

THE OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE SEMINARY

THE SENTINEL

Celebrating
15 YEARS!

EST. 2010 · SUMMER 2025





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About us

The Bible Seminary (TBS) is an independent, nondenominational, 501(c)(3) charitable institution of higher education incorporated in Texas in 2010 to offer training for laity and vocational ministry professionals. On-campus and Distance Education programs include a Certificate of Theological Studies non-degree program, as well as Dual Degree Completion, Master of Arts, and Master of Divinity degree programs.

Vision: The Bible Seminary (TBS) exists to glorify God by impacting multitudes of souls for Christ and to help fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God's Spirit.

Mission: Our mission is to foster biblical literacy through studies of all 66 books of the Bible, cultivate professional and lay leadership skills, and deploy trained Christian disciples in service worldwide.

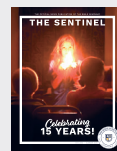
Key Verse: "They read from the book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read." – Nehemiah 8:8

Accreditation

The Bible Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e-mail: info@tracs.org], having been awarded Reaffirmation of Accreditation (I) as a Category III institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on April 28, 2025. This status is effective as of July 1, 2025, and is good through June 30, 2035. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (ED), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

TBS is an Accredited member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), participates in the Distance Education consortium of State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and holds a Candid/GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency.

About the Cover



Annah Chamberlin, daughter of TBS student Tommy Chamberlin (see "Multiplication in Action" on p. 33), holds an authentic Iron Age oil lamp filled with olive oil and a lit wick to help bring history to life for Vacation Bible School students in Pikeville, Kentucky.

Photo by LaRonda Asher.

- » **The ancient artifact** represents the past—real places, real people, and real events in the Bible—central to TBS academic studies.
- » **Annah** (budding archaeologist-in-training) and her VBS friends represent the future—TBS students near and far engaged in immersive, multisensory discipleship and training for life, leadership, and legacy.
- » **The flame** represents the eternal light of Jesus Christ—Immanuel (God with us), Messiah, Lord and Savior, Hope of the world, and leader of The Bible Seminary.

TheBibleSeminary.edu

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Shaped for Life and MINISTRY

Rosalie Brown, MACHT 2023 • Magnolia, Texas

Seminary was not on my radar ten years ago. I did have a strong desire to delve more deeply into the Bible. Dr. Lewis visited our church in 2017 and introduced The Bible Seminary (TBS). When he explained the option to audit classes and recommended doing course work to convert to degree credits later, if desired, I was intrigued.

Within weeks I was auditing my first class—Pastor-Shepherd I with Dr. Rich Cozart—and I wanted more. The lectures and discussions were extremely formative, as were our readings. As I dove deeply into Job, Jeremiah, and Lamentations, Jeremiah impacted me significantly. Other readings brought about new and fresh encounters with God. I found Eugene Peterson’s *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity* so accessible that I wanted to read more and picked up his *Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best*. Through these engagements, God whispered to me and revealed his call on my life.

As an older student and “at-home” mom, I was far removed from writing papers and making presentations. From the beginning, classes provided opportunities to intimately engage with the Bible and share with my professors and classmates what I learned.

Looking back, I can see how the class assignments were a necessary preparation for what God had planned. I also see a theme as I ventured forth with Dr. Lewis in Pastor-Leader I,

Prayer and Worship I, and Spiritual Formation and Ministry V; Dr. Petrovich in Bible Study Methods; Dr. Nyquist in Church History I, Theology I, Preaching and Teaching I; Dr. Savelle in Spiritual Formation I; Dr. Lokkesmoe in Theology II, III., and IV; Dr. Loken in Church History II; Dr. Glassman in Greek I and II, Hebrew I and II; and Dr. Steinmetz in Capstone Thesis. God refined me during my journey and drew me further into His purposes for my life. Along the way, I learned to give voice to community, relationships within the body of Christ, leadership, women’s stories within the Old Testament, and contemporary issues facing the church. God was shaping me.

I recently completed my first year as a Doctor of Ministry student at Houston Christian University. I am focusing on female leaders in the Old Testament, particularly women who led during times of crises. I also use Zoom to lead two weekly discipleship groups. Two of my TBS friends share in this ministry, and their voices and knowledge add amazing depth to our conversations. It is a joy to continue to learn and grow weekly in the Word with them.

Looking back, I see God’s hand working through TBS leading me to mature in faith, grow in knowledge, clearly hear my calling, enjoy amazing opportunities with gifted professors, and gain deep friendships within the body of Christ. I am truly blessed! 🙏

Rosalie Brown Master of Arts in Church History and Theology 2023, is a Doctor of Ministry student in the Faith and Culture track at Houston Christian University.



HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR ALUMNI

HAPPY 15TH BIRTHDAY TBS

Heidi Arneson, Bible Certificate 2011, MABS Student • Katy, TX

TBS, I have known you since before you were born.

Prior to your birth, a group we called the Seminary Advancement Team met every other Saturday morning from 7–10 a.m. Our multi-year gestational efforts eventually culminated in the registration of “The Bible Seminary” as a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation in the State of Texas in February 2010 and registration as an IRS 501(c)(3) Charitable Institution of Higher Education in August 2010.

Through your early years, I served on the Board of Directors and helped nurture, lead, and guide you; challenge you in times of despair; encourage you when times were tough; and celebrate many wins with you! Our journey has been beautiful, thrilling, scary, and always an adventure. Like traveling, we’ve encountered previously unseen landscapes, colorful meadows, steep mountains, lush countrysides, and dry deserts, while also finding new things to learn, more heights to reach, and further challenges to overcome.

Honestly, I poured much love, sweat, tears, and prayers into you, just as a mother does for her own children. In many ways you have been like a child maturing into adulthood. Just as a mother teaches a child, a child teaches a mother, and you taught me many things, and many I am still learning. However, three stand out to me the most.

TBS (all those who have served and currently serve to make TBS such an upstanding, worthwhile seminary), you taught me how much I personally value Scripture. After rolling off the Board of Directors my husband, David said, “Heidi you have served on the Board of Directors all these years but have never sat in the seat of a graduate student.” Good and fair point, so I signed up to audit two classes. Not surprisingly, I absolutely fell in love with the study of all 66 books of the Bible and the classroom. I had previously engaged in years of personal study, many women’s Bible studies, and even completed the Bible Certificate

program that served as the incubator for the seminary. But, I had never studied at the graduate level offered by TBS. That experience blew my mind, and I immediately applied to the graduate program and enrolled in the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies program. In truth, I nearly failed the first class. After decades of absence from the classroom and as a novice studying anything at the graduate level (much less theology), it took great discipline to study, learn, write papers, present projects, and deliver messages, and it still takes tremendous discipline and hard work. Thank you TBS for igniting in me such a deep love for the study of Scripture!

You also taught me the importance of excellence. In that “excellence never goes out of style,” you have always been “trendy.” My eldest daughter likes to say, “Do not do work you are not proud of.” I know first-hand that the Board of Directors, administration, staff, faculty, and students engage in work they are

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR ALUMNI



Board Member (10 years, 2011-21), Board Chair (8 years, 2013-21), Bible Certificate alumna (first Bible Certificate graduating class, 2011), and Master of Arts in Biblical Studies student (currently enrolled), holds a pottery sherd with her name written on it in Hebrew.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for men.*

COLOSSIANS
3:23

proud of. They obey Paul's words in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Thank you, TBS, for teaching me the importance of hard work and excellence in all I do.

You have also taught me love of community. The value and richness of loving and being loved by TBS has been a growing process. I have learned to be open-minded and open-hearted to "family" and "not yet family" knowing we are all created in the image of God. You have taught me the value of love, care, and concern for other generations, careers, walks of life, family units, places of living, and growing up. Thank you, TBS, for opening my heart to community and the richness of walking in love toward God and others.

As you continue to serve others, may your efforts the next 15 years and beyond build others up and encourage them in ways that advance the Kingdom of our Lord through the training, educating, study, and engagement of His Word. 🙏

TBS, YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME

- »» how much I personally value Scripture
- »» the importance of excellence
- »» love of community

Heidi led the Board in shepherding the TRACS (Transnational Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation journey from Applicant (2018) to Candidate (2019) to 5-year Accredited (2020) status. She represented TBS to the TRACS Commission in Garden Grove, California in April 2019, along with (L-R) Provost Scott Stripling, President K. Lynn Lewis, Heidi, and retired Vice-President of Finance and Administration Rick McCalip.



Happy Birthday to The Bible Seminary

from SEMINARY to the NATIONS

Esmeralda Heer,
MDiv 2015
Katy, TX



*A journey of faith, teaching,
and discipleship*

Heer Family (L-R), Patrick, Esmeralda, Phillipe, and Michael at graduation in May 2015. Esmeralda submitted her application to TBS on September 15, 2011, the first person to do so. To help understand course content, she recorded morning classes in English then spent afternoons with a Spanish/English translator throughout her seminary journey.

A native Colombian, I married my wonderful husband, Phillipe (from France), 35 years ago. We have two sons, Patrick and Michael, moved to the U.S. in 2001, then lived in Nigeria and Malaysia—where I first trusted Jesus as my Savior. Since then, God has led me into a deeper understanding of His Word, transformed my life, and granted me amazing opportunities to teach and disciple others across continents, cultures, and languages.

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FROM YOUR ALUMNI



Esmeralda baptizing one of her Bible Certificate students, Monica "Sylvia" Ochoa, in the Jordan River in Israel in May 2018.

A CALL TO STUDY

A Petroleum Engineer then stay-at-home mom, my life changed dramatically in 2012 when I enrolled in the first cohort of 12 graduate degree students at The Bible Seminary (TBS). I knew it was a decision of consequence, but was certain God called me and I trusted He would equip me. I walked by faith and not by sight as Dr. Lynn encouraged me when I faced difficulties and despair. The path was unfamiliar and challenging, plus I was studying in a new country, in a new academic system, and in a non-native language.

Over the next three years, I studied under incredible professors who taught the material and modeled humility, wisdom, and a passion for God's Word. One powerful impact was studying all 66 books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I didn't just read Scripture—I wanted to understand it deeply, teach it faithfully, and live it boldly. Graduating with my Master of Divinity (MDiv) in 2015 was not just a personal achievement, it was a milestone in divine preparation.

BEGINNING AT HOME

My first assignment after seminary wasn't in a large church or overseas mission, but in the TBS classroom—my discipleship home. Over the next three years, I taught Bible Certificate classes in Spanish and invited friends and neighbors to join us. We studied Scripture together, asked questions, prayed, and grew as a community of faith. Our Spanish cohort toured Israel in 2018 with Dr. Lewis, Dr. Stripling, and others, and spent a week together with our families excavating on the archeological dig at Tel Shiloh, Israel (see photo below).



Then I had humble, intimate, powerful gatherings in our living room. I watched the Word of God change lives. I witnessed women grow in confidence, faith, and their desire to serve others. These small acts of obedience laid the foundation for a broader calling.

GLOBAL MISSIONS, LOCAL IMPACT

Eventually, I joined the Global Missions Department at Grace Fellowship Church where I continue to volunteer. We use Discovery Bible Study (DBS) which is designed to empower believers to tell a Bible story, read, understand, ask questions, and apply God's Word without needing formal teaching. It emphasizes obedience and multiplication: discovering truth in Scripture and immediately sharing it with others. This approach resonated deeply with me. With seminary training and experience with ministry in small home settings, I have experienced the power of making disciples who make disciples.

I began facilitating DBS groups, first with local family and friends and then through connections in Colombia and Peru. The model spread naturally as people experienced transformation through the Word. Before long, I was leading online groups in India, France, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic. Language and distance were no longer barriers—only opportunities for God's Word to reach further.

I've seen teenagers, mothers, and new believers alike grow by engaging Scripture consistently and obediently. I desire to lead by example and empower others to hear from God and act on what they learn. That is the heart of discipleship.

The Journey

FAMILY MINISTRY FIRST

MISSION AND MULTIPLICATION

Prior to teaching others, I practiced with my own family. Together, we read and discussed Scripture, which helped deepen our relationships and give us a spiritual framework to process life's challenges. We similarly engaged with extended family in Colombia and Peru, turning regular conversations into faith-filled encounters.

My sons have seen me teach, train, and learn. They've heard the testimonies of people around the world touched by God's Word. I pray this legacy continues through them and beyond. My husband accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior this Mother's Day 2025. God is faithful, glory and honor to Him!

Looking back, I'm profoundly grateful for the equipping, training, teaching, and opportunities TBS offered. I gained knowledge, confidence and clarity in my calling, and built a foundation strong enough to support personal growth and others around me. Seminary gave me tools; God gave me vision. Through prayer, community, and a commitment to Scripture, that vision is becoming reality.

I continue to train and facilitate Discovery Bible Studies and do Trauma Healing with individuals and groups in multiple countries. I mentor others to become facilitators so the work can multiply far beyond me. God continues to transform me not just through learning the Bible, but by living it and sharing it. From quiet moments around our dining table to video calls with believers across the globe (see photo below), I see the same truth playing out: God's Word is alive, powerful, and life changing. I'm not expecting and don't need all the answers; I need to be available, faithful, and obedient.



I've learned that I don't have to wait for perfect conditions to start making disciples. We can start where we are—with family, friends, church, or online community. Open the Bible and study together. Ask simple questions. Obey what you learn. Share with others. That's how the Kingdom grows.

I once sat in TBS classrooms with trembling hands, a heart full of hope, and trust in an unknown future. I rejoice in my journey and continue to learn, teach, disciple, and by God's grace, multiply. 🙏

God is faithful, glory and honor to Him!



From Pastor to Archaeologist

Brent Hoelfling, MABHA 2024 • Texarkana, Texas

In “Peabody’s Improbable History” segments originally introduced in the classic cartoon series *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle and Friends* (1959-64, Jay Ward Productions), genius bowtie-wearing beagle Mr. Peabody and a young boy, Sherman, traveled through time in a “Wayback Machine.” Series episodes included Mr. Peabody telling his pet boy, “Sherman, set the Wayback Machine to (a specific year).”

A trip in the Wayback Machine to 2017 would show the start of some unbelievable changes in my life. Although I engaged in studies of archaeology on my own, I never imagined becoming an archaeologist. At the time, my career journey included working in computer hardware and software technology for Wells Fargo, then Community Healthcare, while pastoring a small church in Wake Village, Texas, just outside of Texarkana, Texas on the Texas and Arkansas border. I entertained no aspirations of advanced degrees or serious archaeology, until a single event shifted my path.

When Dr. Scott Stripling, TBS Provost and well-known archaeologist, spoke at my church, his presentation changed how I think about and present the Gospel. Over the next seven years, I engaged in graduate studies with The Bible Seminary (TBS) and excavation field experiences at Tel Shiloh, Israel. In 2024, I officially became an archaeologist upon receipt of my Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA) degree.

TBS staff and faculty have become friends and counselors in my spiritual growth. I enjoy studies that focus on a particular subject and content and one or more books in the Bible. I find it refreshing that professors want students to learn course content and apply it in life, not just focus on rote memorization and study for tests.

My TBS experiences directly and positively affect my teaching, which my congregation greatly appreciates. Preparation is both easier because I can relate more first-hand experiences from the

land of the Bible, and more challenging because exegesis takes more time since professors challenge me to study deeper and seek broader understanding.

For example, during my studies on exegesis and the book of Genesis, I felt like I previously understood nothing in Genesis. While not much changed in my personal theology, I continuously found an immeasurable wealth of teachable truths, particularly compared to other Ancient Near Eastern parallels.

I’m struck by how God uses unexpected moments to redirect our paths. TBS and the Shiloh dig didn’t just equip me with knowledge, they deepened my love for the Bible and its truly remarkable relevance to everyday life. My sermons are enriched by historical context and archaeological insights that help make the Gospel not just a story but a living reality. I no longer just teach ethics or morals, but invite people to walk Bible lands together and see the Bible’s truths unfold in vibrant, tangible ways.

In conversations with Dr. Stripling, I decided to continue studying at TBS even after attaining my degree, especially since asynchronous learning can fit into my busy schedule. After all, lifelong learning isn’t about collecting degrees, but embracing a lifestyle of curiosity and growth. As long as I can keep learning while pastoring and working, I plan to continue exploring new depths in Scripture and archaeology with my friends and mentors.

Join Us!

Perhaps an unexpected calling awaits. God can use a classroom, dig site, or conversation to spark changes that can help transform your life and the lives of those you serve. Little did I know when I answered “Yes!” to TBS way back in 2017 that I was about to embark on an amazing journey to richer faith and bolder missions. 🇺🇸

Brent Hoelfling—computer expert, pastor, archaeologist, and Valedictorian of his graduating class



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FROM YOUR ALUMNI

TWO SPIRITUAL LESSONS

Jacob Figueroa, MABLC 2023 • Springtown, Texas

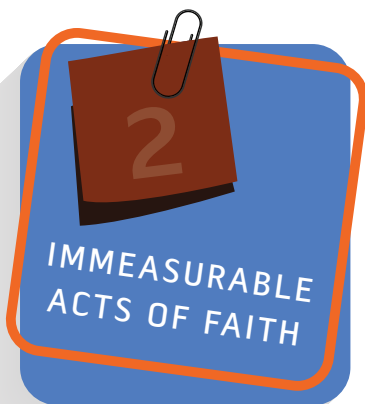


In *Boss Like God: A Blueprint for Elite Workplace Performance* coauthored by TBS President Dr. K. Lynn Lewis, section four addresses biblical strategies for “leaving well.” Technically, he reviews three biblical examples of transitions from one leader to another, but the overarching point is the concept of outgoing leaders finishing well, something that is much easier said than done.

While writing my own book, *The Trinity in Eden* (2024 Nehemiah Press), I found it difficult to finish well. My research involved overwhelming amounts of information. My journey included finding data, analyzing it, attempting to coherently synthesize it, and then organizing and presenting it for constructive criticism—after which the process would begin anew. The work took Herculean effort. I seriously

considered (and relatives advised) stopping, simply not completing the task. After all, I had already graduated and the end goal seemed insurmountable. Despite my personal misgivings, St. Paul’s message to Archippus echoed in my mind, “See to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, so that you may fulfill it” (Colossians 4:17).

The decision to finish well has affected me in other ways. Sometimes in life—whether at work or among family—stressful, inefficient, or even laughable tasks are required of us. But, I regularly find it best to attempt to finish well what one has started.



