingham are paying their dues as first-year volunteers.

The Israel experience caps off a year of significant accomplishments for TBS. Over 40 students completed graduate courses this past year in the Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts (MA), and Licensed Professional (LP) programs. Enrollment during the past two years has grown and I anticipate continued growth in future semesters.


Culminating a comprehensive international search, TBS hired Dr. Paul Nyquist, former President of Moody Bible Institute, as Dean of Graduate Programs and Professor of Biblical Preaching, Leadership, and Theology. Dr. Nyquist brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to empower TBS students for ministry and is a huge asset to our educational team.

We formed a Faculty Association during the fall semester and a Student Government Association in the spring semester. They have both held meetings and elected officers for the coming year. These organizations facilitate shared governance so that faculty and students have a voice in how TBS proactively trains followers of Jesus in all 66 books of the Bible.

In April 2019, President Lewis and I, accompanied by Board Chair Heidi Arneson and V.P. of Business and Finance Rick McCalip, met with the TRACS accreditation committee in Sacramento,

California. The committee unanimously upgraded TBS from Applicant status to Candidate status, also known as Pre-Accredited status. This marks the culmination of five years of diligent planning, assessment, and implementation. Our 2020 vision includes finalizing all of the steps required to attain accredited status during this next year.

Our TBS library grew by over 1,000 research volumes this year due to generous book donations from the Lanier Theological Library. A separate archaeological library is now housed in Room 263. TBS Librarian Janice Havins-Hamric – along with Coby Jackson, Abigail Leavitt, Rick McCalip, and Elaine McCalip – all worked together to add new shelving and process the new books to help make this upgrade happen. This fall, TBS students will for the first time have access to JSTOR, a premium database of peer-reviewed journals. The addition of JSTOR and the augmented library will give students even greater access to the research information needed to complete their programs.

Many theological schools are shrinking or closing, but TBS is advancing. Your prayers and financial support make all of this possible. Thank you for being a part of the TBS family. Please stop by the main campus for a cup of coffee or to enroll for a course this fall! 



# IN AUGUST, WE WILL *celebrate* THE GRADUATION OF SEVEN TBS STUDENTS

- » **Ed Thomas**, 2019 Valedictorian, and **Shannon Stubblefield** will receive Master of Divinity (MDiv) degrees.
- » **Samantha Rude** will earn both a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS) and a Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture (MABLC), making her the first student to complete the TBS dual-degree program and simultaneously receive two degrees.
- » **Dobie Weise**, TBS Business Manager for the past three years, will become the first student to complete the Licensed Professional (LP) program that consists of the core courses that make up the foundation of all TBS graduate degrees.
- » **Arlishia Young**, **Lisa Lee**, and **Sharon Holmes**, will be awarded certificates for completing the nine-course Bible Certificate (BC) program.



All of the graduates listed above are actively involved in ministry in their local church and communities. Ed Thomas, our 2019 Valedictorian, plans to transition into a second career as a missionary to Japan and will become the second TBS MDiv graduate to answer the call to service on a foreign mission field.



**Capstone Presentation:** TBS family and friends joined together at Katy Community Fellowship in April for Samantha Jackson Rude's Capstone presentation, "Into the Woods: Discovering the Biblical Feminine," which she presented as part of completing requirements for her Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture degree.



**Student Government Association (SGA) Launched:** Students and staff socialized and enjoyed ice cream, then held an inaugural SGA meeting on April 11, 2019. Dr. Strippling led the meeting and assisted the students in electing officers, approving by-laws, and brainstorming ideas. The Fall SGA meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16, 2019.



## 2019-2020 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA) *Officers*

**PRESIDENT**  
Abigail Leavitt

**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Kassidy Bell

**SECRETARY**  
Steve Hamburg

**CHAPLAIN**  
Esmeralda Heer

**ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR**  
Kyle Carter





FROM THE STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR  
*Abigail Leavitt*



STUDENT SERVICES LAUNCHED  
TBS'S FIRST STUDENT NEWSLETTER  
THIS PAST SPRING.

TO READ THE  
TBS STUDENT NEWS, VISIT  
*thebibleseminary.org*  
AND CLICK ON  
"NEWS – NEWSLETTERS"

STUDENT NEWSLETTER AND RESOURCES



*Student Newsletter*

Student Services launched TBS's first student newsletter this past spring with the following goals:

1. Foster a sense of community among the student body by keeping students abreast of the latest student-related news.
2. Provide students with helpful information in the form of short articles on pertinent topics written by staff and students.
3. Offer students a platform to share their work and experiences with their seminary family.



