

The Sentinel

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The official news publication of The Bible Seminary

Summer 2013

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TBS

*Professor and
Chaplain, Paul Helbig,
is no stranger to the hard
scrabble court of life. Since
being drafted to play for the
Lord, his game - and every
shot - has taken on
a whole new
purpose.*



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The official news publication of The Bible Seminary

Summer 2013

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

About us

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

Affiliation

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

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The 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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For more information, visit us online at

www.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.

Fall 2013, Weekly Schedule

MDiv = Master of Divinity, BC = Bible Certificate

Mondays

3:00-4:20 pm MDiv **Missions I - Genesis, Nahum** (Helbig)
4:40-6:00 pm MDiv **Spiritual Formation & Ministry I - Exodus** (Lewis)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **Old Testament II** (Helbig)

Tuesdays

8:00-9:15 am MDiv **Church History - Acts** (Stripling)
9:30-10:45 am MDiv **Greek I - Jude, Philemon, 2 & 3 John** (Marshall)
11:00-12:15 pm MDiv **Pastor-Shepherd I - Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations** (Cozart)
3:00-4:20 pm MDiv **Bible Study Methods I - Gospel of Mark, Ruth, Esther** (Helbig)
4:40-6:00 pm MDiv **Hebrew Language I - Jonah** (Pattillo)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **Holy Land: Tour Prep** (Pattillo)
6:30-9:30 pm BC **Perspectives on World Christian Missions**

Wednesdays

9:00-11:30 am MDiv **Spiritual Formation & Ministry III - Psalms**
3:00-4:20 pm MDiv **Missions I - Genesis, Nahum** (Helbig)
4:40-6:00 pm MDiv **Spiritual Formation & Ministry I - Exodus** (Lewis)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **Soul Care** (Cozart)

Thursdays

8:00-9:15 am MDiv **Church History - Acts** (Stripling)
9:30-10:45 am MDiv **Greek I - Jude, Philemon, 2 & 3 John** (Marshall)
11:00-12:15 pm MDiv **Pastor-Shepherd I - Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations** (Cozart)
3:00-4:20 pm MDiv **Bible Study Methods I - Gospel of Mark, Ruth, Esther** (Helbig)
4:40-6:00 pm MDiv **Hebrew Language I - Jonah** (Pattillo)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **Bible Study Methods** (Helbig)
6:30-8:15 pm BC **New Testament II** (Henson)

Fridays

9:00-11:30 am MDiv **Theology III - 1 & 2 Cor.; 1 & 2 Timothy** (Wilson)

Specific Schedule dates

Sep 2 **LABOR DAY** (no classes)
Sep 3 **First day of Fall 2013 Semester** classes
Sep 15-16 **Fall Orientation Retreat** - for students, faculty, Board members, and staff
Sep 23 **Business Seminar:** "Boss Like God - Hiring Well"
Sep 30 - Oct 4 MDiv **Theology I - Gospel of John** (Hamilton)
Oct 21 **Business Seminar:** "Boss Like God - Managing Well"
Nov 18 **Business Seminar:** "Boss Like God - Firing Well"
Nov 25-29 **THANKSGIVING BREAK**
Dec 13 **Last Day of Fall Semester**
Dec 16 **Business Seminar:** "Boss Like God - Leaving Well"

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

Having an opinion, a self-perceived great idea, or a project that you are passionate about is like shooting a rocket up into the sky.

Sometimes, people love it, they are impressed, your opinion/idea/project is affirmed, and you bask in the glow of glory.

However, sometimes, people do not like it. They attempt to shoot it down, and, if they are successful, you bask in the glittering glow of falling debris.

All of which is not a problem . . . unless you are on your rocket.

Certainly, riding rockets is appealing. It was quite impressive when – on May 5, 1961 – Alan Shepard climbed on top of a Redstone rocket and strapped himself into the Freedom 7 spacecraft and became the first American to successfully travel into space.

It was ambitious and exciting when President John F. Kennedy announced a few weeks later – on May 25, 1961 – that the United States intended to strap more people onto rockets and successfully land a man on the moon and return him safely to earth before the end of the decade.

And, it was incredulous when Neil Armstrong – on July 20, 1969 – became the first man to walk on the moon, and return safely to earth as planned.

However, riding rockets has generally been the domain of the few and the brave, as it should be.

Once, when God had given King David rest from all his enemies, David had what he thought was a great idea – he wanted to build a temple for the Lord. He said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent” (2 Samuel 7:1-2). However, God shot David’s idea down and, instead, gave that honor to his son, Solomon.

Instead of taking it personally, pouting, getting angry, or feeling necessarily hurt, David responded with humility, a profound sense of gratitude, and a prayerful spirit of worship. He also did all he could to help prepare for his son’s success in the endeavor. By not riding his rocket, he avoided personal devastation when it was shot down.

When the Apostle Paul – with good intent and a passionate desire to preach the Gospel in Asia – was prevented from doing so by the Holy Spirit, he responded by answering the call to go somewhere else (Acts 16:6-10). When the “Spirit of Jesus” shot down his rocket, since he wasn’t on it, he was free to continue his passionate journey unfazed.