In courses with Dr. Israel Steinmetz, he suggested that Americans live in a scientific world that fundamentally merits measurable methods, outcomes, and results. None of these are bad, but faith does not work that way. Some things of God cannot be measured. It took much faith and patience to work through the process of publishing my manuscript, including navigating my own reservations and the weighty drains of time and energy. Furthermore, I hoped to prove useful to the Church after graduation, yet my contributions appear small. As I see it, as occasions present, I teach Sunday school, lead prayers, assist with communion, visit the elderly, and study Scripture. And due to memory challenges, I wonder how helpful my lessons have been.

Yet, maybe that which I do not see bears more significance. I recall Elisha’s prayer for his servant, “Lord, please, open his eyes so that he may see” (II Kings 6:17). When the servant’s eyes were opened, he saw the mountains surrounding them full of horses and chariots of fire. For now, I continue to live in Springtown, Texas and work as a Latin teacher. In education as a career since 2014, I have come to question many practices of modern American education. Since the system evidences a steady decline since the 1960s, and good jobs are available elsewhere, I sometimes consider leaving something for which I appear to be made. Although I did not set out to become a teacher, once offered the opportunity, I fell in love with it. So, I am learning that perhaps I should not underestimate my contributions to a kingdom which does not always come with signs easily observed, but simply trust God and live in daily obedience. 🙏

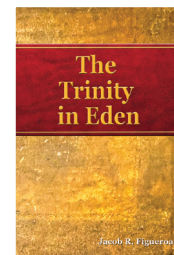


Check Out
**The Trinity
in Eden**
2024 NEHEMIAH PRESS

HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY

insists

that New Testament authors indubitably describe God as three distinct but unified personae: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Although absent from the Bible, the creedal term “Trinity” has become an essential doctrine, while also causing centuries of confusion and controversy among biblical scholars. But, what about the Old Testament? *The Trinity in Eden* (2024 Nehemiah Press) presents linguistic research on the oldest account in the Bible: the Primeval History from creation to the tower of Babel. Author Jacob Figueroa concludes that the names of God, the plural pronouns of God, and the execration of the serpent together affirm that the concept of the Trinity is, at least, as old as the Bible itself.



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PROCLAIMING THE SON IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Ed and Toby Thomas, MDiv 2019
Ikoma, Nara, Japan

We joined Japan Mission as full-time missionaries in January 2024 after a multi-year journey of following the Lord's call. While I (Ed) attended TBS from 2014-19 and graduated with my Master of Divinity degree in 2019, I (Toby) audited several classes and TBS had a major impact on our lives!

It was during our time at TBS that we began to hear the Lord's guidance toward full-time missionary work. A TBS professor challenged us to reflect upon the specific ways in which the Lord orchestrated the events of our lives and then consider where that life experience intersected with the need for the Gospel—specifically amongst an unreached people group.

At the time, I (Ed) had a long-standing connection to the land of Japan as part of

my secular employment in medical devices. As we prayed, we sensed that the Holy Spirit was leading us to Japan. We didn't realize it then but Japan is home to the 2nd largest unreached people group in the world. With a population of around 126 million, far less than 1% know Jesus. Japan is also located within the 10/40 window and dominated by Buddhism and Shintoism.

Starting in 2019, we traveled to Japan intermittently for both work and ministry exploration and connected with numerous missionaries and mission agencies. However, the COVID pandemic halted our momentum, but not the Lord's work. While we remained in Texas, the Lord sorted, shifted and shored up His vision, plan and preordained path that He had prepared in advance for us to walk in. In January

2023, we traveled across Japan visiting 17 different mission agencies and churches and meeting over 60 people in a little over 3 weeks! We were truly blessed to see the many ways in which God was working. Although the percentage of Christians is very small, we heard absolutely amazing multi-generational testimonies.

During that trip we clearly felt the Lord guiding us to apply for service with Japan Mission. Their motto is "Called to Serve" and we've found that their ministry goals align well with our call. Japan Mission seeks to save the lost souls of Japan and to support local Bible-believing Japanese churches and pastors. Japan has abundant material blessings and is quite economically and socially advanced. However, societal and workplace pressures

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missionaries with JAPANMISSION.ORG

JAPAN MISSION

WE PRAY FOR THE LORD'S CONTINUED WORK THROUGH TBS OF MAKING DISCIPLES AND TRAINING LEADERS LIKE US TO MAKE MORE DISCIPLES, AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN AND OUR MINISTRY THROUGH JAPAN MISSION. - Ed and Toby Thomas



ルームメイトのエスター・チャンに会いましょう

can absolutely crush the soul as indicated by high rates of loneliness, depression and suicide. Japan also experiences high rates of natural disasters, especially earthquakes and tsunamis. Japan Mission believes that small, Bible-believing Japanese churches can serve as beacons of hope in each community.

So, rather than plant new churches, Japan Mission focuses on supporting existing Japanese churches. By serving in local communities, we are able to connect Gospel seekers to groups of believers in their location. We offer English classes for adults and kids (both at local churches and on-site at Japan Mission), a kid's kinder program, weekend café, and a newly created mini-homestay program. These all fall under Japan Mission's CAYA ("Come As You Are") ministries. We teach English in our home to junior high school boys and have begun to develop deeper relationships with their extended families, especially during our once a month dinners in our home with the boys and their families.

English immersion programs are very popular with the Japanese, and many spend a small fortune to travel overseas to

live with an English-speaking family for a time. The Lord has opened a door for us to serve as a local "mini-homestay" program right here in Ikoma, Japan! We host people in our home and give them a taste of Texas without ever leaving Japan. We cook and enjoy meals together, play games, watch English shows, and share our respective cultures. Over several days, we invite homestayors to share our daily Christian walk with the Lord. They are invited to observe our daily quiet time, prayers before meals, discussions of Christian-themed paintings or Bible verses in our home, and visit a local church together on Sunday. As one can imagine, this often organically leads to deep, engaging conversations.

We have hosted homestayors from ages 5-55 (so far) and received interest from two large companies and a local school. The companies plan to offer our homestay program as a company benefit to their entire employee base! Please pray that the Lord would continue to bring lost souls from Japan to our doorstep and across our threshold, and that homestayors would leave changed and deeply curious about their experiences under our roof permeated by the peace of Christ. For more information (in Japanese only), visit Cayaikoma.com/homestay/.

Numerous times since our arrival in Japan, we have reflected upon and even fully relied upon the missions preparations we received through TBS. **We are forever grateful for the ways TBS poured into us and our family, equipping us to invest our lives in spreading the Gospel and love of Christ.** We fully envision a day where we can connect Japanese believers to TBS, either via formal academic enrollment, participation in excavations in the Holy Land, or other avenues. We pray for the Lord's continued work through TBS of making disciples and training leaders like us to make more disciples, and invite you to join us in praying for the people of Japan and our ministry through Japan Mission. 🇺🇸

COME AS YOU ARE

FOR MORE INFORMATION IN JAPANESE ONLY

visit
CAYAIKOMA.COM/HOMESTAY/

Ripple Effects

Shelli Alaniz, MABS 2024 • Brookshire, Texas

One of my favorite poems is “The Road Not Taken” (Robert Frost, *The Atlantic Monthly*, Aug 1915), especially these lines at the end:

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

As a teenager, I was drawn to the mystery of the road less traveled. It sparked my curiosity and sense of adventure. The allure held me captive. What might lie around the next bend? What uncharted experiences await my next step?

Since then, I have excitedly discovered diverse paths and pioneered new things. As my faith has deepened, I have found my lesser lane a place where I am keenly aware of my desperate need

for God and that He is faithful.

In late 2018, I arrived with a fervor at two diverging roads. After countless pursuits to discover a deep, satisfactory Bible study, a friend suggested I consider seminary. I attended a preview day at Dallas Theological Seminary that awakened an excitement, an anticipation to swim in deep waters of theology, hermeneutics, church history, and practical ministry training.

At the same time, I received a flyer from The Bible Seminary (TBS) that caught my attention with these words, “Looking for a Sign?” Indeed, I had, so I decided to test seminary out and audit one class—Greek. Despite not knowing anything about the language, the engagement of the students captivated me. I also found the professors intentional and responsive and the staff amazingly accessible. It felt like family, and a place to grow, be sharpened, and challenged. So, in January 2019, I chose the road less traveled and forged ahead. I had no clue how much that decision would impact life.

In 2020, I dove headlong into Ananias House, a ministry helping

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FROM YOUR ALUMNI



Shelli Alaniz and her husband, Steven, enjoyed playing extras in episodes of “The Chosen” created and directed by Dallas Jenkins.

equip local churches throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). I led a women's leadership program focused on training a group of women for five years, twice a year, in discipleship, leadership, and trauma healing

I was also studying "BSM 501: Bible Study Methods," learning the value of understanding context within Scripture and engaging in observation, interpretation, and application. I applied this in the mission field as we recorded videos with translators, uploaded them for each of the 40 women to view in their own language, and gave the women homework to follow through with practical applications. I saw an immediate ripple effect of my classroom studies as women throughout the 10/40 window benefited in real time from what I was learning in my TBS classroom.

One woman, married to a pastor, shared how her husband observed her and decided to use what she was learning to help him prepare his sermons. Suddenly, men and women within this persecuted church were engaging with God's Word intentionally and with less convoluting influence from their culture.

We also saw this ripple effect in my local church as I joined a curriculum writing team. As we implemented principles from my Bible Study Methods, Bible Panorama, and theology courses, we began to unpack Scripture in ways more purposeful and hermeneutically sound. Immediately applying these core teachings created countless opportunities for feedback, questions, and strengthening ministry deliverables.

While taking "Pastor-Leader: Preaching and Teaching" courses, I served on a teaching team at Grace Fellowship women's Bible study and moved into the role of Teaching Director. As I learned preparation processes from different pastors throughout the West Houston/

Katy area in class, I began to see patterns of intentionality, prayer, and, ultimately, heaviness. The weight of delivering God's Word, and how messages were exegetically constructed became a central focus for me as I both taught and began leading our team. I wanted us to understand context, authorial intent, and carry the weight of delivering God's Word while also remaining humble. I became acquainted with Kelly Needham's Teach-Equip program through our class. As our church adopted it, she has mentored us in addressing the heart, processes, and outcomes of teaching.

One of the most profound ripple effects occurred in the women's program at Ananias House. In trauma healing, a team of licensed and lay-counselors help

*One of the most
profound ripple effects
occurred in the women's
program at
Ananias House.*

women experience group and individual counseling using narrative exposure therapy. Most have experienced some level of persecution through war, terrorism, corrupt governments, famine, and extreme poverty. This healing focus is critical to discipleship, strengthening their faith journeys, and building their churches. My "Pastor-Shepherd" courses—focused on biblical counseling and the significance of Scripture in healing—helped shift how we conducted these sessions.

Our Ananias House training rhythms already included small group components for dialoguing about lectures and

practical applications. As we considered ways to help shift Islamic cultural mindsets, we knew Scripture was critical. So, we made it a pivotal focus to paint pictures with Scripture to help enable women to see not only what is possible, but also to discern God's call in their own lives. We've watched as many have made life changes deeply rooted in the Word of God—a far more sustaining anchor for these women than just words from a group of Americans.

I continue to see astounding ripple effects from my decision to take the road less traveled. TBS trained me academically and experientially, through classes and relationships, and with a balanced focus on graduation and forging a family that supports and challenges me in life and ministry. TBS has its fingerprints all over my family, the ministries I serve, my church in Katy, Texas and on the global Church around the world. In my own journey in uncharted territories at home and abroad, I deeply feel the need to continually seek the Lord, press in, and hold tight knowing that our Father will never fail. And that has made all the difference. 🇺🇸



In my own journey in uncharted territories at home and abroad, I deeply feel the need to continually seek the Lord, press in, and hold tight knowing that our Father will never fail. And that has made all the difference.

DEEPER STUDY

After completing my TBS Bible Certificate in 2019, I still had a lot of questions. Three professors encouraged me to enroll in the graduate program, but I had no intention of doing that and came up with every excuse for not applying. When I took my questions to God, I heard the same message, “Enroll in the master’s program.” So, after talking with Dr. Scott Stripling, I enrolled in the TBS Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture (MABLC) program in 2019, and the rest is history.


My experiences at TBS taught me so much about studying the Bible, especially in-depth study. I also learned how to apply what I had learned. II Timothy 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” became much clearer to me.

Since graduation, I have continued my YouTube channel, “BSM How I Study and Understand my Bible” (Youtube.com/@myBiblestudy). A book-by-book, verse-by-verse Bible study, God has blessed me with increasing numbers of subscribers. I also post my videos and a daily devotional on Facebook. All glory to God, I am amazed how many people watch and share them. People at family functions, and through private messaging write comments, thank me with feedback like, “I needed that word, thank you for your teaching, I now

understand what that Scripture means.” I am grateful that the Lord uses me to bless others and spread His Word.

I attend a community Bible Study and assist the teacher in answering questions or clarifying Scripture. After teaching the book of Revelation, ladies told me I was an answer to prayer since they had not attempted to read it out of fear. Due to my teaching, they no longer feared reading and studying it. I thank TBS for the excellent preparation to teach and share the word of God.

Personally, God has blessed our family with two of our three children marrying in the past two years and we are about to become first-time grandparents! I continue to serve on the Prayer Team at Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, where I keep our team informed, remind them to pray Scripture, and provide team Scriptures for healing, jobs, relationships, and climbing tough mountains. I occasionally speak at leader meetings and share information gleaned from TBS classes, particularly the PAS 511:Pastor-Leader I course.

I encourage anyone looking for deeper study to attend The Bible Seminary. Professors want students to love the Lord and others and truly understand the Bible, not just gain knowledge. They truly have a heart for God and His Word, and love walking with others in their journeys of education, faith, and ministry service. 

**BE DILIGENT TO
PRESENT YOURSELF
APPROVED TO GOD,
A WORKER WHO
DOES NOT NEED TO BE
ASHAMED, RIGHTLY
DIVIDING THE
WORD OF TRUTH**

II Timothy 2:15

All Glory to God!

Sharon Holmes,
Bible Certificate 2019, MABLC 2022
Fulshear, Texas

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WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Our reverse exodus from Israel through Egypt during war

Emma Clodfelder,
BACS and MABHA Student

Photo by Clayton Van Huss, MABHA 2023

A crisis often strips everything down to what really matters. I didn't expect the hardest days of our 2025 archaeological excavation in Israel to turn into one of the most beautiful displays of unity I've ever witnessed, but it did. It started Friday, June 13—the last scheduled day of our seventh annual four-week dig at Tel Shiloh—when our team faced a situation we never imagined.

Unbeknownst to most, Israel's cabinet approved Operation Rising Lion the prior day. Intended to curb Iran's increasing nuclear capabilities and decades of terrorist activities and military actions aimed at eliminating Israel, the mission's name was derived from Balaam's first oracle, "It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'See what God has done!' The people rise like a lioness; they rouse themselves like a lion" (Numbers 23:23–24 NIV).

American President Donald Trump had earlier given Israel and Iran 60 days to negotiate a deal. On that Friday—the 61st day, and coincidentally an hour before our normal 4 AM wake-up time on dig days—we received a State of Emergency phone notification from the Israeli government with instructions to be ready to enter a local, secure shelter if notified to do so.

Operation Rising Lion

the mission's name was derived from Balaam's first oracle:

It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'See what God has done!' The people rise like a lioness; they rouse themselves like a lion.

**NUMBERS
23:23–24 NIV**

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FROM YOUR STUDENTS



Emma Clodfelder, TBS Student Services Coordinator, is a TBS Dual Degree student earning a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS) and Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA).

The warning was not entirely unusual. Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis have been attacking Israel for a long time. In just the 21 months since October 7, 2023, approximately 30,000 drones and missiles have been shot at Israel from Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. Warnings and sirens are a regular part of the ebb and flow of living there.

Granted, due to Israel's excellent defensive and security systems, most munitions don't reach their targets. Also, our team had not previously been in Israel during most of the large barrages; most years one or two missiles are shot and shot down every few days during the six weeks we are touring and excavating. However, this year, one week prior to the start of the tour before the dig, a Houthi missile from Yemen slipped through Israel's Iron Dome defense system and struck near Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv on May 4. This caused many airlines to cancel flights and many of our 135 dig team members from around the world had to scramble to find creative reroutes with the few airlines still offering flights just to get to Israel in the first place.

So, despite the wishes of our Ambassador Hotel manager, we boarded our bus in

Jerusalem at 4:59 AM as usual, passed with the appropriate approvals and permissions unrestricted through our normal checkpoint into the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), and arrived at Shiloh around 5:40 AM in time for sunrise, just like every other weekday morning over the previous four weeks. We felt like Shiloh was the safest place for us. It was quiet—quieter than usual. But the mood of the dig that day was different. Somber. Down.

We soon found out that Israel targeted key Iranian military command centers, installations, leaders, and nuclear facilities with cyberattacks and airstrikes on 100 targets in six cities. We were also told that about 100 Iranian drones were shot down near the borders of Jordan and Israel. At that moment, the immediate threat seemed no longer a concern. Yet, it felt like the whole world was holding its breath. *Was that it? Was the operation so successful that I would get to go home tomorrow as planned?*

Back at the hotel, around 7 PM, we heard the first sirens. Although they were the same sirens we heard in previous days warning of incoming Houthi missiles, these warnings meant something entirely different. While some stood outside to

look, locals disappeared and staff urged us to come inside and enter the shelter. After ten minutes we were free to leave the shelter but urged to stay close by. This became our new routine for days. Sirens would go off, many would run to the windows to glimpse the Iron Dome at work intercepting missiles while some entered the shelter.

As Iran continued to respond by firing around 100 ballistic missiles over the next 24 hours, we watched in awe as Israeli people of all different cultural and religious backgrounds—Jews and Arabs and Christians, Israelis and Palestinians and foreign nationals—faced attacks over their homes. However, even as many of us were packing to fly out the next morning, all flights to and from Israel for the foreseeable future were cancelled. Suddenly, we found ourselves stuck with them in the middle of a full-fledged war.

Around 3 AM on one of those never-ending days of intermittent sleep and emergency alerts, an explosion woke me. Over time, I realized I was experiencing anxiety. Two years prior, a small group of our Shiloh team happened upon the site of an attack on Jewish residents in the village of Eli, a few miles north of Shiloh.



