

The Sentinel

Est. 2010

The official news publication of The Bible Seminary

Winter 2014

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The official news publication of The Bible Seminary

Winter 2014

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

About us

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

Affiliation

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

Admissions



The Bible Seminary admits qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. For Admissions information, contact Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, Provost, or visit "Admissions" at TheBibleSeminary.org.

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TheBibleSeminary.org

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

Spring 2014, Weekly Schedule

MDiv = Master of Divinity, BC = Bible Certificate

Mondays

6:30-8:15 pm BC **Old Testament III** (Helbig)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **Making Sense of God and Science** (Hulyk)

Tuesdays

8:00-9:15 am MDiv **Greek II - Galatians, 1 & 2 Peter** (Marshall)
9:30-10:45 am MDiv **Spiritual Formation & Ministry III - Ezekiel** (Helbig)
11:00-12:15 pm MDiv **Pastor-Shepherd II - Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians** (Cozart)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **Bible Study Methods** (Helbig)

Wednesdays

9:00-11:30 am MDiv **Expository Preaching I - Isaiah** (Lewis)

Thursdays

8:00-9:15 am MDiv **Greek II - Galatians, 1 & 2 Peter** (Marshall)
9:30-10:45 am MDiv **Spiritual Formation & Ministry III - Ezekiel** (Helbig)
11:00-12:15 pm MDiv **Pastor-Shepherd II - Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians** (Cozart)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **New Testament III** (Wilson)

Fridays

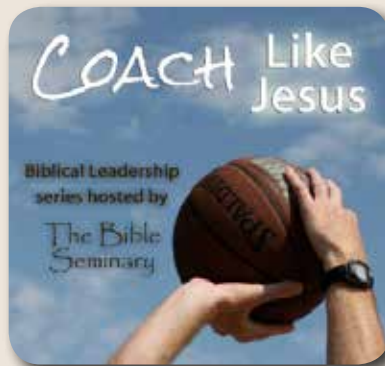
9:00-11:30 am MDiv **Theology IV - Joel, Daniel, Revelation** (Sullivan)

Specific Schedule dates

Jan 24 First day of Spring 2014 Semester M. Div. classes
Mar 10-14 **SPRING BREAK** (no classes)
Apr 18 **GOOD FRIDAY** (no classes)
Apr 20 **EASTER SUNDAY**
May 9 Last Day of Spring Semester

Visit "Academics - Academic Calendar" on TheBibleSeminary.org for more details

Business Seminars



Monthly 1-hour lunchtime seminars aimed at helping apply Biblical principles in the workplace

Spring 2014
Coach Like Jesus:
A view of the New Testament from the perspective of Jesus as Coach

Held at The Bible Seminary from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Jan 13: "Coach Like Jesus - Preparing Well"
Feb 10: "Coach Like Jesus - Recruiting Well"
Mar 17: "Coach Like Jesus - Training Well"
Apr 14: "Coach Like Jesus - Motivating Well"
May 12: "Coach Like Jesus - Winning Well"



Gospel Begins With "GO"

By Dr. K. Lynn Lewis

Accepting a call to follow Christ often includes going.

For many Christians, going to church, going to Bible study, Sunday School, church meetings, small group, choir, youth group, and going on retreats and trips often become a part of our regularly scheduled routines.

Additionally, for Christians called to ministry leadership – particularly to full-time vocational ministry – “going” milestones may mark some very significant and specific events in our journeys.

What the Bible says

The word “go” is used in popular English translations of the Bible nearly 1550 times, while the word “stay” is used around 60 times.

Jesus left His place in Heaven to GO to earth and offer salvation to all who would accept Him.

Noah was called to build and then GO into the ark as an act of redemption for the whole earth. (Genesis 7:1)

Abraham was called to leave his country, his people, and his father's household to GO to the land God would show him. (Genesis 12:1)

Moses was called to GO back to Egypt, to GO to Pharaoh (Exodus 3:10), to GO assemble the elders of Israel (3:16), to GO up on the mountain, to GO back down to the people, to GO down and bring Aaron up on the mountain with him (19:24), and to GO and lead His people to the Promised Land.

Joshua was called to GO and lead the Israelites across the river Jordan, and to GO to war to secure the Promised Land.

Deborah and **Barak** were called to GO and fight Sisera, the commander of the Canaan army who cruelly oppressed the Israelites for 20 years. (Judges 4)

Gideon was called to GO “in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?” the Lord said. (Judges 6:14)

David was called to GO, leave his job as a shepherd to serve the king, and then eventually serve as king.

Ezra was called to GO to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.

Nehemiah was called to GO back to Jerusalem to lead the mission of rebuilding the wall.

Esther was called to GO into the citadel in the city of Susa to be presented to the King.

Isaiah was called to GO and preach to God's people. (Isaiah 6)


Jeremiah was called to GO “to everyone I send you and say whatever I command you.” (Jeremiah 1:7)

Ezekiel was called to GO to the Israelites and speak to them on God's behalf (Ezekiel 2:1-3:15)

Daniel was called to GO into exile in Babylon as a young man, and then called to STAY there as one of God's representative leaders who served in the Babylonian regime during the Israelites' 70 year exile.

Jonah was called to GO “to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it”. (Jonah 1:2)

Joseph was called to GO take Mary as his wife, to GO to Bethlehem for the census and where Jesus was to be born, to GO to Egypt with Mary and the young Jesus to protect him from Herod, and then again to GO to Nazareth after Herod died.



The word “go” is used in the Bible 1550 times

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At this point in Scripture, we also see that before Jesus calls people to GO, He calls them to follow. Sometimes, He also addressed specific circumstances and assigned tasks.

Simon Peter and **Andrew** were fishermen. "'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4:18-19)

James and **John** were helping their father in the family fishing business. When Jesus called them, "immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."

Matthew was working for the government. "'Follow me,' Jesus told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (Matthew 9:9)

For several years, Jesus invested in select disciples, training and equipping them for ministry in His name. At one point, he sent **72 disciples** to GO ahead of him into every town and place where he was about to go. (Luke 10:1-18)

A **formerly demon-possessed man** in the region of the Gerasenes, who expressed an interest in literally following Jesus after his cleansing was told to instead GO home to his family and friends and tell them how much the Lord had done for him. (Mark 5:1-20)

The **women** who went to anoint Jesus at the tomb were told to GO give his brothers a message (Matthew 28:10 and John 20:17)

Immediately prior to His ascension, Jesus commanded His **disciples** to GO and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), with a caveat to STAY in the city "until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

Philip was called to GO "south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza" to meet the Ethiopian eunuch who was the official in charge of the treasury of the Queen of Ethiopia. (Acts 9:26-27)

Saul was called to GO "into the city, and you will be told what to do" (Acts 9:6)

Ananias was called to GO "to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul" (Acts 9:11). When he initially balked, "The Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.'" (Acts 9:15)

Peter was called to GO to Caesarea to preach to a Gentile – a Roman centurion, no less – named Cornelius (Acts 10). Peter's obedient actions resulted in the conversion and baptism of Cornelius and his relatives and close friends. However, it also resulted in Peter receiving criticism from his fellow Jewish believers throughout Judea, until they saw the light and rejoiced in the fact that Gentiles, too, could receive the Gospel. (Acts 11)

In summary, the phrase "Get up and go" is so prevalent in Scripture one wonders if perhaps God is really a cowboy at heart who loves the phrase, "Giddy up!"

What about you?

Are you called to go?

Are you called to go somewhere, or do something, in particular?