The first issue of Student News came out in April and contained News and Notes, Current and Upcoming Events, an article explaining the resources available to TBS students, and a missions report from Shannon Stubblefield. The newsletter was well-received by TBS students, several of whom have expressed an interest in contributing articles, reports, and regular columns to future issues.

To submit articles or photos for the student newsletter, email [Abigail.Leavitt@TheBibleSeminary.org](mailto:Abigail.Leavitt@TheBibleSeminary.org).





# Resources FOR TBS STUDENTS

## **TBS LIBRARIES**

Both the Main Library and the Archaeology Library provide excellent places to look for resources. They are open whenever the TBS offices and classrooms are open, generally Monday through Friday, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm. Students may choose to browse the shelves to search for resources, but it is also easy to search the library catalog online. Here is how:

1. Log in to your student account on the TBS website.
2. Using the Navigation Bar, select “OPAC: Library Catalog.”
3. Select what you would like to search. Search by Author or Title if you know exactly what you are looking for. Search by subject or keyword if you are looking for material on a particular topic.
4. Type in the information for which you are searching and press, “Search Catalog.” A list of entries should appear.
5. Select an entry for more details.
6. Use the Library of Congress Call Number listed in the entry to find the resource in the library.
7. You may use the resource in the library or check it out. The office manager can assist you in checking out resources.
8. Students not on campus may request assistance from the Student Services Coordinator in obtaining needed information from re-sources in the TBS library.

## **THE LANIER THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY**

The Lanier Theological Library is a wonderful resource for students in the Houston area. It houses a comprehensive collection of books, periodicals, magazines, artifacts, and historical documents. It provides resources on the following topics: Ancient Languages, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Biblical Studies, Church History, Classics, Dead Sea Scrolls, Egyptology, Monasticism, Patristics, and Theology. The library is located at 14130 Hargrave Road, Houston, Texas. For more information, visit [LanierTheologicalLibrary.org](http://LanierTheologicalLibrary.org).

## **JSTOR**

TBS is in the process of opening an account with JSTOR, an online journal database. JSTOR is an excellent source for peer-reviewed articles. This resource should be available to TBS students in time for the Fall 2019 semester. It is possible to open a free JSTOR account, but they only allow access to three articles at a time. with the free account.

## **LOCAL LIBRARIES**

Public Libraries can provide useful resources for students. Although the academic resources at public libraries can be limited, they often offer inter-library loans, which can significantly expand the resource selection. Check with your local librarian to find out with which libraries they partner. Furthermore, local libraries often offer online resources as well. For example, the Fort Bend Public Libraries provide access to EB-SKO, Gale, WorldCat, NoveList Plus, and ProQuest. Most public libraries have a website that you can use to access these materials, but you often need to be a library member to access them. It is generally worthwhile to search these online resources and free or cheap to become a library member. Furthermore, students who have graduated from local universities may retain access to their university’s library, including online resources.

## **ACADEMIA.EDU**

Academia.edu is a platform for academics to share research papers. Many scholars share their peer-reviewed journal articles on academia.edu, making it an excellent place to search for resources. You can sign up for a free account through Google, Facebook, or your email address. You can use their search feature to search for authors, titles, or keywords within titles. A paid, premium account offers more searching capabilities, but these searching capabilities can also be achieved through Google Scholar, as noted below. As a caution, since it is easy to sign up for an account and post articles, not all papers on academia.edu may be scholarly resources. Please make sure to investigate your sources before using them.

## **GOOGLE SCHOLAR**

Google Scholar, available at [scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com), attempts to retrieve only “scholarly” material. It is much more selective than google.com, making it easier to retrieve usable materials. It searches within online journal collections such as academia.edu and others, and it can do a keyword search within the text of articles. Therefore, it is possible to use Google Scholar as a search tool to achieve better results on Academia.edu. It also finds articles on paid journal websites, so many search results cannot be accessed without a fee. As a caution, not all material on Google Scholar is good scholarly work. Please make sure to investigate your sources before using them.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY JOURNAL COLLECTION**

The TBS Archaeology Library includes many journal back-issues. While these contain excellent materials, it is difficult to search. Therefore, a searchable database of article titles and authors is in the process of being compiled. This database should be available to TBS students soon. While this list is far from complete, it should provide a starting place for research possibilities.