MISSILE INTERCEPTIONS OVER TEL SHILOH



Photo by Clayton Van Huss, MABHA 2023

Two Hamas terrorists shot seven people and killed four right before we drove past the roadside store where it happened. Although we didn't see the attacks, an armed Jewish civilian shot and killed one of the terrorists within sight of our vehicle as we approached. In my mind, I can still see his body lying on the ground.

I had noticed that helicopters or low-toned booms seem to startle me more easily. This year, as I began to realize I was experiencing post-traumatic stress, I found myself praying in deep earnest. *Lord, why would you send me to Israel to die, to get blown up?* I begged Him to

show up long enough for me to leave. I was angry at Israel for attacking Iran just 24 hours before I was scheduled to fly home. But the Lord convicted me. *Is your comfort worth more than the lives of Israeli and Palestinian people?* I felt ashamed of my self-centeredness, as well as my fear. *Why can't I trust you more Lord? Can't I have enough faith to endure things like this without fear? Why can't I see you moving?*

But then, my eyes were opened, and I began to see God move. It wasn't through a large miraculous gesture, but through people, and it was life changing. Because of all the canceled flights, the costs of

escaping suddenly increased significantly. The Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) wasted no time trying to help cover the extra expenses. A GoFundMe they posted on Facebook with a \$25,000 matching gift raised over \$50,000 within a day or two. People who have never met me were donating their hard-earned money to help me get home.

Most of our groups managed to exit through Israel's southern border to Egypt, cross the Sinai Peninsula and travel through the tunnel under the Suez Canal to reach the Cairo International Airport. Since Egypt is extremely strict about

27 PEOPLE IN MY EXODUS GROUP TRAVELED A COLLECTIVE 46,140 MILES THROUGH
// COUNTRIES TO RETURN TO OUR RESPECTIVE HOMES

antiquities, pottery sherds or purchased antiquities are often seized and people can get arrested. As travel plans materialized, many of us scrambled to find a solution to get antiquities and souvenirs home. Zak, a Palestinian Christian, is a trusted shop owner in the old city of Jerusalem who takes care of us whenever we are in the country, so I sent him a message to see if I could pay him to ship mine home.

He arrived at the hotel within 40 minutes to help me and anyone else who needed items shipped. When we tried to pay him, he refused. I realized at that moment that God was working the whole time to take care of me and so many others. I encountered His loving care through strangers and friends, and I wasn't the only one.

"When I got home," team member and friend, Suzanne Lattimer, told me, "two of my coworkers wanted to know the list of

meds I was taking that made me so calm considering everything I had just endured. I told them it wasn't WHAT I was taking, but WHO I knew—Jesus! There was such a calm about people that seemed totally unnatural to the situation. Like, not the kind of calm you can fake or force. Not just peace from the storm, but peace in the storm. Because when you know the One who commands the wind and waves, you don't have to panic when everything around you is shaking."

"It was amazing to see the power of prayer in action from so many back home," Jeff Smith says. "We felt tremendous peace throughout, and the trip went smoother than anyone expected. God is so good!"

One of my fellow students, Nathan Burris, who lives and works as a missionary in Indonesia, wrote, "Digging with friends from all over the world, we have this immediate connection knowing

why we are here. I feel at home in this community with my brothers and sisters in Christ. This must be a taste of what heaven will be like!"

Dr. Haskel Greenfield says, "Israelis are the bravest people I have ever known. They make sure that most people can continue to go about their daily lives even when being attacked by their enemies."

Thanks to our hotel manager, Issa Dahdal, and NetTours, ABR's tour operator, 3 groups including more than 60 of our team members were able to get out safely through Egypt. The 27 people in my exodus group traveled a collective 46,140 miles through 11 countries to return to our respective homes. God got us all there safe, and now we are all safely home. God is good, and our eyes are opened to what really matters in all of life, and not just in the middle of a crisis. 🇺🇸

FAITH *not* FEAR

Scott Stripling,

TBS Provost and Director of Tel Shiloh Excavations

The moment the twelve-day-war between Iran and Israel started, I felt God prompting me to lead by faith, not fear. At 4:15 AM that Friday morning, June 13th, I addressed our group over breakfast. I could see concern on many faces. As I shared God's word with our team, I could visibly see faith replacing fear. And that is how we operated for the duration of the trip.

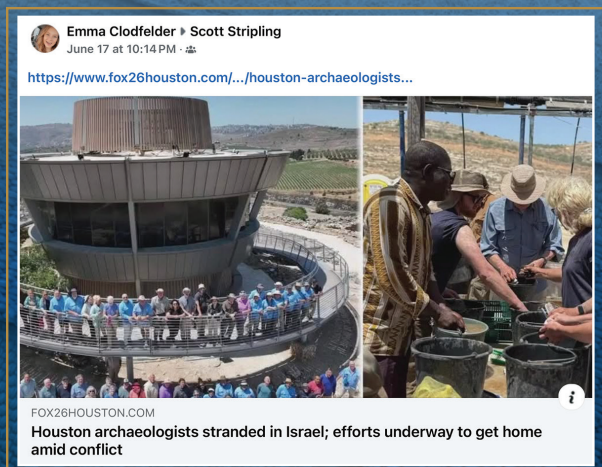
I coordinated a "reverse Exodus" with NET Tours to get our group in three waves to Cairo where all airlines were flying. In challenging times, we find out who our friends are, and we see the strength of the foundation upon which we have built our lives. Hebrews 11:6 notes that "without faith it is impossible to please God."

I am grateful to our TBS family who undergirded us with prayer and support throughout the entire dig and our crowd-funding campaign. We sensed your love from the other side of the world, especially since **"perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."**

1 JOHN 4:18



[Jpost.com/archaeology/article-858841](https://jpost.com/archaeology/article-858841)



[Fox26houston.com/news/houston-archaeologists-stranded-israel-efforts-get-home-amid-conflict](https://fox26houston.com/news/houston-archaeologists-stranded-israel-efforts-get-home-amid-conflict)



Born and raised in Texas in a hardworking Mexican American family, my parents picked cotton for a living. Though my siblings attended college, and I wanted to, that door never opened until I enrolled in The Bible Seminary (TBS) at age 56.

I never imagined attending such an incredible school, but God made a way.

My life has always revolved around simple country living and hard work, so I never thought of myself as an “ideal” college student—not for lack of ability, but due to other priorities and responsibilities.

I’ve always read the Bible with sincerity and reverence and want to rightly divide the Word of God, but I knew I

was missing context and depth. Also, whenever I commit to something, I want to give it my best, learn correctly, and do it with excellence.

Prior to TBS, I birthed “Deborahs Arise Ministries” and contemplated ways to enhance my knowledge of the Word. When a cousin, Shelli Alaniz, invited me to attend her TBS graduation, it



Anita Murillo, Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS) student, leads Deborahs Arise Ministries (DeborahsArise.org) to encourage, empower, and ignite women to accomplish their God-given purposes and potential and encourage older women to be examples to younger ones.

introduced me to a world of incredible, God-fearing, and well-educated professors.

I feel increasingly blessed to learn to read and interpret Scripture within its proper historical, cultural, and literary context. The Bible has come alive for me in very real and beautiful ways! I no longer just read words on a page, but continuously find unshakable, life-changing values as we dig deep into origins, authorship, original audiences, and contemporary applications—“Then and there and here and now,” as Dr. Steinmetz says.

TBS has equipped me with tools to explore the original languages, introduced me to various theological resources, helped strengthen my personal Bible study, and given me more confidence to boldly share the message of Christ with others.

TBS has helped stretch my mind and grow my soul in beautiful ways. TBS alumna Cassia Glass’s phrase “worshiping God with our minds” ignited a passion within me to pursue intentional worship enhanced by greater theological depth and increased academic knowledge. TBS has taught me how to ask meaningful questions, sit comfortably with complex theological thoughts and ideas, and wait on the Holy Spirit to bring clarity and revelation in His perfect timing. I’m learning to be more discerning and inquisitive. I am increasingly able to speak truth with more empathy, love and conviction.

TBS has helped shape my character as a Christian wife, mother and grandmother. “Seminary life” is humbling; the more I learn the more I realize how much I still don’t know! TBS has helped me understand that ministry is not about building a name, gaining recognition, or even accomplishing tasks—but exalting Jesus Christ with accuracy, clarity, and reverence. I rejoice that I am increasingly equipped to speak with both passion and precision.

TBS pours through me into the lives of women I serve. They benefit from my divine transformation, challenges and growth, sharpened understanding, humility, deep rooting in the Word, and elevated calling. I want them to know it’s never too late for them to learn to worship the Lord with all their hearts AND minds!

Thank you, TBS

I am a woman
who **has** been
forever changed!

then
AND
there
AND
here
AND
now

-DR. STEINMETZ

VISIT
DEBORAH'S
ARISE
MINISTRIES

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Janet Fischer, MABHA student • San Jose, California

Janet Fischer (2nd row, standing 6th from left in the blue shirt with green sleeves), Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA) student, along with classmates, professors, professionals, and friends from around the world at Tel Shiloh, Israel on June 6, 2025.

As The Bible Seminary (TBS) celebrates its 15th anniversary, I've only experienced it for one fifth of that time. However, based on my experiences with other Bible colleges and seminaries, TBS is distinctly different. More than education, TBS offers a thrilling adventure of unique relationships, mentorships, and hands-on training.

Most of my post-high school education involved classroom lectures. We often lived

within walking or driving distance and attended classes on site. While earning my B.A. in Biblical Studies, I regularly drove 45 minutes from work to attend evening classes. One required course in another location involved a three-hour drive each way.

I later earned a Master's in Biblical Counseling entirely via remote education. My instructors and I initially mailed (then later emailed) all the instructions, coursework, grading, and comments. I rarely had any

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR STUDENTS



MORE THAN EDUCATION, TBS OFFERS A

I HAVE ATTENDED CLASSES THREE WAYS

1

in-person at the home campus in Katy, Texas and on-location throughout Israel

2

synchronously online even when I'm at work, serving, or volunteering in my community

3

asynchronously online when necessary

personal interactions with professors. I did travel to the institute for my ThD cohort introductory meeting, but afterwards never saw or directly interacted with any other students in the program.

However, when TBS started experimenting with various distance learning systems in 2017, direct, regular interactions between professors and students remained a priority. By the time Covid hit during the 2020 semester spring break, TBS had already integrated Zoom platform technology and rolled into offering high quality Distance Education without missing a beat. Even as TBS returned to in-person classes—first outdoors, then spaced out indoors, and then back to regular seating—TBS continued to offer all courses live, live online (synchronous), and recorded online (asynchronous). Again, direct interaction between all course participants—no matter the mode of learning—remains a high priority.

Synchronous students can see and interact with professors and other students

in real time. Asynchronous students watch videos of recorded classes and are required to summarize what they learn from lectures and class discussions and interact with professors. Courses also utilize social media to enhance interactions between students. The new student information system (Populi) enables exceptional communication. All of these communication tools work together to help all participants, when they do eventually meet in person, feel like they already know each other. I experienced this at the 2023 Near East Archaeological Society meeting the first time I met some classmates and professors in person; we experienced an instantaneous bond.

Peer mentoring occurs in-person and online, too. We interact with questions about assignments, recommend resources, and otherwise assist each other rather than expect professors to hold our hands through everything. In this way, we learn both data and skills.

I have particularly enjoyed TBS's hands-on, practical approach to education. I first became aware of TBS through the Associates for Biblical Research (ABR) excavation at Tel Shiloh where I spent two weeks excavating. The opportunity to continue learning at a higher level along with hands-on experience appealed to me. I started off slowly, taking just one class, which was exceptional due to the very knowledgeable professor. That class was completely online since the professor lived in Florida and students attended online from around the world. I then attended a seminar in-person offered by the TBS Provost in my area, and that experience reminded me of how much I prefer in-person classes even though I appreciate the convenience of online. Although I live in California, I have attended classes all three ways: 1) in-person at the home campus in Katy, Texas and on-location throughout Israel; 2) synchronously online even when I'm at work, serving, or volunteering in my community; and 3) asynchronously online when necessary.

TBS encourages students to attend and even present papers at events like Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) Annual Meeting and Near East Archaeological Society (NEAS) meeting. These opportunities allow students to meet and interact with experts and professionals and also develop stronger bonds with classmates and professors.

What TBS offers on-location in Israel really sets the seminary apart. Our Tel Shiloh excavation teams are continuously one of the largest excavations in the Middle East. Touring with archaeological, historical, and theological experts takes TBS learning experiences to an entirely different level far beyond what most people experience during Holy Land tours. I have worked on the dig and toured Israel with very famous people and world-renowned experts. I am learning archaeology by doing archaeology alongside people who know what they are doing. I've also begun to help newcomers learn under my leadership. Together, we've dug and scoured through tons of debris with some memorable highlights like that time I was the first person in 3,500 years to hold a flint knife blade.

This year, most of our excavation team members experienced quite an adventure due to airplane reschedules when a Houthi missile hit near the Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. Those of us still in Israel on Friday of Excavation Week 4—when Israel launched Operation Rising Lion against Iran—embarked on quite an adventure finding alternate routes home. Authorities shut down our excavation early as we watched missile interceptions overhead. I was with one of 3 groups that traveled almost 20 hours to Cairo to get flights back to the U.S.

Some people think I have lost my mind throwing myself into this arena this late in my life. But, I am enjoying mind-blowing adventures in education building lifetime and eternal relationships, learning and helping others learn, and digging the Bible on paper, on-location, online, and in-person. 🏠

THRILLING ADVENTURE OF UNIQUE RELATIONSHIPS, MENTORSHIPS, AND HANDS-ON TRAINING.

- Janet Fischer

A Sending Place

Jamael Graves,
MACHT student
Dallas, Texas

I was sitting at the kitchen table late one evening, my Bible open, heart heavy, and questions swirling. Ministry was moving forward, but I longed for more—not more activity, but more depth.

I didn't just want to *serve* God;

I wanted to truly **know Him.**

I didn't just want to *lead*
people with charisma;

I wanted to lead with **conviction,**
with truths that wrecked
and rebuilt me.



That hunger led me to The Bible Seminary (TBS).

I serve as Lead Pastor of a church plant in Plano, Texas. Cultivate Church is a vibrant, growing community of believers hungry for authentic faith, real relationships, and transformation through the Holy Spirit. But, leading a church is hard. It is spiritual warfare and emotional labor. It requires constant dependence on God. It also requires more than passion; it requires preparation. And that's why I enrolled at TBS.



THE BIBLE
SEMINARY

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR STUDENTS



Jamael Graves—Master of Arts in Church History and Theology (MACHT) student at TBS and Lead Pastor of Cultivate Church (CultivateDFW.org) in Plano, Texas—along with his wife, Vanessa, and Emmanuel, Leah, and Hannah.

You're not just getting educated — you're getting refined. — Lady V

*I Came To
be Discipled*

From the beginning, I came to TBS for more than a degree—I came to be discipled. Born and raised in North Carolina, I had a front-row seat to both the beauty and brokenness of the local church. I saw people healed and hurt, rise with power and fall from pride. I promised God I would be different, and found out that required being deeply rooted in Him. From my first class, I've known TBS is that kind of different. The professors aren't just academics who quote Greek and Hebrew, but shepherds who live the Word. They challenge me to dig deeper into Scripture, and into my soul.

My coursework has often corresponded with my life and ministry. While studying the Gospels, I was preaching through Mark. While learning Church History, I was watching history unfold in our church plant. When studying Apologetics, I found myself better equipped to engage skeptics in our community. I believe these alignments are not accidental, but divine.

My wife, Vanessa (aka Lady V), and I have three beautiful children: Emmanuel (9), Leah (7), and Hannah (5). Each has shaped how I see God. Our home is our first ministry, and the way we pray, eat, cry, and laugh together fuels the way I lead God's people. TBS has helped me understand that on a whole new level. Also, as my family endures me working on late night papers and studying, they are watching me grow. My sermons are more biblically sound, my counseling more Spirit-led, and my parenting more gospel-centered. Lady V sums it up well: "You're not just getting educated—you're getting refined."

TBS has given me more than knowledge. I have TBS brothers and sisters, classmates who pray for me, professors who mentor me, and staff who encourage me when I feel like quitting. In a world where ministry can feel isolating, TBS reminds me that I'm not alone.

That's why I consider TBS a sending place—not just a place to be filled up, but a place from which to be sent out. Because of what I'm learning at TBS, we've expanded our church's reach, we're discipling leaders with biblical foundations, launching outreach efforts with theological clarity, and working to create systems for sustainability rooted in kingdom principles—not personal preferences. TBS has impacted how we teach new believers at Cultivate, it echoes in our financial stewardship, shapes our mission to plant more churches and raise up more pastors. Even our nonprofit, Cultivate Global, reflects the TBS values of sound doctrine, practical ministry, and community transformation.

In a time where culture is loud and truth feels negotiable, TBS reminds me that the Word of God still stands. For any pastor, ministry leader, or believer wondering if seminary is worth it, let me say this: "Yes, and a thousand times, yes!" Not because it will make your name great, but because it will help you make His name known—with accuracy, humility, and power. I thank God for what TBS has planted in my life and how it's bearing fruit in my family and ministry. Because when you're rooted in truth, you don't just grow—you multiply. 🙌

*The Ripple
Effect*



UNTIL DAWN

Manasseh Luka, MABHA student • Fatehpuri, Delhi, India

Like a ship traversing raging seas, howling winds, crashing waves, and fierce storms, I have weathered nights darker than ink. Yet, dawn always comes, and with it, hope.

In 2015, while immersed in divinity studies and final exam preparation, fever struck me like lightning strikes a mast. My flesh burned, my strength waned, and every exam was a mountain I had to climb with broken feet. Friends became angels and held my head under a cold tap to cool the relentless fire. I managed to complete my exams, but in July, I was rushed to

hospital where I fell unconscious and wavered between life and death. My lips turned purple, my nails blue, and doctors prepared my family for the likelihood I would die. But God wasn't done yet.

Though I couldn't open my eyes, I could hear. I heard prayers and songs of worship. I heard a whisper, "Someone fed you slow poison." My heartbeat slowed, fear gripped me, and death hovered close. I called out softly as hot tears rolled onto my pillow, "God, help me." That night I had a vision. I saw the cross, I saw blood—Christ's blood flowing over me, redeeming me. As

morning dawned, my fever disappeared to the amazement of my doctors. God spoke where medicine failed.

