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THE SENTINEL



TBS

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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.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Representing increasing numbers of new TBS graduate students: (L-R, front) Gary Urie, Sharon Holmes, and Allison Taylor; (middle) Heidi Arneson and Cassia Glass; and (back) Patrick Wwise. Photo by Blake Quimby.

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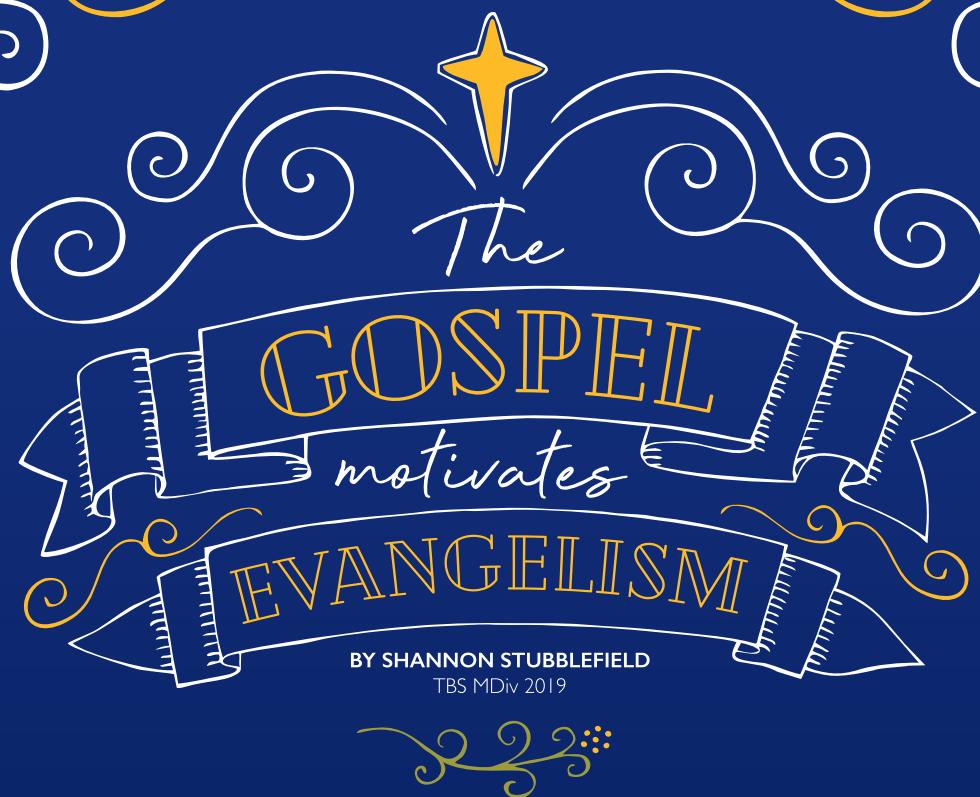
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The GOSPEL motivates EVANGELISM

BY SHANNON STUBBLEFIELD
TBS MDiv 2019



The Bible offers a message of hope to a lost world. Genesis introduces God's plan from the beginning

when humans were created in His image with the ability to choose to love or reject Him. Foreknowing that free will allowed opportunity for sin to enter the world and that fallen humans could not save themselves, God provided a way – The Way – in Jesus Christ.

The good news that Christians call “The Gospel” is that this Jesus, the Son of God, laid aside His divine position in heaven to become human, lived a perfect life full of love and compassion for others, calmed the seas and raised the dead, challenged people's hearts and minds to see truth and justice, and enabled willing, believing souls to accurately see themselves and the Father.

Jesus, embodying God's Presence on earth, offered life and hope. He also exposed self-seeking religious leaders that did not love God but oppressed others through power and position. He submitted Himself to rejection, humiliation, torture, and crucifixion.


He set aside His eternal, perfect, and unified divinity to accept punishment and death for the sins of the world. He then rose victoriously from the grave, defeating sin and death, in a resurrection power so intense that many saints who had died before Him walked free of their tombs, too (Mt. 27:51). The risen Jesus then revealed Himself to hundreds of people over 40 days before ascending back to the Father, His perfect sacrifice for sin ensuring opportunity for eternal life for all who believe in Him. That is good news indeed!

Meditating on the limitless power of God, the unfathomable dimensions of Jesus' love, and all the Lord endured on our behalf is overwhelming. God's love is truly incomprehensible, and, yet, the reason Psalmists sing of His testimonies, prophets cry out for people to love and obey God, and New Testament writers exhort readers to have faith in the Lord and to love Him and one another.

When Jesus cried out, “It is finished!” and the earth shook, and the veil in the temple tore from top to bottom. Jesus opened the way for seekers, sinners, and slaves to find forgiveness, freedom, and

healing. Through the gift of His Holy Spirit, He empowered a varied cast of New Testament characters. Some were passionate and impulsive like Peter. Others, like Paul, had rhetorical gifts. But most were regular people living average lives as tax collectors, doctors, religious zealots, fishermen, businesspeople, spouses, and siblings. These average people became powerful teachers, preachers, disciple makers, and evangelists who carried the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ wherever they went.

That is Good News Indeed!

God is still mightily advancing His kingdom through daring, bold believers who trust Him completely. The same power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead and casts out fear resides in every believer. What an amazing adventure and opportunity to share the love of this Jesus Christ – the Messiah, Savior, and Lord over all – with others! 

BELIEVERS'

Dependency

BY JANICE HAMRIC
Librarian

In communication with several church friends during our recent stay-at-home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I observed various reactions to this drastic life change and somewhat subsequent suffering. A startling personal revelation occurred, around day three, when my husband pointed out that I was still in my pajamas while watching the six o'clock nightly news. Later, after almost brushing my teeth with gel from a product designed to strengthen my hair, I determined to be more mindful of how I spent my Corona days.

Had I gotten caught up in the cliffhanging suspense wondering what would happen next?

Resolute to not resort to vacuous robotic media participation, I grabbed my Bible and dove into God's Word. After all, I am a strong believer with many tools from years of study. But, like the post-Exodus Israelites in the desert, I had temporarily failed to bring my contagion confusion, disillusionment, disorientation, and poor attempts at self-sufficiency to God's throne of grace.

As a believer within this tumultuously changing cultural and political climate, I questioned whether I really trusted God's sovereignty and whether I really had an unshakeable faith in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He never changes and is the same today, yesterday, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Was I living truly depending upon God's promises, love, grace, mercy, faithfulness, sovereignty, and omnipotence?

Although scripture proclaims, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5), I saw signs of anxiety, fear, and paranoia manifest in some of my believing friends. I watched large and small businesses suffer, people in daily food lines, schools and churches close, non-profits struggle with funding to offer their essential services, growing confirmed disease cases and deaths.

Is this epidemic and cliffhanging suspense divinely designed to draw God's people to Him, for His good purposes, in total trust and dependency?

We know that God, who first loved us when making us for His purposes, desires to prepare us for eternity. He has planted eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Our cumulative experiences and use of God-given talents point us to our eternal purpose to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-29). In *The Purpose Driven Life*, pastor Rick Warren suggests that God will ask, “What did you do with my Son, Jesus Christ? The only thing that will matter is, did you accept what Jesus did for you and did you learn to love and trust him?”

Moses emphasized God’s warnings to the Israelites as they were eventually going to enter the Promised Land. He reminded them that God would give them splendid cities which they did not build, houses full of good things which they did not fill, cisterns they did not dig, vineyards they did not plant, and that they would eat and be satisfied (Deuteronomy 6: 10-11). The Israelites were then warned to be careful that they didn’t forget the Lord who brought them out from Egyptian slavery. Jehovah-Jireh required their obedience to His commands so they would prosper.


Did they choose to depend on their Provider God, to believe Him and trust His promises and faithfulness?

Fast forward to Joshua chapters six and seven. After conquering and utterly destroying Jericho, it was known that “the Lord was with Joshua and his fame was in all the land” (Josh 6:27 NASB). Shocking defeat and the renting of clothes, dust upon the head, and all day fasting and prayer, followed after the Israelites’ attempted attack on Ai, just nine miles away. Achan, from the tribe of Judah, had not trusted God’s provision and promises and took coveted, accursed things that were under the ban; he had transgressed God’s covenant by theft and deception. God’s swift judgment and righteous punishment followed; Israel was now consecrated to stand before their enemies in Ai. The sin, this accursed thing formerly in the midst of the people, this repugnant rebellion, reflected dishonor to God’s character and sovereignty.

Fully God and fully man, Jesus Christ depended on His Father, spoke and acted as the Father directed; He did the Father’s will (John 6:38; 10:25). When He was tempted, Jesus prayed as one totally dependent on God, as one who unequivocally trusted His Father. On the cross, in sacrificial submission, Jesus died in His humanity, as the Son sent to save the world from sin in unwavering trust in God’s sovereignty. “Yet not my will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus Christ rose, defeating sin and death, so that we who believe that He is Lord and Christ, will have life eternally with Him. HE IS THE TEST.