Perhaps, if you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, sense a recurring call or strong longing to serve Him in Christian ministry, are willing to embark on a lifestyle of going in the name of Christ whenever wherever, are gifted to serve in the power of His Holy Spirit, trust the Lord in all circumstances and for all things, and are open to diving deeply into His Word and embracing a journey of educational adventure in preparation for ministry, then a place like The Bible Seminary might be a wonderful place for you to go.

For many people, the certainty of a willingness to go anywhere anytime is one of the first checks and balances related to a perceived call to serve the Lord, particularly in full-time, vocational ministry.

On one hand, a willingness to go does not necessarily mean that a person is called. Running away, simply exploring a change in careers or circumstances, finding one's self out of a job, or graduating and looking for the next place to land – none of these, in and of themselves, necessarily signify a call. Such things may help clarify a call, but – alone – may not verify it.

On the other hand, if you are contemplating a call to full-time, vocational ministry, consider your willingness to go.

Consider your degree of passion relevant to investing yourself in a dynamic journey of biblical study and professional ministry training rooted in all 66 books of the Bible.

Consider The Bible Seminary.

Consider that "Gospel" begins with "Go".

Consider yourself: "Am I called?" and "Am I willing?"

TBS

Dr. K. Lynn Lewis serves as Executive Vice-President/Provost/Faculty at The Bible Seminary, and can be contacted at Lynn.Lewis@TheBibleSeminary.org.

If you know of anyone interested in pursuing life-changing theological education, please encourage them to contact The Bible Seminary today.



The Bible Seminary

Boot Camp

for Life-Changing Ministry

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or call 281-646-1109 for more information



Digging the Bible

Dr. Scott Stripling – TBS professor of Church History, Chair of Humanities and Foreign Languages at Wharton County Junior College, and an archaeologist – conducting excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir, possibly the site of the Biblical Ai.

Dreams and Visions

"I lifted up this piece of pottery," recounts Dr. Scott Stripling, professor at The Bible Seminary and a biblical archaeologist, "and saw the remains of a woman looking back at me who had been buried there 3,000 years ago when the wall fell on her."

Reflecting back on that day, one of his most powerful moments on a dig in ancient Israel, he remarked, "She hadn't seen the light of day in 3,000 years."

Where some would see just a skeleton, Stripling saw a story. In his eyes, this ancient lady might as well have still been bustling about her kitchen with her family members or servants – who also breathed their last just before the wall collapsed – in what was likely their home in Tel-al-Hamman.

"I remember thinking, who were these people?" Stripling says. "Like any other day, they were probably talking about their dreams and aspirations, still had jewelry on, not knowing that at any minute their world was about to be snuffed out. The opportunity we have to tell their story and put it in a biblical context, because it was at a biblical site, is pretty amazing."

Stripling knows God used experiences like this to fan into flame his passion for connecting people contextually with the world of the Bible.

Though the dig director only began pursuing his life-long dream of working in archaeology about 11 years ago, God began preparing him for such work long before.

"I'd had a recurring dream since I was three," Stripling recalls. "I would wake up, and couldn't shake it."

"Then, when we began to dig at the site where we were five years ago, and then did the reconstruction drawings of what it would have looked like in 1500 B.C., I almost fainted. The reconstruction looked like the recurring dream I had had all of my life."

Rocky Terrain

While God faithfully filled Stripling's dreams with apparent archaeological foreshadowing since age three, his personal pursuit of God did not quite follow as faithful a path while he was growing up.

Even so, as a ten-year-old, he recalls getting fidgety sitting toward the back of the stadium at a Billy Graham Crusade. Although his mother thought he was misbehaving, Stripling actually felt conviction as the Holy Spirit tugged his heart and he simply could not sit still. So, much to his mother's surprise, her son made the long trek up to the front to receive Jesus at the end of the conference.

Though Billy Graham Ministries consistently followed up with the young convert by sending Bible study materials, his parent's divorce two years later sent his world spiraling out of control.

"I tried to forget my faith," he says. "I didn't have any respect for my dad. I saw him as a hypocrite. My mom pretty quickly remarried, and I couldn't stand the person she married. Then, my dad remarried, and I couldn't stand that person. I understand that step-parenting is hard, but it's not as hard as step-kidding."

He reacted to his family turmoil and sought various escapes through smoking dope, drinking, and engaging in immoral relationships from age 12 to 17.

"I was the 'life of the party' kind of person in public," he adds. "But when I was alone, I had to deal with my thoughts and conviction. Things I didn't want to think about."

By God's grace, Stripling's attempts to run from his faith eventually came to an end when a coach invited him to a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting the summer before his senior year of high school.

**God used
experiences like this to
fan into flame passion
for connecting people
contextually with the
world of the Bible**

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"He had to have known the stuff I was into," Stripling says, thinking back on Coach Eliseo Villarreal's evangelistic heart. "But, at that point, how could he have had an inkling that his invitation would change my life?"

Coach V

The change did not happen overnight.

"At first, I would be incognito," Stripling says. "Carry a Bible in my back pocket and go to the bathroom to read it."

However, through Coach V's mentorship, Stripling watched his desires change and faith grow beyond the bathroom stall. He eventually began to invite people to the FCA meetings himself.

Stripling also learned from Coach V that the Bible contained promises he could claim and stand on.

"The idea that my thought life could be conquered by Scripture was pretty revolutionary," he says.

With a fire rekindled, Stripling never looked back. Coach V's foundational and transformational influence propelled his young mentee into leading Bible studies and youth ministry in college, and eventually serving as a pastor for 20 years in the Rio Grande valley.

Coach V passed away in 2003 after a career of coaching countless students in more than just football.

"He was a picture of health at age sixty," Stripling says. "I mean Charles Atlas. Chiseled. Just exactly what sixty should be: successful, beautiful family. Then, he had a heart attack and died in his sleep."

Stripling was asked to give the eulogy at his funeral, with 3,000 people in attendance.

"I wasn't the only one he shared his faith with," Stripling says. "At the funeral, I spoke with his mother and introduced myself as her grandson. I had someone with me who was like a spiritual son to me, and I said, 'meet your great-grandson.' She was crying."

Time for a Change

God extended Stripling's teaching abilities and passion beyond just the pulpit. Motivated both by his eye-opening teachers and the ones who made his eyelids heavy, Stripling coupled his pastoral work with various education ventures from public middle school teacher to private school founder and principal.

But 11 years ago, it was time for a change.

"Back in my 30's, I consumed everything I could get a hold of pertaining to archaeology," Stripling said. "I had consumed the Bible, and archaeology gave me another set of lenses through which to see the whole thing again, to go back and digest once again. I had a real curiosity for the background of the text. With the woman at the well, what did the well look like? What was she wearing? Was there a mountain?"

Eventually, Stripling came to the conclusion he needed to pursue the lifelong passion he had kept on the backburner.

"While we desperately need great Christian leaders and pastors, there were a lot more of those than there were biblical archaeologists,"



he says. "This field was dying out there without believers in it."

Once he made the decision, God opened doors fairly quickly.

Stripling rose from volunteer, to assistant square supervisor, to square supervisor, to field supervisor, to assistant dig director, and has recently been named "Senior Dig Director" at the Khirbet el-Maqatir site, about 9 miles north of Jerusalem, Israel.

"To me, back then, the conundrum seemed overwhelming," he says. "Why would the Israeli Antiquities Authority even give me a license? Who am I? But all the doors opened; I met all the right people."

As a freshman at Tarleton State University, Stripling took an archaeology course from Dr. Jean Merrill, a well-known figure in the archaeological world who wrote the textbook for their class, *An Old Testament Survey*.

Now Merrill works for Stripling on one of the digs.

"I remember being in such awe of him and that book," Stripling says. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think that he would one day work for me on an archeological site."

The Power of Pilgrimage, and Dust

Even more than he loves the digs themselves, Stripling loves watching people he brings with him to the Holy Land experience God in life-changing ways.