Two days later, I walked out. Alive. Complete. Redeemed.

Back home, as my body, soul and spirit continued healing, I began to wake up at 4 AM. I hungered to hear God. I opened the Bible and wrote one morning: "When a human soul is shattered in silence, it is then the Spirit of God begins to weave beauty from the darkness." The sentence turned into a stream of words, windows really, windows to pain, hope, and healing.

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR STUDENTS



WE LIVE BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

2 Corinthians 5:7

"SOMETIMES, A BEAUTIFUL SMILE CARRIES A THOUSAND SCARS."

I began to share my words, and they touched lives. A young woman wrote, "I was about to end it all. But your words told me to hang in there." I saw God again.

A publishing company, The Emotional Typewriter, reached out to me. They saw healing in my words, not for sales, but for souls. I saw the fingerprints of God even as He opened another door into prison ministry, which I entered with a guitar on my back and the Word of God in my heart. Prisoners wept. They opened up. God's presence hovered in every beat and Scripture.

My writing and ministry continued to deepen when I joined The Bible Seminary (TBS). Under the guidance of Dr. Stripling, I began taking classes that shaped my soul and sharpened my understanding.

The "BSM 501: Bible Study Methods" course proved invaluable for my work in prison ministry in New Delhi. Learning the interpretive journey—from observation to interpretation to application—has enabled me to study and teach the Scripture with greater clarity and depth. As I studied books like Esther, Obadiah and Mark, I learned to trace biblical patterns, recognise theological themes and connect Old and New Testament truths. The course changed the way I interact with inmates and has helped me explain God's Word in ways both accurate and that seem to have great meaning for their lives. I am gaining more confidence in helping people apply Scripture to real issues.

God has also entrusted me with teaching computer skills to visually impaired students. I've learned Braille to truly try and better understand their world. When I look into the eyes of people who cannot see, I realize mine is a ministry of presence, patience and love that has opened a wonderful door to share the gospel. With 2 Corinthians 5:7 as our anthem, "We live by faith and not by sight," faith became a shared vision that looks beyond limitations and into the heart of God's purpose.

The "PAS 511: Pastor-Leader I" course gave me a biblical blueprint for spiritual leadership, especially through the book, *Boss Like God*. Through Old Testament stories, I learned how God leads with a balance of justice, compassion and strategic timing—guiding, mentoring, disciplining, and leading people with divine precision. These insights have reshaped my approach to leadership. Whether I am leading teams of 100+ people in

non-profit organizations or helping coordinate the work of CBN India, I have begun to lead with efficiency and with spiritual intentionality. I am increasingly better understanding how to empower people, resolve conflicts, and fulfil responsibilities in ways that reflect God's character. The course has helped me anchor my leadership skills in Scripture.

The "THE 520: Biblical Archaeology" course has opened my eyes to a whole new understanding of archaeology in relation to Scripture. For example, discoveries such as the Amarna Letters and Merneptah Stele help clarify the historical context of Judges. Remains at sites like Hazor and Shiloh help me better understand and picture the biblical narratives, which has increased my confidence in the historical accuracy of Scripture and deepened my Christian faith.

Studying biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek has not only enriched my personal studies, but also enabled me to teach both languages. I currently teach Hebrew and Greek and culture to construction workers preparing for employment in Israel and Greece.

I continue to awake before dawn. Not because I am chasing the light, but because light lives in me. The words I write, the songs I play, every hand I hold in prison or guide in the classroom is part of the tapestry that God began to weave in me in the silence after the storm. 🕊

Until dawn, I WILL CONTINUE.

Until dawn, I WILL KEEP WRITING.

Until dawn, I WILL KEEP BELIEVING.

BECAUSE NOW I KNOW,

NIGHT IS NEVER THE END,

BUT THE BACKDROP FOR A GREATER STORY

Of God's glory

GENTLY WOVEN INTO THE HEART OF THE DAWN.

COME, FOLLOW ME

Jarred Martin, BACS and MDiv student • Houston, Texas

Given the Torah's centrality to the daily life and religious identity of Jews in the Second Temple period, an extensive and highly structured educational system emerged around its instruction.



Torah study was a remarkable feature in Jewish life at the time of the Second Temple and during the period following it. It was not restricted to the formal setting of schools and synagogues, not to sages only, but became an integral part of ordinary Jewish life. The Torah was studied at all possible times, even if only a little at a time ... The sound of Torah learning issuing from houses at night was a common phenomenon. When people assembled for a joyous occasion such as circumcision or a wedding, a group might withdraw to engage in study of the Law.¹

Although no single, comprehensive account presents the precise details of education in Jesus' time, a synthesis of historical, Late rabbinic, and Late Second Temple literature offers a composite portrait. In essence, educational institutions were typically affiliated with the local synagogue and served as communal centers for both worship and instruction. Villages appear to have employed a teacher, respectfully referred to as a rabbi, to oversee the education of children, particularly in matters of Torah and religious practice, according to the following stages.

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR STUDENTS



BEIT SEFER

AGES 5 - 10

According to the Mishnah—an authoritative compilation of rabbinic oral traditions and legal exegesis that constitutes the first portion of the Talmud—Jewish children commenced formal studies of Scripture around the age of five by attending a local Beit Sefer ("House of the Book"). Memorization played a central role, often beginning with Leviticus and an emphasis on the development of literacy skills, particularly reading and writing sacred texts. Scholarly consensus suggests that both boys and girls may have participated.

BET TALMUD

AGES 10 - 13

Students then engaged studying the Tanakh—an acronym that refers to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)—divided as follows:

- 1 Torah ("Law"):** Five books of Moses—Genesis through Deuteronomy—serving as the foundational legal and narrative corpus.

Understanding Jesus' words **THROUGH THE PERSPECTIVE** of 1st century discipleship

2 **Nevi'im ("Prophets"):** Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings) and Latter Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Twelve Minor Prophets, the latter treated as a single unified work).

3 **Ketuvim ("Writings"):** The remaining eleven books, including poetic, wisdom, and historical literature—with Ezra and Nehemiah included as a combined text.

Students also studied rabbinic discourses within the Mishnah, including interpretive frameworks (*midrashim*) and exegetical debates, to help cultivate textual mastery and practice interactive discourse.

At age thirteen, most students, especially girls, discontinued formal education and returned to assist with familial responsibilities. Many students would have internalized significant portions of the Torah by this point, including some who would have memorized it in its entirety.

Boys typically began apprenticeships within the family trade and also undertook their first pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem to participate in the familial Passover sacrifice. This custom seems indicated in the biblical account of twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple during Passover (Luke 2:41–42). This significant rite of passage evolved into the modern bar mitzvah observed in Orthodox Jewish practice.

BETH MIDRASH

AGES 13–16

More promising male students advanced to further study in the Beth Midrash. Under the guidance of their local rabbi, students engaged with the Talmud—a compendium of rabbinic discourse that includes commentary on the Mishnah and a repository of legal reasoning, theological reflection, and exegetical debate. Therein, students learned the hermeneutical traditions of rabbinic Judaism and gained training in interpretations of the Torah and Mishnah.

By age fifteen, students were studying methodological foundations of independent interpretation and learning proper techniques for formulating exegetical judgments and practical applications. Catechetical instruction in Christian traditions that emphasize doctrinal formation, scriptural engagement, and communal identity parallel these Jewish practices.

Memorization played a key role, since copies of written texts were limited and personal copies of the Scriptures were rare. Smaller communities may have only possessed a single scroll in their local synagogue. Reinforcement occurred via rhythmic, communal recitation, a technique that continues in many Middle Eastern Jewish and Muslim communities.

STAGES
BEIT SEFER
BET TALMUD
BETH MIDRASH
TALMID

TALMID

While the majority of Beth Midrash students eventually served as scribes or teachers of the law, only a distinguished few were invited to study under direct mentorship of a renowned rabbi. These *talmid* (plur. *talmidim*), Hebrew for “disciple” or “follower,” were not merely learners, but persons who sought to emulate their rabbi’s teachings, lifestyle, and interpretive authority in both word and deed.

A *talmid* was far more than a conventional student. Whereas students typically seek knowledge for academic or vocational purposes, a *talmid* pursued transformation of character and identity, aspiring to become like their rabbi in every respect. An intensely personal and immersive relationship, *talmids* often left home and livelihood to follow their rabbi wholeheartedly. Then, the *talmidim* would attentively listen, watch, and imitate, internalizing both their rabbi’s teachings and manner of life. In time, these disciples themselves became rabbis to raise up a new generation of *talmidim*. This required rabbis to exercise great discernment in selecting disciples, typically accepting only the most intellectually gifted and spiritually disciplined candidates. Prospective students often faced rigorous evaluation with very few deemed worthy of a rabbi’s invitation to “Come, follow me.”

HE INVITED HIS
FOLLOWERS TO BOTH
*knowledge AND
transformation*

Christ's Call to

COME, FOLLOW ME

Now, consider the full weight and radical nature of Jesus’ invitation to fishermen, tradesmen, tax collectors and other ordinary people—routinely marginalized individuals based on traditional rabbinic systems. His call to discipleship conferred upon people a dignity and vocational calling far beyond normal and much more in the realm of incredulity.

Yet, Jesus did not reject the rabbinic model so much as reorient and deepen it. He invited His followers to both KNOWLEDGE and TRANSFORMATION—learn the texts, history, and proper traditions AND become like Him in character, mission, and relationship with God. He reconceptualized discipleship as not merely the intellectual mastery of sacred texts and religious traditions, but as the embodiment of Him—the incarnate Word of God. It is precisely this sort of discipleship that furthers the replication of true Jesus followers, and also highlights the radical call offered by the Rabbi from Nazareth.

Shmuel Safrai and Menahem Stern, eds., *The Jewish People in the First Century*, Vol. 2
(Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1976), 968-69

Pirkei Avot 5:21

TBS archaeology students from Kentucky—(L-R) Corey East, Tommy Chamberlin, and Niki Lainhart—greet guests at the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky with an artifact display.



Expedition Archaeology presentations are available to learners of all ages.



MULTIPLICATION IN ACTION

Tommy Chamberlin, MABHA student • Pikeville, Kentucky



Tommy and his daughter, Annah, share the world of archaeology with students in her grade school class.

By catering to Distance Education students, The Bible Seminary (TBS) has an impact far beyond the Houston, Texas region. For example, I live and work as Chief Assistant County Attorney in Pikeville, Kentucky in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains and am pursuing a Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA).

Based on my experiences as a TBS student and as a Tel Shiloh excavation Square Supervisor, I recently founded a new non-profit, Expedition Archaeology (EA). I have been providing educational opportunities related to biblical archaeology to area churches and schools for several years. The organization is designed to help give these projects a dedicated home with hopes of continuing to grow something regionally unique and special.

Expedition Archaeology presentations focus on archaeological discoveries from the biblical world and how those illuminate the context of the biblical text. However, what makes EA unique is the artifact displays that accompany presentations. Participants usually enjoy a museum style display of 40 to 50 artifacts from the Holy Land. Spanning the Bronze Age through the Roman era, the displays include artifacts from the time of Abraham to the time of Jesus. The “touch table” is always popular since people can hold and examine various artifacts.

I learned a long time ago that the artifacts are the star of the show, The opportunity to interact with objects included in biblical narratives helps illuminate the Bible. In the heart of

Appalachia, people would have to drive several hours to see any materials from the ancient world, so we bring artifacts to them.

Combining artifacts with educational opportunities has been very successful with audiences. The creation of EA opens the door for other young scholars to offer similar presentations. The EA Board hopes to create a second collection available to loan to young scholars so they can offer EA presentation in areas where they live and work.

TBS student, Niki Lainhart, also hails from Kentucky and has contributed to several EA projects. I hope Niki may be the first young scholar to emply the second traveling artifact display to bring the world of the Bible to life for churches in her area. 🏠

For more Information

✉ EXPEDITIONARCHAEOLOGY24@GMAIL.COM

f EXPEDITION ARCHAEOLOGY





» FROM THE PRESIDENT « CALL TO ADVENTURE

K. Lynn Lewis • Sugar Land, Texas

NOAH

*“NOAH,” God essentially said, “I have a problem. But, I also have a solution, a vision, a plan, and a man. You are the man, and this is what I want to you do.” And, according to Scripture, “**Noah did everything just as God commanded.**”*

GENESIS 6:22

Noah’s journey included building a gigantic boat, congregating pairs of living creatures into a floatable zoo, weathering a colossal flood, and captaining the human and animal repopulation of the earth. Noah could have drowned in boredom, vanity, and wickedness like others in his day, but God called him to an adventure that helped save the world.

ABRAM

*“ABRAM,” God essentially said, “I have big plans for you—a big people and a big purpose. So big! So unbelievably big! You, yes you, you are the man, my man!” And, according to Scripture, “**Abram went as the Lord had told him.**”*

GENESIS 12:4

Abram’s journey included multiple relocations, battling enemies, moderating familial animosity, bargaining with God in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to save people from the consequences of their sins, receiving a new name, and willingly almost sacrificing his own son in faith and unwavering obedience to the Lord God Almighty. Abram could have rested in obscurity and settled for polytheistic status quo like others of his day, but God called him to an adventure that blessed the world.

DEBORAH

*DEBORAH,” God essentially said, “Our people have problems. While enemies without oppress them, reluctance within suppresses them. **I need a mother in Israel to raise them up, encourage them, and lead them.** You are the woman, and this is what I want you to do.”*

JUDGES 4 & 5

Deborah’s journey included presiding over her people as a prophet and judge, mediating disputes, summoning army commanders, directing battle plans, and commemorating victory with a glorious musical duet. She could have hidden behind her skirts, stayed home in the kitchen, or embraced frailty as a damsel in distress, but God called her to stand strong in a culturally unusual role that brought decades of peace to her nation (Judges 4 and 5).

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR STAFF



Dr. K. Lynn Lewis—President (2014-present), Executive Vice-President/Provost (2011-13), founder and Executive Director of Nehemiah Press (2022-present), and the first full-time TBS employee—on his first day at TBS in July 2011 in a rented office at Grace Fellowship.

MOSES

“MOSES,” God essentially said, “Our people have a problem. But, I have a solution, a vision, a plan, and a man. You are the man, and this is what I want you to do.” And, according to Scripture, Moses effectively replied, “Who? Me? What? How? Please send someone else!” Finally, after some attitude adjustments and a personnel addition, “Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them.”

EXODUS 7:6

Moses’s journey included struggling with his own sense of inadequacy, reconnecting with his people to earn their trust and respect, confronting a pharaoh, leading a mixed multitude into an expectant wilderness journey, navigating myriad personnel and morale issues, building leaders, shaping a fledgling group of oppressed tribes into a nation, and casting a compelling vision far beyond his own lifetime and opportunity to experience the full blessings himself. Moses could have continued inconspicuously shepherding sheep in the wilderness like others of his day, but God called him to an adventure that created a transformational culture and shaped a holy nation.

BEZALEL

“BEZALEL,” God informed Moses, “Has been filled with my Spirit, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of all kinds of artistic skills to build my mishkan (‘tabernacle’ or ‘dwelling place’). I have also provided Oholiab as his assistant and given them the ability to teach others.” And, according to Scripture, “Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the Lord had commanded.”

EXODUS 39:43

Bezalel and Oholiab’s journey included leading the personnel and processes to create divinely inspired and spiritually nourishing artistic works made of bronze, gold, silver, jewel stones, fabric, and wood. They could have complained about their circumstances, opined for a return to servitude with more certainty, or used their talents in more trivial pursuits like others of their day, but God called them to creative adventure with higher purposes.

WHOEVER

“WHOEVER wants to save their life will lose it,” Jesus told Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, John, Levi (Matthew), Nathanael, Philip, Thomas, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, and others, “but whoever loses their life for me will find it.” And, according to Scripture, many did so.

MATTHEW 16:25

The journeys of Jesus’s first followers included face-to-face discipleship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, confronting their own prejudices and sins, enduring persecutions, witnessing (and effecting) incredible miracles, observing the suffering and death of their expected Messiah, and experiencing their resurrected Lord firsthand. They could have continued collecting taxes, fishing, scheming revolts, or self-righteously castigating sinners like others of their day, but God called them to an adventure that continues to redeem souls and shape societies around the world to this day.

FOLLOW
GOD'S CALLINGS

GOD CALLED
THEM TO AN

adventure »»»

that continues to **redeem souls and shape societies** around the world to this day.

TBS Past

The Lord similarly called founding President Jim Leggett, founding Professor Paul Helbig, founding Provost and Board Chair Dan Dunham, founding Executive Vice-President Rick McCalip, and others to an adventure planting The Bible Seminary (TBS). The summons included no guarantees, only trust in the Lord and saints similarly called, as well as a shared belief in all 66 books of the Bible as the Word of God and the best training manual for life, leadership, and leaving a godly legacy.

As God has **CONTINUED** to empower and guide, protect and provide, TBS has since grown from nothing to something, as **summarized below**.

15 years incorporated	as an independent, charitable 501(c)3, non-profit institution of higher education
5 years accredited	by TRACS (Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools) with a recent 10-year renewal good through 2035
101 alumni	toward a goal of 5,000 reaching 1 million souls for Christ
82 courses and seminars	taught a cumulative total of 370 times
45 teaching locations	(classrooms, churches, schools, homes, cemeteries, a farm, funeral homes, hospitals, museums, and retreat centers) plus 75+ locations in Israel
13 years leasing campus facilities	from the Great Southwest Equestrian Center that currently total 4,400 ft ² of classroom, library, museum, office, reception, storage, and studio spaces
7 academic programs	Master of Divinity (MDiv)  Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA) Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture (MABLC)  Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS)  Master of Arts in Church History and Theology (MACHT)  Dual Degree Completion (DDC) path to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS) and simultaneously earn a graduate degree  Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS), formerly titled Bible Certificate, Licensed Professional, or Vocational Ministry Certificate
4,000 3J Museum visitors	since opening March 1, 2022
2,500 students	who enrolled in at least one course or seminar
600 donors	since inception
175 travelers	to Israel and Egypt
125 teaching team members	including 50 faculty who taught at least one TBS class, course, or seminar, plus another 75+ guest speakers
38 Board members	who served 1 to 12-year terms with 5 to 13-members and who have cumulatively volunteered a total of 159 years
30 staff	who served full-time, part-time, or volunteer since inception
Facebook:	1,600+ followers; 44% male, 56% female
Podcast:	5 years old, 175 episodes, 8,900+ downloads in 60 countries and nearly 1,000 cities
YouTube:	4,700 videos; nearly 1 million impressions; 170,000 views totaling 12,600 hours; 782 subscribers; 60% of viewers 18-34 years old, 30% 35-64 years old, 8% 13-17 years old; 25% female and 75% male

These statistics offer valuable proof of concept. No longer a flickering idea, daring dream, or “We’re doing what?” campaign (the 2010 initiative that raised \$1.1 million in seed funding to start the seminary), TBS is a bustling, dynamic reality with alumni, leaders, and students regularly impacting thousands of people worldwide on a weekly basis.