# THE BIBLE SEMINARY



## SPRING 2019 GREEK CLASS

*(L-R, front)* Esmeralda Heer, Destry Jackson, and Kathy Bruscia; *(L-R, back)* Robert Jones, Samantha Jackson Rude, Dr. Doug Petrovich, Kyle Carter, Stephen Hamburg, and Karen Coolidge; *(not pictured)* Jennifer Bartlett, Krystyna Cawthorne, and Brent Hoefling.

What an incredible journey! Thank you, Dr. Petrovich, for effectively teaching us the beautiful and vividly profound language of biblical Greek, equipping us to translate the book of I John!



## COOLIDGE RECEIVES DIPLOMA

*(L-R)* Dr. Doug Petrovich, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, Karen Coolidge, and Dr. Scott Stripling

TBS alum Karen Coolidge officially received her Master of Divinity diploma in May after completing “Greek Language I - Jude, 2 and 3 John” and “Greek Language II - I Peter” this past year as part of her remaining degree requirements. Karen began her 7-year seminary journey in September 2012. She is the 10th of the original 12 graduate students to earn her degree, and we celebrate her achievement with great joy and expectation!



## KATY “FEED THE HUNGER” PACK-A-THON

TBS family members participated in the 2019 Katy “Feed the Hunger” Pack-a-thon: A diverse community of more than 2000 people representing churches, civic organizations, corporations, and schools in our community joined together to help pack approximately 603,840 meals to feed the physical hunger of those in need. The food is distributed globally, nationally, and regionally, including over 17,000 meals delivered locally to Katy Christian Ministries immediately following the event.



## TBS STAFF AT HOT POT IN KATY

*(L-R)* Rick McCalip, Vice-President of Finance and Administration; Dobie Weise, Business Manager; Paul Nyquist, Dean of Graduate programs; Abigail Leavitt, Student Services Coordinator; Janice Havins-Hamric, Librarian; Doug Petrovich, Dean of Bible Certificate programs; Coby Jackson; Scott Stripling, Provost; Carousel Pieterse, Office Manager/Registrar; and K. Lynn Lewis, President.

TBS staff celebrated Coby Jackson's 4+ years working as TBS Office Coordinator/ Registrar before she moved to west Texas. We are so thankful for Coby's joyful spirit and dedicated labor of love and holy determination in helping coordinate the TBS office and staff and assist students and faculty in pretty much everything they have needed, plus helped graduate our first class of Master's degree students in 2015, start new four new majors, and attain Applicant and Candidate status with our accrediting agency over the last few years.



# News and Updates



## NEW ARNESON GRANDDAUGHTER

TBS Board Chair Heidi Arneson celebrating her newest granddaughter – Sloane Maxine Moat, daughter of Tommy and Ellen Arneson Mote – born June 14, 2019.



## NEW WEISE GRANDDAUGHTER

Business Manager Dobie Weise and his wife, Alyson, celebrating their newest granddaughter – Evangeline Grace Newman, daughter of Matthew and Kate Weise Newman – born May 31, 2019.

## THE GAMBOA FAMILY

TBS graduate student and Communication Director of Elijah Rising, David Gamboa (shown below along with his wife, Micah, who serves as Executive Director, and their daughter, Elise) writes, “On (Sunday) November 18, 2018 my wife, Micah Gamboa, was scheduled to speak at Celebration Church in the Woodlands. My wife and I work together in an anti-sex trafficking ministry called Elijah Rising. The church had invited Micah to share about sex trafficking, and then the church was going to take up an offering to help with the costs of renovating Elijah Rising’s Restoration Campus... Pastor Frankie Mazzapica invited Micah up to the stage to speak. Before Micah could speak her first sentence, her head shot back violently and she collapsed into the chair that was behind her. I ran up on stage knowing that something was terribly wrong. Pastor Frankie and I lowered Micah’s body to the ground, and as I held her hand it felt lifeless. At first, we thought she was suffering from a seizure, but that was not the case. Her heart suddenly stopped beating, and she was in full cardiac arrest. She began to go into agonal breathing. Her body was making a last-ditch effort to deliver oxygen to the vital organs... It was horrifying and traumatic to watch someone you love, your wife, a mother, dying in front of you. This was the darkest and most traumatic moment I’ve ever experienced. When EMS arrived, I heard the monitor flatline when they hooked it up to her. When we made it to the hospital I did not know if Micah was alive or not. After two days in an induced coma my wife woke up and was fine! The doctors and nurses were in tears because they had never seen anything like this before. Doctors would come in asking her if she saw anything when she died. Unfortunately, she doesn’t remember anything from that week. However, I saw God do amazing things during that week. Every step of the way I was astonished at His goodness. Today, Micah is doing great, she is back at work as if nothing ever happened. This story/ testimony is still unravelling to this day... (I created a blog) to share about all the in between moments and how God is continuing to work through our lives (and share) testimonies of healing and God’s power.”