"I have been told more times than I can count, even by my own daughter – who grew up in a Christian home and studies the Bible – that one month in Israel did more for her in understanding the Bible than all the previous years in her life. And, I think that's the power of pilgrimage. It gets you out of your environment. It's summer camp on steroids."

When he received an invitation to teach "Church History - Acts" at The Bible Seminary, Stripling loved the idea that a trip to the Holy Land was designed into the overall Master of Divinity program, as part of the graduate degree program.

Hopefully, in addition to other planned events during their class trip, TBS students will likely get to visit their professor at one of his dig sites when they make their trek to the Holy Land, scheduled for January 2015.

Stripling recalls a story of when a young man asked Billy Graham for recommendations about what he should read.

"Young man," Billy Graham responded. "Go sell everything you have and buy Spurgeon."

Stripling grins, and urges, "I would say, go sell all you have and make this trip!"

For Stripling, so much of understanding the Bible comes from understanding geography and chronology, which he believes have largely disappeared from the church.

He remembers the moment he realized why Jesus often went from one town or side of the lake to another when crowds or Pharisees "sought to kill him."

"He was crossing into different political jurisdictions!" he exclaims.

"As western learners our whole pedagogical system is based on geography and chronology, but when we get in the church, we throw all that out."



"Archaeology is not going to contradict; it is going to confirm God's Word."



The Stripling clan includes daughters Tracy (L) and Stacy (R), sons Scotty (LC) and David (RC), and wife, Janet (C).

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Holy Land Trip Fund



Help scholarship an M. Div. student (or spouse) on an amazing training adventure in the Bible's homeland that will impact their ministry for a lifetime. We need \$250,000 to take approximately fifty (50) students, spouses, staff, and faculty in Jan. 2015.

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TheBibleSeminary.org

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"But, that's how people think! They are trying to make this fit with what came before and after it, and spatially make it fit."

So, what is the best way to learn the geography of the Holy Land according to Stripling?

Go there.

One of his favorite verses in Scripture comes from Psalm 102:14, "O Zion, blessed are those who love thy stones and cherish thy dust."

"I'd be surprised if the socks I have on right now don't have dirt from Zion on them," he says with a smile, stooping down to check. "The ones I was wearing yesterday are permanently stained with Zion dirt."

Interested in going
on a trip to the Holy Land?
Visit "Academics – Trips" at
TheBibleSeminary.org
for more information

While the archaeologist loves the physical dust of Zion itself, the meaning runs deeper.

"For the original writer, Zion was a dream, a vision of a better world, a more just society, a place of safety, victory, freedom. It was a new world," Stripling asserts. "Then, we read in Hebrews that we have come to Mount Zion, meaning the church. In the same sense, is that what the church represents to the world? Is it a hope? A dream? Do we present it as the most amazing thing?"

As Stripling dedicates his life for God's church by way of "cherishing dust," the biblical archaeologist refuses to compartmentalize his archaeological work and his Bible work. Rather, he sees his life and work as a bridge between the world of archaeology and the world of the church, and he believes better dialogue between the two disciplines would prove mutually beneficial.

"Pretending the other one doesn't exist doesn't do any good," he says. "You have secularists who want to pretend that the Bible doesn't exist or matter. Then you have Christians who probably don't understand archaeology or don't have a background in it or are scared of it. They've heard it contradicts the Bible, and so let's just keep it over there."

"We've said, 'All truth is God's truth if indeed it is truth.' And, if there are things that we don't understand in the short term, they tend to work themselves out in the long term."

"In reality," Stripling affirms, "archaeology is not going to contradict; it is going to confirm God's Word."

TBS



Khirbet el-Maqatir Archaeology Exhibit

Jan - Dec 2014

Dunham Bible Museum
Houston, Texas

Khirbet el-Maqatir: History of a Biblical Site will be a year-long exhibit of 42 artifacts from excavations in Israel at Khirbet el-Maqatir, thought to be the site of ancient Ai from Joshua 7-8.

The Civil Administration for Judea and Samaria has approved the loan of these artifacts for exhibit at the Houston Baptist University's Dunham Bible Museum from January 21-December 19, 2014.

In conjunction with the exhibit and in association with the Associates for Biblical Research (biblearchaeology.org), a symposium will be held on February 8th, focusing on the role of archaeology in understanding ancient history and biblical studies as well, including critical reflection on the excavations at Khirbet el-Maqatir and what light they shed on the ancient biblical world. Speakers will include Dr. Bryant Wood, Dr. Eugene Merrill, Dr. Leen Ritmeyer and Dr. Scott Stripling.

Starting from Genesis 12-13 and moving forward in time toward Maqatir's magnificent monastery, 4,000 years of history will be on display. Special attention will be given to the Late Bronze Age fortress (the Ai of Joshua 7-8) and the Early Roman/New Testament village (perhaps Ephraim of John 11:54).

Houston Baptist University's **Dunham Bible Museum** tells the Bible's story through creative exhibits featuring rare manuscripts and printings of the world's Greatest Book. The museum holds of the most complete collections of historically significant Bibles in America, including ancient papyrus, hand-written Latin manuscripts, nearly every first edition and historically important English Bible from the 16th century to modern times, early American Bibles, and various language translations. The museum is located at 7502 Fondren Road, Houston, Texas 77074 (www.facebook.com/DunhamBibleMusuem).



Bargaining archaeological finds: Negotiating artifacts for exhibition outside of Israel is often a lengthy process.

Psalm 23

Up Close & Personal



"You don't have to yell at them, or use canes or dogs or run. You just learn to know your sheep," says Geoff Smith, owner of The Barry Farm, a small family enterprise in southwest Houston that sells honey and eggs, and raises chickens, pigs, sheep and one goat.



The Bible Seminary's Spiritual Formation and Ministry III class had the pleasure of visiting The Barry Farm (TheBarryFarm.com) while studying Psalm 23 to glimpse the life of a modern day shepherd and gain an up-close-and-personal experience with some sheep . . . or at least as close as the sheep would allow.

"If you get the boss to move, all 40 of these will follow," Smith says. "You get too close, she'll be off like a gun. You get just

close enough and stay in that zone, she'll walk wherever you want her to go."

Smith's technique of "low stress livestock handling", or simply knowing his sheep as he puts it, runs contrary to most herding methods used today.

"Our solution to almost every problem on the farm has been, 'What did they do 100 years ago? What did they do before they loaded them up on a diesel truck with an aluminum trailer?' They shepherded

them. So, that's what we do," he says.

An emergency room nurse, Geoff and his family originally migrated from the

His venture into the world of farming began about three years ago after his son suffered an allergic reaction while eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich

New England area to the Houston area for a hospital paycheck. His venture into the world of farming began about three years ago after his son suffered an allergic reaction while eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

While seeking to adjust their family's eating habits, he and his wife, Renee,

began researching the origins of the food they usually ate.

"Where does that boneless, skinless chicken breast come from? You mean there are not boneless, skinless chickens?" he says with a grin. "No, they manufacture them that way."

The couple became concerned about the unnatural elements introduced into producing their food, and felt powerless to change the system.

At first, their convictions led them to plow up the entire backyard of their suburban home in Katy to start farming. Eventually, they bought some sheep from a farmer 180 miles west, and trekked their little herd back to Houston in the pouring rain in a makeshift flatbed trailer covered with a tarp, now affectionately known as the Conestoga wagon.

Although Renee grew up on a farm in Vermont, she gleefully thought those laborious days were behind her when she married Geoff, who had no experience in farming and no plans for farming in his future.

Now, the Smith family works together on the farm by day, and Geoff continues to work as an ER nurse at night.