So, how do we accept the sanctifying propitiatory work Jesus did for us and learn to always love, trust and depend

on Him? Is it easier to do when everything is going well – when our cities are splendid and our houses are full of good things and our vineyards thrive, and we have work and food on the table? Do we save our valuable trust and dependence on God only for emergencies such as the challenges we now face, like saving the good china and silver for use only on Christmas and Easter? Did it take a pandemic to cause dependence on God and surrender of the control we thought we had? Hopefully, we have fallen on our knees in prayer, and finally “got it” about leaning into God and not leaning on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Thankfully, our now slower, more reflective approach to daily living may offer up many opportunities to prepare, to pass the test. It is about saving faith, and the resulting works, walking hand in hand. It is about accepting this free Gift – Jesus, Lord and Christ – and being filled with the Holy Spirit while serving others as Jesus did. Even when challenged with a pandemic, God wants us to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances (I Thessalonians 5:16-18). We are to live a lifestyle of prayer, lift up each day to God, walk in a genuine faith, absorb God’s Word, and abide in Him and He in us so our hearts are not troubled as we trust in the One to whom every knee will bow and every tongue confess (Romans. 14:11), our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 14:1). 

He is the Test.



TBs



Becoming

BY DR. K. LYNN LEWIS, PRESIDENT

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD AND THE WORK

Become
mature,
attaining to
the whole
measure of
the fullness
of Christ

EPHESIANS
4:13

Christians act weird sometimes. They hold hands and hug at protests, even during a global pandemic, while taking turns talking out loud to someone they can't see and can't seem to independently and unequivocally prove even exists. They engage in this activity publicly, seemingly without shame or even embarrassment. They call it "prayer," say they are doing it in the name of some important person in the Bible and assume that excuses behavior that in other circumstances generally leads to psychological or psychiatric diagnoses and treatment.

They go places near and far with equipment, supplies, and tools to clean up messes they didn't make in their own communities as well as the communities of others ransacked by senseless violence or impacted by the latest natural disaster. They often seem happy, glad to lend helping hands and offer practical assistance amidst overwhelming circumstances. They donate their own

money to participate and ask for nothing in return, not even a bottle of water, since many bring their own along with extras to share.

These "disciples of Jesus" read the same book repeatedly. They quote it with coded numerical references and study its words and phrases in multiple languages. They compare translations and discuss what the text "really means" both in its historical context and in modern society. They read reams of commentary on it; listen to incalculable expository sermons, radio programs, and podcasts; and watch countless hours of religious movies and videos. They read portions aloud during events.

Some even pay to study biblical hermeneutics, languages and culture, history and theology, missions and evangelism, pastoral leadership, preaching and teaching, and spiritual formation. They train for ministry to more effectively engage in biblically-based, Christ-centered career and



Eight Christians celebrating at the May 2015 culmination of their weird decision to attend seminary include: (L-R) Rowena Marable, Erica McLemore Snow, private, Eric Strong, Brenda Martin, Esmeralda Heer, Kevin Penner, and Sara Stanley. During the 2019-20 academic year, more than 300 individuals enrolled in at least one course offered by The Bible Seminary (TBS). If you are interested in similarly participating in such strangely becoming behavior, TBS has room for you, too.

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GRAND DESIGN

volunteer leadership in their homes, churches, businesses, and communities.

But, why? What's the point of these peculiar behaviors? The classic spiritual search of generations across millennia focuses on two things:

1. **IDENTITY** – “Who is God?” “Who am I?” “Who are we?” and,
2. **INSTRUCTION** – “How should we live?”

With a complex smorgasbord of 4,200 religions in the world ranging from agnosticism and animism to Zoroastrianism, plus the detached option to reign as one's own autonomous sovereign, why does approximately 1/3 of the entire world population, including 2/3 of the U.S. population, identify as Christian?

Not surprisingly, the religious book many Christians hold in high regard provides some answers these questions, and a whole lot more.

The collection of 66 books often called “the Bible” compiles a sweeping array of literary content. Despite those who claim the manuscripts are not historical but, at best, an assemblage of biased moral and theological treatises, all of the content is presented in historical contexts. From beginning to end, the Bible repeatedly purports to report divine and human historical facts past, present, and future. What had not yet happened at the time of writing did eventually happen in many cases and with such precision that doubters claim the documents could only have been written after the events occurred.

Isaiah prophesied details about a future foreign emperor named “Cyrus” around 150 years before the man rose to power. God called Cyrus “my shepherd,” “his anointed,” said “I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor,” and promised to “raise him up in my righteousness and make all his ways straight” (Isaiah 44:28, 45:1-13). As prophesied, Cyrus the Great came, led Persia, and decreed the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4). Isaiah prophesied details about the eventual rise and fall of the Babylonians even though the Assyrians were the dominant world power of his time. He prophesied about the rise of the Medes before they emerged on the world stage, the unimaginable fall of Tyre, as well as amazingly precise details about Jesus's life and death 700 years or so before Jesus was born. While skeptics deny the plausibility of such accuracies, believers rejoice in prophecies fulfilled and the confidence they give that all of Isaiah's remaining unfilled prophecies will be eventually be fulfilled in due time as exactly as promised.

(continued on page 8)

Even so, if the biblical authors sought to persuasively attract devout followers, they did not employ prudent marketing protocols. For example, Genesis begins with a beautiful story, but much of the rest of the Bible chronicles various shameful escapades and details names, places, and events like a criminal rap sheet. Authors claim to interpret history from God's perspective and paint a dismal picture of humanity without divine intervention. The path to triumph is itself an arduous and cringeworthy journey of blood, sacrifice, and death. The promises to those who leave everything to join the adventure seem strangely mixed – hundredfold blessings, along with persecutions and death, followed by eternal life (Mark 10:29-30) – the middle two of which are not very appealing to those seeking entertaining escape, unlimited riches, unmerited mercy, and unbridled freedom without consequences.

Genesis and Revelation seem to bookend a thematic plot that begins and ends with the Lord and people living together in beautiful harmony with all creation. However, the vast middle contrasts faith, repentance, and holy living with unbelief, rebellion, and sinful living. The juxtaposition compares a first nature steeped in sin to a second nature that radiates holiness.

Jesus described what Christians call “conversion” from sinner to saint as being “born again” (John 3:3). He further explained that when someone repents in response to his Gospel, i.e. good news of salvation, and loves him and seeks to obey him, then he and his Father reside in them and his Holy Spirit teaches them (John 14:23, 26). Thus, through his Word and Holy Spirit, God endeavors to help His children be like Him so they can “be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy” (Leviticus 19:2). Theologians describe this process of becoming holy as “sanctification.”

IMPLICIT MEMORY



Practically, how does becoming holy work? How do antagonistic, arrogant, greedy, harmful, hypocritical, lazy, mean, prideful, profane, racist, slanderous, or even nice but self-centered sinners turn into giving, loving, protective, respectful, sanctified saints who do weird things like love God first and foremost and love their neighbors as themselves?

Social science provides some curious insight. Psychologists describe memory as a process in which our brains receive, store, and retrieve information. *Explicit memory* refers to things we work to store and actively recall such as data – names, numbers, colors, musical notes, places, directions, etc. *Implicit memory*, sometimes referred to as automatic, declarative, or unconscious memory, refers to activities and experiences we unconsciously remember without thinking about them and that underly our behavior.

Implicit memory includes beliefs about one's self, others, religion, and politics. It influences one's personality in areas such as attitudes, character, desires, motivations, and passions. It includes skills, such as walking, riding a bike, or navigation. It integrates things that once involved explicit memory but become so ingrained over time that they become implicit.

For example, when I type, my fingers automatically find the proper keys without me thinking about where to place them. My repeated practice in typing class over forty years ago integrated the process of typing so deeply into my memory that, although I cannot actively recall the location

of nearly any letter or command key on the keyboard without looking at it, I consistently type accurately and somewhat rapidly without looking at the keyboard.

In the classic 1960's and 1970's *Pink Panther* movies, Inspector Clouseau's Chinese martial arts expert, Cato Fong, regularly sneak attacked Clouseau to help keep him unconsciously more alert and sharpen his implicit defensive skills. This type of repeated practice helps develop strong neural pathways in the brain and coordinate better autonomic, effective, and efficient mind/body interaction.

Athletes, musicians, nurses and physicians, soldiers, and others engage in training designed to move explicit information and techniques into long-term, implicit memory. In fact, one goal of education, especially primary education, is to repeatedly engage students in activities that build implicit memories crucial to living and working in society.

Problems arise in several ways, such as: 1) failure to integrate key foundational knowledge and processes, and 2) integration of corrupt ideas and harmful patterns. For example, children who never learn to do chores may struggle with taking responsibility for common adult tasks. People raised with prejudice, schooled in abuse, or allowed ample and repeated freedom to indulge in sin without meaningful consequences can apathetically and reflexively harm others.

SECOND NATURE

Although biblical authors did not know modern psychology, they did convey knowledge about the process of becoming holy.

» Exodus

* Impress God's commandments on your hearts, tell them to your children, talk about them at home, out and about, up and down and all around, and when asked about them, explain our history and God's promises (6:1-25)

* Weekly celebrate the Sabbath as a sign for generations so that you may know that I am the Lord who makes you holy (31:12-13)

* Annually celebrate three weeklong festivals to the Lord (23:14-17; 34:18-28)

» Psalm 119

* How can I keep my way pure? By living according to your word (9)

* I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you (11)

* I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways (15)

* I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word (16)

* Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors (24)

* Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (105)

» If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him...and the Father will send the Holy Spirit in my name to teach you all things (John 14:23-26)

» Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)

» Offer your bodies as living sacrifices and be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:1-2)

» The Word of God lives in you and you have overcome the evil one (I John 2:14)

When a person truly believes in Jesus as Savior and Lord, God will work through His Word and Holy Spirit to transform his or her's first, sinful nature into a second, holy nature. As people repeatedly engage in explicit transformational behaviors, God works in them immediately and over time to recreate them in His image.