*For more information, visit David's blog at*  
**KNOWEROFHEARTS.COM & ELIJAHRISING.ORG**





## TBS ISRAEL TOUR AND TEL SHILOH ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG PARTICIPANTS

One of the largest and most professional excavations in the Middle East, our archaeological fieldwork, research, and publications in conjunction with world renowned experts and peer review is helping affirm the role of archaeology in confirming the historical reliability of biblical texts. New finds and upcoming publications on recent finds are generating worldwide attention and excitement from believers and others alike! Not only do TBS students and staff engage in studying and teaching biblical texts, TBS is integrally engaged in front line battles for faith in the Lord and biblical integrity that have previously proven to have significant impact on individuals, families, communities, and even nations. Seeds of doubt and statements made in ignorance over the last 150 years that fill our commentaries, textbooks, and Bible notes are facing new realities as more and more verisimilitudes occur between biblical texts, new archaeological discoveries, and historical and scientific research.

Our **2019 TBS Israel team** working in conjunction with the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) included the administrators, faculty, staff, students, and family members, to the right.



**President, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis**, who serves as Communication Director overseeing and producing the Shiloh Network News productions, dig and tour photography, and aerial 3D site mapping.

**Staff Librarian,** Mrs. Janice Havins-Hamric (and her husband, Steve).

**Student Services Coordinator,** Abigail Leavitt, who serves as Objects Registrar for the dig.

**Provost, Dr. Scott Stripling**, who serves as the Director of Excavations at Ancient Shiloh.

**Dean of the Bible Certificate Program, Dr. Doug Petrovich**, who serves as Epigraphist for the dig.

**Adjunct Faculty, Dr. Charles Savelle and Dr. Brian Peterson**, who serve as Square Supervisors on the dig.

**Students (10 Bible Certificate and 7 graduate students),** Steve Burlington, Michael Cash, Dan and Andrea Cook, Bobbie and Julie Dean, Tommy Chamberlin, Carol Hamrick (and her husband, Larry), Brent Hoefling, Dary Von Jones, Rhonda Jones, Nathan Keller, Durwin Kicker (and his wife and son), Abigail Leavitt, Jordan McClinton, Shannon Stubblefield (and her husband, Greg).





# News and Updates

## TEL SHILOH ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

Shown at right is the Tel Shiloh Archaeological Dig conducted by the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) under the auspices of the Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria branch of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) and under the direction of TBS Provost, Dr. Scott Stripling. As depicted on the location map inset, Shiloh is located about 20 miles (32 km) north of Jerusalem. Amorites first settled Shiloh around 1700 BC. They eventually constructed an impressive infrastructure that included the large perimeter wall, glacis, and storage rooms. Israelites resettled Shiloh in the early 14th century during the time of Joshua, and the site served as Israel's first capitol, cultic center, and home of the tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant until the time of Samuel around 1070 BC. The current dig area is located along the northern arc of the ancient fortification wall that averages 5.2 meters thick (10 cubits, or 15 feet).



## 2019 EGYPT TOUR

Seven TBS family members toured Egypt from the northern Goshen plain (lower Egypt) to ancient Nubia (upper Egypt) in March with TBS provost, Dr. Scott Stripling, and Egyptologist David Rohl. Highlights included the pyramids, Tanis, Egyptian Museum, Luxor, and Avaris (especially meaningful since excavations at the site revealed evidence of Israelites in Egypt followed by an abandonment phase at the time of the exodus). Stripling and Rohl alternated lectures in the evening as the group cruised the Nile in style. Two members of the TBS Board of Directors, Bob Button and Becky Klein, along with their spouses, joined Dr. Stripling and his wife Janet. Becky's mother, Blanche Armendariz also toured with the 89-person group. Some significant parts of biblical history occurred in Egypt and the trip illuminated Scripture related to Egypt. Several tour participants have indicated plans to register for TBS courses.

“THE ENTIRE SOCIETY WAS FOCUSED ON, YOU MIGHT SAY EVEN OBSESSED WITH, PREPARING FOR THE AFTERLIFE. OUR SOCIETY WOULD BE SO DIFFERENT IF WE HAD A GREATER, HEALTHY FOCUS ON ETERNITY! PRAISE GOD THAT TBS TEACHES BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT THE ETERNAL NATURE OF THINGS! ALSO, I THINK DIANE AND I ENJOYED OUR VISIT TO GOSHEN THE MOST. TO THE CASUAL OBSERVER, THE AREA JUST LOOKED LIKE HIGHLY FERTILE, OPEN FIELDS NEAR NILE RIVER BRANCHES AND IRRIGATION CANALS. BUT, THIS SPECIAL AREA WAS WHERE JOSEPH, JACOB AND THEIR ISRAELITE FAMILY LIVED AND WORKED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.”