When Abraham gallantly sought to save the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah from destruction decreed upon them for their wickedness by bargaining with the Lord for their lives, he did not ride his own rocket. After Abraham and the Lord agreed on the terms of avoiding destruction altogether if the Lord could find at least ten



By K. Lynn Lewis

***There is a better way.
Get off your rocket.
Fire off as many as you
want, but don't take it
personally when others
shoot them down.***

righteous people in the entire the city of Sodom, they parted ways. The next day, when Abraham returned to the place of their meeting and saw the dense smoke of destruction rising from the plain, he did not take it personally. In fact, the Scripture notes that “Abraham moved on from there.” (Genesis 18:16 – 20:1)

What about you? When someone shoots down your rocket, are you able to stand aside and watch the glittering explosion and sparkling fallout of debris and join others in saying, “Wow! That was spectacular!” – and then move on?

Our challenge is that we like our ideas, our passions, and our projects. We integrate our sense of self into what we write, say, sing, play, build, produce, raise and nurture.

We pour ourselves into something, and are damaged when others take potshots at it, or worse, destroy it.

There is a better way. Get off your rocket. Fire off as many as you want, but don’t take it personally when others shoot them down. Even when people attempt to make it personal – and they will – seek to avoid the trap of taking things personally and feeling wounded.

Also, pay attention. Sometimes, other people are right, and God is always right. Maybe it was a bad opinion, idea, passion, project, or belief. Maybe something needs tweaking. Maybe it is not the right time. Maybe you are flat out wrong. Maybe you are right, but standing with the wrong crowd.

And maybe – like multitudes throughout history who have worked hard and paid attention to both their failures and successes with a goal of continual improvement – you can learn something while observing from your well-grounded position, and no matter what happens, move on.

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

BY THE GRACE OF GOD



By Matt Larsen

The Helbigs (L-R, front): Hunter (14), Krystal, Paul, Hope (9), Summer (12). (Back): Cade (14), Paige (16), and Kanen (19).

"I spent most of my childhood water skiing with a bunch of my friends, and then sinning a lot with a bunch of my friends," recalls Rev. Paul Helbig, professor and chaplain at The Bible Seminary (TBS).

The son of an army colonel and youngest of nine children, Helbig grew up in a brilliant family of intellectuals and high achievers near Keuka Lake and the small village of Penn Yan in Finger Lakes region of western New York State. Among the family, college was never a question, but an expectation.

However, after several semesters at Cortland State College in mid-western New York, he found himself in the office of the Dean of Students discussing why he was once again on probation.

"I went back and forth doing the 1.4 GPA landing me on probation, then the 2.5 to get out of probation,"

Helbig says. "After a sequence of 1.4, 2.5, 1.4, 2.5, the Dean finally asked, 'Have you ever considered a career in the armed forces?'"

She listened patiently, and then asked a more direct question, "What are you doing here?" And Helbig realized he had no real answer.

"So, I left college after that, or was kicked out to be honest. Then I met this girl who was wonderful and messed up like me."

The two struck up a relationship and began living together. After some time, Helbig convinced her to drop out of college to move with him to South Florida one semester before she would have graduated with about a 3.5 GPA.

"I was a small town dope dealer and dope head who dropped out of college. So, her parents were ecstatic about that," he notes sarcastically.

"I moved to South Florida because,

one, the weather was nicer. Two, I had a buddy there. Three, the girl was going to come with me, and, oh yeah, the coke (cocaine) was cheaper."

Pizzeria Uno

Four and a half years later, the girl was gone, he was jumping from one bad job to another, hiding from phone calls and had no relationship with his parents.

"The girl leaving got my attention. I came to the conclusion that I have a problem. I'm deeply, deeply a mess," he recalls.

Helbig decided to get some help and visited a local drug rehabilitation facility. He brusquely walked back out the front door, however, because he didn't like the first counselor he spoke with. As he was walking out the door, another counselor, who happened to be walking in, caught him.

"You look like you could use some help."

After cussing him out, Helbig responded, "You figure that out all by yourself there, Dick Tracy?"

"But I'm a joke, man," Helbig explains. "My hair is down the middle of my back. It's purple. I've got, like, three earrings. I got no life, and I think I'm hip driving a motorcycle."

Yet, a few days later Helbig was sitting in a booth across from that same man at Pizzeria Uno. For roughly two hours, Helbig ranted about the government, society and anyone else he could think of to blame for his current life problems.

"He listened and listened and listened to my slop," Helbig recalls. "Finally, he says, 'You've destroyed every decent thing in your life. It's your fault. You've destroyed every decent relationship you've had in your life, and that's completely your fault. You're one of, if not the, most self-centered snots I've ever met in my life. Before you go to bed, I'd thank God that he hasn't killed you yet.'"

And for the first time in his life, the swift-talking New York drug dealer didn't argue.

"The Lord was generous and gracious enough to have me shut up," Helbig said. "I walked away with the spotlight on me. At the same time, I walked away with a glimpse of the cross. I remember that I went to bed, and for the first time in a long time, went to sleep without having to be in a coma."

For someone who often downed an entire bottle of vodka in order to sleep at night, something had changed.

A wife, a church and a Savior

A couple of months later, a girl who lived in his apartment complex pulled up next to him in her white Chevy Cavalier as he stretched in the parking lot.

"Do you run?"

"No I just stand in the parking lot and sweat," he responded obnoxiously.

Despite the sarcastic jibe, the Midwest Lutheran schoolteacher decided to run with him.

"I was very shy and quiet," Krystal remembers.

"It wasn't like me to ask some strange guy anything like that."

"I'm a New York guy. She's a Midwest girl. I'm throwing an 'f-bomb' every third word and talking about everything. She's talking about nothing. That whole Midwest thing, I'm like, get a stinkin' opinion and express it!"