In so doing, they become Christians. They become followers of the teachings of Jesus, referred to in Acts as "the Way" (Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 24:14,22). They become disciples who do godly, unconventional things because that's who they are. They integrate biblical answers to the ageless questions of identity and instruction deeply into

their lives. They exhibit increasingly implicit holy attitudes and knowledge and skills through second nature words and actions that glorify God, help others, and positively impact their communities.

ARE YOU PURSUING POSITIVE SOLUTIONS AMIDST PLAGUE, PREJUDICE, AND SOCIETAL TURMOIL



While others complain, debate, fret, prognosticate, slander, or resort to violence, choose instead to do things some people think are weird.

1. Strategically, comprehensively, and repeatedly read and study the Bible.
2. Spend time daily praying for others by name or position so God's people may be equipped for works of service and the body of Christ may be built up until all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13).
3. Systematically integrate Christ-like transformational activities into your life and allow the Holy Spirit to recreate you in His holy image from the inside out.
4. Consider Jesus present in your every thought and activity, public and private, and speak and act accordingly for His glory, the good of others, and your temporal and eternal success in the journey of becoming Christian. 



DR. K. LYNN LEWIS

serves as

PRESIDENT OF THE BIBLE SEMINARY



*For more,
visit his personal website*

KLYNNLEWIS.COM

The Bible Seminary 2020 COMMENCEMENT



Twelve TBS students will have completed their courses of study and receive recognition at Commencement scheduled for Sunday, August 16, 2020, 4:00 p.m. at Family Life Church in Sugar Land, Texas. Three graduates will receive Master's degrees, and nine will receive Bible Certificates.



DEGREE GRADUATE



Valedictorian

KRYSTYNA CAWTHORNE

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHURCH HISTORY AND THEOLOGY

"As TBS ushers in a new academic year in August 2020, I will say goodbye to the old – a season of rich learning and spiritual growth. My journey, as unexpected as extraordinary, began in September 2015 when I was looking for an in-depth Bible study and found myself auditing a Discipleship class at TBS. From the very first day, I was utterly hooked. After auditing, I ventured forth and began taking classes for credit, and then finally

took the plunge and applied for a graduate degree program. The in-depth, Bible-based teaching from world-class, learned, and godly professors has led me on a fascinating pilgrimage to the very throne room of God. Each class is an intellectual, emotional, and spiritual adventure like no other I have ever encountered. The experience has been transformational, and I have always felt that I was not the same person at the end of

each class as I was at the beginning. For one assignment, the Lord led me to write a Bible Study guide to minister to moms with children on the Autism spectrum, which then developed into my Capstone project. So, as my time with TBS draws to a close and future ministry beckons, richly equipped with TBS teachings and spiritual formation, I look forward to using this guide to help others similarly on special-needs journeys."



DEGREE GRADUATE



DESTRY JACKSON

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

"I am originally from Norcatur, Kansas, a small town near the Nebraska border of northwest Kansas. I am very grateful for the level of education I have received at The Bible Seminary, and for the amazing professors who devote themselves to our education. Thank you, TBS!"



DEGREE GRADUATE



DURWIN KICKER

Honorary

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Pastor of First Baptist Church of Marshfield, Missouri for 25 years and an enthusiastic volunteer in biblical archaeology who participated in annual excavations for several years at Khirbet el-Maqatir and then at Shiloh in Israel, Durwin enrolled in the TBS graduate degree program in 2018. The TBS family was deeply saddened by Durwin's unexpected passing this past January and is awarding his degree posthumously to his wife, Kim; children, Kyle and Anna; and the Kicker family.



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



WILLIAM W. CARPENTER

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, Bill spent his career in the oil and gas business, retiring in 2009. He and his wife Mary are parents to four grown children and thirteen very active grandchildren. Bill remains active on the board of the Schlumberger Employees Credit Union and his Property Owners Association. He has been the leader of a Men's Bible Study group for many years at Faithbridge Church and is currently on staff at Faithbridge supervising the construction of a new 24,000 square foot Student Ministry building.



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



MICHAEL CASH

Husband to Brianna and father to Brighton and Everly, Michael was born and raised in Sugar Land, Texas and for the past thirteen years has had the honor of serving in his hometown as a pastor at Sugar Land Family Church. Under excellent leadership by Lead Pastors Nathan and Dena Keller and through the ongoing mentorship of Dr. Scott Stripling, Michael has fallen in love with all things "church" and is passionate about helping people find hope in Jesus.

(continued on page 12)



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



ROBERT DAVILA

"I thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for healing my soul, spirit, and body. I thank the Anchor Bend Church Dream Team for helping me build a solid foundation in my spiritual walk and The Bible Seminary for their willingness, obedience, and faithfulness to God in helping make my ministry what it is today. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, I served two tours of duty with the United States Marine Corp. I have a beautiful wife, Sylvia; and a son, Alex, and daughter, Natalie, who live in Chicago with their families. My walk with the LORD began several years ago amidst facing death through sickness. When I first took a TBS class with Dr. Scott Stripling, little did I know how my life would be transformed in truly coming to know GOD, find freedom, and discover my purpose in how to make a difference in this world."



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



DEBY FELICIANO

"A volunteer on the audio/video team at Church of Living Waters in Rosenberg, Texas, I first learned about the TBS Bible Certificate program two years ago. After taking the initial "Bible Panorama" course, I just knew I wanted to learn more. The program opened my mind and heart towards growing my relationship with the Lord, and I highly recommend it to anyone that wants more understanding of the Bible. Personally, I thoroughly enjoy the companionship and joy of my two rescue dogs adopted in 2003 and 2007, and I enjoy reading comic books, watching sci-fi and adventure movies, and spending time with my 11 and 13-year old nephews."



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



DIANE MILLER

A native of Williamsville, New York, Diane moved to Katy, Texas in 2003. Her and her husband, Dave have five kids ranging from 25 and 31. She works at Katy Community Fellowship, and enjoys serving at church and in the community as well as joining her family in slack lining, climbing, acro yoga, camping, skiing, segway riding, mountain biking, white water rafting, and, when they are not around, playing piano and cooking.

"Dave and I LOVE the Lord and His word so much so that we decided to learn more about Him through The Bible Seminary. What a great experience this has been so far! Even though I am completing my certificate, I plan to continue this journey by auditing TBS graduate courses."



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



SANDRA PAIZ

"A proud member of Church of Living Waters in Rosenberg, Texas, I got involved with TBS when our church began offering TBS Bible Certificate classes in 2018. I enjoyed the convenience of TBS professors teaching on our campus, and it has been well worth the 2-year commitment! My TBS experience has brought me closer to Christ and helped me realize how God uses people from all walks of life to fulfill His mission and demonstrate how much He loves us even though we don't deserve His grace. I enjoy traveling, the outdoors, and spending time with family, friends and 15 year-old Chihuahua named Twinkie! With the knowledge I've received from the Bible Certificate program, I look forward to sharing my story with friends, family and others who don't know Him so that they can be led to Him, too."



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



BLAKE QUIMBY

Blake grew up in the Richmond-Rosenberg, Texas area and has served in local church ministry leadership for nearly 20 years. He served as Administrative Pastor at Church of Living Waters for seven years, Children's Director at Sugar Land Family Church, and Student Ministry Associate at Sugar Creek Baptist Church. His roles have included Worship Leader, Children's Pastor, Youth Pastor and Administrative Pastor. He is married to Krystle and they have two children, Madison and Reese. He serves as the Communication Director for TBS and is currently enrolled in the TBS Bible Certificate Program and plans to enroll in one of the degree programs.



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



ROSEMARY MATA

Honorary

A member of Church of Living Waters in Rosenberg, Texas, Rosemary started in the Bible Certificate program by taking "Bible Panorama" in January 2018. She loved the Lord wholeheartedly, loved spending time in the Word of God and worship, and loved enjoying her family. TBS was deeply saddened by her untimely passing on December 7, 2018 and is awarding her Bible Certificate posthumously to her husband, Phillip; children, April and Jonathan; grandchildren, Noah, Ruby and Ezekiel; and the Mata family.

"One thing about seasons in our lives, there always comes a change. The awesome thing about our seasons is that God is always at work in us (and our) seasons change when God is finished with us in that season... Knowing who you are in Christ makes the difference... We are not ones that look for evidence to see that God is moving; we are not moved by what we see, but we are moved by the word of God. If God said it, He will do it. It is not our timing, but His. Glory to God. Put your confidence in Him today because He is faithful to all His promises."



BIBLE CERTIFICATE GRADUATE



ELENA SUSTAITA

"A member of Church of Living Waters in Rosenberg and owner of Minonite Hair Salon in Richmond, Texas, I started attending TBS about two years ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time. Every professor has invested so much knowledge and care into my life and helped me come to a better understanding of God's word. I am blessed with a loving husband and two sons that make me so proud. I am thankful for TBS and encourage everyone to take a class."