The starter flock of registered White Dorper sheep included a grand champion ram and 8 ewes.



Excerpt from "A Walk Around The Pastures With Your Farmers and Seminarians"

By Geoff Smith, The Barry Farm

Posted on The Barry Farm blog on September 26, 2013

It sure has been a long week for your Barry Farm farmers. We typically keep a tight schedule balancing many hats and all for the glory of living a worthy lifestyle. Six separate tours in the last 8 days is not a normal visit schedule, but we are happy to do it.

Part of our Holistic goal is accessibility and teaching, so we have made it a policy to never turn down or charge for access to our farm. So far we have never been let down by this approach and actually have known a much better reward by including many more people. Renee and I realize that many things bring people to our farm. Sometimes people want to talk about food, sometimes animals, sometimes they want to take pictures with their kids and piglets, sometimes it is religious and sometimes people want to talk about community. A typical farm tour with me ends up hitting all those bases and more.

One of the more interesting tours this week was a Master of Divinity class from The Bible Seminary in Katy. A very kind and soft-spoken man contacted us months back to come on a pre-tour meeting to see if we would be a good metaphor for a lesson he was teaching. The students were reading a book about the 23rd Psalm from a shepherd's point of view and the teacher was looking for a real life sheep experience to help reinforce the metaphor of us being shepherded by God.



the moon, and visits from a religious stance to support an old metaphor puts a guy like me on a slippery slope . . .

He also spends a lot of time researching farming online. Although, he still considers himself relatively new to the whole shepherding thing, the Barry Farm currently serves about 50-70 families, sells pork to fancy restaurants, and delivers fresh, natural (and Kosher) eggs all over Houston.

Smith has worked hard to understand his sheep.

"Given their devices, they would go and pick the very best stuff they could find and eat all that," Smith says. "Then, they would move on to their second best."

Over time, he explains, all the good forage disappears completely and the bad stuff multiplies rapidly.

"It becomes our job to not let them indulge too much."

Smith savors the rich pictures of God's character that the 23rd Psalm affords, and cherishes the opportunity to let God

We had been touring for 30-45 minutes or so having good conversation and telling stories. The sheep had run of the big pasture and we talked nitty gritty sheep life, management, their typical life and outcome. Talk went from sheep to community to the "Why do this here?" question and then zipped to the obvious, "Why do this at all?" Then, the killer question, "What do you think of the book and the metaphor?"



"Live a life that tells a story that is worth telling to others, and never be afraid to tell it."

It can be truly dangerous to ask me to tell the truth, because I just may, and even disastrous to ask me to give an honest opinion.

My opinion was this: All metaphors have the same problem in that we take them too far and end up twisting them to meet an opinion formed before the metaphor was

used in the first place.

Watch and listen to Sunday football announcers and you see a prime example of just what I mean. Comparisons to war like match ups, David and Goliath odds, and lavish praises for star players stretching comparison after comparison together with metaphorical air quotes.

The church was not much different. Hanging on to lessons used for mostly illiterate people 2000 years ago the modern Christian has preserved the story and left behind it's relevance. My conclusion and message was stop relaying the metaphor and become one. Live a life that tells a story that is worth telling to others, and never be afraid to tell it.

The Barry Farm farmers (above) - Geoff and Renee Smith, and their two children, Layla and Seamus. According to Geoff, "We farm to seek an honest lifestyle, to change our world for the better and to raise our kids to be men and women of integrity." The Barry Farm offers Houston's only egg C.S.A. (Community Supported Agriculture) program in which customers received pastured, local eggs delivered once a week; Houston's only locally grown pastured lamb (White Dorpers); gourmet quality Heritage Breed Red Wattle pork fed with a finishing blend that is corn/soy/GMO free and based in barley; and raw, local honey. For more information, visit TheBarryFarm.com.

bring the shepherd metaphor to life in his own life. Nevertheless, he knows the concept of shepherding remains difficult for most people to easily relate to today.

"How many people even know a shepherd? Besides you guys, like 30," Smith says to the class. "And if you do see a shepherd, he's with a snow white lamb on a greeting card."

"Instead," he encourages, "find your own metaphor."

He notes that Psalm 23 was meaningful to David because he lived and understood the life of a shepherd.

To Smith, the unbelievers he tells about God's character will be stirred more by his family's leap of faith than by a metaphor they cannot easily compare with their own lives.

"I don't have to tell people the 23rd Psalm," Smith says. "I tell them the story of

Jeff and Renee's life. We went all in because we were called to it."

The Smith's hope The Barry Farm will eventually grow into a full-time operation, and have been looking for property where they can relocate.

"Pray for us and with us that our family will have confidence and peace and our farm will grow prosperous."

In the meantime, Geoff jokes that though he may be considered a "lunatic farmer", he enjoys sharing his vision to encourage the growth of a natural, sustainable local food chain that is mutually beneficial to people, animals, and the land – and all in ways that glorify God.

"Yes, the Lord is my shepherd," he says, "but Jeff and Renee are shepherds because the Lord provides for everything."

2nd Annual Orientation Retreat



Refreshed and Ready

By Rowena Marable, M. Div. student

Our traditional weekend retreat to Jordan Ranch is a time of fellowship, fun, and camaraderie. A time to renew old friendships and create new ones. We worshipped, we sang songs of praise, we prayed, and each professor gave us their vision for the classes they are teaching.

The Board members reminded us of the prayers that constantly go up before the Lord on our behalf. Dr. Leggett challenged the students, faculty, and Board members to remain true to the core values of The Bible Seminary which are founded on Nehemiah 8:8.

I am always refreshed after these retreats, and am enriched by the prayers and encouragement of such wonderful people.

The Lord is doing great things at The Bible Seminary, and I am so humbled to be a pioneer of this wonderful institution.

TBS Board, faculty, staff, students and some spouses convened at The Jordan Ranch in Schulenburg, Texas in September for the 2nd Annual TBS Orientation Retreat.

We welcomed new faces, reconnected with familiar ones after a long summer, and heard from TBS faculty and leadership regarding the vision for the seminary, classes this semester and beyond. We also enjoyed delicious home-style cooking and pausing from busy schedules to breathe deeply.



ennial celebration of The Bible Seminary, allowing the pioneering spirits in the room to dream of the millions of souls God could touch through TBS graduates in the span of 100 years.

Following the vision of where TBS is going down the road, the students found out where they would be going this fall in each of their classes. Professors gave those present a taste of their classes and shared about God's work in their own lives prior to TBS.

The breathing deeply took a variety of forms, including a pick-up basketball game, a late night swim, spontaneous worship on the porch, and even an early bedtime.

No TBS retreat would be complete, however, without times to intentionally thank and seek the Lord through worship and prayer. So, after

sprinklings of worship throughout our time together, faculty, staff and board members closed out the retreat by gathering around individual students to pray for God to work deeply in each of their lives and through their studies this year.

TBS



Board chair Heidi Arneson retold the story of TBS' birth and growth, highlighting the miraculous moments along the way.

President Jim Leggett shared the seminary's vision and values. With eyes closed and imaginations running, Leggett took the group forward 99 years to the centen-



"We envision training 5,000 Christian leaders over the next 50 years, and pray that each one reaches and trains at least 200 people, resulting in a direct impact of 1,000,000 people over the next 50 years."

- Jim Leggett



Jordan Ranch is a non-profit religious organization offering guests elegant accommodations, great food, and a beautiful backdrop amidst gently rolling hills a little over an hour west of Houston, Texas. A Christ-centered mission built to provide a place to help restore families and nurture Christian leaders, most of the retreat staff consists of volunteers from Powerhouse Church in Katy, Texas.