— Bob Button



# The Bible Seminary EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## BIBLE CERTIFICATE (BC)



This program is designed to help nurture a biblically literate populace via comprehensive, strategic Bible-based studies. The CORE curriculum consists of 7 courses (8-credit hours) designed to help students internalize the worldwide impact of Judeo-Christian history and culture by strategically covering all 66 books of the Bible, teaching how to study scripture, and mentoring the practice of studying specific passages and engaging in personal spiritual formation. ELECTIVE options (2-credit hours) offer students a wide range of Bible-based experiences and opportunities to reinforce applied learning and skills. Most courses are also eligible for CEU credit through the Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI). This program is offered in both English and Spanish.

This program is designed to offer core, graduate-level education for ministry leadership. This program is not a substitute for a degree program, denominational path toward ordination, or state licensure, but does provide foundational educational experiences and studies beneficial for anyone serving or who wants to serve in Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry leadership.



## (LP) LICENSED PROFESSIONAL

## DUAL DEGREE COMPLETION (DDC)



This program allows students with an Associate's degree, coursework toward an unfinished undergraduate degree, and life experiences that may count toward college credit to enroll in The Bible Seminary on a degree track resulting in both a bachelor's and master's degree. Students who successfully complete this program will have earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS), and either a companion Master of Arts (MA) or a Master of Divinity (M Div) degree. The Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies is customized for each student to incorporate previous college coursework (such as a 60-credit hour Associate degree), prior learning assessments, additional college studies, and TBS core graduate courses that can serve as dual bachelor/master credits.

This curriculum integrates an in-depth study of the Bible with basic historical, theological and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for ministry in the 21st century. All MA programs include a sequence of CORE and ELECTIVE 3-credit hour courses designed to summarily cover all 66 books of the Bible over a 2-year course of study offered during two standard semesters per year, with additional in-depth studies of numerous biblical books. Available Master of Arts majors are listed to the right.



## (MA) MASTER OF ARTS

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

## MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDIV)



This curriculum integrates an in-depth study of the Bible with the standard historical, theological and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for ministry in the 21st century. The program includes 28 courses (84-credit hours) designed to teach all 66 books of the Bible over a 3-year course of study. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will receive a Master of Divinity degree. The program is available for FULL-TIME students (registered for 9 or more credit hours per semester) and PART-TIME students. Auditing may be available for some courses on a limited basis.



# The Bible Seminary

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMPARISON



- Core
- Elective
- LP = Licensed Professional
- MA = Master of Arts in Church History and Theology (CHT), Biblical Languages and Culture (BLC), Biblical Studies (BS), and Biblical History and Archaeology (BHA)
- MDiv = Master of Divinity