2019 - 20 FACULTY OF THE YEAR

Dr. Rich Cozart




DR. COZART
PREPARED
15-MINUTE
TEACHING VIDEOS
AND ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES



The Bible Seminary (TBS) is pleased to announce Dr. Rich Cozart as the 2019-20 TBS Faculty Member of the Year. Dr. Cozart has served as an Adjunct Professor since 2013 teaching graduate level and Bible Certificate courses. He also serves on the TBS Academic Affairs Committee. TBS values excellence in instruction by recognizing a full-time or adjunct faculty member each academic year who has gone above and beyond expectations.

During the 2019-20 academic year, Dr. Cozart redesigned his own Bible Certificate "Soul Care" course for small groups. The redesign enabled almost 200 students at Sugar Land Family Church to take this 8-week course as part of their church's mental health awareness initiative. Rebranded "SOULutions," Dr. Cozart prepared 15-minute teaching videos and additional resources

for the church's weekly small groups meetings. He also worked with church leaders as the pastor prepared messages and the video team captured video testimonies aligned with weekly topics that included the following: Balancing the Christian Life, Overcoming Worry and Fear, Managing Depression, Healing Shame and Guilt, Surviving Trauma and Painful Memories, Dealing with Anger, Resolving Conflict, and Maintaining Boundaries.

Dr. Cozart, a licensed counselor, also volunteers on occasion to meet with TBS students in crisis. Furthermore, his classroom instruction consistently meets and exceeds our high expectations. We congratulate Dr. Cozart on this well-deserved recognition and are grateful for the Lord's blessings on TBS through his teaching and counseling ministry! 

weekly topics include

BALANCING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE • OVERCOMING WORRY AND FEAR • MANAGING DEPRESSION • HEALING SHAME AND GUILT • SURVIVING TRAUMA AND PAINFUL MEMORIES
DEALING WITH ANGER • RESOLVING CONFLICT
MAINTAINING BOUNDARIES

STUDENT NEWS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED FOR AND BY TBS STUDENTS

Featuring articles written by students, alumni, faculty and staff, *Student News* has a three-fold purpose. First, it is designed to foster a sense of community among our student body by keeping our students abreast of the latest TBS news. Second, it provides students with practical, helpful information in the form of articles written by faculty members and focused on various aspects of studying. Third, it offers students a platform from which to share their research and experiences with their seminary family.

The Bible Seminary Honor Roll

The following students qualified for the honor roll the 2019-20 academic year

Fall Semester

KASSIDY BELL

4.0

DESTRY JACKSON

3.83

ABIGAIL LEAVITT

4.0

JORDAN McCLINTON

3.3

Spring Semester

ZAC AIKMAN

3.83

DESTRY JACKSON

3.75

ABIGAIL LEAVITT

4.0



THE TBS ACADEMIC
HONOR ROLL INCLUDES
STUDENTS WHO EARN A



semester
GPA OF 3.25
OR HIGHER



WHILE TAKING
9 OR MORE GRADUATE
CREDIT HOURS



FROM THE STUDENT
SERVICES COORDINATOR
Abigail Leavitt



THE TBS LIBRARY OFFERS
EXCELLENT RESOURCES FOR
your research papers


WE RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 3,500 BOOKS

This special issue of *Student News* in *The Sentinel* includes practical advice from a faculty member on the topic of writing research papers. To delve deeper into this topic, check out a recent addition to the TBS library, *Your Guide to Writing Quality Research Papers* by Nancy Jean Vyhmeister and Terry Dwain Robertson. A practical resource for religion and theology students, the handbook provides essential guidance tailored for typical graduate-level writing assignments. The fourth edition includes updated information on Turabian 9th edition and SBL Handbook 2nd edition, coaches students in intentionally choosing reliable and credible sources, offers a guide through the maze of online and library resources, and assists in fashioning excellent essays.

The TBS library offers excellent resources for your research papers. On March 27, 2020, TBS received a shipment of approximately 3,500 books, the private library of the late Dr. Colin Brown. This donation more than doubled the TBS library collection. Our librarian, Janice Hamric, and I, have been working to catalog and prepare these volumes for use.

Dr. Brown's library contains a diverse collection of theological works with a focus on the gospels, ancient manuscripts, church history, philosophy, and Judaism. TBS students will benefit greatly from availing themselves of these resources. A library dedication is tentatively scheduled for November to celebrate these recent additions.

Watch for a frequently changing library display in Classroom 270 highlighting resources related to current classes each semester. To check out books from the display or the library see Carousel or another staff member.

Library volumes deemed unnecessary either due to duplication or subject matter are available to students on the "Free books" shelves in Classroom 270. Take as many volumes as you wish from these shelves at no cost. 

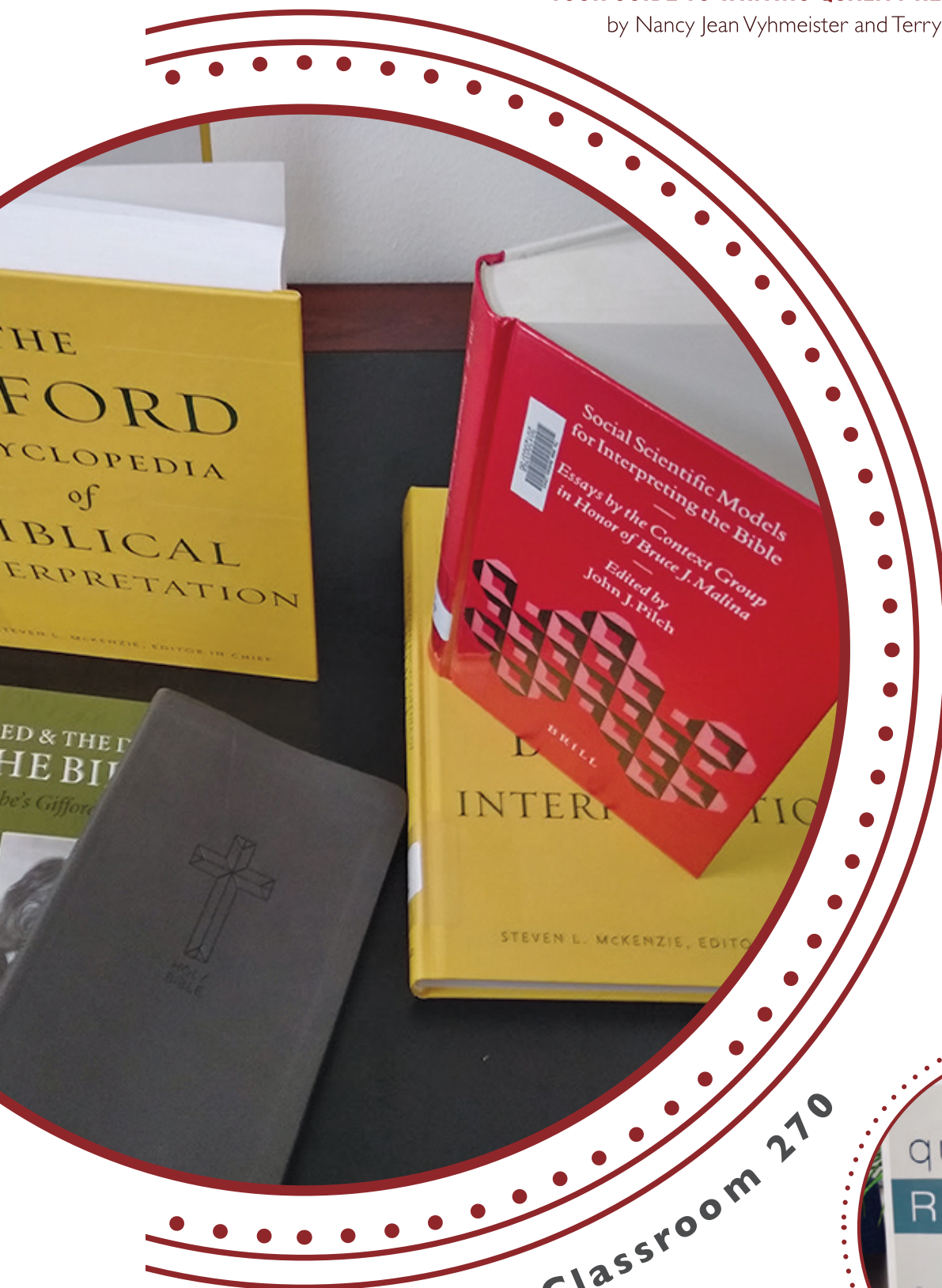
*Looking forward to
seeing you again this fall!*



A PRACTICAL RESOURCE FOR RELIGION AND THEOLOGY STUDENTS

YOUR GUIDE TO WRITING QUALITY RESEARCH PAPERS

by Nancy Jean Vyhmeister and Terry Dwain Robertson



Our Library Display is in **Classroom 270**



COVID-19 and Biblical Archaeology

The Coronavirus has been unkind. Many have experienced loss – whether it is an actual death of a loved one, a business going bankrupt, harsh quarantines, or a high school senior who will miss graduation. Here is one more hurting sector you can add to the list: biblical archaeology.

Archaeologists that work in Israel are still processing the casualties that the pandemic has wrought. Foremost among these are ransacked ancient sites that fell prey to looters taking advantage of minimal surveillance. Next in line is the disbanding of one of

the foremost archaeological programs in the United States. Lastly, and arguably most heartbreaking, was the cancelation of almost every volunteer-based excavation scheduled to take place in the Summer of 2020.