A few jogs and beach outings later, Helbig found himself in a packed strip center room tucked behind an Albertson's grocery attending Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale with his new running partner and listening to senior pastor, Bob Coy, teach the Bible line by line.

"He's the best Bible teacher to this day that I've heard," Helbig says. "He knows how to preach to both sides of the audience and make your ears turn red with conviction. They were teaching Matthew 9:35-10:20 where it says, 'Jesus had compassion on them because they were like

sheep without a shepherd.' I remember that he gave an altar call, and I was too prideful to get out of the chair. I'll never forget that."

For the first time, he grasped how deserving he was of death, and how God's mercy trumped his sin



The son of an army colonel and youngest of nine children, Helbig grew up in a brilliant family of intellectuals and high achievers near Keuka Lake and the small village of Penn Yan in Finger Lakes region of western New York State.

Even so, Helbig knows that he put his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior while sitting in that little folding chair on Father's Day in 1989. He is not sure how he would have articulated it then, but for the first time, he grasped how deserving he was of death, and how God's mercy trumped his sin.

After two transformational years at Calvary Chapel, Helbig and Krystal were married by Pastor Coy.

"In two years, I watched a church go from 300 to at least double that," Helbig says. "What that church did better than any other church I've ever seen is that their deacon meetings were not just, 'Who's got the light bulbs?' They asked questions like, 'Who do we need to share our faith with around here?' and then 'Who has

appetite? And who's got 'em?' I had appetite, and I got disciplined. Sometimes we met every morning."

A couple of callings

During those transformational years, Helbig was captivated by Coy's teaching.

"That's the most important thing on the face of this earth," he finally thought to himself. "You're changing lives through the simple teaching of God's Word the way it's written. Man, I wish I could do that."

Oddly, Krystal leaned over at that very moment, before the thought ever left his mind, and whispered, "If you'd grow up, you could do that."

(continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

"That's not an accident that I'm thinking that, and then she says that," Helbig says. "Since then, I've committed my life to doing, hopefully, a decent job of that. If you gave me a bicycle to put together, from an engineering standpoint, I think it would take me a month to maybe get it done; I'd probably break it. I can't do any of that. The only thing I understand is the Bible."

"What I saw quickly after Paul got saved," Krystal adds. "Was that he could open the Bible, and he just understood it. I had been around the Word, but had never seen anyone understand it so quickly. I knew he had a gift."

And, just like that, God plopped a vision into Helbig's lap.

Before long, the vision led the couple to a fledgling, unaccredited Bible institute in Houston, Texas. Ten years later, while studying and teaching at what eventually became The College of Biblical Studies, God called him to earn a more advanced seminary degree that he had no money to pay for. So, God provided the money.

"I ended up getting my masters degree from Dallas Theological Seminary because a guy paid for every dime," Helbig said. "I didn't pay for a book. And it was a \$30,000 degree at the time."

Over time, God kept nudging him with another idea that seemed to make no sense.

"I think I keep hearing God tell me I'm supposed to start a seminary. My seminary experience was 50 percent great, 50 percent bad, but that's not really fair to the seminary. I had 5 kids! So, this idea keeps going through my head at the same time I'm thinking, 'I didn't really like seminary.'"

However, God remained persistent. Eventually, after Helbig accepted a position as Teaching Pastor at Grace Fellowship United Methodist Church in Katy, Texas, he approached his pastor and boss, Jim Leggett, thinking perhaps he could help put the seemingly ludicrous idea to rest.

"I came into Jim's office expecting him to say, 'That's not on my radar.'"

Instead, when Paul began to share how he could not stop thinking about the idea of starting a seminary, Leggett's answer hit him like a confetti bomb at a surprise birthday party.

"I have been praying about that for over 10 years."

"Get...out...of...my...face!" Helbig recalls nearly yelling back. "Then, we were off to the races."

Planting Some Oaks

Over the next several years, Helbig took the lead in teaching Bible classes and forming a Bible Institute program at Grace Fellowship. Other visionary leaders joined together to pray, form a seminary advancement team, and lay the groundwork for a seminary. Following a successful fundraising campaign that raised more than \$1.1 million dollars for the cause, The Bible Seminary was born.

**I
was made in
a positive way, but
used it for wickedness.
Then, God redeemed me.
But now, by the grace of God,
those same positive abilities
are in use for God's
Kingdom.**

"Here's the fun part," Helbig explains further. "The seminary we have today has no accreditation, yet. People want accreditation. People want it to look like Southern Seminary in Louisville. I'm looking out the window, and we don't have that right now. Aside from the Spirit of God, this will never work. There's not one logical way to say that this thing would ever have one student. I've tried. I've sat down myself and gone, 'What would I have to do to make this thing work?' and the answer every time is, 'You can't make this work.'"

God, however, is making it work.

The Bible Seminary began offering Master of Divinity classes in the fall of 2012 with 12 students. Emboldened by a vision to launch a seminary that produces men and women who will be called "oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified" (Isaiah 61:3), the founders of TBS prayed for God to provide the first class of students He desired to grow into "oaks of righteousness." And He did.

Now, the seminary is enrolling new students for the upcoming fall 2013 semester.

"Seminary, if done right, is discipleship on steroids," Helbig says. "That's the best way to create leaders. Leaders change things."

A self-proclaimed "leadership nut," Helbig says he cannot wait to see how God uses TBS students to lead others in advancing the Kingdom of God, primarily because he knows his own life testifies to the power of leadership, both good and not-so-good.