COURSES	LP	CHT	BLC	BS	BHA	MDiv
<b>HERMENEUTICS</b>						
BSM 501: Bible Study Methods – Esther, Obadiah, Mark	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>LANGUAGES AND CULTURE</b>						
ANE 501: Ancient Near Eastern Cultures – Ezra 4-6, Daniel 2-7			●	○	●	○
GRK 501: Greek Language I – Jude, 2 & 3 John			●	○	●	●
GRK 502: Greek Language II – 1 Peter			●	○	●	●
GRK 503: Greek Exegesis – Gospel of Luke			○	○		●
HEB 501: Hebrew Language and Culture I – Jonah, Nahum			●	○	●	●
HEB 502: Hebrew Language and Culture II – Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi			●	○	●	●
HEB 503: Hebrew Exegesis – Habakkuk			○	○		●
<b>HISTORY AND THEOLOGY</b>						
THE 501: Theology I – Genesis	●	●	●	●	●	●
THE 502: Theology II – Romans, Hebrews		●	○	●		●
THE 503: Theology III – 1 & 2 Corinthians; 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus		●	○	●		●
THE 504: Theology IV – Joel, Daniel, 1 Peter, Revelation		●	○	●		●
THE 510: Church History I – Acts	●	●	●	●	●	●
THE 511: Church History II – (Holy Land Study Tour option)		●	●	●		○
THE 520: Biblical Archaeology – Judges		○	○	○	●	●
THE 525: Ancient Near East History and Archaeology					●	
<b>MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM</b>						
APO 501: Apologetics – Proverbs, James, 1 John		○	○	●		●
MIS 501: Missions I – <i>Perspectives on the World Christian Movement</i>	○	○	○	○	○	○
MIS 502: Missions II (Anthropology) – Hosea, Amos, Micah, Zephaniah	○	○	○	○	○	●
MIS 503: Discipleship, Evangelism, & Church Planting – Deuteronomy, Galatians	○	○	○	○	○	●
<b>PASTORAL LEADERSHIP</b>						
PAS 501: Pastor-Shepherd I – Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations	●	●	●	●	●	●
PAS 502: Pastor-Shepherd II – Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon				○		●
PAS 511: Pastor-Leader I – Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings	●	●	●	●	●	●
PAS 512: Pastor-Leader II – Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah				○		●
<b>PREACHING AND TEACHING</b>						
PRE 501: Expository Preaching/Teaching I – Isaiah	●	●	●	●	●	●
PRE 502: Expository Preaching/Teaching II – 1 & 2 Thessalonians				○		●
PRA 501: Prayer & Worship I – Leviticus, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Psalms		●	○	●		●
<b>SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND MINISTRY</b>						
SFM 500: Spiritual Formation & Ministry – <i>Bible Panorama</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●
SFM 501: Spiritual Formation & Ministry I – Exodus, Numbers, Matthew	○	●	●	●	○	●
SFM 505: Spiritual Formation & Ministry V – Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes	○	○	○	○		●
SFM 506: Spiritual Formation & Ministry VI – Ezekiel, Gospel of John	○	○	○	○		●
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY</b>						
ARC 501: Archaeology Theory and Methodology					●	
ARC 510: Ceramic Analysis					●	
ARC 520: Excavation Practicum & Field School I					●	
ARC 521: Excavation Practicum & Field School II					●	
<b>CAPSTONE</b>						
CAP 590: Capstone		●	●	●	●	●
CORE (●) required =	7	14	15	15	19	28
ELECTIVES (○) required =	2	2	3	5	1	0
Total Courses required =	9	16	18	20	20	28
Total Credit-hours (3-credits per course) =	27	48	54	60	60	84



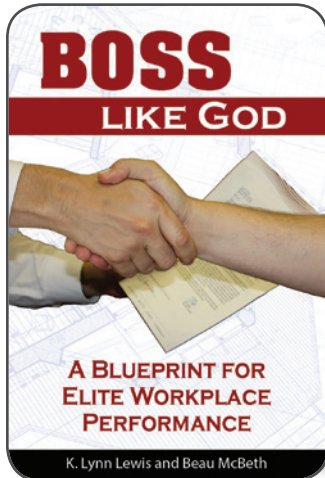
# Publications by TBS AUTHORS



**Dr. K. Lynn Lewis**  
TBS President

### **Shiloh Network News** 2019, Associates for Biblical Research

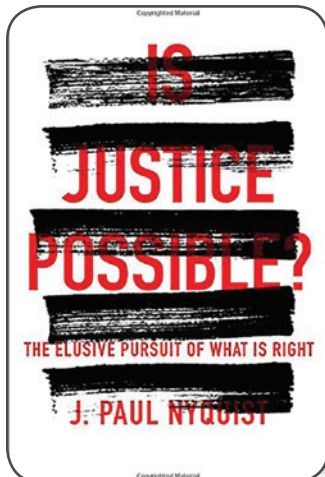
Sixteen-part series of short video broadcasts from Israel including Tel Shiloh dig and Holy Land tour highlights; and archaeological, biblical and historical education, inspiration, and entertainment.



**Dr. K. Lynn Lewis**  
TBS President

### **Boss Like God: A Blueprint for Elite Workplace Performance** 2018, Amazon

A contemporary, practical review of business relationships recorded in the Old Testament books of the Bible exploring how the Supreme CEO hired, managed, fired, and transitioned employees. Includes historical and modern examples of workplace interactions and secrets of leadership management success and failure.



**Dr. Paul Nyquist**

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

### **Is Justice Possible? The Elusive Pursuit of What is Right** 2017, Moody Publishers

Why is justice so hard to come by? The innocent are convicted. The guilty get away. The scales tip toward the powerful, while the weak remain oppressed. If our world is so sophisticated, why is there so much injustice? What can believers do? Can we ever expect justice? In four parts, Dr. Nyquist considers: 1) Biblical and theological foundations of justice; 2) Obstacles to justice in human society; 3) Practical steps for pursuing justice in political, personal, and public arenas; and 4) The hope of true justice upon Christ's return. At its core, this is a book about an attribute of God. Rather than rely on our own ideas of justice, we must look to the One who made us and embodies justice perfectly. Only then can we pursue justice in purposeful, effective, eternal ways.