2123 FM 2238
Schulenburg, TX 78956
832.875.8350 (Phone)
JordanRanch.org

Spiritual Formation & Ministry Class 24-Hour Prayer Retreat

Speaking of Silence

By Mickey Ellis, M. Div. student

I went on a silent retreat with my classmates. I have gone on many retreats, but this was the first silent one I've attended.

For someone who constantly has noise in her life, the silence was very refreshing. For 24 hours we retreated to the beautifully wooded grounds of the Cenacle in west Houston.

After prayerfully considering how God would have me spend this time, I identified an area in my life where I needed guidance, and I determined to seek His perspective on it. I then set out to spend time alone with God.

I first found a secluded place on a wooden swing in a garden area. It was quiet, but not entirely silent because the birds were chirping away. The funny thing is, I don't think I've really heard the birds chirping in a long time.

I sat there for a while just looking at the beauty around me,

taking it all in. I thought about what God had put upon my heart. I meditated and listened for a word from God – but none came. I prayed and asked God to speak to me, and again I waited – but still nothing came. I prayed some more, practically begging God to speak to me, to answer my questions. Again, I heard nothing.

So, I opened my Bible and began reading from the Psalms. And there it was – right there in the first one I read – my God crying out to me! I've probably read that psalm a hundred times, yet this time His word – His living word – penetrated my heart like never before. God's message was simple really. I tend to make things complicated, but His way is not complicated at all. So, I came away with the desire for a simple faith – a faith that doesn't question, but just does.

God is so awesome, and He has a word for each one of us. When all the noise is shut out, we are able to hear Him as He pours His love out on us. Then, we can simply live as He would have us live.

Encountering God

By Justin Johnson, M. Div. student

This retreat wasn't your ordinary camp, spiritual fill-up experience. The time that we spent was actually dedicated to the silent listening to God and to the mediation of His Word.

One particular experience that I want to highlight was when I took some time to go through the book of Psalms and really figure out what it meant to be "blessed."

After I had finished going through all the different instances where the word "blessed" occurred, I had a pretty good idea of what it meant to be "blessed" in God's eyes.

Then I took that knowledge and thought about my life and all the different instances where God has blessed me.

This was an interesting experience because it felt almost as if God was chiseling away at my heart as I confessed each one of the good things that he has done in my life.

By the time I was done I felt a complete connection with God, and there was not a hindrance or distraction that could possibly keep my eyes from looking any other way.

I thought to myself how sad it was that I don't experience this kind of connection enough. That is what I believe God desires for us to reach in our relationship with him daily. To come to the point of complete focus and awe of Him. We need to put all the distractions aside and give Him our complete attention.



Restoring My Soul

By Kevin Alvarez, M. Div. student

Our class was fortunate enough to go on a one-1 day retreat at the Cenacle Retreat House to take some time out of our busy lives and relax.

But, this wasn't my usual youth group band rockin' retreat.

Our first part of the day consisted of 3 hours in solitude and silence. When was the last time you sat down and did nothing for 3 hours?

Let me tell you it was well needed, but at the same time, very hard to do. I found my mind and body wanting to move around because I had programmed it to be this way and now I wanted it to sit and relax.

I stumbled upon a wooded area with nothing but trees and more trees. When I looked up I saw 2 empty chairs together so I sat down. It was as if God had placed them for the both of us to catch up on some things.

As I sat there talking to God I was reminded of Psalm 23:2 where it states, "He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul."

When was the last time God made you sit down with Him? Take time out and listen to His voice.

420 N. Kirkwood Rd
Houston, TX 77079
CenacleRetreatHouse.org



Salvation Is Here



As part of The Bible Seminary's Master of Divinity graduate degree program, students are required to take one class that includes a Vocational Ministry Experience and another class that includes at least one Cross-cultural Missions Experience. The author helped organize and travel on a mission trip this past summer as part of his M. Div. work.

Think banana trees and baseball, Dominoes Pizza and dusty flip-flops, marble floors and mud-caked tires, sandy beaches and sugar cane fields and shantytowns . . . and salvation.

Yes, salvation really is what it is all about. We didn't bring it, create it or parade it. We just saw it.

We saw salvation from cigarette addiction, salvation from migraines, salvation from pride, salvation from sex trafficking and salvation from eternal separation from God. We saw salvation from a hopeless, joyless, peace-less past, present and future, because God is absolutely at work restoring hope, joy and peace in the Dominican Republic.

God Moved

When Antioch Community Church connected with La Iglesia de Comunidad Multicultural (Multicultural Community Church) for one week this past summer, God moved.

As our eight-person team from Houston stepped out of the Santiago airport into the cool, night air, we knew our expectations were supposed to be big. After all, we serve a big God.

Yet, no one was really expecting it when thirty people made professions of faith in Jesus as their Savior during our first night of outreach.

On the bus ride back to the mission house that night, our host, Stanley Philippe, said, "You guys can just go home now."

The lead pastor of Multicultural Community Church (MCC) knew all the preparations would have been worth it for just that one night of salvation.

God, however, wasn't done yet.

Through Philippe's connections, three of our team members shared the Gospel to a potential audience of over 1 million people on a radio show.



Later that week, half the room stood up to accept Jesus as their Savior when we packed all the night classes at Ceforma English school into one little room to present the Gospel.

And that same evening, even before our team set foot in the school, God arranged another meeting. One of our teammates stepped off the bus early to go inside the school for a few minutes, and a man walking down the street called out, "Hey are you a missionary?"

Surprised, our team member responded, "Why yes, yes I am."

In flawless English, the native Spanish-speaker explained how he had been looking for a missionary group to connect with ever since moving to the D.R. a year and half before.

Now, five months after our trip, the divinely appointed man is still helping MCC reach the people of Santiago.

The Sole of the Foot

Next came Pontezuela. Translated to English, Pontezuela means "sole of the foot or shoe."

The name is anything but coincidental. The cramped shacks and tin-roof structures that make up the village sit a couple miles down a winding, hilly dirt road conveniently out of the way of most Santiago traffic. This little village within a city has never known the luxuries of electricity, sewage, or trash pickup. Their situation evidences a microcosm of the historically divided island as a whole.

But, Philippe sees more than a dirty, divided village. Purchasing a wood shack along the river that cuts right through the middle of the Haitian and Dominican communities of Pontezuela, Philippe has planted Multicultural Community Church in the most unifying, humble, strategic location he could find.

As a Haitian married to a Dominican wife, Philippe need not look far to be reminded of the vision God gave him for a church that unites the two typically antagonistic groups.

(continued)



Amarfy and Philippe with their daughters



"God called me to look at my multicultural family," he says. "As a church, why can't we bring people together like my family? Why can't Haitians and Dominicans worship together? Mature together? Learn from and serve each other? Give people a glimpse of how we are going to live in heaven: Haitians, Dominicans, Americans, Chinese, Japanese, everybody together."

Fanning out into each side of the village, our team shared the Gospel, connected receptive people with church leaders, and even saw one life group formed.

Meanwhile, the wood shack was bursting with energetic Haitian and Dominican children alike as the three teachers from our Houston team began holding elementary English classes each morning, providing most of the children of Pontezuela their first taste of both balloon animals and education.

Another Antioch mission team from Baton Rouge continued the English classes the following week. These summer English classes ultimately will serve as a precursor for the eventual school that Philippe plans to erect across the street so the children of Pontezuela can receive a full-time education.

Philippe's plans for physical restoration of Pontezuela are more than just plans. Our construction-oriented team members helped roof the recently constructed public bathroom that serves as phase one of the school.

Moreover, God has used Philippe's connections with people of authority around Santiago in powerful ways. The village that didn't have sewage, electricity, or trash collection a year ago, now has all three.