TBS Future

The Lord’s call to adventure is a journey. Living it out extends far beyond our lifetime, most likely even into eternity. With 15 years past, we look forward to TBS future. Like Noah, Abram, Deborah, Moses, Bezalel, and whoever else, while we’re not fully certain what lies ahead, we have already answered “Yes!” No matter what, we will continue to trust the Lord and pray about future TBS facilities, finances, people, and programs. We invite you to join us and answer God’s call to a remarkable array of providential adventures!

Loving living the adventure,

K. Lynn Lewis

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THE SON OF GOD

Craig A. Evans, Ph.D., D.Habil. • Richmond, Texas

In 9 BC the Roman Empire celebrated the birthday of Emperor Augustus. Several inscriptions were set up around the empire. The best preserved of these inscriptions was found at Priene, central Turkey. Scholars have pieced together the fragments, with the result that we have most of the original Greek text. And what a text it is! In it we are told that with the birth of Caesar Augustus (called “god,” “son of a god,” and “savior”) the “good news for the world began.” His divinity was made “manifest,” so we are told. Indeed, his accomplishments—e.g., ending war, securing peace and safety, even influencing the weather and gaining the favor of the gods—have been so amazing there is no chance, say the authors of this remarkable inscription, that any successor will ever surpass him.¹

Readers of the New Testament will immediately think of Jesus, when they hear terms like “son of god,” “good news,” “began”/“beginning,” “manifest,” and “savior.” Everywhere in the New Testament Jesus is confessed as “Son of God” (e.g., John 11:27; Acts 9:20; Rom 1:4; 2 Cor 1:19) and “Savior” (e.g., John 4:42; Acts 5:31; 13:23; Phil 3:20). Jesus’ glory is “made manifest” in his ministry (e.g., John 2:11; 1 Tim 3:16; 2 Tim 1:10) and in his resurrection (e.g., Acts 10:40). And, of course, the very message of the Christian Church is summed up in the word “gospel,” or “good news” (e.g., Matt 9:35; Acts 8:25; 14:7; 15:7; Rom 1:3, 15–16). All of these assertions push back against the Roman cult of the divine emperor, thanks to whom the “good news” for the world supposedly has begun.

No one pushed back against the pagan cult more directly than did the Evangelist Mark, who in the opening verse of his Gospel boldly declares: “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God” (Mark 1:1). Every word in this verse challenges the cult of the divine emperor: the “good news” doesn’t “begin” with Caesar; it begins with Jesus. Caesar isn’t the “Son of God,” nor is he “Savior”; Jesus is. No one reading or hearing these words read could miss the point that the Evangelist Mark is making.

In many places in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus does what Caesar only could dream of: He heals the sick, he raises the dead, he calms the storm, he walks on water, he feeds multitudes, and he forgives sinners. On top of all of that, Jesus conquered death. ***In the life, death, and ministry of Jesus, the concept of “Son of God” was dramatically redefined.***

The Roman world was stunned by the grace and power of the new good news. In less than three centuries after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the true Son of God, the Christian Church swept the Roman Empire. Not long after, the city of Rome went from being the seat of opposition to the Church to being its headquarters.

I invite you to sign up for my course this fall, “GRK 503: Greek Exegesis.” In this class, we will study in great detail many passages from the Gospel of Mark that contrast Jesus with the Roman emperors. You will gain a much deeper appreciation of what the early Church faced, as well as what the Church today faces in our increasingly paganizing culture. 🇺🇸

I INVITE YOU TO SIGN UP
FOR MY COURSE THIS FALL

{ GRK 503: }
GREEK EXEGESIS

OGIS II 458. The standard edition of this much-discussed inscription is found in Wilhelm Dittenberger (ed.), *Oriens Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae: Supplementum Sylloges Inscriptionum Graecarum*, 2 vols. (Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1903–5; repr. Hildesheim: Olms, 1986), 2:48–60.

Dr. Craig Evans, Adjunct Faculty (2018–24), Distinguished Research Professor (2025–present), Director of Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA) and Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture (MABLC) graduate programs (2025–present)





from pencils to purpose

Blake Quimby, Bible Certificate 2020 • New Waverly, Texas

Some of my earliest memories are of participating in church, not just attending. My parents started taking me at age two, and I was hooked from the very beginning. I liked the sermons and snacks, but I loved the rhythm. I'd sit in the pews tapping out beats with pencils, lost in the sound of worship music and probably driving people crazy. My dad, a man known for finding simple solutions, crafted a wooden dowel with a rubber tip to quieten my drumming. His thoughtful fix didn't just solve a distraction, it lit a spark and kindled a fire within.

By age eight I moved from drumming in the pews to playing on the platform with the worship band. Music became more than a hobby—worship became a means of expression and a first stepping stone toward a life of ministry. Looking back, I can see how God was writing a story and leading me on an adventure that includes more than 25 years of service in and around ministry.

I sometimes jokingly call myself a “church rat.” My movement from pencils to

platform eventually led to leadership roles: Worship Leader, Youth and Children's Pastor, Administrative Pastor—even Janitor, which might just be my favorite. Maybe I'll end up working as full-time Janitor some day. A guy can dream, right?

Ministry has shaped who I am, and not just part of my identity or something I did, but something I was made to do.

By 2019, I began to feel an interesting stirring in my heart. My wife, Krystle, and I spent nearly two years in prayer, ready for whatever God had next, but waiting for clarity on a path forward. We waited, trusting, praying, and wondering.

Then, one ordinary afternoon, something extraordinary happened. I received an email from The Bible Seminary. I knew the Provost, Dr. Scott Stripling, and opened the newsletter mostly out of curiosity. At the bottom, I saw this small announcement, “The Bible Seminary is seeking a Communications Director.”

My heart skipped a beat.

I responded without hesitation.

The job interested me.

Deeply.

Passionately.

It felt like the clarity we were seeking. Shortly after, I met with Dr. K. Lynn Lewis. I remember our first conversations vividly, especially his honest, simple words, “If this works out, your job will be to tell the story of TBS.”

That was it. No over-complicated mission statement or pressure to become something I wasn't. Just a clear invitation to serve as a storyteller for a people and a purpose I already respected. I could do that. I wanted to do that. But it wasn't just the role that appealed—it was the values. Dr. Lewis pointedly emphasized God and family. He told me that my relationship with God came first, then my wife and kids, and then ministry work, in that order no matter what. He had no idea, but those words were a direct answer to years of prayer after

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR STAFF



Blake Quimby, Communications Director (2019-present) and Bible Certificate (2020) alum.

TBS isn't just a workplace— it's an extension of my family.

IT'S WHERE I'M ENCOURAGED TO

lead well • serve faithfully • be a husband • be a father

years of running at a pace that left little room for my high calling as a husband and father.

The rest, as they say, is history. Since that meeting six years ago, my life looks completely different. TBS isn't just a workplace—it's an extension of my family. It's where I'm encouraged to lead well, serve faithfully, and be husband and father, present at home and engaged with my family. My job allows me to do meaningful work and play Nintendo with my kids, have real conversations with my wife, and simply be home. I've learned the value of working hard and resting well, both for the glory of God and something I think many in ministry often forget, or perhaps never learn to do.

But my time at TBS has brought more than professional growth and personal rest. It has also been deeply spiritual. Since my job has included recording, editing, and producing classes, I've had the opportunity to sit in on nearly every class the seminary offers. I've listened to brilliant professors teach the Word of God with depth and clarity—and I've been changed by it. I've experienced healing

through their instruction, and seen truth pierce through layers of stress, uncertainty, and spiritual fatigue.

That which first moved my heart six years ago continues to shape my thinking. Anchors of faith help me see God's design for life with greater clarity. I've learned that biblical truth isn't something reserved for the pulpit, it is for everyone and it is life changing.

I believe seminary—at least the experiences TBS offers—isn't just for pastors and ministry leaders, but for anyone who wants to move beyond surface-level faith and actually dig into Scripture. Rather than cheerily accept whatever one hears on Sunday at face value, believers need to be students of the Word. We need to ask questions, search for answers, and allow the Bible to shape our worldview, decisions, and daily lives.

And that's exactly what TBS offers—transformation, equipping for service, leadership, parenting, worshiping, living, and working with purpose. Whether your call is preaching, teaching, administration, or other work—even cleaning and sweeping, TBS is a place for you. I'm proof of that.

Today, I'm filled with gratitude—for the unexpected email that changed the course of my life, for leadership that values people over performance, for friends and colleagues who feel like family, and for chances to use my gifts to tell stories worth telling. Most of all, I am grateful for the grace of God that threads through every part of my journey—from pencils in a pew to a calling with purpose.

If you wonder if seminary is for you, it might be. Don't count yourself out or write seminary off because you're not a preacher with a pulpit. TBS is mostly about learning to live out your faith whether you serve in a church, a business, at home, or with a camera telling stories.

TBS changed my life. Not just my career, but my life. It gave me back family time, reignited my passion for God's Word, reminded me of who I am and why I do what I do, and gave me the gift of telling stories—real stories—about how God continues to work through ordinary people with willing hearts. If that stirs something in you, too, maybe your journey starts here. 🙏

TBS changed my life. Not just my career, but my life.



THE BIBLE SEMINARY

Scott Stripling • Richmond, Texas

PROVOST'S PEN



I taught my first TBS course in Church History in 2013 (at left), and I am now in my ninth year as Provost. Over these past twelve years TBS has developed into a leading institution for theological, linguistic, and archaeological training. From my perspective, this past year was the best one yet. I am rejoicing in the position in which we now find ourselves.

Below are some of the highlights.

Debt-Free Commitment

While many Christian universities and seminaries are closing their doors or drowning in debt, TBS remains a debt-free institution. Nyack College and Trinity International University, both bastions of evangelicalism for over 125 years, are the latest to collapse under the weight of debt. Houston Christian University is carrying a staggering \$107 million in debt. Being debt-free positions TBS favorably for training the next generation of servant-leaders to fulfill the Great Commission. In addition to our institutional debt-free status, 100% of our graduates have also graduated with no seminary debt. This allows them to pursue their life's calling without the crushing burden of debt. This is truly remarkable. Proverbs 22:7 remains true: "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 22:7



Dr. Scott Stripling, Provost (2017-present), Vice-President of Donor Relations (2022-present) and Adjunct Faculty (2013), taught "THE 510: Church History" during the Fall 2013 semester to the first cohort of TBS graduate students (see photo at left above). He also serves as Dig Director of the Tel Shiloh Excavations in Israel and as President of the Near East Archaeological Society (NEAS). See ScottStripling.net.

Renewed Accreditation

After completing a comprehensive self-study and an external site visit from a Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) accreditation team, we achieved a ten-year reaffirmation of our accreditation good through 2035. Dr. Lewis and I, along with our Board Chair, Adam Peters, met virtually with the TRACS commission in late April. The final meeting culminating a more than two-year journey only lasted about ten minutes, during which time our reviewers praised our accomplishments, gave us the good news, and prayed for TBS. As a result, our credits will continue to be fully transferable to other accredited schools and our graduates will continue to matriculate into doctoral programs and vibrant ministries around the world. TRACS is one of only ten national accrediting agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education.



World-Class Faculty

Last semester we added one of the world's leading New Testament scholars, Professor Craig A. Evans, to our full-time faculty as Distinguished Research Professor. In addition to his New Testament expertise, Dr. Evans is a leading expert in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the literature of the late Second Temple period. He is author of more than 90 books and countless peer-reviewed articles and chapters in addition to serving as editor of many important series. Over the past decade, Dr. Evans and I have co-authored several articles and appeared together in various documentaries relating to the reliability of the biblical text. Dr. Evans is currently finishing an expanded revision of his two-volume commentary on the Gospel of Mark for the prestigious Word Biblical Commentary. This 800-page exegetical commentary is scheduled for publication in 2026. This fall, Dr. Evans is scheduled to teach advanced biblical Greek (GRK 503) with a focus on the Gospel of Mark. (see "Son of God" on p. 37 and "Welcome New Professor" on p. 63)



Shiloh Excavation and Mediterranean Cruise

We recently completed our seventh season of excavation at biblical Shiloh. Twenty TBS students, alumni, and faculty members joined me for this year's dig. We continued excavating a monumental building (likely the biblical Tabernacle), the remains of the sacrificial system, and the gate complex from the Bronze and Iron Ages. Students and faculty members from a dozen other universities participated in our consortium under the umbrella of the Associates for Biblical Research. TBS students in the Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology program earned credit for their field practicum and ceramic analysis. Others earned elective credit. I estimate that we will need three more excavation seasons to complete this important project.

Travel adventures help facilitate spiritual development, mentorship, and lifelong friendships. *Mike McGown, Senior Pastor at Parkway Fellowship and a TBS Board member, and I are leading a "Footsteps of Paul" mediterranean cruise this November. Stay tuned for exciting reports about this trip which includes travelers from both Parkway Fellowship and TBS this November, prefaced by a "Footsteps of Paul" seminar at Parkway Fellowship on Thursday, August 14 (see page 17).*

TRAVEL ADVENTURES

help facilitate

- » spiritual development
- » mentorship
- » lifelong friendships

THANK YOU

for being a part of the TBS academic-faith family. Your prayers, participation, and generous gifts make it possible for us to train disciples who have the capacity to also make disciples. Our blueprint follows the pattern of 2 Timothy 2:2, "What you [Timothy] have heard from me [Paul] in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men [Gr. Anthropoi = men and women], who will be able to teach others also." 🙏

WHY ‘BIBLE’ IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

Israel Steinmetz, Academic Dean and Professor • Brookshire, Texas

When I meet people and tell them I’m a professor, they often ask where I teach. When I say, “The Bible Seminary,” a common response is, “Which one?” It’s a fair question.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Bible colleges and seminaries across the United States are named after a founder, donor, or historic Christian personage. Some draw their names directly from core biblical terms such as Christ, grace, or covenant. Many schools combine one of these terms with the city or state where they are based.

Why “The Bible Seminary” Matters



As The Bible Seminary (TBS) celebrates 15 years, we rejoice in the fruit of seeds first planted by Pastor Jim Leggett of Grace Fellowship Church. He dreamed of training ministers in, through, and with all 66 books of the Bible based on a conviction that Scripture is the foundational training text and basis for any curriculum designed to prepare women and men for gospel ministry in the Church and the world.

That conviction remains central to the identity, mission, and culture of TBS. It’s why one of our foundational commitments is to provide, “Comprehensive, strategic training in all 66 books of the Bible integrated into instruction in the standard historical, theological, and practical disciplines critical to developing professional skills for 21st century ministry.”

In practice, this means TBS courses combine the standard topics of ministerial training

(Bible study, theology, preaching, counseling, evangelism, etc.) with studies of Bible books. When students study church administration in “PAS 512: Pastor-Leader II,” they also study Joshua, Ezra, and Nehemiah to discover how those gifted leader-administrators served God’s people. When students learn to practice individual and corporate devotional habits in “PRA 501: Prayer and Worship,” they also study Leviticus, 1-2 Chronicles, and Psalms to explore how God’s people worshipped and prayed in Scripture.

Every TBS course represents intentional, intricate blending of Bible with practical knowledge and skills. The Bible sets the agenda for how we approach each topic and engage in each practice. It’s how we fulfill our mission “to foster biblical literacy through studies of all 66 books of the Bible, cultivate professional and lay leadership skills, and deploy trained Christian disciples in service worldwide.”

HBD, TBS



FROM YOUR STAFF



The words of Scripture are the Word of God.

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul writes that Scripture is useful for four things: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.

The prominence of the Bible

Among our
seven **core values**
commitment to
the Bible is second
only to the
Lordship of Christ.

Lordship **1**

Bible **2**

Prayer **3**

Unreached Peoples **4**

Local Church **5**

Community **6**

Compassion **7**

“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).”

Central to our commitment to orienting our entire curriculum and culture around the words of Scripture is II Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV), “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Paul is stating that all Scripture is “God-breathed” or “inspired by God.” This identifies God as the source of the words of the entirety of Scripture, the divine author of the collection of 66 books we call The Holy Bible. God wrote through dozens of human authors over approximately 1,500 years in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek), but He remains the singular voice behind Scripture.

God’s voice in Scripture makes it utterly unique from every other written text in human history. God’s authorship carries his divine authority. The Bible is human literature, but not merely human literature. Peters explains it this way in 2 Peter 1:20–21 (NIV), “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

The words of Scripture are the Word of God. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul writes that Scripture is useful for four things: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. I’ve often compared these to GPS directions. When you enter your desired destination into GPS it tells you where you are and how to get to where you’re going. Scripture provides this same orientation to reality, life, and our ultimate destination through its teaching.

Scripture also has the power to rebuke. Just as a GPS notifies us that we’ve gone the wrong way and recalculates our route to get back on track, Scripture tells us where we’ve gone wrong and directs us back to the right path. This is not simply a matter of teaching right from wrong. Rather, the same Holy Spirit that inspired Scripture speaks to us through the words of Scripture to bring conviction which leads to confession and the Spirit’s power to repent, leading us to follow Jesus—the Way.

Restored to the path, Scripture provides us with ongoing “training in righteousness” as one of God’s primary tools to make us mature, complete, and holy. Scripture—like a GPS—can help guide us to our final destination. Inspired and illuminated by God, Scripture helps equip us for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17; Ephesians 2:8–10).

Given the authority and purpose of Scripture, we are committed to relying on Scripture as the primary source of our curriculum and training. Every other textbook, lecture, or teaching tool we use is, at best, a commentary on the words of Scripture to help us better understand, interpret, and apply them in every aspect of life and ministry. God has revealed himself to us in the words of Scripture and the Person of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit within us, we remain committed to teaching and training our students through Scripture and rejoice that Bible is our middle name. 📖

Restored to the path, Scripture provides us with ongoing
“training in righteousness”
as one of God’s primary tools to make us
mature, complete, and holy.