**Cassia Glass**  
TBS graduate student

### **New Woman, New Clothes: Outfit Your Soul to Live, Lead, Love** 2017, Createspace

"What should I wear today?" It's something we ask as we hunt through our closets, matching clothes to the day's events and hoping for the best. But did you know we have spiritual outfits to consider as well? We often show up to relationships (whether marriage, friendship, family, work, or ministry) clothed in faulty habits and mindsets that block meaningful connections. Cassia Glass discusses how women can meet the challenges of relationships by "clothing ourselves" in things like compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience as outlined in Colossians 3:12-14. She examines what the Bible says about how we can get rid of old, worn-out ways of thinking and how we can allow God to transform us to live with more purpose, lead with more grace, and love with more heart.





**Dr. Ryan Lokkesmoe**  
TBS Adjunct Professor

**Paul and His Team**  
2017, Moody Publishers

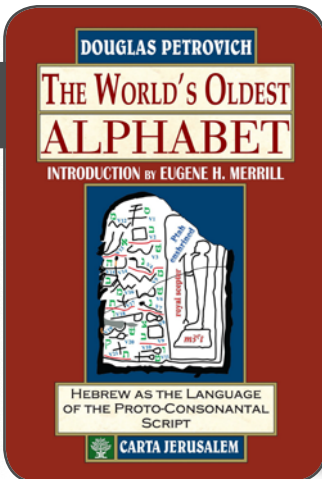
Most Christians know something of Paul's life and ministry, but what about the incredible team of men and women who served with him? Who were they, what made them so effective, and how can we imitate their qualities today? In *Paul and His Team*, Ryan Lokkesmoe examines the lives and practices of both prominent and obscure members of the early Church. Even if we don't view ourselves as leaders or hold some sort of leadership title, we all have influence and the accompanying charge to honor the Lord in how we use it. We can learn a lot from the example of the early Church.



**Dr. Ryan Lokkesmoe**  
TBS Adjunct Professor

**Small Groups Made Easy**  
coming Fall 2019, Bethany House Publishers

Leading a small group or Bible study can be intimidating, even for seasoned followers of Christ. In *Small Groups Made Easy*, Ryan Lokkesmoe offers both practical and theological preparation that will equip men and women to lead groups that flourish. Part 1 of the book clarifies the role of small group leader and focuses on basic principles of effective small group leadership. Part 2 is a set of 12 short Bible studies that walk the leader through key spiritual questions that routinely arise in small groups, such as What is God like? How does God view me? How do I grow spiritually? How should I pray? Where is God when I suffer? What if I have doubts about God? and How can I repair broken relationships?

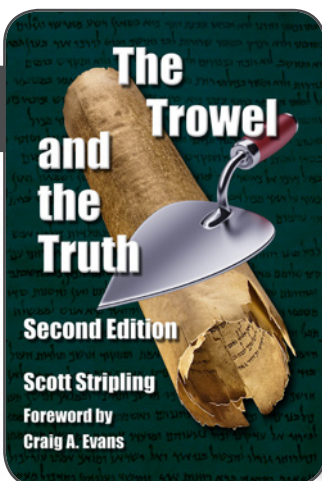


**Dr. Doug Petrovich**

TBS Dean of the Bible Certificate Program, Professor of Biblical History and Exegesis

**The World's Oldest Alphabet: Hebrew As the Language of the Proto-consonantal Script**  
2017, Carta Jerusalem

For close to 150 years, scholars have attempted to identify the language of the world's oldest alphabetic script and to translate the inscriptions that use it, which were found in the Sinai Peninsula and date from 1842 to 1446 BCE. Until now, scholars have accomplished little more than identifying most of the pictographic letters and translating a few of the Semitic words. In *The World's Oldest Alphabet*, however, Douglas Petrovich presents a thorough, detailed defense of his bold new claims concerning these writings. Petrovich claims to have resolved all of the disputed letters and to have identified the language as Hebrew, which allows him to translate all of the inscriptions. Furthermore, he argues that they explicitly name three biblical figures and greatly illuminate the earliest Israelite history in a way that nothing else has, apart from the Bible.