Israel enforced social distancing early and severely. Much of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) went into telework mode by March 15. That shutdown included the IAA's Theft Prevention Unit, a group charged with protecting Israel's 30,000 archaeological sites from looters and vandalism. Organized networks of looters and traders were

keen to take advantage of the lack of oversight. A Jewish watchdog organization called the "Guardians of the Eternal" reported recently that at least 100 archeological sites in Judea/Samaria have been ransacked in the last two months. The Hirbet Astunah archeological site in the Shiloh Valley, Tel Parsin in Northern Samaria, and the Mt. Kabir Nature Reserve are just three of the looted multi-period sites. What exactly was stolen from these sites may never be known, but the damage the vandals have done is permanent.

Looters are not the only

ones taking advantage of reduced surveillance. According to the Jewish News Syndicate, the Palestinian Authority has also usurped control over Tel Aroma, an ancient Hasmonean fortress in northern Samaria. During an official ceremony, they declared the ruin a Palestinian Heritage Site. The Guardians of the Eternal reports that while illegally paving an access road to the ridge, the Palestinian Authority damaged portions of the ancient wall and reservoirs.

The Coronavirus's global economic impact has also wounded the academic



world. In early April, the nation's largest archaeology program at a Protestant institution, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, closed its archaeology program permanently. Five professors were let go and twenty-five graduate students found themselves without a program. Southwestern Baptist said the closure was due to campus-wide budget reductions "necessitated by the financial challenges associated with COVID-19."

Chris McKinny, historical geographer, and archaeologist with the Tel Burna project in Israel, was saddened by the news. "Evangelical academic institutions," McKinney says, "need to make a much greater commitment to support research and education in the area of biblical geography, customs, and, especially, archaeology." McKinney asks, "If evangelical institutions with historic connections to biblical archaeology will not maintain their commitment to the discipline, then who will?"


As of now, even with the IAA getting back to work and travel restrictions beginning to lift, most of Israel's summer archaeological digs have already been canceled. Before Passover, Prime Minister Netanyahu made the difficult decision that no flights would be allowed into Israel until the spread of the virus was under better control. Many field archaeologists, unable to make proper plans or give the green light for the thousands of summer volunteers, had to call it quits. Granted, archaeologists who work in Israel are accustomed to sudden stops due to the difficult political situation, but they expect war and rockets, not a microscopic enemy.

Shimon Gibson, a Jerusalem archaeologist at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, had to halt

his Mt. Zion excavations for the first time in 12 years. Dr. Scott Stripling at The Bible Seminary canceled his fourth year of excavations at Shiloh. According to Stripling, "I waited as long as possible to cancel the summer season, but I have now set my sights on summer 2021." Israeli archaeologist Aren Maeir at Bar Ilan University began consulting with virologists as soon as COVID-19 surfaced in Israel. He waited until after Passover but ultimately had to cancel his summer excavations at Gath, the possible hometown of Goliath. When asked about the long-term impact of a lost year of archaeological excavation, Maeir said, "things that waited for 3,000 years can wait another year."

In addition to volunteers, tourists usually descend in droves on the archaeological parks throughout the country, like Masada, Qumran, and Sepphoris. As of last week, twenty national parks reopened but limited pre-registration was required, as were masks and temperature checks. Oren Gutfeld, owner of Israel Archaeological Services, spends most of his spring and summer providing logistical and administrative help to excavation projects happening all over Israel. It was a thriving business until the pandemic hit. Gutfeld says, "My company was supposed to give archaeological services to Tel Shimron, Akko, Abel Beit Maacah, Midras and others. I lost all my income and had to furlough my workers."

There is at least one way that COVID-19 has benefited archaeology. At the start of the outbreak, one anonymous Israeli man returned an ancient ballista stone he had stolen fifteen years earlier from a display at the City of David. The stone was likely catapulted by the Roman army during the siege of Jerusalem

in 70 CE. According to journalist Moshe Manies, the man was a brazen youth but as an adult had become an orthodox Jewish believer. The ballista stone weighed heavy on his conscience. For the moment, the returned relic will have to serve as a symbol of hope that the human heart is still the most valuable thing of all. COVID-19 may cause ruin, but it can also trigger enlightenment. 



Shelly Neese, a Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology student at TBS, is a native of Louisiana and author of *The Copper Scroll Project*. She serves as Vice-President of The Jerusalem Connection International (TJCI), a non-profit organization that works to inform, educate, and mobilize support for Israel and the Jewish people. She has an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from Ben Gurion University, was the first Christian to work for Israel's Consul General to New England, and worked for the Middle East program at the Conflict Management Group affiliated with Harvard Law School. She and her husband, who serves as a physician in Air Force, have four children.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

----- PSALM 30:1-5 ESV



Coronavirus and the Sovereignty of God

THE ONE FORMING LIGHT AND CREATING DARKNESS, CAUSING WELL-BEING AND CREATING CALAMITY;

I AM THE LORD *who does all these things...*

LET THE EARTH OPEN UP...I, THE LORD HAVE CREATED IT.

Woe to the one **WHO QUARRELS WITH HIS MAKER –**

AN EARTHEN VESSEL AMONG THE VESSELS OF EARTH! >>>

As a reeling world emerges slowly and fearfully from a global pandemic, the likes of which have not been seen in over a hundred years, many may wonder why the Lord would allow this. Lives have been lost, livelihoods decimated, and few untouched by the ravishes of this invisible enemy seemingly outsmarting

expert epidemiologists at every turn. In the Spring of 2020, much of the world scuttled into hiding not knowing what the future would bring. Fear, anxiety, and the question, “Why?”

Throughout the Bible, from the outcast Adam and Eve to the martyred saints in the book of Revelation, people of God have cried out, “Why?”

Theodicy – a significant theme that runs throughout history – seeks to answer the question of why a good God allows evil and suffering and addresses the seeming tension between God’s omnipotence and righteousness.

In the book of Job, for example, the level of Job’s suffering is shocking. He is described as righteous, but

I know that you can do all things and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

----- JOB 42:2,3B

nevertheless allowed to suffer. He loses his vast wealth and all of his children in one day, followed shortly afterward by a terrible disease and social shaming. Confused, and in overwhelming anguish, he wishes he had never been born and cries out, "Why?" to the Lord.


The Lord finally appears, but does not answer Job's question. The narrative simply states that God is good, wise, and just and that no corner of the world is outside His authority. He established the foundations of the world, knows the deepest recesses of the sea, and manages all of heaven and all creatures on earth.

In other words, Yahweh rules

supreme. It is not the place of Job or other humans to question Him with their finite understanding. The Lord eventually doubles Job's original blessings by His grace alone, and the book ends with the precept that pure faith and trust in God as we walk through trials leads to true peace.

The Lord forms light and creates darkness, makes well-being, and allows calamity, apparently including the Coronavirus epidemic. He does all these things; He is sovereign, righteous, and just. We are but clay in our Potter's hands, earthen pots with no right to question Him who fashions us. As

voiced so eloquently in Isaiah and Job, we must let God be God because we exist solely as an expression of His will. In this, we can find peace and an ability to trust in and depend on Him no matter what storms rage around us.

As we continue to travel through the twists and turns of Coronavirus and other disruptions of life, let us turn away from the endless media cacophony and look to the Lord God Almighty, Creator and Sustainer of all. Instead of asking "Why?" let us find rest and comfort in His Almighty Presence and worship Him who is truly Sovereign over all. 

»» *Does the clay say to the potter,*

"WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?" *or the thing you are*

making say, **"HE HAS NO HANDS"?**

Isaiah 45: 7-9



Krystyna Cawthorne




The Lanier Theological Library

For my recently completed Church History I (THE 510) course, I chose to complete my research paper and presentation on Thomas Aquinas, the author of the famous *Summa Theologia*. To read various books on Aquinas, I drove to the Lanier Theological Library in northwest Houston and spent a long day there. The library catalog, which is available on the website, lists 345 entries for “Aquinas,” so I narrowed my list considerably

before I arrived. I was struck by the enormity of scholarship available. All that is needed is the desire to learn and time.

The Lanier library does not allow books to be checked out. However, this policy assures that any resource needed will be on the shelf. The Oxford-stylized library building is a quiet and pleasant location to ponder your subject matter. A recent *Houston Chronicle* article reported the Lanier library has collected

more than 100,000 volumes. One of those is a book I could not find and the library kindly responded by purchasing it.

I have also attended several evening lectures hosted by Lanier and sat in the Stone Chapel, a replica of a 500 A.D. Byzantine chapel. Hopefully the lecture series can begin again at the end of the summer. Mark Lanier is to be honored for his vision and generosity in providing us with this valuable theological resource. 



Steve Hamburg, a TBS Master of Arts in Biblical Studies student, is a native of Denver, Colorado. He earned a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines (1977) and an MBA from Tulane University (1983). He worked as Petroleum Engineer for Shell Oil Company for 21 years before retiring as a senior partner of Miller and Lents, Ltd. in 2017. He and his wife, Margaret, have two adult children and are founding members of the Church of the Holy Apostles in Katy, Texas.