"I was always leading people, discipling them, getting them together," Helbig says. "I was made in a positive way, but used it for wickedness. Then, God redeemed me. I came from wickedness, and I mean wickedness. But now, by the grace of God, those same positive abilities are in use for God's Kingdom, for His glory, and for His purposes."

Matt Larsen is a Master of Divinity student and serves as Communications Director for The Bible Seminary. He can be contacted at Matt.Larsen@TheBibleSeminary.org.

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The Sentinel



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David Muir



Jim O'Leary



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Jim Hamilton



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Mitch Pearison



Charles Wisdom



Leonard Butler



Karen Coolidge



Uche Emenike



Brenda Martin



Rowena Marable



Erica McLemore



Esmeralda Heer



Sara Kinsey



Matt Larsen



Kevin Penner



Israel Rivera



Eric Strong



Gary Zimmerman



2012-13 Administration, Board, Faculty, Staff, and Master of Divinity Students

In gratitude for these faithful pioneers who bravely set forth to help firmly establish the Master of Divinity program at The Bible Seminary through their dedication, prayers, sacrifice and service for the glory of God.

Seminary Oak
Planted January 24, 2008
2 Timothy 2:15

TBS RECEIVES GIFT OF HEBREW SCROLL

"Torah Sheet 9" contains Genesis 45:1 - 50:3



By Matt Larsen and K. Lynn Lewis

The Bible Seminary recently became the proud new owner of a portion of a Hebrew scroll. The sheepskin document originated in Poland in the 1800's, and this particular document contains Genesis 45:1 - 50:3.

Our very first M. Div. class auditor, Gary Zimmerman, who collects and redistributes old Hebrew scrolls, presented the scroll to TBS as a gift.

"I'm taking Hebrew here and you needed one," Zimmerman said with a smile when asked why he presented TBS with the scroll.

Zimmerman's career has includ-

ed serving as a missionary – primarily to the Jewish community.

"For over 41 years, by the grace of God, I have taught Jewish Culture and Evangelism, Old Testament Feasts- Leviticus 23, 'Writing and Preservation of Biblical Hebrew Scrolls', and 'Graphic Art, Writing - Layout & Design – Production' in the following countries: USA, Moldova, Ukraine, Lithuania, Japan, Saipan (Chinese Pastors go to the Island of Saipan from mainland China)."

He owned and operated several print shops which were used to print Gospel literature. He taught in three Christian high schools in America, in Bible seminaries in the former Soviet

Union, and raised finances to purchase equipment for full service print shops in Moldova, Ukraine, and Lithuania.

In 1999 with the financial help of the Louise Family Limited partnership and the Christian Heritage Foundation, Zimmerman began to locate and purchase many old Hebrew scrolls from around the world, including two complete sets of the TaNaKh.

Once his collection grew large enough, he began to use the Old Testament manuscripts to demonstrate to his Jewish friends

how the Old Testament points to Jesus as the Messiah.

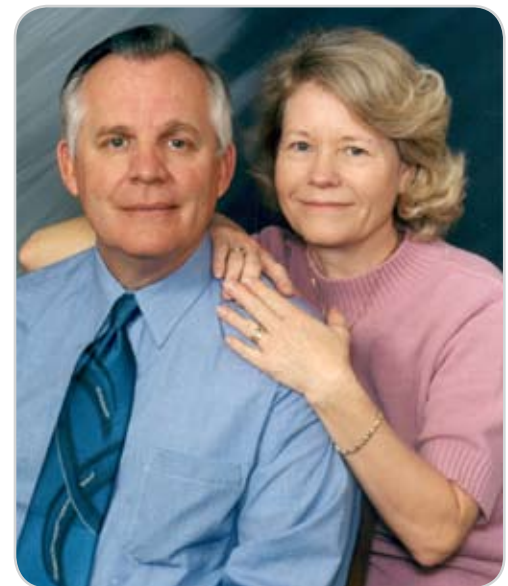
"I'm making the Jews jealous. That's their treasure," he says, noting that even most of today's Jewish scribes have never seen the entire TaNaKh on display.

A "TaNaKh" is a Hebrew Old Testament. The word derives from the pronunciation of an acrostic formed by the Hebrew letters for T, N and K, which stand for Torah, Nevi'im (or Prophets), and Ketuvim (or Writings).

In addition to the two complete sets, Zimmerman located and purchased about 20 non-kosher Torah scrolls for the purpose of framing the sheets and distributing portions of the

more than \$300,000 collection to Christian and non-Christian groups around the world.

Zimmerman has given nearly 700 scrolls to over 350 universities, churches, mission works, Bible translation works, and Bible Schools in 38 countries: America, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Canada, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji Islands, Finland, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico,



Gary and Artis Zimmerman - A Jewish Christian and a former Marine, Gary and Artis have four children - Daniel, Samuel, Joseph, and Abigail. The couple has served around the world in association with Baptist World Missionary Outreach Ministries and currently reside in Katy, Texas.

At 31 inches tall, this particular sheepskin scroll is significantly larger than a typical scroll from Israel, most likely because sheep in European countries tend to be much better fed, and therefore larger, than sheep in Israel.

TBS DEAN'S LIST 2012-13

Congratulations to these M. Div. students who earned a 3.5 or above grade point average this school year!



Karen Coolidge
Fall 2012
Spring 2013



Uche Emenike
Fall 2012
Spring 2013



Esmeralda Heer
Fall 2012



Matt Larsen
Fall 2012
Spring 2013



Erica McLemore
Fall 2012
Spring 2013

Moldova, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Saipan, Serbia, South Korea, Sudan, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia, ESL International.