»» 2025 «« FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

..... Adam Peters, TBS Board Chair • Katy, Texas

The Bible Seminary (TBS) celebrates its 15th birthday this year. God has been so faithful to provide and enable our growth from a dream into existence. What a journey the Lord has taken us on thus far, including designing distinctive academic opportunities, attracting students, graduating alumni, achieving initial accreditation, developing high-quality hybrid education, and offering unique biblical archaeological excavations and a museum that help illuminate physical evidence of historical events recorded throughout the Bible.

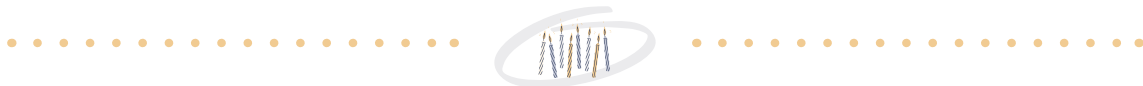
As evidenced in content throughout this magazine, God continues to broaden TBS's reach, enable our mission to foster biblical literacy through studies of all 66 books of the Bible while cultivating professional and lay leadership skills, and deploy trained Christian disciples in service worldwide.

The seminary's 10-year Reaccreditation granted by TRACS in April of this year represents another major milestone in our exciting journey. We are thankful for those who have labored in this important step of accountability which

provides ongoing recognition and objective assessment of TBS's quality, competence, and adherence to established standards benefitting both the seminary and the stakeholders it serves.

TBS is primarily funded by donors who believe in the Lord and the TBS mission, and who want to invest in disciples called to serve, study, and lead. Our ongoing provision—though often just enough to make it through each month—has increased our faith in what the Lord is doing and trust in Him to meet our every need, i.e., “Give us each day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11, Luke 11:3). Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support that have enabled these first 15 years and that continue to provide our daily needs!

We have incredibly exciting dreams that we believe God is giving us about the future of TBS. We trust Him to guide our steps and timing and to provide for what He wants us to do for His glory and the good of many others. Thank you in advance for your faithfulness and support! 🙏



Adam Peters, TBS Board Chair, serves as CEO of North America at Air Liquide Group. He served as Vice-President, Electronics World Business Line at Air Liquide Group (2018-2021) and Air Liquide Vice-President, Americas Hub (2017-present). He formerly worked at Air Liquide Canada where he served as President & CEO (2012-2017); Vice-President Operations Control, Americas Zone (2010-2012); Vice-President, Large Projects (2009); and Director, On-Sites (2006-2008). He graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (1996) and Southern Methodist University with a MBA (2002). He and his wife, Heidi, have three children—Emily, Andrew, and Bennett— and are active members of Grace Fellowship Church in Katy, Texas.



Thank you

for your faithful prayers and financial support that have enabled these first 15 years and that continue to provide our daily needs



MONDAYS AT TBS

LEARN MORE

TheBibleSeminary.edu/prs



JUST
SHOW
UP

BOOK CLUB

10:30 AM

Just Show Up Book Club is a book club without homework where people gather weekly to read, listen, and discuss great books together.

The Public Reading of Scripture is a biblical practice where groups read and listen to the Bible together. In-person attendees enjoy a free lunch.



Public
Reading
of Scripture
Noon

ATTEND IN-PERSON OR ONLINE



TBS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Down

- 01 Certificate of _____ Studies (CTS)
- 02 MA in Biblical _____ and Culture (MABLC)
- 03 MA in Biblical History and _____ (MABHA)
- 04 Founding Board Chair, Dan _____
- 05 Current President and CEO, K. Lynn _____
- 06 Current Office Manager/Registrar, Carousel _____
- 08 BA in _____ Studies (BACS)
- 09 Current Academic Dean and Professor, Israel _____
- 13 Current Student Services Coordinator, Emma _____
- 17 TBS publishing division: _____ Press
- 18 The Bible Seminary
- 19 Current Board Chair, Adam _____
- 22 MA in _____ Studies (MABS)
- 24 Founding President, Jim _____
- 25 Current Marketing Director, Allison _____
- 26 To attend a course for non-credit

Across

- 07 Founding Executive VP/Provost, Rick _____
- 10 Current Business Manager and CFO, Yamile _____
- 11 Public Reading of Scripture
- 12 MA in Church History and _____ (MACHT)
- 14 Current Provost, CAO, and archaeologist, Scott _____
- 15 Special interest, short classes
- 16 Master of _____ (MDiv)
- 20 Distinguished Research Professor, Craig _____
- 21 Founding Professor, Paul _____
- 23 Current Development Director/Librarian, Angela _____
- 25 Academic accrediting agency
- 27 Current Communications Director, Blake _____
- 28 Archaeological dig in Israel: Tel _____
- 29 Current Communications Associate, Naomi _____
- 30 _____ Degree Completion (DDC)



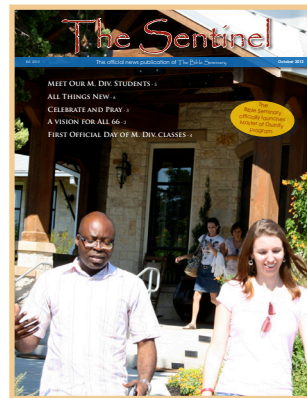
Clues in this issue of **The Sentinel** • answer key can be found on p. 75



THE BIBLE SEMINARY

THE SENTINEL *Magazines*

Following six issues of
The Sentinel newsletter,
The Sentinel magazine
launched in 2012.



October
2012



January
2013



summer
2013



winter
2014



summer
2014



spring
2015

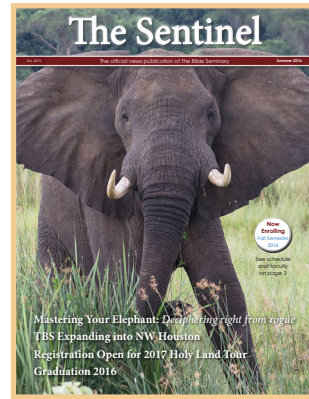
all issues available at
THEBIBLESEMINARY.EDU/SENTINEL



summer
2015



winter
2016



summer
2016



summer
2017



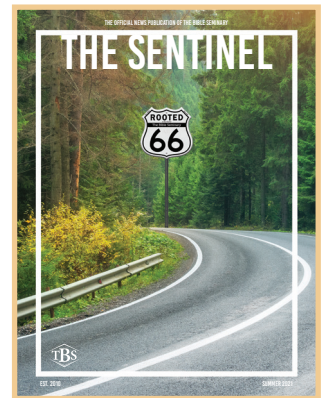
fall
2018



summer
2019



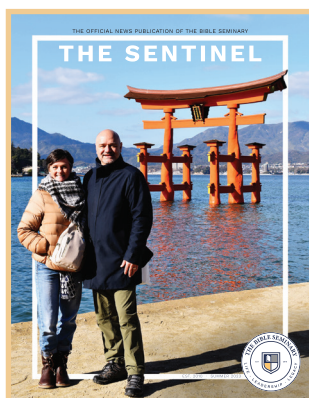
summer
2020



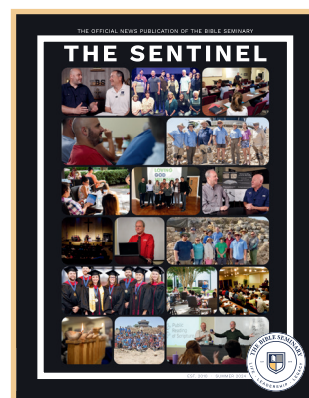
summer
2021



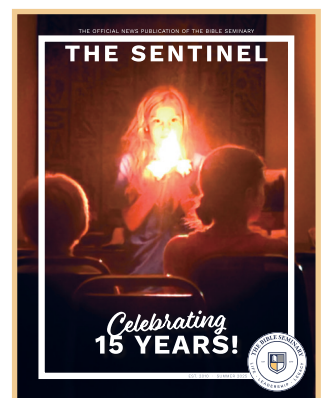
summer
2022



summer
2023



summer
2024



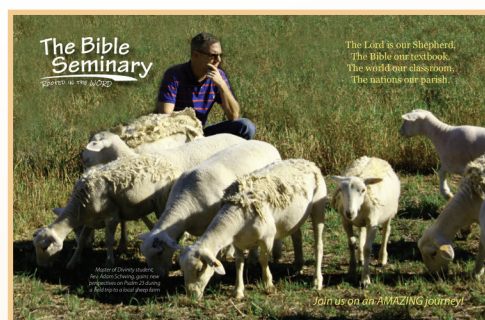
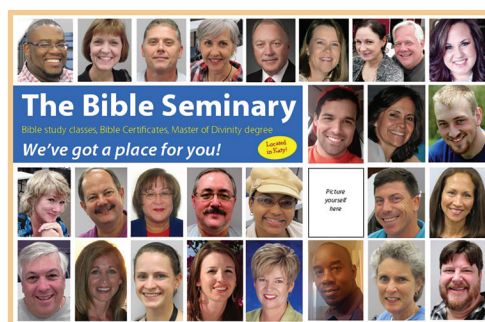
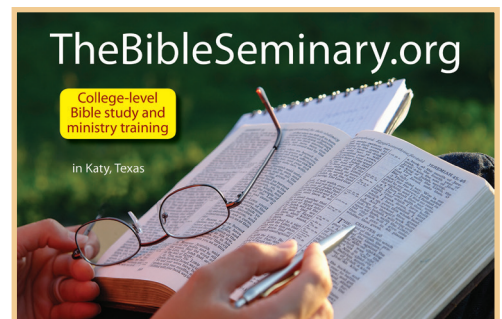
summer
2025



TBS POSTCARDS



Dr. Lewis and several Grace Fellowship staff *praying* **over 52,000 postcards** announcing The Bible Seminary to the Katy/West Houston community on Monday, November 14, 2011.





THE BIBLE SEMINARY

NEHEMIAH PRESS

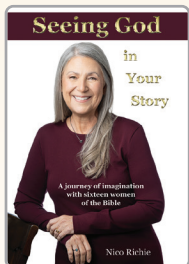
• • • • • EQUIP PEOPLE FOR HIS GOOD WORKS • • • • •

A division of The Bible Seminary (TBS), Nehemiah Press helps develop, produce, and distribute resources profitable for training in righteousness, nurturing faith, and equipping people for good works that glorify God and serve others in Jesus' name. The primary focus is publishing resources produced by leaders, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of TBS. Submissions are generally by invitation only, but proposals in keeping with TBS foundational commitments are welcome. TBS President, K. Lynn Lewis, serves as Managing Editor for most publications.

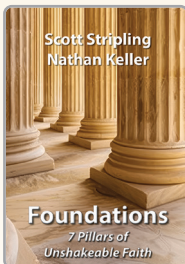
For more information >>> NehemiahPress.com/guidelines

The following books are available in paperback and Kindle formats

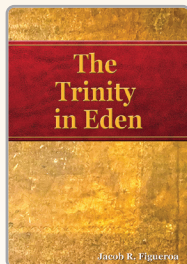
Amazon.com • NehemiahPress.com • TBS bookstore



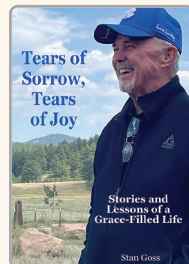
**Seeing God
in Your Story:**
A journey of imagination
with sixteen women
of the Bible
Nico Richie
MAY 2025
179 pages



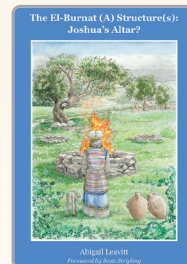
Foundations:
7 Pillars of
Unshakable Faith
*Scott Stripling and
Nathan Keller*
APR 2025
123 pages



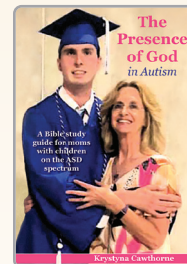
**The Trinity
in Eden**
Jacob Figueroa
NOV 2024
144 pages



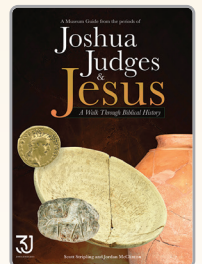
**Tears of
Sorrow, Tears
of Joy:**
Stories and
Lessons of a
Grace-Filled Life
Stan Goss
JAN 2024
200 pages



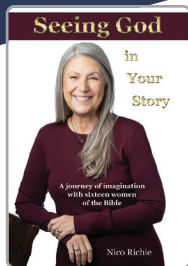
**The El-Burnat
(A) Structure(s):**
Joshua's Altar?
Abigail Leavitt
MAY 2022
138 pages



**The Presence of
God in Autism:**
A Bible study
guide for moms
with children on
the ASD spectrum
Krystyna Cawthorne
MAY 2022
116 pages



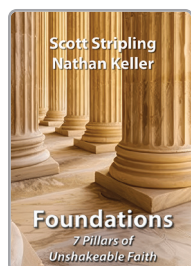
**Joshua, Judges,
and Jesus:**
A Walk Through
Biblical History
Guidebook
*Scott Stripling and
Jordan McClinton*
MAY 2022
56 pages



Seeing God in Your Story:
A journey of imagination with sixteen women of the Bible
by Nico Richie

Written from fictional first-person perspectives with biblical and historical insights, these are real women from real places in time and history. See God through their eyes to help open your heart and mind to see God and His love in your own life.

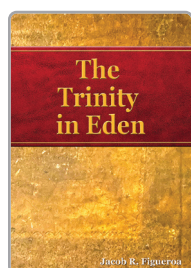
Author Nico Richie is a writer whose purpose is to equip women with biblical tools for spiritual growth. From deep within a beautiful backdrop of ministry and business career experiences, she brings fresh life to timeless scriptural characters to help connect people with God.



Foundations:
7 Pillars of Unshakable Faith
by Scott Stripling and Nathan Keller

Far too often new converts to Christianity never develop to spiritual maturity. They remain timid and ineffective instead of growing mighty in Spirit. *Foundations* provides a blueprint by which a person can build an overcoming life of excellence. Stripling and Keller clearly identify the core tenets of Christianity and guide new believers down a path which they themselves have walked. Starting with the new birth in Christ, they demonstrate how to effectively read Scripture and pray. They emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit's transforming power and how the Holy Spirit helps people become productive members of the church. The final chapters explain how to live a life of significance by honoring what God honors and ultimately embracing The Great Commission to partner with Jesus Christ in redeeming fallen humanity.

Co-author Scott Stripling serves as Provost at The Bible Seminary (TBS) in Katy, Texas and as the Director of Excavations for the Associates for Biblical Research at Tel Shiloh in Israel (2017–present). Co-author Nathan Keller serves as the Lead Pastor of Sugar Land Family Church (SLFC). The Foreword was written by Rick Eubanks, National Network of Youth Ministries State Coordinator in Texas, Co-founder of “See You at the Pole,” and disciple maker.



The Trinity in Eden
by Jacob Figueroa

Historic Christianity insists that New Testament authors indubitably describe God as three distinct but unified personae: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Although absent from the Bible, the creedal term “Trinity” has become an essential doctrine, while also causing centuries

of confusion and controversy among biblical scholars.

But, what about the Old Testament? *The Trinity in Eden* presents linguistic research on the oldest account in the Bible: the Primeval History from creation to the tower of Babel. The author concludes that the names of God, the plural pronouns of God, and the execration of the serpent together affirm that the concept of the Trinity is, at least, as old as the Bible itself.

Author Jacob R. Figueroa holds a Master of Arts in Linguistics (2017) from the University of North Texas and a Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and Culture (2023) from The Bible Seminary. His linguistic expertise is augmented by the studies of Arabic, Russian, German, as well as biblical Greek and Hebrew. The Foreword was written by Israel Steinmetz, Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at The Bible Seminary.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO WORK WITH NEHEMIAH PRESS

“The manuscript draft I submitted to Nehemiah Press is now a beautiful book beyond my imagination. My prayer is that it will be useful for building the kingdom of God and equipping the saints. The editorial process was unexpectedly encouraging and affirming. The opportunity to collaborate in a respectful, creative relationship led to many improvements along the way. Suggested edits were thoughtful and insightful, and always with an approach that acknowledged my own voice and gave me the final word. Thank you, Nehemiah Press, for your partnership in bringing my written ministry to life through the publication of my book, *Seeing God in Your Story*.”

– Nico Richie

“From initial concept to full publication—chapter content, page layout, cover design, every detail—Nehemiah Press was truly with us every step of the way. We were blessed to have a publisher who communicates clearly, asks the right questions, and cares deeply about bringing the dream inside you to fruition in a timely manner. Our book looks amazing inside and out, and it was published on my 59th birthday. *Foundations* is such a wonderful gift!”

– Nathan Keller

“I had the pleasure to work with Dr. Lewis and a team of talented editors at Nehemiah Press. Everyone was very encouraging and I learned much about writing, creativity and perseverance. I could not have achieved the dream of being a published author without the support of this godly, gracious, and inspirational group of people.”

– Krystyna Cawthorne



»» ALUMNI ««



101
graduates



109
degrees

»» 62 CERTIFICATES

»» 07 BACHELORS

»» 40 MASTERS

7

BACS

Bachelor of Arts in
Christian Studies

57

BC

Bible Certificate

4

CTS

Certificate of
Theological Studies

1

LP

Licensed
Professional

9

MABHA

Master of Arts in Biblical
History and Archaeology

4

MABLC

Master of Arts in Biblical
Languages and Culture

4

MABS

Master of Arts in
Biblical Studies

7

MACHT

Master of Arts in Church
History
and Theology

16

MDIV

Master of Divinity

Where Are We Now?