Creative Corner: Recipe

Orange-Marshmallow Pops

5 hours

TOTAL TIME

15 minutes

PREP TIME

4 hours 45 minutes

FREEZE TIME



INGREDIENTS

1 cup boiling water

1/2 cup orange juice

1 pkg. (3 oz.) JELL-O Orange Flavor Gelatin

12 JET-PUFFED Marshmallows

2 cups vanilla ice cream, softened



Kassidy Bell,
TBS MDiv Student

PREPARATION

1. Add boiling water to gelatin mix in medium bowl; stir 2 min. until completely dissolved. Cool slightly. Gradually add orange juice and gelatin to ice cream in large bowl, beating with mixer after each addition until blended.
2. Insert wooden pop stick into center of each marshmallow. Place, marshmallow-end down, in each of 12 (5-oz.) paper or plastic cups. Spoon about 1 Tbsp. gelatin mixture into each cup; freeze 30 min. or until slightly firm.
3. Pour remaining gelatin mixture into cups; freeze 4 hours or until firm. Remove pops from cups before serving.

KITCHEN TIPS

1. Remove frozen pops from cups by placing bottoms of cups under warm running water for 15 sec. Press firmly onto bottoms of cups to release pops, but do not twist or pull pop sticks.
2. For easy handling place empty cups in 13x9-inch pan, then fill cups and freeze (in pan) as directed.
3. Store any leftover pops in freezer.

Writing Great Research Papers

Most TBS courses require students to write a research paper, and that paper often comprises a significant portion of their overall grade. Professors assign research papers because they require the higher-level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. These skills, once developed, enable students to critically read biblical literature and to form theological constructs. All students desire to write stellar research papers, but they often lack the tools to achieve this lofty goal. I encourage students to follow a three-step writing process: prewriting, writing, and rewriting.

PREWRITING

Great research papers begin with brainstorming which involves getting all possible topics jotted down on paper or screen. These candidates should be discussed with peers and professors. Ideally, the topic really interests the student, but this is not always the case. Narrow topics are better than broad topics because they require focused research and writing and prevent aimless meandering.

After choosing a tentative topic, the student should do some initial research to see if adequate resources are available to accomplish his or her research. Graduate level research is not done through basic internet searches. TBS professors want their students to use peer-reviewed articles and reputable books for their research papers. These articles are available through JSTOR, Academia.edu, Google Scholar, and similar sites. The new TBS library also has a wealth of resources, and even more can be found in north Houston at the Lanier Theological Library. Once a student ensures that adequate resources are available, he or she is ready to write a thesis statement. This one sentence summarizes the content of the entire research paper.

Everything written in the paper must support this statement. Professors assign grades based on how well students support their thesis statements. Finally, good writers take the time to construct an outline which lists the main points and subpoints for exploration. Skilled writers often adjust their thesis and outline, but they never dive into writing a paper without them.

WRITING


After completing the prewriting process, writing the research paper begins in earnest. Most papers need an introduction, and the thesis belongs at the end of this introduction. The reader should not have to guess the direction of the paper. Research continues as the paper takes shape. Not every good point belongs in a paper, only those that support the thesis statement. Many writers overuse footnotes. Generally speaking, if a piece of information is important enough for inclusion, it belongs in the text of the paper. Citations should be entered on the first draft in order to minimize the risk of plagiarism. Even an inserted “note to self” can suffice at this point. It is important to remember to minimize summary and maximize analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Professors do not expect students to be experts on a chosen topic, rather they want students to demonstrate awareness of, and opinions about, what scholars have to say. The final touch on a great research paper is a conclusion which paraphrases the thesis statement and summarizes the paper’s main points. New information does not belong in a conclusion.

REWRITING

Following completion of the first draft, the hard work begins. Effective writers eliminate grammatical and stylistic

errors each time they read through their research papers. Active voice communicates more effectively than passive voice. In other words, Logan threw the ball is better than the ball was thrown by Logan. Specific examples should trump general examples. A weak writer might write that “Some scholars reject the Bible as a historically reliable source.” A strong writer would be specific: “Scholars such as Dever and Finkelstein reject the Bible as a historically reliable source.” Great writers realize the difficulty of spotting their own errors, so they call upon their peers provide feedback. Many professors are also willing to provide editorial feedback, but this should follow peer review. Procrastination results in mediocre research papers since there is no time for feedback from peers and professors. Each in-text citation and bibliographic entry must be carefully checked for accuracy. Free internet citation generators are helpful, but the student is ultimately responsible for verifying a source’s accuracy. All citations must have a corresponding bibliographic entry and each bibliographic entry must be cited in the research paper. Novice writers often bypass the rewriting, or revision, process. Great writers revise their research papers dozens of times before submitting them for grading. Microsoft Word contains a plethora of writing tools that few writers access. An hour invested in attending a webinar or watching a YouTube video on Microsoft Word’s writing tools can pay rich writing dividends.

CONCLUSION

Given the right tools, all students can write effective research papers. I encourage TBS students to follow the three-step process that I outlined above. It will almost certainly result in better grades and clearer communication. 



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. K. Lynn Lewis



Praying

IN FAITH

•

Acting

WITH EXPECTATION

•

Rejoicing

IN BLESSINGS

TBS SURGING FORWARD

Ten years ago, a group of passionate pioneers started a new, independent, non-denominational seminary rooted in God's Word. Planted as a seed in the heart of Dr. Jim Leggett, founder and pastor of Grace Fellowship church in Katy, Texas, the church incubated a seedling Bible Institute in January 2008 under the leadership of their Teaching Pastor and College of Biblical Studies professor, Paul Helbig. A seminary advancement team successfully incorporated The Bible Seminary (TBS) in Texas in February 2010, gained IRS approval as a 501(c)3 charitable institution of higher education in August 2010, launched a campaign in November 2010 that eventually raised \$1.1 million in start-up funding, and then began publicizing their desire to hire someone to help lead the fledgling enterprise.

I read about the opportunity in a job posting online on January 30, 2011. In my first email communication with Jim Leggett and volunteer Executive Vice-President and Provost, Rick McCalip, I wrote, "One of my key strengths throughout a more than 25-year professional career in business, education, and ministry has been serving as a catalyst for bringing dreams to reality. I am a visionary leader, extraordinarily entrepreneurial, extremely creative, a consummate researcher, have a tireless work ethic, a calm demeanor, a trustworthy reputation, and a passion for offering all that I am and all that I have to serving and honoring Jesus Christ." The search team explored my background, career, sense of call, and sanity in-depth over the next few months. Although they ultimately inquired into my loyalty as either an Aggie or Longhorn as a final test, I informed them I bled Georgia Bulldog red and black and that the last time I checked we had beaten both teams (which was true at the time). They hired me anyway as the first full-time TBS employee, and we moved to Texas in July 2011.

From the beginning, we committed everything about TBS wholeheartedly and without reservation to the Lord no matter what. At the time, none of us knew if our gallant quest would gain traction. The board agreed to pay me for three years with no extended guarantees, our family rented housing for several years just in case, and I began to pray, "Lord, if TBS pleases you, and you want us to exist, survive, and thrive, show us your favor. Make Your will unequivocally known."

We unknowingly embarked on our entrepreneurial academic venture during a season in which many institutions of higher education have faced increasing turmoil in the form of declining enrollment, and some have ceased operations. According to research published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, more than 1200 colleges closed their doors between 2014 and 2018¹, long before the COVID-19 pandemic introduced additional havoc.

(continued on page 26)

However, TBS enrollment surged this past year. Bible Certificate students increased by 83% over our highest enrollment in any previous year, students taking graduate courses increased 70% over last year, and the number of individuals enrolled this year over last year increased by 105% (see “Our Numbers” graphs on page 27). With a strong summer enrollment in excess of 30 students taking graduate courses and a steady rate of new applicants, we anticipate increasing record enrollment again this coming year. I interpret our progress as an answer to many prayers, and a sign of God’s favor.

While TBS has worked to promote opportunities to study all 66 books of the Bible and engage students in experiential ministry leadership training, research indicates concurrent broad-based declines across the American religious landscape. According to a Pew Research Center report published in late 2019², American adults describing themselves as Christians dropped 12% over the past decade from 77% to 65%. Though the overall adult population increased by 10%, the number of American Christians dropped from 178 million to 167 million and the number describing themselves as atheist, agnostic, or non-religious increased by 30 million and now equal more than one quarter of the American adult population. At least once per week regular church attendees have dropped from 37% to 31% and those who say they never attend religious services has risen from 11% to 17%.

Meanwhile, like the optimistic shoe salesman who excitedly brought a boatload of shoes to an island where no one wore shoes, enterprising TBS alumni, leaders, and students are already helping increase biblical literacy and love for God and others in His Name among seekers who have no idea what they’ve been missing.

Funding the mission has been a thrilling, and scary, ride. While TBS started off with a respectable start-up reserve and received some sizeable donations along the way, cash flow has faced regular challenges. For example, this past November 2019 (five months into our fiscal year), TBS had only received \$80,000 in donor support. When monthly expenses approximate \$77,000, your operating account only has \$80,000, and nearly halfway through the fiscal year donations total barely 10% of budgeted charitable income, you can panic or pray. While TBS does keep a separate reserve equivalent to 10% of the annual budget to help fund a two-month shut-down plan if necessary, we were riding a fast train with no more track just a few weeks ahead.