For the Christian groups, the scrolls encourage reverence for God's Word and appreciation for the virtually flawless work of the Jewish community in preserving the Old Testament.

Additionally, as valuable historical artifacts, the scrolls have given Zimmerman access to international communities that would typically be closed to "traditional" missionaries. Fudan University, a communist school in China with virtually no exposure to the gospel, now has a copy of Ecclesiastes hanging on their wall.

"They're going to have to go get a Bible to figure out what that says," Zimmerman says.

"When we were in Japan, we'd go to the Buddhist temple and see their real old writings of their old religion in their real old temple. Here are the real old writings of our God. It really makes a difference having these old writings as proof of the validity of our belief."

The fragment donated to TBS came from a 90' long authentic Hebrew Sefer Torah (the first five books of the Bible) sewn together with sheepskins from a total of 39 sheep. The scrolls survived the Holocaust, were moved to Israel after 1948, then retired to a "geneza" (scroll graveyard) prior to being purchased by Zimmerman.

A Hebrew scribe, also called a "Sofer" ("one who counts letters") can produce a Hebrew Sefer Torah in about one year, averaging one sheet per week, one column per day, six lines per hour and three letters per minute. An average torah will consist of 52 sheets containing 245 columns with 42 lines each and exactly 304,805 letters.

Due to the meticulous work and tenacity of scribes throughout the centuries, Hebrew Sefer Torah's worldwide are in .00004 percent agreement with only six letters in question. Comparatively, in our digital age, even the most premium optical character rec-



ognition system boasts an average of (only!) 3 errors in every 420 characters scanned, an accuracy rate of 99.3 percent that would equate to more than 2,100 letter variations in a 304,805

character document such as the Torah. Thus, in this race, Sofers win the accuracy competition by an extremely wide margin over digital technology.

"God could have picked any people with any kind of language to communicate, but He picked these people with this Hebrew language," Dr. Pattillo, TBS Professor of Hebrew Language, adds. "We 21st century Protestants have lost a degree of reverence. Going back to these manuscripts is a reminder that there are a people out there who have not lost that reverence for God and His Word. Getting closer and closer to its original form helps us see this just isn't a book. This isn't just information. This is God's revelation."

Zimmerman hopes future students of the Hebrew language will be reminded of the generations of Jews who have given their lives to ensure the accurate preservation of those strange symbols they are learning to decipher.

For more information, visit www.scrolls4all.com.

THE LONG RUN



By Matt Larsen

Uche, Chikamso Vivian, and Viviana Emenike

"When they came to my house, I really thought they were kidding," Uche Emenike, Master of Divinity student at The Bible Seminary recalls.

A native of Lagos, Nigeria, Emenike had applied for a highly selective United States immigration visa and never expected to hear anything back. He figured the lottery system used to determine the 50,000 chosen from among a pool of 5 to 15 million afforded him slim chances.

"I made the application and practically forgot about it," he says.

When his surprise visitors informed him of his selection, Emenike had difficulty grasping the idea.

"Coming to the U.S. is always an exciting thing for people to do," he says. "But in my case, I wasn't really so sure. I had something good going for me. Now, coming here, you have to start all over."

At the time, Emenike held a rare, highly lucrative position at a financial institution in Nigeria. Even today, he looks back thinking he might have been better

off financially staying in Nigeria.

"Sometimes I still ask myself, 'Has it been worth it?'" he admits. "But, I thank God, and believe He has a purpose for me coming, and it is up to me to latch onto that purpose."

Second Guessing

When he stepped out of the Houston airport onto U.S. soil for the first time on a muggy July day in 2001, Emenike felt a sense of disappointment.

"I heard a lot about how 'next to heaven' the United States looks like," he says. "I grew up in a city in Nigeria, and Houston seemed very similar."

As his lofty expectations deflated like a pricked balloon, Emenike began second guessing his decision.

"What have I done to myself?" he thought. "Suddenly, I knew I would not see my friends for a very long time, and I felt like someone that was plucked out of a tree and left alone."

Although stores like Wal-Mart and Target soon impressed Emenike with their sprawling floors and hugely diverse inventory, they were no substitute for the relationships he left behind.

"In Nigeria, whites, Europeans, and anybody that was not Nigerian had an accent. Now, I was the one with an accent," he recalls with a chuckle.

Within two months, Sam's Club offered him his first job, a night shift, and his co-workers quickly became friends.

"My life initially was kind of very dry," he says. "Work, home, church, work, home, church..."

However, one relationship in particular was about to spice things up.

Long Distance Relationship

Through church events back in Nigeria, Emenike had known Viviana for over 10 years by the time he moved to the U.S.

"I had never gone the extra mile to express my feelings," he says.

They stayed in close communication as friends during his first year in the states. But, one phone call changed everything.

"When I felt that maybe the time was right, I popped the question over the phone. There was silence on the other side," he says, able to laugh in retrospect.

"Then some questions began to come up. When somebody has been your friend for so long, it is going to be a shock. Both of us overcame that early shock and the rest is history. That is never the way I imagined proposing to my wife, but it worked."

Actually marrying and bringing Viviana to the U.S., on the other hand, would not be so easy. In fact, it took five years – two years for her to finish college and for him to become financially stable enough to marry, then three years married but living on two different continents before she was allowed to immigrate.

With the hefty cost of plane tickets, Emenike could only afford to visit her about once a year.

That is never the way I imagined proposing to my wife, but it worked.