"God is opening doors for a simple guy like me, in a country where there is so much racism against Haitians," Philippe says. "Sometimes I talk to God and ask, 'Who am I?'"

Beyond the Village

God's plans in uniting Antioch Houston and Multicultural Community Church extended both beyond the village and beyond the weeklong trip.

Exemplifying and exacerbating the racial division displayed in Pontezuela, the Dominican government recently passed a law that revokes the Dominican citizenship of all descendents of Haitian immigrants living in the D.R. Regardless of the fact that most people affected were born in the D.R., don't speak Haitian Creole, and have no family connections to turn to in

Haiti, the law has resulted in mass deportations, including several from Philippe's congregation.

"They are leaving more than 400,000 people without nationality," Philippe says. "It is like a new kind of genocide. It is like you're going to destroy 400,000 people in a new way, a legal way. Even people who have their grandkids here are being affected."

Philippe, though, refuses to be phased. Helped along by relationships formed during our weeklong trip, Multicultural Community Church has raised close to \$4,000 to help 10 people connected with their church regain Dominican citizenship and return to the D.R.

Philippe's wife, Amarfray, has simultaneously begun work on a book that will bring awareness to the massively overlooked issue of sex trafficking along the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, another example and exacerbation of the racial animosity.

"You would not believe the number of Haitian girls I've talked to who tell me almost the same story," Amarfray explained to our Houston team during one particularly long bus ride.

Typically, Haitian women seek a better life in the D.R. but fail to realize the risks involved with crossing the border, especially without paperwork. Amarfray recalls story after story of Haitian women being raped repeatedly at the hands of cruel border patrol officers, often followed by forced sex slavery.

"The girls claim that 90 percent of women crossing the border experience this," Philippe adds. "It is so common it is just sick."

Mariana, our cook at the mission house, experienced that very type of abuse trying to cross the border. Consequently, she does not know who fathered her 5-year-old son, Francisco.

The reality of brokenness in so many Haitian families became powerfully tangible for our Houston team every time we held little Francisco – a symbol of both brokenness and hope.

Even during our short trip, Mariana received a phone call saying her sister had "disappeared" trying to cross into the D.R., and the callers demanded money for her release.

Our team huddled around Mariana that night, interceding for her sister and asking God for a miraculous release. The very next week, Philippe passed on the news that Mariana's sister had been released and had made it to Santiago! God truly brings salvation spiritually and physically.

We were surrounded by salvation so much before, during and after our trip that even our own team members were impacted.

Jacob Brooks, a 20-year-old who gave his life to Jesus just two months before getting on the plane for the Dominican Republic, found himself freed from his addiction to cigarettes while on the trip.

"The Lord's hands are definitely at work here," Brooks says. "I am so glad I got to be a part of it. This trip has helped me grow in my faith so much, and I thank God for that. I can't believe the way y'all changed my life in only 8 days!"



Francisco



TBS



Congratulations to M. Div. student, Kevin Penner, and Allie Edens on their October 11, 2013 engagement! Allie is from Katy, Texas and a student at The University of Oklahoma.



Congratulations to the Larsen's on their Christmas present! "We are getting excited for our cute, crying, cuddly, diaper-wearing gift that will likely come a few days after the 25th. Its funny how many more babies you notice when you're about to have one."



Congratulations to Dane Stanley and M. Div. student, Sara Kinsey, on their April 28, 2013 engagement, and their wedding on Saturday, December 28, 2013! Dane teaches 5th grade for Houston ISD in the Magnet Vanguard Program.



Janice Havins-Hamric (R), TBS Administrative Assistant and Librarian, and her daughter, Christi Halsey (L)



The second day of M. Div. classes this fall semester started off with a 50th birthday celebration for Karen Coolidge, with thanks to Brenda Martin (L front) for the surprise classroom decorations and Sara Kinsey (2nd from right) for her delicious homemade cinnamon rolls!



Bible Certificate Professor, Chris Henson, with his family (L-R): Cadence, Sheridan, Chris, and Mikiah Henson.

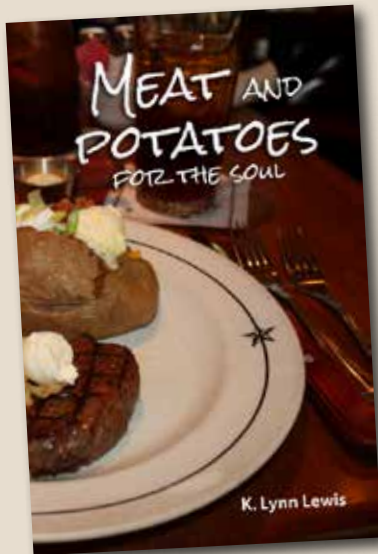


M. Div. student, Karen Coolidge, with her family (L-R): Danny, Karen, Daniel (21), Katie (20), and Kimberly (18).

Dr. Lewis Publishes New Book

"Meat and Potatoes for the Soul" now available

Executive Vice-President and Provost of The Bible Seminary, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, recently published a new book entitled, "Meat and Potatoes for the Soul", billed as a banquet of creative maybles – articles, poems, and stories written to educate, entertain, and inspire.



Readers will enjoy unforgettable characters in stories about Bitter and Better, Cant and Able, The Big Wheel, Malice in Wonderland, and The Resurrection, and journey paths of deeper thinking about faith, family, government, society, and justice.

TBS Board member, David Muir writes, "Made it to Chapter 9, shared several with the family devotion style . . . Its fantastic! Great job connecting Truth with the messiness of life in analogies and stories that are easy to relate to."

Another reader wrote, "I found myself as well as my son in ("Chapter 1: Don't Ride Your Rockets"); we are 'passionate' personalities. Your story really

helped me to talk to him about it this morning and give him biblical stories, including David when God told him he would not build, but his son would. Thank you for giving me the tools and avenue to be able to open this conversation with my son and how he can be a better passionate person. It will be a work in progress, but this is the first step. Thank you!"

Stimulating, enlightening, and downright fun, "Meat and Potatoes for the Soul" is available in print or digital versions in online bookstores.

Visit KLynnLewis.com for more information.



Mrs. Heidi Arneson, Board Chair of The Bible Seminary, with the Arneson family (L-R): Daughter, Anna; son-in-law, Tommy Mote and daughter, Ellen; Heidi and her husband, David; daughter-in-law, Haley, and son, Phillip; and daughter, Paige.

NEW Bible Certificate Course Coming Spring 2014!

Making Sense of God and Science

Taught by Brad Hulyk

Mondays, 6:30 - 8:15 p.m.

Beginning January 27, 2014

Join Geophysicist Brad Hulyk in a journey through time and Scripture from a scientific perspective that considers facts vs. fiction and does not require you to check your brains, or your faith, at the door.

Hulyk was born in Honolulu, grew up in Michigan, and has lived in the Houston area since 1986.

A Geophysicist in the oil industry for over 30 years - primarily performing 3D seismic tomography of the earth - Brad holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics (1977) and Master of Science in Physics (1980) from the University of Michigan.

He and his wife, Carol, have been married since 1975 and have 3 sons in Texas, a daughter in California, and 3 grandchildren. Brad serves as an elder at the Fellowship at Cinco Ranch.



Anyone aged high school and older can register for "Making Sense of God and Science".

The course is a new Bible Certificate Elective and can count toward receiving a Bible Certificate from The Bible Seminary.

Even if you have taken every other Bible Certificate course, or have never taken one at all, you can still register for this course.

To register, either call the seminary office, click "more" under "Bible Certificate" on the seminary home page, or visit "Academics - Bible Certificate program - B. C. Registration" online at TheBibleSeminary.org.