**Dr. Scott Stripling**  
TBS Provost

**The Trowel and the Truth: A Guide to Field Archaeology in the Holy Land**  
2017, Vision Publishing

A masterful treatment of the how and why of biblical archaeology. This book is important and timely for at least two reasons. First, archaeological work in the Holy Land continues to make good progress, resulting in exciting discoveries and fresh insights. This book informs readers of many of these recent and important discoveries. Secondly, archaeology greatly aids in the interpretation of Scripture. Few students, faculty, and pastors know the land of Israel and its rich treasures from the past as well as they should. Knowledge of the land and its archaeological insights will equip students, teachers, and pastors with important tools for better, sharper, more incisive interpretation of Scripture.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

*Rick McCalip*



**COMMIT YOUR ACTIONS TO THE LORD, AND YOUR PLANS WILL SUCCEED.**

*Proverbs*  
**16:3 (NLT)**

The Bible Seminary is a 501(c)(3) institution of higher education incorporated in Texas in 2010. All donations are charitable and tax deductible as allowed by law. If you have any legal questions, please see your tax advisor for more information.

FINANCIAL UPDATE, AS OF JUNE 1, 2019

Many donor-supported churches, non-profit organizations, and schools have watched their charitable income reduce substantially beginning last year. There are many possible causes, including changes in income tax rules, volatile investment markets, and general economic conditions related to unemployment or those seeking improved employment opportunities.

The Bible Seminary experienced a similar trend this past year until February.

**THROUGH GOD'S GRACE,  
TBS EXCEEDED OUR DONATION TARGET  
BY THE END OF OUR FISCAL YEAR ON MAY 31, 2019.**  
*Hallelujah!*

Financial results for recent years and our 2019-20 budget are summarized in the chart, on the next page.


Our 2018-19 results put us in a good position to satisfy the requirements for demonstrating adequate financial strength to continue with the accreditation process. Accreditation is a necessary achievement to open new sources of financial support, marketing avenues, and increase enrollment. From the beginning, we have committed TBS to the Lord with goals that include training pastors and ministry leaders, church planters, and missionaries for ministry leadership. As we continue to grow, our upcoming fiscal year offers increased academic, administrative, and financial challenges. The full costs associated with operating an accredited seminary are included in our 2019-20 fiscal year budget – the first year those expenses and funding needs are fully implemented.

Our success is inspiring, and the challenges associated with growth daunting. However, bolstered by hard work combined with faith, prayers, and the continued and growing support of generous donors, we hope to continue to live out Proverbs 16:3. We particularly thank the donors shown, to the right, for supporting TBS during the 2018-19 fiscal year (June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019).

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**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBMITTED DONATIONS,  
CONTACT TBS BUSINESS MANAGER, MRS. YAMILE SOTO.**

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Also, Rick McCalip, Vice-President of Finance and Administration, is available to confidentially discuss donations, including cash, checks, in-kind gifts, donations of stock, or considering The Bible Seminary in your estate planning. 





# Donors

*Thank you*  
TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR SUPPORT DURING  
TBS FISCAL YEAR JUNE 1, 2018 - MAY 31, 2019

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CRAIG AND GAYLE WOOTEN  
JOHN AND KARLA WRIGHT

## MISSION TITHE REPORT

In accordance with general biblical teaching on honoring the Lord through giving, and the instruction the Lord gave to the Levite tribe in Numbers 18:25-29 to tithe to the Lord a tenth of what the Israelites tithed to the Levites as their inheritance, TBS annually tithes 10% of tuition and fee income to other local and international ministries.

*We are grateful* for the fruitful and varied ministries of the following organizations that TBS invested in through our tuition and fee tithes during the 2018-19 fiscal year:

**ANTIOCH HOUSTON (FOREIGN MISSIONARY SUPPORT) • BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY • COMPASSION KATY ELIJAH RISING • KATY CARES • KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES • KATY FEED THE HUNGER PACKATHON NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER • PREGNANCY HELP CENTER OF WEST HOUSTON**

### FINANCIAL RESULTS

YEAR	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
INCOME	\$659,189	\$626,267	\$741,405	\$813,296	\$995,250
EXPENSES	\$625,621	\$564,458	\$682,295	\$796,310	\$984,290
NET INCOME	\$33,568	\$61,809	\$59,110	\$16,986	\$10,960

ACTUAL

BUDGET

#### DONATIONS...

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#### CHECKS ...

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# The Bible Seminary

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Email: [info@TheBibleSeminary.org](mailto:info@TheBibleSeminary.org)

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## Core Values

“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*

### 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 in the local church and have a symbiotic relationship of service and training with local churches and parachurch ministries.

### COMMUNITY

» Because we were created for community (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.