"It was not easy," he says. "But, I made sure that communication was constant."

On one of those trips, he expected to bring his wife with him back to the U.S., but complications in Nigeria thwarted their expectations.

Finally, in 2007, he received the long awaited letter just days after purchasing a plane ticket to visit.

"As God would have it, I arrived in Nigeria on a Thursday, she went for her interview on Monday, and the following Monday she was given the visa!" he remembers. "Two weeks later we came back to the U.S. together."

Called Out

Upon his initial arrival in the states, Emenike wasted no time in finding his way to church. His plane landed in Houston on a Saturday, and he was seated in a pew at Master's Vessel Ministries by 10:00 AM the next morning, a little jet-lagged, but otherwise fully present.

"My host's mother invited me, and I did not want to stay at home while they went to church," he says.

Emenike also did not allow himself to get too comfortable in the pew.

"I don't believe that in church you have to be passive. If I am in a church, I want to be involved. I want to be a worker. One of the greatest ways you can grow is to have responsibilities. You are forced to do things out of your comfort zone, and as you do those things, they also impact you and cause you to grow all the more."

With that mentality, Emenike soon found himself in leadership and teaching Sunday school classes.

One day, the church's founding pastor, Dr. Joshua Uhiara, informed the congregation that he was being asked to return to Nigeria to oversee the entire network of Master's Vessel Ministries. Since the Houston church plant would need a new head pastor, he announced that Uche Emenike had been selected.

"I confess that I was not too enthusiastic about it," Emenike says. "I did not call friends and have a party."

In fact, he was anything but dazzled by such a position of authority. Instead, he understood the intense responsibility of pastoring a congregation, and suggested that Uhiara appoint someone from the larger base in Nigeria to head up the Houston ministry instead. However, his pastor was determined to raise someone up from amongst their local congregation.

"Since I was not too enthusiastic, I think he was encouraged that he picked the right person for the job," Emenike says. "I know my pastor, and he does not like ambition. Ambition can be good. But, if you just show up and tell him you would like to preach in church, I can assure you that you will never preach in church."

The Other Side of the Pulpit

By November 2012, Emenike officially became pastor of Master's Vessel Ministries in Houston, and Uhiara assumed Presidential leadership over the more than 40 branches of Master's Vessel ministries in Nigeria, Ghana, Gabon, and the U.S.

One of Uhiara's desires for his protégé was that Emenike enroll in training for ministry leadership. Uhiara's earned degrees include a Ph. D., and, although he trusts the training he gave the young pastor, he knows the immense impact his formal educational training had on him and his effectiveness for ministry.

***Sometimes I still ask myself,
'Has it been worth it?'
But, I thank God, and
believe He has a purpose
for me coming, and it is
up to me to latch onto
that purpose.***

Providentially, not long after discussing this need with Emenike, Uhiara received The Bible Seminary postcard in the mail and the two decided Emenike should pursue an M. Div. degree at TBS. Once classes began, it didn't take Emenike long to discover what his pastor was talking about.

"After my first few classes, I felt inadequate," Emenike says. "I suddenly found out, 'Wow! I don't know much.'"

In addition to his part-time studies at TBS and service as Pastor, Emenike works full time as a CPA at Odunze and Associates, PC and scrounges for as much time with his wife and new 6-month-old daughter as he can get. After eight years of hoping and praying for a child, Vivian was born at the very end of Emenike's first semester of seminary.

"Since their baby was due a couple of weeks before classes ended," his seminary professor, Dr. K. Lynn Lewis recalls, "Uche scheduled his huge semester-end

presentation for the last slot on the last day of class. However, the baby came two weeks late and in the middle of the night before the last day of class. So, after staying up all night for the delivery, Uche drove straight from the hospital to class to give his presentation, then hopped back in the car and drove back to the hospital to take them home."

"Pressure! Pressure! Pressure!" Emenike wrote in an update of his seminary activities to family and friends during tax season this past spring. "That's the one word that aptly describes how I feel at this moment. It would appear that a 24-hour day is no longer sufficient to meet these demands. In such a time as this therefore, I am reminded of the Lord's answer to the apostle Paul as he pleaded for a respite from his troubles, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness' (I Corinthians 12:9)."

With numerous demands for his energy, Emenike knows which investments matter most in the long run.

"The need for me to depend on the grace of God becomes more pronounced as I found out that legitimacy of work will not be a valid excuse to shun preparation for ministry and the work of the ministry itself," he writes. "The Bible Seminary also comes with pressures of its own – with the weekly reading assignments and tests and preparations for class – but therein lies the readiness for ministry which is of far more eternal significance than what any secular job can offer."



2012-13 Master of Divinity students the last week of Spring semester 2013, holding objects used in some of their final presentations based on the book of Numbers. (Front, L-R) Israel Rivera, Matt Larsen, Erica McLemore, Kevin Penner. (Back, L-R) Brenda Martin, Rowena Marable, Sara Kinsey, Leo Butler, Uche Emenike, Eric Strong, Esmeralda Heer, and Karen Coolidge.