**Now Accepting
Registrations!**



M. Div. and Bible Certificate student, Esmeralda Heer, with husband, Philippe, and sons Michael (L) and Patrick (R).

Understanding the Bible

By Esmeralda Heer

Bible Certificate classes are available to anybody who wants to know more about God and wants a closer relationship with Him, but without the intensity of the Master of Divinity degree program.

As Jude wrote, "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend



A recent Church History class field trip to Dunham Bible Museum included: (L-R) Israel Rivera, Karen Coolidge, Erica McLemore, Esmeralda Heer, Carol Manning, Justin Johnson, Mickey Ellis, Kevin Penner, Dr. Scott Striping, and Uche Emenike (pictured below).

earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to saints" (Jude 3)

Jude is telling us to "fight" for the faith with the right doctrine found in the Word of God, and be prepared to share it.

This fall, I took the Bible Certificate elective, "Holy Land: Tour Preparation", designed to help students gain a geographic orientation and better understanding of the land of the Bible in conjunction with the biblical narrative.

Writers of the Bible assumed the readers were familiar with the geography of the areas they wrote about. However, this is not applicable to most Christians today

I advise taking this class to gain a better understanding of the Bible.



M. Div. student, Uche Emenike (R), with wife, Vivian, and daughter, Danielle.



The Bible Seminary offered a new initiative this past fall through a Biblical Leadership Series entitled "Boss Like God".

Monthly, one-hour seminars aimed at helping business leaders apply biblical principles in the workplace, the Fall 2013 series focused on the Old Testament from the perspective of God as Employer.

Topics covered included:

- **Hiring Well** - How do you find and select good employees?
- **Managing Well** - How do you lead and take care of your workforce?
- **Firing Well** - How do you terminate a person from your employment?
- **Leaving Well** - Everybody leaves. How can you make good transitions?

From Adam and Eve to Moses and Joshua, Kings Saul to David and Solomon, Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus, and Isaiah to Malachi, the Scriptures came to life in extremely practical ways relative to godly business practices.

Attendees reviewed six ways God "hired" employees; two main ways God managed and took care of employees; studied six cases in which God fired His employees; and reviewed several ways God led his leaders in making good leadership transitions.

For example, when God hired Adam and Eve, He gave them clear parameters that included a job description, location, personnel, and provisions, as well as a specific limitation with clearly defined consequences. Then, when they violated the terms of their contract, they each suffered specific consequences, as well as general

consequences. Also, in their case, unlike some others, Adam and Eve were fired with benefits - God gave them provision and protection in conjunction with their punishments (Genesis 1-3).

Although we may offer this course again in the future, the "Boss Like God" series would adapt well to a four-hour seminar that could be offered as an in-house corporate workshop, at a business retreat, an employee training day, etc.



The Spring 2014 Biblical Leadership Series will focus on the New Testament from the perspective of Jesus as Coach. Sessions will be held January through May mostly on second Mondays from Noon - 1:00 p.m. at the seminary. See page 2 for a complete schedule.

For more information, contact The Bible Seminary at 281-646-1109 or info@TheBibleSeminary.org.





From the President

Dr. Jim Leggett
President

We are called "The Bible Seminary" because our founding Board of Directors was very intentional in choosing our name.

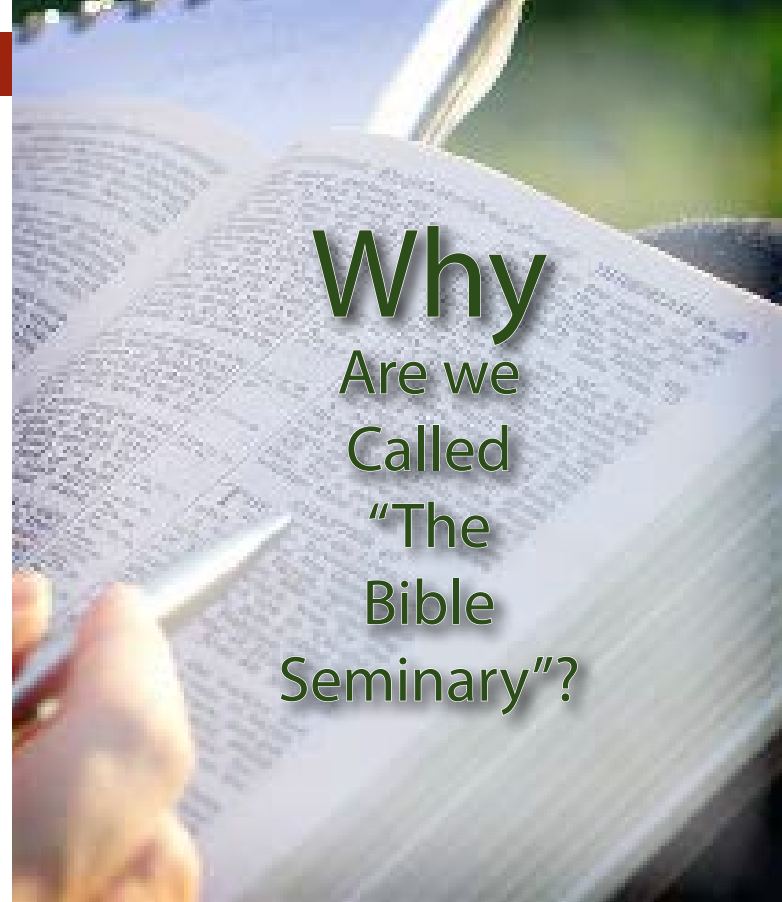
We are The Bible Seminary because we believe that the Bible is THE BEST training manual for ministry, and we have the standard of walking every single student through all 66 books of the Bible.

Why is the Bible the best training manual for ministry? At least 10 reasons I find:

1. Because it is truth (John 17:17)
2. Because it corrects me when I'm off base (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 19:11)
3. Because it revives my soul (Psalm 19:7a)
4. Because it gives me wisdom on what to do (Psalm 19:7b)
5. Because it teaches me what to believe about everything (2 Timothy 3:16)
6. Because it is inspired and inspires me (2 Timothy 3:16)
7. Because it increases my faith (Romans 10:17)
8. Because it is alive and acts as a scalpel to do positive surgery in my life (Hebrews 4:12)
9. Because it lasts forever (1 Peter 1:24-25)
10. Because it connects me to the God of the Word (Colossians 3:16)

One of my heroes, John Wesley has some amazing quotes about the Bible. Wesley said:

"I began not only to read, but to study, the Bible, as the one, the only standard of truth, and the only model of pure religion." – *The Works of John Wesley*, Vol 2, p. 367



Why Are we Called "The Bible Seminary"?

"I want to know one thing – the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one book!" – *The Works of John Wesley*, Vol 7, p. 203

Let's be a people of one Book!



From the Board

Mrs. Heidi Arneson
Board Chair

Dear TBS Family and Friends,

Thank you for your connection to The Bible Seminary through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 2013 year has brought new faces to The Bible Seminary in every area: volunteers, students, faculty, administration and trustees.

It has been exciting to have the opportunity to participate in growing The Bible Seminary that is serving to ultimately help advance the Lord's Kingdom on earth.

The journey is challenging, rewarding and lots of hard work! Thank you to those of you who have joined the journey, and we warmly welcome those just now joining and yet to join!

**We continue to ask for
ONE MILLION
souls!**

Please continue to pray for excellent teaching, student recruitment, and fundraising.

Please pray for the ministries of the students that are being equipped through The Bible Seminary, and the souls they will have the opportunity to impact – we continue to ask for ONE MILLION souls!

Prayerfully ask the Lord how He would have you join the journey or increase your impact in 2014.

As you pray for The Bible Seminary my prayer for you this winter is the Lord's peace in your life!