David Adams • BC 2025 • Katy, TX

Randall Aikman • BC 2015 • Katy, TX

Zac Aikman • MDiv 2023 • Fayetteville, AR
Director of Student Ministry at Christ Community Church (cccay.com)

Shelli Alaniz • MABS 2023 • Brookshire, TX
Training Associate at Ananias House (AnaniasHouse.org) and
Owner/Trainer at Surge Team Building (SurgeTeamBuilding.com)
(see “Ripple Effects” on pp. 14-15)

“Steven and I have been married for 27 years. Our daughter Harley (31) is engaged to Nick Venti and has our grandson Patrick (5) and soon Nick’s two boys, Charlie (5) and Owen (8). Our son Jordan (26) is married to Christina. Our other children include Kyli (17), Aubree (16), and Aria (12). At Ananias House, I help with logistics and creating small group content for our training program in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. I serve as co-leader for Teach-Equip helping lead an 8-month program teaching people how to teach the Bible as well as facilitate monthly labs to give participants opportunities to practice what they are learning and receive immediate feedback. I serve as Teaching Director at Grace Fellowship Church Bible Study and lead the women’s teaching team, coordinate teaching schedules, approve outlines, and facilitate a collaborative teaching environment each semester. I also serve as Bible Study Curriculum Writer working with the writing team to create curriculum for both men’s and women’s Bible studies. I am the Owner/Trainer of SURGE Team Building where I create and facilitate team building and leadership development trainings to focus on increasing self-awareness, strengthen communication, build trust, and help individuals and teams to be more intentional and purposeful. Trainings are experiential in nature and customized to meet the outcomes of each client.”

Kevin Alvarez • MDiv 2016 • Pana, IL
Pastor at Celebration Community Church (cccpana.com)

Yvette Alvarez • MABS 2021 • Pana, IL

Leah Anderson • BC 2013 • Katy, TX

Heidi Arneson • BC 2011 • Katy, TX
CPA with Arneson CPA Group (ArnesonCPA.com) and
TBS MABS student (see “Happy 15th Birthday TBS” on pp. 4-5)

Angie Barrington • BC 2015 • Katy, TX

Terri Baker • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

Jennifer Bartlett • BACS & MABLC 2025 • Palm Coast, FL

Lindsey Bender • BACS & MACHT 2022 • Katy, TX
Associate Care Director at Grace Fellowship Church
(WhatIsGrace.org)

“My family and I returned to the Katy, Texas area in summer 2024. We are excited to be back with our family and friends, and extremely happy to be back at our home church, Grace Fellowship. I currently work full-time as one of the Associate Care Directors at Grace Fellowship Cinco Ranch Campus and have returned to teaching at the Women’s Bible Study.”

Jim Bergamo • BC 2016 • Flint, TX

Jennifer Blandino • CTS 2025 • Katy, TX
Grow Executive Director at The Waters Church (IamtheWaters.com)

Tharon Bogany • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Shamra Boggs • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Nancy Borden • BC 2011 • Granbury, TX

Silas Borden • BC 2011 • Granbury, TX

Rosalie Brown • MACHT 2023 • Magnolia, TX
DMin student at Houston Christian University
(see “Shaped for Life and Ministry” on p. 3)

Kathy Bruscia • BC 2011 • Katy, TX

Bill Carpenter • BC 2020 • Spring, TX

Michael Cash • BC 2020 • Sugar Land, TX
Associate Pastor at Family Life Church (myflchurch.com)

Krystyna Cawthorne • BC 2011 & MACHT 2020 • Katy, TX

Heidi Cerda • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

Karen Coolidge • MDiv 2018 • Katy, TX

Daniel Cooper • BC 2015 • Fulshear, TX

Mark Curtis • BC 2015 • Magnolia, TX

Sheila Daley • BC 2018 • Brenham, TX

Robert Davila • BC 2020 • Rosenberg, TX

Georgia Donohoe • BACS & MACHT 2022 • Livingstone, TX

Pam Elliott • BC 2011 • Granbury, TX

Mickey Ellis • MDiv 2018 • Katy, TX

Chinedu Emegwa • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Uche Emenike • MDiv 2018 • Sugar Land, TX
Senior Pastor at The Master’s Vessel Ministries (MastersVessel.org)
and CPA with Oduze & Associates PC

Lin Ermon • BC 2011 • Katy, TX

Suzanne Ewell • BC 2016 • Richmond, TX

Deborah Feliciano • BC 2020 • Stafford, TX

Jacob Figueroa • MABLC 2023 • Springtown, TX
(see “Two Spiritual Lessons” on p. 10)

Cassia Glass • MACHT 2023 • Spring, TX
Upcoming doctoral student at Denver Seminary and
former Grow Groups Director at Faithbridge church

Stan Goss • BC 2013 • Katy, TX
TBS Board of Trustees member

Kelly Guinn • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

Stephen Hamburg • MABS 2021 • Katy, TX

Janice Hamric • BC 2011 • Katy, TX

Esmeralda Heer • MDiv 2015 • Katy, TX
Volunteer with Global Missions Department at Grace Fellowship
Church (see “From Seminary to the Nations” on pp. 6-8)

Brent Hoefling • MABHA 2024 • Texarkana, TX

Pastor at Wake Village Church of God of Prophecy and
Computer Support Specialist at Community Healthcare
(see “From Pastor to Archaeologist” on p. 9)

Sharon Holmes • BC 2019 & MABLC 2022 • Houston, TX

Prayer Team Leader at Lakewood Church
(see “Deeper Study” on p. 16)

Pam Hughes • BC 2016 • Richmond, TX

Destry Jackson • MABHA 2020 • Norcatur, KS

Rosalina Jimenez • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Justin Johnson • MDiv 2018 • Katy, TX

HSSEA Coordinator at Wood

Michael Jones • BACS & MABHA 2023 • Katy, TX

Technology Operations at Aristoi Classical Academy
(AristoiClassical.org)

Darla Kerkemeyer • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Durwin Kicker • MABHA 2020 • Deceased

M. L. • MDiv 2015 • Missionary in undisclosed location

Dan Lawless • MACHT 2025 • Cypress, TX

Lisa Lee • BC 2019 • Houston, TX

Paul Lyles • BC 2011 • Cypress, TX

Malena Magallon • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Pam Magee • CTS 2025 • Fulshear, TX

Executive Pastor at Parkway Fellowship (ParkwayFellowship.com)

Rowena Marable • MDiv 2015 • Katy, TX

Brenda Martin • MDiv 2015 • Caldwell, TX

Senior Pastor at Caldwell Methodist Church (CaldwellMC.org)

Barby Martinez • BC 2018 • Madison, MS

Carolina Martinez • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Nestor Martinez • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Rosemary Mata • BC 2020 • Deceased

Angela McClinton • MDiv 2018 • Katy, TX

Executive Pastor at The Waters Church (IamtheWaters.com);
TBS Director of Development, Librarian, and Adjunct Faculty

Jordan McClinton • MABHA 2022 • Katy, TX

Worship Pastor at The Waters Church; TBS Adjunct Professor;
and Sr. Project Manager at EBusiness Strategies

“I live in Katy, Texas and have entered the dissertation phase of my PhD in
Archaeology and Biblical History at Veritas International University. My research
focus is the Late Bronze Age favissa at Tel Shiloh. I serve as an Area Supervisor at
Tel Shiloh, a Teaching Assistant at TBS, and co-director of TBS’s 3J Museum. I also
served on the Mt. Ebal excavation team, have published several articles on topics
related to Ancient Near Eastern archaeology, and served on the Board of Directors
of the Near East Archaeological Society.”

Diane Miller • BC 2020 • Katy, TX

Pastor’s Assistant at Katy Community Fellowship
(KatyFellowship.com)

Marie Morrison • BC 2013 • Katy, TX

Ron Muller • BC 2013 • Katy, TX

Monica Ochoa • BC 2018 • Houston, TX

Jim O’Leary • BC 2015 • Bryan, TX

Barbara Oswalt • BC 2015 • Richmond, TX

Sandra Paiz • BC 2020 • Rosenberg, TX

Bill Parker • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

Marilyn Payton • BC 2011 • Katy, TX

Ralph Peil • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

Kevin Penner • MDiv 2016 • Omaha, NE

Youth Pastor at Crosspoint Bible Church (CrosspointBible.org)

Cheryl Poesse • BC 2012 • Katy, TX

Retired Preschool Director at Grace Preschool

Blake Quimby • BC 2020 • Spring, TX

TBS Communications Director and Worship Leader at
North Oaks Baptist Church (nobc.church)
(see “Pencils to Purpose” on pp. 38–39)

Samantha Rude • BACS & MABLC 2018 • Katy, TX

Prayer Pastor at Grace Fellowship Church (WhatIsGrace.org) and
Director of Worship and Prayer at the Community Prayer Center
(CommunityPrayerCenter.com)

“I live in Katy, Texas and serve as Prayer Pastor of Grace Fellowship and
Community Prayer Center. I oversee a range of ministries including a prophetic
prayer program, a freedom and healing ministry, building a night and day prayer
and worship community, daily prayer meetings, and all kinds of other interesting
prayer-stuff! I have an incredible staff who serves the Body of Christ so well, and
the best volunteers ever (I am admittedly biased)! I’m married to Caleb, who
now owns his own business, and we have one amazing son, Silas (who turns 12
this summer). I’m incredibly proud of both of them! Serving the local church is a
deep honor and being immersed in prayer is richer than I could have imagined.
My time at TBS instilled in me a hunger for the Scriptures, a desire to seek Truth,
and a willingness to walk by the Spirit. I’m forever grateful to my professors, and
the support staff that make it possible for students to participate in the rigorous,
glorious, difficult, and amazing process of seminary education.”

Adam Schwing • MACHT 2022 • Houston, TX

Senior Pastor at Celebrate Life Church of the Nazarene
(WeCelebrateLife.org) in Katy, Texas and Bible Instructor at
Houston Christian High School (HoustonChristian.org)

Gregg Sherrill • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

Bette Smart • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

Jeff Smart • BC 2016 • Katy, TX

“If we make the decision to walk with Him, he says, ‘You’re Mine and I want
you to walk in step with Me. I’ve arranged a plan so that walking with Me will
result in a righteous lifestyle.’ We both felt drawn by the Holy Spirit to The Bible
Seminary (TBS). Bette and I studied all 66 books of the Bible and were blessed
by the teaching of Paul Helbig. After we received our Bible Certificate in 2016
we continued our love affair with the seminary taking seminars and biblical
Archaeology from Scott Stripling. More recently, we regularly attend JSU and PRS
on Mondays. The open discussions and fellowship are enlightening. We have felt the
love and care from everyone at TBS. This is the path we choose because of Him.”

Erica Snow • MDiv 2015 • Colorado Springs, CO

Owner of Tabularius Bookkeeping (TheTabularius.com)

Yamile Soto • CTS 2025 • Katy, TX

TBS Business Manager

Sara Stanley • MDiv 2015 • Missouri City, TX
Sara Stanley Photography (SaraStanleyPhotos.com)

Stephanie Stinebower • BC 2018 • Katy, TX

Eric Strong • MA 2015 • Katy, TX

Shannon Stubblefield • MDiv 2019 • Katy, TX

Missionary with East West and Arise

"I have been working the last few years as a missionary with East West in the Arise Movement. I first served as the City Leader of Houston, then in a national role as the Senior Director of City Leaders. East West is a global missions organization that uses easy, reproducible tools to reach the darkest places in the world. Arise is a movement to equip and launch women in their Great Commission calling (calling them forward, connecting with them, and commissioning them). I've been training people in the 4 Fields multiplication strategy locally and around the world. We launch out locally to share the gospel regally as well as short term mission trips. I've been focusing my mission trips on the 10/40 window. Greg and I just celebrated 30 years of marriage and have lived in Katy, Texas for the past 23 years. Greg is still working as a Senior Loan Officer. Our son just took a new position in Virginia working in the IT industry. Our daughter married last October and we are hoping for our first grandchild in due time."

Allison Taylor • MABS 2025 • Katy, TX

TBS Marketing Director

Ed Thomas • MDiv 2018 • Ikoma, Nara, Japan

Missionary with Japan Mission (see "Proclaiming the Son in the Land of the Rising Sun" on pp. 12-13)

Gary Urie • MABHA 2022 • Belton, TX

PhD candidate in Archaeology at Veritas International University

"I live in Temple, Texas and am entering the final year of my PhD program in Archaeology and Biblical History at Veritas International University. My research focus is on Late Bronze Age scarabs. I serve as a Square Supervisor and photographer for the Tel Shiloh excavation and worked one season at Mt. Ebal and Tall el-Hammam in Jordan. I also serve as a member of the Board of Directors and as Program Chair for the Near East Archaeological Society."

Abigail Van Huss • BACS & MABHA 2021 • Johnson City, TN

PhD student in Archaeology at Ariel University

"Originally from Lewiston, Idaho, I currently live in Johnson City, Tennessee and am entering the final year of my PhD program in Archaeology at Ariel University in Israel. My research focus is the transition between the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age in Israel's Central Highlands. I serve as Assistant Director of the Tel Shiloh excavation, write articles, and speak at archaeology conferences. I have excavated at several other sites including Khirbet el-Maqatir, Mt. Ebal, Khirbet Rafid, Fasaal, and Auja el-Fuqa. I also serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Membership Chair for the Near East Archaeological Society. I married fellow TBS student and now alum Clayton Van Huss in Israel at Tel Shiloh in 2024."

Clayton Van Huss • MABHA 2023 • Johnson City, TN

Director of Affirm Apologetics at Southwest Radio Ministries
(swrc.com/affirm-apologetics)

"I live in Johnson City, Tennessee and work for Southwest Radio Church as Director of Affirm Apologetics. In this capacity, I run a podcast called "Biblically Grounded" and organize apologetics conferences for SWRC. I excavated for three seasons at Tel Shiloh and now hold the rank of Square Supervisor. I married Abigail Leavitt at sunrise and surrounded by members of our archaeology family at Tel Shiloh in 2024."

Rhonda Ward • BC 2016 • Fulshear, TX

Dobie Weise • LP 2019 • Jackson, TN

Ryan Wood • BACS & MABHA 2025 • Joshua, TX

Patrick Wise • CTS 2024 • Katy, TX

Arlishia Young • BC 2019 • Houston, TX

THE BIBLE SEMINARY

FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM



Zac, Sydney, and Malachi Aikman



Gabriella, Yvette, Kevin, Cassandra, and Madison Alvarez



Lindsey, Liv, Sam, and Jake Bender



Everly, Michael, Brianna, and Brighton Cash



Kevin, Allison, and Amber, Audrey, and Aurora Penner



Madison, Reese, Krystle, and Blake Quimby



THE BIBLE SEMINARY

Board » UPDATES «

..... welcome to our
NEW BOARD MEMBERS



SANDY
BENAK



BOB
CHALKER



RAYMOND
WIGGINS



Sandy Benak brings decades of commercial real estate expertise to her role, having built an impressive career in Houston's vibrant market. Most recently Sandy has served as the Corporate Marketing Director for Granite Properties, a premier real estate investment and development firm specializing in mixed-use office development. Sandy previously established herself as a successful leasing broker for Houston's high-rise office buildings.

A respected community leader, Sandy has held numerous leadership positions including Chair of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce and President of Houston's CCIM (Certified Commercial Investment Member) chapter. Her extensive board service spans both national and local organizations, including the CCIM national executive board, NAIOP Houston, CREW Houston, Fort Bend Women's Center, U of H RE Advisory Board and the Westchase District.

Deeply committed to her faith community, Sandy actively volunteers at Parkway Fellowship in Richmond, Texas, where she leads the Empty Nester ministry. She established the annual TBS/Parkway seminar hosted at Parkway under Dr. Scott Stripling's guidance and began her own educational journey with TBS in 2022.

Sandy graduated from Baylor University and currently resides in Fulshear, Texas with her husband Dan. Together they cherish their two adult children, their spouses, and their four granddaughters.



Bob Chalker is the former Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Materials Performance and Protection. He retired in June 2023 and continues to stay active by serving on the board of directors for several privately held companies and not-for-profit organizations. He is also actively engaged in a variety of consulting and project opportunities in the areas of governance and executive coaching.

He earned his MBA at Oakland University (Rochester, Michigan) and completed his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He is currently enrolled in TBS's Certificate of Theological Studies program.

Bob is very happily married to his wife Kim. They have two grown children, Taylor and Stephen, and two beautiful granddaughters, Finleigh Colleen and Leila Valerie. He is putting his extra time in retirement to good use as he and Kim are very active in their church and community organizations serving as called. Together they enjoy scuba diving, traveling in their RV, reading, and their passion for little British cars, owning a 1972 MGB and a 1959 MGA roadster.



Raymond Wiggins, MD, DDS, MDiv, has served as the President of Texas Oral and Facial Surgery, PA since 2003. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and a Diplomate of the National Dental Board of Anesthesiology. He serves in healthcare leadership including serving a term on the Texas Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Board, the Edward C. Hinds Academy Foundation Board, and the Dental Review Committee of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners since being appointed by Governor Greg Abbott in 2019.

Dr. Wiggins serves in many leadership roles for nonprofits and his church. He serves as a board member of Life Church Houston. One of his favorite ministry roles is as the leader of the baptism team at Life Church Houston, because he loves helping new believers take their next steps in Jesus. Dr. Wiggins is the author of multiple scientific articles, including articles in the American Journal of Physiology and the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is the author of *Weeding Out the Myths About Marijuana*, a series of books that illuminate the dangers of marijuana from a medical and biblical standpoint. He has spoken about this subject at the Good Drug Policy Summit in D.C. and has been a featured speaker for Parent Action Network. He has been interviewed on Fox News Fox and Friends and CBN News.

Dr. Wiggins holds several graduate and doctoral degrees, including a Doctor of Medicine (MD) from U. T. Houston McGovern Medical School, Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) from Texas A&M School of Dentistry, and a Master of Divinity (MDiv) from Regent University. He has been awarded Who's Who in America. He is happily married with four incredible children.

THANK YOU



Mickey Ellis

(MDiv 2018) **retired** from the Board this year after serving six years in two consecutive terms in the roles of Secretary/Treasurer and Treasurer.

The Board of Trustees

has included 38 persons who have volunteered a cumulative total of nearly 159 years. Members generally serve three-year terms with an opportunity to renew for three additional years. Other than the Board Chair, additional terms require a minimum one-year break. Bob Button and Doug Johnson each served a total of twelve years following this pattern. Heidi Arneson (see "Happy 15th Birthday TBS" on pp. 4-5) served 10 consecutive years, including 8 years as Board Chair. Board size has ranged from 5 to 13 members.

38
persons

have volunteered a
cumulative total of

159 years

MEMBERSHIP RECORD (NEXT PG)

Congratulations

»» TO THE BIBLE SEMINARY ««



Downy Vickery, Board Member (2013-19), and **Kavin**

Kavin and I would like to congratulate all our friends at The Bible Seminary as you celebrate the 15th Anniversary of sharing the good news of Our Lord Jesus Christ and preparing others to do the same. My time serving on the Board of TBS was a blessing in my life and Kavin and I look forward to all Our Lord has in store for TBS in the years to come.