**WE COMMITTED
EVERYTHING ABOUT TBS
wholeheartedly
AND WITHOUT RESERVATION
TO THE LORD
*no matter what.***

We chose to pray, share both our blessings and needs, and generous donors helped lay enough financial track to get us through the next few months. Though donations totaled nearly \$350,000 by March 2020, our fiscal year income was still \$230,000 under budget, we only had \$70,000 in our operating account, and donations barely exceeded \$6,000 in February. By the end of March, we had \$96,000 in our account, were still in hole \$230,000, and COVID-19 heaped its quarantine havoc on the U.S. economy and shut-down the world as we knew it.

Shortly thereafter, as pandemic consequences escalated, West Texas Intermediate crude oil dropped to - \$37.63 per barrel, and we prepared to distribute our latest newsletter appeal, I knelt in my office to pray. I thought of Elijah facing the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel (I Kings 18) and insisting people pour water on his wood and sacrifice until water flowed around the altar and filled the trench. When God showed up and consumed every bit of Elijah’s sacrifice, wood, stones, dust, and water, everyone no longer doubted but fell on their faces repeatedly proclaiming, “The Lord, He is God!” Like Elijah, I paired my faith with the absolute certainty that we were attempting something so great that it was doomed to fail unless God was in it.

**I INTERPRET OUR PROGRESS AS AN ANSWER TO
MANY PRAYERS, AND A SIGN OF GOD’S FAVOR.**

Over the next few weeks, God poured out His favor in the face of seeming impossibilities. TBS received grant income of \$52,000 and donors responded to the Lord's prompting and blessings in their lives by giving \$227,000, a monthly total \$279,000! This represents the highest monthly charitable income ever other than the month of the launch campaign in November 2010 (see "Our Numbers" graphs below). We praise the Lord for the 154 donors who supported TBS during the 2019-20 fiscal year, including 10 who have given every year, 31 new donors, and nearly 100 donors who also gave last year. More donors have been committing to monthly support, which will help smooth out cash flow, and achieving accreditation should allow TBS more opportunities to apply to foundations and broaden our base of charitable support.

I believe the Lord is answering our prayers and making His will unequivocally known (see "From the Board Chair" on page 30). Despite plagues, social unrest, economic turmoil, natural disasters, institutional distress, and declining religious interest, God still reigns supreme and works for the good of those who love Him and who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28). Thank you for riding the TBS train, continuing to pray in faith, act with expectation, rejoice in blessings, and help lay track to further the amazing adventure we call The Bible Seminary! 

1. "College Closures, 2014-18;" by Dan Bauman and Brian O'Leary, April 4, 2019, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Data sourced from The National Center for Education Statistics, the Federal Student Aid Office, and College Scorecard data.
2. "In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace: An update on America's changing religious landscape," Pew Research Center, October 17, 2019.

Despite plagues,
social unrest,
economic turmoil,
natural disasters,
institutional distress,
and declining
religious interest,

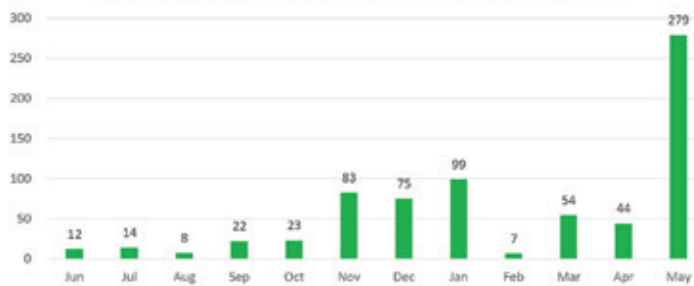
**GOD STILL
REIGNS SUPREME**

and works for
the good of those
who love Him and
who have been
called according to
His purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

Our Numbers

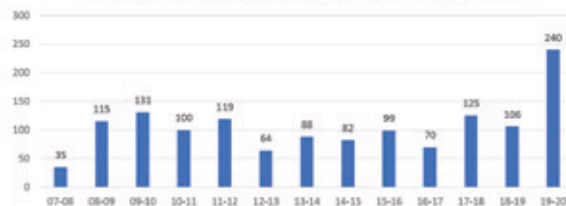
TBS Monthly Donations and Grant Income (x \$1000), 2020 FYE



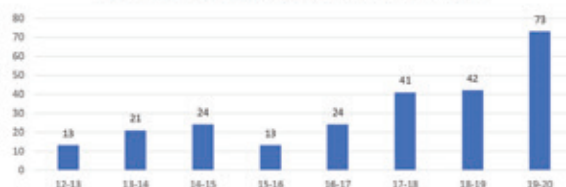
TBS Total Donations and Grant Income, 2011-20 FYE



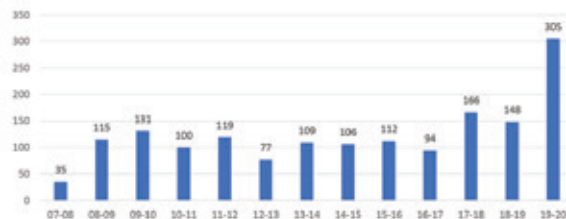
TBS Bible Certificate Courses Enrollment Per Year



TBS Graduate Courses Enrollment Per Year



Total Individuals Enrolled per Year





FROM THE PROVOST

Dr. Scott Stripling



AT TBS WE WANT TO KNOW
YOUR NAME, SHARE YOUR
MINISTRY ADVENTURES,
AND PARTNER WITH YOU IN

*committing
to your success!*

I LOVE TO TALK WITH ANYONE INTERESTED ABOUT TBS!

TBS experienced record enrollment during the 2019-20 academic year. Bible Certificate enrollment included 240 students who took at least one course (a 120% increase over last year). Graduate enrollment included 73 students who took at least one graduate course (70% increase over last year). The number of total individuals who took at least one course more than doubled from 148 last year to 305.

The number of newly matriculated students and new student inquiries indicate that our upcoming 2020-21 enrollment could establish even higher benchmarks. These numbers matter because they directly reflect progress toward fulfilling the TBS vision. Although important aspects of a successful higher education experience include faculty, facilities, finances, curriculum, library, support staff, etc., none of these matter without students. At TBS, we enjoy getting to know each student's name and story while we work together to empower them to maximize their life and ministry serving the Lord and others in His name.

TBS matriculates students who value excellence and burn with passion to fulfill the Great Commission. To these students, giving is far more important than receiving. Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian elders contains a saying of Jesus that the gospel writers did not record, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We refer to such sayings as *agrapha*. Winston Churchill expressed a similar thought when he wrote that "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Working with students who have committed their very lives to the cause of world evangelization and transformation inspires me daily. When Jim Elliot was still in his twenties and unaware that martyrdom awaited him in Ecuador, he penned these words, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." This same mindset characterizes the TBS student body.


Our shared experiences include both life and death. In August 2019, Bible Certificate student Rosemary Mata died of thyroid cancer. Part of a cohort of TBS students at Church of Living Waters (COLW) in Rosenberg, Texas, Rosemary actively engaged in the prayer and teaching ministry at COLW and was a beloved wife and mother.

In January 2020, TBS graduate student Durwin Kicker died of a heart attack at the age of 56. Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Marshfield, Missouri, Durwin was enrolled in the Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology program, served as a valued member of my dig staff at Shiloh, and was a dear friend.

Both Rosemary and Durwin will receive honorary, posthumous degrees during TBS 2020 Commencement ceremonies on August 16, 2020 at Family Life Church in Sugar Land, Texas.

Due to COVID-19, TBS cancelled the regularly scheduled annual May and June Holy Land tours and

Shiloh excavation for 2020. However, preparation for the TRACS accreditation site visit in July, commencement in August, and two dynamic summer semester courses made for a busy summer. Between the “PRA 501: Prayer and Worship I – Leviticus, Chronicles, and Psalms” course taught by Dr. Lewis and my “ARC 510: Ceramic Typology” course, we enjoyed a summer enrollment of nearly 40 students – a new summer record for TBS.

TBS educational options include graduate degrees, dual degrees, Bible Certificates, and auditing. Course access is available on campus, in some churches, and online via Zoom during COVID-19 and while we continue beta testing alternate delivery technologies. Please drop by the office or call me for more information. At TBS we want to know your name, share your ministry adventures, and partner with you in committing to your success! 

TBS EXPERIENCED RECORD ENROLLMENT DURING THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR.



240
students

≡
at least one course

≡
+120% over last year



73
students

≡
at least one graduate course

≡
+70% over last year

**THE NUMBER OF TOTAL INDIVIDUALS WHO
TOOK AT LEAST ONE COURSE MORE THAN DOUBLED
FROM 148 LAST YEAR TO 305**



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Heidi J. Arneson



THERE IS SOMETHING
ABOUT PERSISTENCE THAT
MOVES THE HEART OF
God to act.

THE LORD HAS BEEN ANSWERING

On January 10, 2020 I wrote these words in my prayer journal:


Lord, we need more money and students to accomplish the mission you have given us at The Bible Seminary. I Kings 17:5-6 says, "So he (Elijah) did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook." Lord, just as the ravens brought bread and meat to Elijah will you bring money and students to TBS?

I have prayed this daily and persistently to the Lord for TBS, and continue to do so. The Lord has answered by bringing more students and increasing funds - Praise God! Honestly as I prayed this prayer there has not been an exhibition of great faith, rather a submitted heart and a practice of persistence in knocking on the doors of heaven and a continuation to practice persistence in knocking. The lesson learned is, as James 5:16 (NKJV) puts it, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." There is something about persistence that can move the heart of God to act.