"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." - Isaiah 26:3
To God be the Glory!



From the Admin Office

Rick McCalip
Vice-President of Finance and Administration

Last August, I celebrated three years of serving as a volunteer in the administrative and finance office of The Bible Seminary.

It has been a really sweet blessing to so closely watch this seminary develop, and to anticipate what it eventually will be.

I came on board during the 2010 capital campaign, enjoyed the start of the first classes, and now the first class is already halfway to graduation.

It has been very interesting to see how the 34 years I spent in the oil business prepared me for serving The Bible Seminary – learning systems-based management (much in common with accreditation), budgeting and accounting, building operations, employee benefits, regulatory involvement, and much more.

On the facilities side, we have progressed from a single 10' x 10' office, to two out-fitted classrooms and enough offices for our staff and faculty.

There have been some surprises. In the oil business, there are very few initiatives you can begin without one or more regulatory agencies having to give their very specific okay.

For the seminary, we obtained approval from the State of Texas to grant degrees as a religious educational institution prior to offering the Master of Divinity program, but I thought we would have needed to reach some sort of accreditation from a recognized agency before we could start classes. Actually, most agencies will not accept an application for accreditation until after the first group of students has graduated. This sure puts "pioneer" status on our students! They have to trust us that what we plan to do administratively and academically will satisfy the eventual accreditation requirements.

However, we have recently discovered a reputable accreditation agency – the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) – that will accept applications for accreditation prior to initial student graduation. We are pursuing that option now as quickly as we can.

As we grow through these start-up years, seek accreditation, and work to build our credibility in churches, denominations, the mission field, and the academic world, our finances will be a constant challenge.

Our initial capital campaign and the ongoing support of our advocates are allowing us to continue this journey. We continue to work toward gaining support from foundations and organizations who agree with our mission, but those relationships take time to develop.

Continuing advocate support is critical to bridging our financial needs through the time that we will actually become tuition and fee supported.

Personally, I am very thankful for the chance to serve this ministry. I appreciate being surrounded by our strong Christian board, faculty, and staff.

I am thankful for Shannon Clarkson and Nena

Leake, both CPA's, who help me figure out how to deal with the accounting details that I don't understand. And I am especially thankful for faithful donors – our advocates – who are making this ministry possible.

This is a journey, and a good one.

I have a Route 66 highway sign on the wall of our office. Coming from Oklahoma, Route 66 always has had a special place in history, as a pathway from where we are now to some place that we trust will be better.

As we grow through these start-up years our finances will be a constant challenge



(L-R, clockwise) Rick and Elaine McCalip, Brandon and Kristin, and Claire McCalip.



Route 66 reminds me of the 66 books of the Bible that our students will need to study before we hand them that precious diploma.

Now, Route 66 reminds me of the 66 books of the Bible that our students will need to study before we hand them that precious diploma. We're on that road, and it's a good one.

Rick

Rick McCalip retired from ConocoPhillips in August 2010 after 34 years of service, primarily in safety and environmental management. Less than 24 hours later, Rick reported for volunteer duty to help launch The Bible Seminary.

"Rick McCalip is an amazing servant who works hard, smart and effectively! Rick has modeled for me what it looks like when Jesus washes feet in the 21st Century. Because of Rick's work at The Bible Seminary, lots of people will be in heaven!"
- Jim Leggett

"In every organization there are key players who work long and hard without complaint, who help everyone else look good, who actually make things happen and see them through, and who often labor without regard for themselves and mostly unseen. In large part, due to Rick McCalip's selfless and completely VOLUNTEER service as much as 30 hours per week or more over the last three years, The Bible Seminary has a place, people, policies, programs, and provisions that are laying the foundation for our long-term success. I love Rick, his passion for The Bible Seminary, and the numerous ways he serves the Lord and others quietly and wholeheartedly!"

- Lynn Lewis

Help support The Bible Seminary

Donate library resources - New and/or used books, periodical subscriptions, etc. are welcomed. For details, contact TBS Librarian Janice Havins-Hamric at janice.hamric@TheBibleSeminary.org.

Income	Actual	Budgeted
Contributions	\$ 107,403	\$ 242,500
Investments	\$ 1,389	\$ 500
Other	\$ 2,341	\$ 0
Program	\$ 148,449	\$ 194,520
Total Income	\$ 259,582	\$ 437,520
Expenses	Actual	Budgeted
	\$ 418,906	\$ 424,370
Net Income	\$ -159,324	\$ 13,150

Donate money (cash, check, stocks, etc.)

- Use our convenient "Donation Form" (cut out form available below)
- Visit "Support" at TheBibleSeminary.org
- Contact Rick McCalip, Vice-President of Finance & Administration at:

281-646-1109 (Phone)
Rick.McCalip@TheBibleSeminary.org

The Bible Seminary
2655 S Mason Rd
Katy, TX 77450

Hire a seminary student for full-time, part-time, or occasional work.

Host a seminary student in your home or separate apartment. Contact Abbey Larsen at info@TheBibleSeminary.org.

Join a TBS team to help with Accreditation, Course development and evaluation, Event planning and support, Facilities management, Fundraising, Institutional Research, Student Recruitment, Student Support, etc. Contact Lynn Lewis at Lynn.Lewis@TheBibleSeminary.org.



I am continually humbled as the Lord takes me deeper in understanding what it really means to be a Christ-follower. The beautiful truth is as I sit in this place as student, disciple - is I am being instructed by the Word of God and the counsel of the Holy Spirit. I am gaining understanding, greater clarity, and truth...

Just as impactful are the professors who instruct us from the text, as well as from their own lives and experiences. This is invaluable. These professors are ministers and leaders and, yet, openly share trials, testings, and crossroads that were challenges and victories in their own journey of carrying the cross of Jesus Christ.

This community of learning is healthy and sets a standard for me as step from the classroom to the parish, our world."

Brenda Martin
M. Div. student

THE BIBLE SEMINARY - DONATION FORM

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Designation	\$ Amount
General Fund - Invest in truly Higher Education by providing general operating support. Your donation can literally impact people, communities, and nations around the world! Our General Fund supports the overall operation of The Bible Seminary, including equipment, facilities, faculty, institutional scholarships, marketing, personnel, student recruitment, services, supplies, utilities, and more.	
Student Scholarship Fund - Invest directly in the life of a disciple committed to in-depth study of the Bible, and historical, theological and practical disciplines relative to a lifetime of 21st century Christ-centered, spirit-filled ministry. To maintain charitable tax deduction eligibility, donors may NOT specify that an award be made directly to a student. However, if you would like our Scholarship Team to consider an award to a particular student(s), please note your request here. Unspecified donations are used to assist students with the greatest financial need. Thank you!	
Holy Land Trip Fund - Help our M. Div. students (and their spouses) invest in an amazing ministry training adventure in the homeland of the Bible that will impact their ministry for a lifetime.	
Library Fund - Help furnish our library with books and other study resources.	
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ad from the Book of the Law of God making it clear and giving the meaning so the people could understand what was being read." - Nehemiah 8:8

Our Core Values



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



Bible – Because the Bible is the fully true Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16), we will offer and require the study of all 66 books of the Bible before graduation with a degree. We will seek to creatively integrate classical theological disciplines and ministry training by studying books of the Bible (i.e. Church History will begin with the Book of Acts and keep going; Pastoral Leadership will come through the study of the Pastoral Epistles; Systematic Theology will flow out of the study of the Pauline Epistles)



Prayer – Because apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5), we will continually seek to plug into the Vine Jesus Christ through yielding to Him in prayer. We will offer a unique emphasis on prayer including classes on prayer, a school of prayer, prayer faculty, and multiple prayer opportunities in the life of the seminary.



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



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



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



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