Dr. Rich Cozart

BC: *Soul Care*
MDiv: *Pastor-Shepherd I - Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations*



Dr. Rich Cozart was born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in southern California. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religion (1976) from Claremont McKenna College, a Master of Theology in Bible Exposition (1982) from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Master of Theology in Biblical and Theological Studies (2008) from the University of Wales, and a Ph.D. in Biblical and Theological Studies (2011) from the University of Wales. He is currently in the Ph.D. in Professional Counseling Program at Liberty University. Dr. Cozart currently serves as a Ph.D. Supervisor for Wales Evangelical School of Theology in the United Kingdom, has been a PLACE instructor and counselor since 2003 (testing, counseling and placing individuals according to personality, gifts, abilities, passion and experience), is a member of the Biblical Framework Counselors Association, has worked as a Professor at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston, Texas teaching Bible, Theology and Counseling courses since 2005, served as Homiletics Tutor at Dallas Theological Seminary for the New Testament and Homiletics Departments from 1981-1982, serves as Assistant Pastor at Cypress Bible Church in Cypress, Texas since 2006, and worked in various other counseling and teaching venues since 1975. Dr. Cozart and his wife, Janet, have four children.

Dr. Jim Hamilton

MDiv: *Theology I - Gospel of John*

Dr. Jim Hamilton serves as Associate Professor of Biblical Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and as preaching pastor of Kenwood Baptist Church. He formerly served as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Houston campus and was the preaching pastor at Baptist Church of the Redeemer. He is the author of many articles; the book, "God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment: A Biblical Theology, and God's Indwelling Presence: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments" (Crossway Books, 2010), and contributor to numerous other books.



Rev. Paul Helbig

BC: *Bible Study Methods Old Testament II*
MDiv: *Bible Study Methods I - Mark, Ruth, Esther*
Missions I - Genesis, Nahum



Rev. Helbig began his ministry working with suicidal teenagers while attending Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He attended the College of Biblical Studies in Houston, Texas, and spent seven years serving as a full-time Youth Pastor shepherding a handful of youth into a vibrant ministry of 150 students in a church of 300 members. While serving as Co-Director for The Center for Youth Ministry at the College of Biblical Studies, he received his Masters in Bible from Dallas Theological Seminary. After teaching Bible Study Methods and Old Testament in the Bible exposition department at the College of Biblical Studies, he accepted a position as Teaching Pastor at Grace Fellowship UMC in Katy, Texas, where he helped launch their Bible Institute. He currently serves on the faculty and as Chaplain of The Bible Seminary. He is passionate about face to face discipleship through Scripture, prayer, and practical ministry. He and his wife, Krystal, have six elementary through teenage children.

Dr. K. Lynn Lewis

MDiv: *Spiritual Formation & Ministry I - Exodus*



Dr. Lewis is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and an Elder and Full Member of the North Georgia Annual Conference. He received a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Georgia (1985), a Master of Divinity (1989) and a Doctor of Ministry (2002) from Asbury Theological Seminary. He has a diverse professional background in business, education, and ministry as an engineer, senior pastor, director, and CEO. He has served in leadership on a number of ministry and professional boards, and served as a short-term missionary in Bolivia, Haiti, India, and Korea. His productions and publications include articles, books, a cable TV show, dissertation, magazines, musical, songs, videos, and web sites. He and his wife, Wendy, have three children: Krista, Mark (Stuy), and Scotty.

Rev. Chris Henson

BC: *New Testament II*



Rev. Henson is a native of Sugar Land, Texas. The former Student Pastor at Travis Oaks Baptist Church in Lago Vista, Texas, he currently serves as Student Pastor at Grace Community Bible Church in Richmond, Texas. He earned his B. S. in Biblical Counseling from the College of Biblical Studies (2007) in Houston, Texas and a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2012) in Fort Worth, Texas. Chris loves Jesus, being a husband and a daddy, ministering to the youth at Grace, cooking, watching Aggie and Texans football, and cake batter ice cream. He and his wife, Sheridan, have two children, Mikaiah and Cadence.

Dr. Phillip Marshall

MDiv: *Greek Language I - Jude, Philemon, 2 & 3 John*



Dr. Phillip Marshall is Assistant Professor in Christianity (Biblical Languages) at Houston Baptist University. He did 2 years of undergraduate studies in Russian Language, Linguistics, and Soviet Politics at Georgetown University, and then received his B.A. in Biblical Studies at The Master's College in Los Angeles. He received his M.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary in California, and a Ph.D. in Old Testament Studies at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Dr. Marshall's teaching focus (and passion) is Classical Biblical Hebrew and Hellenistic Greek. He also enjoys teaching Aramaic, linguistics, and the introductory Old Testament course to new and transfer students. His areas of specialization are Hebrew and Greek grammar, the Septuagint, early Greek translations of the Hebrew Bible, textual criticism, and biblical exegesis. Dr. Marshall also serves as an Elder at Bethel Bible Fellowship in Katy, TX. He is happily married to Cheryl and has three children: John-Phillip, Kathryn, and Andrew.

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Dr. Linda Pattillo

BC: *Holy Land: Tour Prep*
MDiv: *Hebrew Language I - Jonah*

Dr. Pattillo is a career educator and missionary. After serving as a Greek Tutor and Adjunct Professor of Hebrew at Oral Roberts University, and Adjunct Professor of Hebrew at Phillips Seminary, Dr. Pattillo spent nearly 30 years as an Itinerant Missionary for Nathan Ministries teaching biblical studies, pastoral development, and spiritual formation in Argentina, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia (Slovak Republic), Latvia, Norway, Poland and various domestic locations. Her vast experience and study in the Holy Land includes regular research in helping present the life and teachings of Jesus in their original cultural and linguistic settings in association with Jerusalem Perspective's synoptic scholar, David Bivin. Dr. Pattillo is married to Dr. Phillip Pattillo, recently retired from BP America, and they have two children and several grandchildren.