Is there something in your life you want God to do for you, for your family, for your ministry? Consider finding precedence for how the Lord has worked similarly in the Bible and pray that back to Him persistently day in and day out. Be persistent and do not give up. It will build your relationship with the Lord and shift the burden to the Lord. I cannot tell you how the Lord will answer your prayer, however I can say it is hard to recognize an answer to a prayer NOT prayed. At the same time, will you persistently pray I Kings 17:5-6 for TBS?

Many of you have joined in answering our prayers as you have partnered with TBS in your prayers, gifts, work, and academic enrollment. As your partnership fills us with joy, may your joy be full knowing that you are breathing life into The Bible Seminary as we continue to minister to this generation by teaching, training and equipping students in the TRUTH.

Please know we are praying for you. May you be blessed in your coming in and going out, blessed in your relationship with the Lord, and may you experience His pleasure in you.

We are in this together and dearly deeply appreciate each of you taking this journey with us. Be persistent on your knees loved ones! 



News and Updates

TBS RESPONSES TO THE 2020 COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVE INCLUDED:



Hosting the TBS annual Board meeting online in May.

Offering registered students live online and recorded access to all courses.



Teaching outside.



Recording podcasts online rather than in the studio.





McLEMORE & SNOW WEDDING

Erica McLemore (MDiv 2015) married Mark Snow in a Covid-19 adjusted small family ceremony in her backyard on April 25, 2020. The happy couple live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



COOLIDGE & McMILLAN WEDDING

Karen Coolidge (MDiv 2018), TBS Marketing Director, and her husband, Danny, enjoyed the wedding of their daughter, Kimberly Coolidge, to Nathan McMillan in a small Father's Day ceremony on June 20, 2020. Pictured above (L-R): Daniel and Heather Coolidge, Karen Coolidge, Nathan and Kimberly McMillan, Danny Coolidge, Katie and Landon Wilson.



WELCOME, AUDREY PENNER

Kevin Penner (MDiv 2015) and his wife, Allie, and daughter, Amber, welcomed their newest family member, Audrey, on February 23, 2020.

Congratulations!

WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Mrs. Julia Dean serves as the Managing Attorney overseeing Estate Planning, Probate, Elder Law and Civil Appeals at The Dean Law Firm, PLLC based in Sugar Land, Texas. She has successfully argued in federal and state courts, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She worked as Civil Appeals Attorney at Wright & Close (1998-2007) and a Litigation Attorney at Andrews & Kurth (1988-91). She graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor's in Economics (1983) and University of Houston Law Center with a Juris Doctor (1987). She and her husband, Bobby, have four adult children and are active in ministry leadership at Sugar Land Family Church.



Mr. Adam Peters serves as Vice-President, Electronics World Business Line at Air Liquide Group (2018-present) and Air Liquide Vice-President, Americas Hub (2017-present). He formerly worked at Air Liquide Canada where he served as President & CEO, (2012-17); Vice-President Operations Control, Americas Zone (2010-12); Vice-President, Large Projects (2009); and Director, On-Sites (2006-08). He graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (1996) and SMU with a MBA (2002). He and his wife, Heidi, have three children – Emily, Andrew, and Bennett, and are active members of Grace Fellowship church in Katy, Texas.

News and Updates



TBS launched our podcast in January 2020 with new episodes posted every few weeks. **Available on** Apple, iTunes, Spotify, and TheBibleSeminary.org under “News – TBS Podcast.”



Recording on location (L-R) Blake Quimby, Communications Director; former Professor Paul Helbig; and Karen Coolidge, Marketing Director; at the Helbig home to record the podcast episode, “A Life of Faith with Paul Helbig.”

A LIFE OF FAITH WITH:

- » Dr. K. Lynn Lewis
- » Paul Helbig
- » Dr. Scott Stripling
- » Dr. Doug Petrovich

FAITH LESSONS:

- » Joshua
- » Judges
- » 1 & 2 Samuel
- » 1 & 2 Kings
- » 1 & 2 Chronicles

FRONTLINE: PRAYER

- » Brenda Martin
- » Samantha Rude

MARRIAGE, MINISTRY & MISSION

- » Kevin and Yvette Alvarez
- » Jordan and Angela McClinton

*tune in to
our podcast*

MISSION TITHE

The Bible Seminary gratefully honors the Lord for our academic enrollment blessings by tithing tuition and fee income to help provide mission support to other ministries.



2019-2020 MISSION TITHE RECIPIENTS *included*

ANTIOCH HOUSTON

foreign missionary support for a TBS alum

BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY

CHRIST CLINIC

COMPASSION KATY

ELIJAH RISING

KATY CARES

KATY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER OF WEST HOUSTON

YOUNG LIFE OF KATY WEST HOUSTON



One grateful recipient sent a quick response that included this note, **“Wow, I’ve got to tell TBS right now how blown away and thankful we are!”**



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Rick McCalip



**WE STAND IN PRAYER
AND WORK WITH
COMPASSION THROUGH THE
*power of the
Holy Spirit*
IN OUR CHURCHES
AND COMMUNITIES.**

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.

2019-20 FISCAL YEAR END REPORT



The Bible Seminary is on a mission. We stand as a Lighthouse of the Lord God Almighty, the one true God and Founder, Maker, Owner, and CEO of heaven and earth. We stand as a bulwark against crashing waves of sinful culture. We stand as a guide amidst shifting currents of dangerous societal trends. We stand as a beacon to a channel of peace, everlasting life and joy with Jesus Christ. We stand for God's Word, believing all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16). We stand in prayer and work with compassion through the power of the Holy Spirit in our churches and communities. We reach out to the unreached, the least, the last, and the lonely. We stand unashamedly for Biblical Truth.

By grace, our dream of academic accreditation looms near. At the same time, we encounter the same growing challenges faced by many individuals, families, schools, businesses, and non-profits. The disruptive impact of COVID-19, coupled with political and cultural unrest, fosters fear and nervousness. Yet, amidst it all, we strive to keep our eyes on Jesus and trust in His individual and collective plans.

God continues to work in and through TBS, including in ways very clearly obvious in the financial results for the most recent fiscal year ended May 31, 2020. Once again, despite challenging circumstances, the 2019-20 fiscal year total income exceeded expenses. God granted us great favor through the unwavering support of gracious donors, plus we received higher than expected tuition and fee income and a grant from the Paycheck Protection Program.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL 2018-19	ACTUAL 2019-20	BUDGET 2020-21
DONATIONS	\$704,000	\$670,000	\$827,000
PPP GRANT ¹	\$0	\$52,000	\$68,000
TUITION & FEES ²	\$109,000	\$154,000	\$119,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$813,000	\$876,000	\$1,014,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$796,000	\$872,000	\$1,007,000
NET INCOME	\$17,000	\$4,000	\$7,000



1. The PPP Grant figures reflect the fiscal year in which funds were used for the intended purposes.
2. Tuition and Fees income for the 2020-21 fiscal year is a conservative estimate based on preliminary projections for student enrollment and class scheduling.

Operating an accredited institution of higher learning is expensive. Our preliminary budget for the current fiscal year is overwhelming, as was the preliminary budget for 2019-20 when we viewed it a year ago. As usual, we will revisit the budget in September and refine it to reflect actual fall and anticipated spring and summer enrollment, as well as any revisions resulting from the TRACS accreditation team review in July. Regardless of the budget, we will continue to do all within our human power to manage expenses and activities within the boundaries of available resources. At the same time, accreditation should open new avenues for student recruitment and fundraising. We designed our budget to assure TBS readiness and ability

to meet the challenges of these new opportunities while maintaining conformance with accreditation standards now and in the future.

Nearly every year, available operating funds tend to decline rapidly during summer and fall months. December usually includes a small recovery, followed by continued recovery beginning in late February and March, although the economic and societal impact of COVID-19 eliminated this for many this year. However, the PPP Grant and incredibly amazing response of TBS donors in May allowed TBS to end our 2019-20 fiscal year essentially where the operating fund balance began last June. The "TBS Funds Balance, 2019-20" chart depicts our monthly Available Funds over the past year, as

well as the Minimum Reserve set by accreditation standards (10% of the annual budget) and Minimum Balance (our estimate of 60 days of bare minimum expenses needed to shut down, if necessary).

We much prefer finances akin to fair winds and following seas rather than stormy gales. Responding to our fundraising efforts directed at encouraging sustained monthly or periodic giving can help calm the raging seas. Please know that we depend on and pray for our loyal donors and prayer warriors lifting up TBS. Thank you for joining us in increasing prayer as we join together in continuing to fund the TBS mission and stand strong throughout the 2020-21 fiscal year. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

TBS Funds Balance, 2019-20
(End of month balances in \$Thousands)



DONATIONS...

MAY BE MADE ONLINE BY VISITING "SUPPORT" AT THEBIBLESEMINARY.ORG.

CHECKS ...

SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO "THE BIBLE SEMINARY" AND

SENT TO ...

THE BIBLE SEMINARY, 2655 S MASON RD, KATY, TX 77450



The Bible Seminary
ROOTED IN THE WORD

2655 South Mason Road
Katy, TX 77450



Office: 281.646.1109

Fax: 281.646.1110

Email: info@TheBibleSeminary.org

THEBIBLESEMINARY.ORG

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.