Dr. Scott Stripling

MDiv: *Church History - Acts*

Dr. Stripling is a native Texan with a background in archeology, education, and ministry. He is working to complete his Ph. D. from Trinity Southwest University in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and holds a Doctor of Ministry from Vision International University in Ramona, California (2006), a Master of Arts in Biblical Literature from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri (1995), a Master of Arts in English (1988) and a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and English (1984) from the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas. An instructor at Wharton County Junior College, Belhaven University, and the University of Phoenix, he has also taught at International Bible College, Texas Southmost College/University of Brownsville, worked as Director of Development at The IDEA Academy, helped co-found and served as Principal of Covenant Christian Academy, and served as teacher and coach at Sugar Land Middle School, Point Isabel ISD, and James Pace High School. An active archeologist and member of the Near East Archeological Society and Association for Scientific Study of Religion Southwest, Dr. Stripling has served as Field Supervisor of the Tall el-Hammam Excavation Project in Jordan



since 2005, Field Supervisor of the Khirbet el-Maqqatir since 2010, and Supervisor of the Jerusalem Temple Mount Salvage Project in Israel. Author of "The Trowel and the Truth" and other publications, he has served on numerous boards and political campaigns. He and his wife, Janet, have four children and two grandchildren.

Rev. Blake Wilson

MDiv: *Theology III - 1 & 2 Corinthians; 1 & 2 Timothy*

Rev. Wilson serves as Pastor of Crossover Bible Fellowship in Houston, Texas, and Vice-President and Dean of Students at The Institute for Theological Studies (ITS). Blake is pursuing his doctorate, has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from South-

west Texas State University, and a Master of Arts in Christian Education from Dallas Theological Seminary. He was formerly the Co-Director of The Center for Youth Ministry at the College of Biblical Studies where he taught for seven years. Heavily involved in curriculum development for youth and family life ministries, Blake is well known for his class entitled "The Biblical View of Sex" – which he has taught to NBA players of the New York Knicks and San Antonio Spurs. Blake has been married to Dr. Ronique Wilson since 1994, and the couple has two children, a daughter, Reagan Faith Abrielle Wilson and a son, Robert Chance Priest Wilson.



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Summer 2013

FROM THE BOARD

The Bible Seminary Board of Trustees said goodbye to three members during the May 2013 Annual Meeting, and welcomed three new members. Founding Board members rotating off are all Grace Fellowship UMC members and were among the original team that helped constitute and launch The Bible Seminary.

Outgoing Board Members

Dan Dunham
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Incoming Board Members

Alton Frailey

Superintendent of Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) - a district of over 7,700 employees and 60,000 students - since July 2007. Frailey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master's in Educational Administration, both from Stephen F. Austin State University. Members of a local Catholic church, he and his wife, Anissa, have three children: Alana, Anderson, and Austin.



Wende Gaikema

A full-time mom and member of Kingsland Baptist Church where she also volunteers with the student ministry, Wende is the former Southern Texas State Coordinator for Moms In Prayer, serves on the Board of Directors for Pine Cove Camps and is an active volunteer in Katy ISD and Junior Achievement. Wende holds a BE



from Vanderbilt University in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics and an MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She worked for 12 years in brand management, field marketing and sales with Procter & Gamble. Wende and her husband, Jeff, have three children.

Downy Vickery

A native Houstonian and graduate of Memorial High School and The University of Texas at Austin, Downy has been a member of the Tradition Bank family for the past 32 years where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board and President of the bank's Grand Parkway location in Katy. Downy and his wife, Kavin, have been married for 10 years and have a daughter, Shannon. Downy and Kavin are members of Houston's First Baptist Church.



Officers of the 2013-14 Board of Trustees include Heidi Arneson, Chair; Doug Johnson, Vice-Chair; and David Muir, Secretary/Treasurer.

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Making Our Core Values Core

By Dr. Jim Leggett, *President*



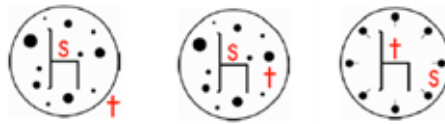
From the very beginning of The Bible Seminary, the center of the vision has revolved around 7 core values that we believe God gave us. They are:

1. Lordship
2. Bible
3. Prayer
4. Unreached Peoples
5. Local Church
6. Community
7. Compassion

These 7 values are what make The Bible Seminary God's unique organism for His glory. I would like to talk to you about all seven, but, let me highlight #1 for now.

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).

Using pictures, this core value says we want our students, faculty, and administrators – the whole seminary – to live as Circle #3:



Please join me in seeking this for your own life and praying it for The Bible Seminary.

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June 2012-May 2013

As of fiscal year end, 5/31/2013

Income	Actual		Budgeted	
Contributions	\$ 364,180		\$ 594,996	
Investments	\$ 3,434		\$ 4,800	
Other	\$ 1,157		\$ 0	
Program	\$ 66,256		\$ 110,730	
Total Income	\$ 435,027		\$ 710,526	
Expenses	Actual		Budgeted	
	\$ 527,658		\$ 691,728	
Net Income	\$ - 92,631		\$ 18,797	

For more information about TBS finances, including questions about donations, scholarships, etc, contact:



Rick McCalip
Vice-President
of Finance and
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281-646-1109
Rick.McCalip@
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"They read from the Book of the Law of God making it clear and giving the meaning so the people could understand what was being read." - Nehemiah 8:8

Our Core Values



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



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



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



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



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



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



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