God Bless The Bible Seminary!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MEMBERSHIP RECORD

Name	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total Yrs	Total Ind
Anthis, Joel			1	1	1	1	1	1									6	1
Armistead, George									1	1	1	1	1	1			6	1
Arneson, Heidi		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						10	1
Bash, Ben													1				1	1
Benak, Sandy																1	1	1
Boulware, Scott							1	1									2	1
Button, Bob		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1			12	1
Chalker, Bob																1	1	1
Chambers, Gene			1	1	1	1	1	1									6	1
Chapman, Harry										1	1	1	1	1			5	1
Chumchal, William			1														1	1
Crouse, Brian	1	1															2	1
Dagley, Ron										1	1						2	1
Dean, Julia											1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1
Dunham, Dan	1	1	1														3	1
Ellis, Mickey										1	1	1	1	1	1		6	1
Frailey, Alton				1	1	1											3	1
Gaikema, Wende				1	1	1											3	1
Garcia, Omar					1	1											2	1
Goss, Stan												1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Cindy Hayley													1				1	1
Johnson, Doug	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1				12	1
Klein, Becky									1	1							2	1
Leggett, Jim					1	1	1	1	1	1							6	1
McCalip, Rick							1	1									2	1
McGown, Mike														1	1	1	3	1
Merrell, Leonard						1	1	1	1	1	1						6	1
Muir, David			1	1	1	1	1	1									6	1
O'Leary, Jim	1	1	1	1	1	1											6	1
Pearson, Mitch	1	1	1														3	1
Peters, Adam											1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1
Powell, Judy														1	1	1	3	1
R. D.							1	1									2	1
Ryan, Pat												1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Vickery, Downy				1	1	1	1	1	1								6	1
Wiggins, Raymond																1	1	1
Wisdom, Charles			1	1	1												3	1
Wood, Steve									1	1	1						3	1
Total Members	5	7	11	11	13	13	11	11	9	11	11	9	11	10	7	9	159	38

Chairs = **Bold**
 1st term =
 2nd term =
 Current year =



Dan Dunham, Founding Provost (2007-10) and Board Chair (2010-13), and **Babette**

As an answer to a call that God placed on Pastor Jim Leggett's heart, five parishioners from Grace Fellowship Methodist Church began meeting on Saturday mornings in January 2008 to lay the groundwork for a seminary in Katy, Texas. They discussed, debated, and prayed for the best way to achieve the mission and added to their numbers as needed. As the foundation and walls of the seminary began to form, God continually showed up in the most beautiful and unusual ways to guide each step of the process.

Fast forward to 2025 and all I can do is marvel at what God ordained at The Bible Seminary. TBS became a legal entity in 2010, welcomed the first students in 2012, and achieved formal accreditation in 2020. Many of the members of the Saturday donut club went on to serve as Board members or administrators. It was my joy, honor, and privilege to serve God along with these talented and committed Christians. Since the early years, many more of God's elect have gone on to serve TBS with great vision and discernment.

I became involved with the creation of TBS because I felt God knocking on my heart and because my pastor and friend, Jim Leggett invited me to lead the start-up team. Not surprisingly, those callings happened independently yet very nearly simultaneously. I knew from day one that the project was from God and that He was fully in charge. I equally knew that when my direct involvement with TBS was finished, God was still fully in charge. That allowed me to move away and move on so that future leaders could equally experience the unhindered freedom of serving the living God.

After leaving the Board of Directors, I went on to complete a 36-year career at Chevron and retired in 2017. That same year, Babette and I moved to Athens, Texas where we enjoy visiting and hosting our three daughters, sons-in-law, and seven grandchildren. We also enjoy cruising the globe to experience God's majesty and beauty. We are members of Life Fellowship in Athens and enjoy serving as greeters.

CONGRATULATIONS TBS

for all that has been achieved in the first fifteen years and for all the future accomplishments yet to come!

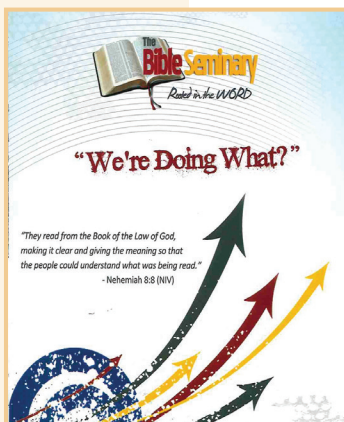


Mitch Pearson, Founding Board member (2010-13) and current Coaching Pastor at Southstone Church (southstonechurch.com), and **Elizabeth**

Congratulations on TBS' 15th Anniversary! I was part of the original team that took a dream and partnered with God to bring that dream into reality. There were some amazing volunteers who led this charge, but no one more amazing than Dan Dunham. Dan was a tireless and incredibly effective team member, leader, and inaugural Board Chair. He faced obstacles as opportunities and leaned in on God every step of the way. The gift of his time, talent, passion and intellect were instrumental in allowing The Bible Seminary (TBS) to be where it is today.

As a member of the original Board, I had the gift of watching Dan and Dr. Lewis and many others go face-first into this dream every day. As the TBS team tirelessly pursued accreditation, I know that it still must have been exhausting at times. Yet, here we are. Well done!

When we decided to hold an initial fundraiser toward the launch of TBS, I vividly remember coming up with the campaign slogan "We're Doing What!?" While kind of funny, it was surely an appropriate slogan for something as bodacious as launching a seminary. And yet, 15 years later here we are.



May God
CONTINUE

to bless and keep TBS and her team!



2025 FACULTY OF THE YEAR

»» Dr. Matt Glassman ««

DR. GLASSMAN JOINS A **DISTINGUISHED LIST** OF PAST RECIPIENTS:

2020 Dr. Richard Cozart  2021 Dr. Ryan Lokkesmoe  2022 Dr. Israel Loken
2023 Dr. Ralph Neighbour Jr.  2024 Dr. Israel Steinmetz

“Dr. Glassman is a **premium example of the great professors** at TBS. His patience and interest in me as a student was a critical factor in my successful completion of the Biblical Hebrew courses.”

- TOMMY CHAMBERLIN

Dr. Matt Glassman, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Languages, is the 2025 TBS Faculty of the Year. A Kansas native, Dr. Glassman earned a B.S. in Political Science at the University of Kansas (2005), an M.A. in Theology at Franciscan University (2008), an M.T.S. in Biblical Studies at Boston College (2012), and Ph.D. in Near Eastern languages and Civilizations at Yale University (2019). Dr. Glassman has taught at Fairfield University since 2017, first as an adjunct faculty member and as a full-time faculty member since 2021.

Married to Haylee for 15 years, they have five beautiful children: Isabelle (14), Jude (12), Grace (4), Kolbe (2), and Sophia (5 months). In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Glassman serves as an Intelligence Officer in the United States Navy reserves. When not in the classroom or military venue, he enjoys working out, reading, and attending his kids' sporting events. He has excavated with Dr. Stripling at Khirbet el-Maqatir and Shiloh, achieving the rank of Square Supervisor.

TBS students love Dr. Glassman. “I was able to thrive under the structure Dr. Glassman brought and am grateful to have sat in his classroom for the past two years learning Hebrew and Greek,” says Rebecca Morgan. “His heart for God, learning, languages and his family is inspiring.”

“Dr. Glassman is a premium example of the great professors at TBS,” says Tommy Chamberlin. “His patience and interest in me as a student was a critical factor in my successful completion of the biblical Hebrew courses.”

When asked about this award, Dr. Glassman stated, “Being named Faculty of the Year at The Bible Seminary is an honor that deeply humbles me and fills me with gratitude. I am truly thankful to be recognized by an institution so devoted to equipping students to serve Christ and His Church. This award highlights my duty to support future leaders.”

Thank you, Dr. Glassman, for your unwavering dedication to the success of TBS students!



STAFF NEWS



CRAIG & GINNY EVANS

For More Information.

... VISIT ...

PROFESSOR CRAIG A. EVANS
AT CRAIGAEVANS.COM

WELCOME **NEW** DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PROFESSOR

Dr. Craig Evans (see “The Son of God” on p. 37) joined the TBS staff full-time in January 2025. He will be officially installed as Distinguished Research Professor of The Bible Seminary during Commencement on Sunday, August 17 at The Waters Church in Katy, Texas.

A well-known evangelical scholar, Dr. Evans is an elected member of the prestigious Society of New Testament Studies (SNTS) and Director of the Christian Thinkers Society Fellows Program and Strategic Studies.

After teaching one year at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Evans taught at Trinity Western University in British Columbia for twenty-one years, where he directed the graduate program in Biblical Studies and founded the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute. Evans then taught for thirteen years at the Divinity College at Acadia University in Nova Scotia. He was also a Visiting Fellow at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. He then served as the John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins at Houston Christian University.

Author and editor of more than ninety books and hundreds of articles and reviews, Professor Evans has given lectures at Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Yale, and other universities, colleges, seminaries, and museums, such as the Field Museum in Chicago, the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. He is a Fox News Opinion contributor and also regularly lectures and gives talks at popular conferences and retreats on the historical Jesus, Archaeology, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Bible.

Along with countless interviews on radio networks across Canada and the US, Evans has been seen on Dateline NBC, CBC, CTV, Day of Discovery, and many documentaries aired on BBC, The Discovery Channel, History Channel, History Television, and others. He has also served as a consultant for the National Geographic Society and for The Bible miniseries, produced by Mark Burnett and Roma Downey.



NAOMI MESA

WELCOME **NEW** COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

Naomi Mesa joined the TBS staff part-time in June 2025. She has over 20 years of experience in local church ministry with a focus on media, audio/visual technology, and communications. She's passionate about using creative technology to enhance worship and build stronger connections with the digital community. Naomi also serves as the Audio/Visual Coordinator at Friendship Church in Richmond, Texas where she combines her technical expertise with her heart for ministry.



RICK MCCALIP

THANK YOU **RETIRED** VICE-PRESIDENT AND CFO

Rick McCalip officially retired after fifteen years of volunteer service as Executive Vice-President/Provost (2010-11), Vice-President of Finance and Administration and CFO (2011-2025), and Board member (2016-18). He earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry (1976) from the University of Oklahoma and worked with ConocoPhillips for 34 years, primarily in safety and environmental program management. Immediately after retiring in August 2010, he began volunteering on The Bible Seminary (TBS) advancement team the next morning, Saturday, August 28, assisting with the initial capital campaign, foundational organization, and helping firmly establish institutional facilities, finances, personnel, and programming. He and his wife, Elaine, have one married son and two grandchildren.



Rick received an honorary Master of Divinity (MDiv) presented by TBS President, K. Lynn Lewis, at graduation on May 17, 2015.



THE BIBLE SEMINARY

»» FACULTY ««

50 INSTRUCTORS AND PROFESSORS (2008-25)

Steve Adamson • Due West, SC

Former TBS Provost and Professor, serves as President of Erskine College (Erskine.edu)

Kevin Alvarez • Pana, IL

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Pastor at Celebration Community Church (cccpana.com)

Titus Benton • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Chief of Staff of United Against Human Trafficking (uaht.org)

Clyde Billington • Valparaiso, Florida

Adjunct Professor and Editor of ARTIFAX magazine

Kevin Bowles • Tomball, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Lead Pastor at Redeemer Church (makingmuchofjesus.org)

Brian Brunke • Richmond, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Operations and Small Groups Pastor at Parkway Fellowship Church (ParkwayFellowship.com)

Victoria Campbell • Richmond, TX

Former Adjunct Professor

Terry Cokenour • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Assistant Professor of Narrative Arts at Houston Christian University (hc.edu)

Rich Cozart • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Associate Professor of Counseling at Houston Christian University (hc.edu)

Melissa Davis • Virginia Beach, VA

Adjunct Professor, is the founder of Equipping Ministries Global

Dan Enright • Cypress, TX

Former Adjunct Instructor, serves as Upper School Humanities Instructor at Covenant Academy (CovenantCypress.org)

Sergio Estrada • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Professor of Biblical Studies at the College of Biblical Studies (cbs.edu)

Craig Evans (craigaevals.com) • Richmond, TX

Adjunct Professor, Graduate Dean, and Distinguished Research Professor (see "The Son of God" on p. 37)

Matt Glassman • Fairfield, CT

Adjunct Professor (see "Faculty of the Year" on p. 62), serves in the U.S. Navy and as a Professor at Fairfield University (Fairfield.edu)

Jim Hamilton • Louisville, KY

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Professor of Biblical Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (sbts.edu) and as Senior Pastor at Kenwood Baptist Church (kenwoodbaptistchurch.com)

Janice Hamric • Katy, TX

Former Bible Certificate Administrative Assistant (2010-14), assistant instructor, and founding Librarian (2014-23)

Mark Haywood • The Woodlands, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Provost at Grace School of Theology (gsot.edu)

Esmeralda Heer • Katy, TX

Former Adjunct Instructor (see "From Seminary to the Nations" on pp. 6-8)

Paul Helbig • Katy, TX

Bible Institute and TBS Co-founder, Founding Professor, and former Bible Certificate Dean (2008-16)

First and foremost, I wake up every day and miss teaching. I miss the students the most. As I reflect on memories with them, it brings me laughter. The students I had were fun, funny, warm, and had a strong appetite for the word of God. I'm proud to see them continue to spread this as they work in ministry. I am grateful to still connect with former TBS students, such as Kevin Alvarez, Kevin Penner, Tyler Moffett, and Ed Thomas, whom my son was able to visit while on vacation in Japan.

A prominent memory for me at TBS was being able to go on the Israel trip with my eldest son, Kanen. I recently got to meet with Stephanie and John Leggett and reminisced on the Israel trip. My progressive and aggressive MS (Multiple Sclerosis) is now in its thirteenth year and continues to worsen. During this difficult time, our community has been consistently generous and supportive.

Krystal and I celebrated our 34th anniversary in April. Additionally, five of our six children have graduated from college, and the youngest will be a junior at Texas A&M this Fall. Kanen (31) and his wife, McKenzie, are expecting their fourth child, our fourth grandchild, in the coming months. Paige (29) is pursuing teaching this Fall. Cade (26) is continuing his career in dual chemical and mechanical engineering. Hunter (26) and his wife, Allie, now reside and work in Houston. Summer (24) will finish her Doctorate in PT (Physical Therapy) in the Spring. Hope (20) is going to Texas A&M and will be earning her Aggie ring this Spring.

Chris Henson • Magnolia, TX

Former Adjunct Instructor, serves as Vice-President of Vibrity (vibrity.com) and Chief Operating Officer of Brain Function Testing (brainfunctiontesting.com)

Brad Hulyk • Katy, TX

Former Adjunct Instructor, a retired Principal Geophysicist from Shell International

Guy Jackson • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as President of WORDview Ministries (wordview.org)

Saji John • San Antonio, TX

Former Adjunct Instructor, serves as Pastor of Ark International Church (arkinternationalchurch.com)

Jeremiah Johnston (ChristianThinkers.com) • Plano, TX

Adjunct Professor, serves as Associate Pastor of Apologetics and Cultural Engagement at Prestonwood Baptist Church (Prestonwood.org) and Dean of Spiritual Development at Prestonwood Christian Academy (PrestonwoodChristian.org)

Jim Leggett • Katy, TX

Founding President (2010-13), Board member (2014-20), and Adjunct Professor (2021-present), serves as Pastor of Grace Fellowship Church (WhatIsGrace.org)

Back in 2010, an amazing story inspired us in launching The Bible Seminary (TBS). The story involves the College Commons building constructed in 1386 AD at New College in Oxford, England. A contemporary visitor noticed the massive, magnificent, majestic oak beams that buttressed the open ceiling and asked if those were the original beams.

"No, they're not," replied the Administrator. "Those are the 'new beams.' When it became apparent in the 1890's that the original beams need to be replaced, the College thought it faced a crisis when they wondered where in the world they would ever find giant oaks of the size needed to yield such massive beams. Yet, the college forester already knew the answer. Hidden away in the back hills of the college property was a great stand of giant oak trees, over 500 years old, all planted at the same time by the same man who fashioned the original beams back in 1386. He knew his handiwork would wear out someday, so he planned ahead by planting saplings to grow trees for replacement beams centuries before they were needed."

I am so grateful for all the people who helped launch TBS back in 2010 with a vision to raise up giant oak ministers to advance the Kingdom of God and help fulfill the Great Commission. Let's keep investing in those oak trees!

K. Lynn Lewis (KLynnLewis.com) • Sugar Land, TX

President and Professor (see "From the President" on pp. 34-36)

Israel Loken • Lexington, TX

Adjunct Professor, serves as Professor of Bible and Theology at the College of Biblical Studies (cbs.edu) and Adjunct Professor at Dallas Theological Seminary (dts.edu)

Ryan Lokkesmoe • Lake Wylie, SC

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Senior Pastor at Community Church (cclw.org)

Daniel Lopez • Sugar Land, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Real Estate Broker and Sales Consultant with Church Realty (church-guy.com)

Phillip Marshall • Spring, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Associate Professor of Biblical Languages at Houston Baptist University (hc.edu)

Angela McClinton • Katy, TX

Adjunct Professor, Development Director, and Librarian, serves as Executive Pastor at The Waters Church (Iamthewaters.org)

Jordan McClinton • Katy, TX

Adjunct Professor, serves as Worship Pastor at The Waters Church (Iamthewaters.org)

Chris McKinny • Nashville, TN

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as a Professor at Lipscomb University (lipscomb.edu)

Steven Mills • Zachary, LA

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as President of Lighthouse Outreaches (LighthouseOutreaches.com), Vice-President of International Operations for Vision International University (Vision.edu), and Africa Apostolic Overseer of Surge Association of Churches (Surge.org)

Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. (ralphneighbour.com) • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor and retired President of TOUCH Global Training Center

J. Paul Nyquist • Sante Fe, TX

Former Graduate Dean and Professor, as well as former President of Moody Bible Institute (2009-18)

I offer a heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Lewis, the faculty, staff and students of The Bible Seminary as you rejoice in the goodness of God on your 15th anniversary. Training for biblical ministry has never been more challenging than it is today and you do it with excellence. I retired three years ago from full-time vocational ministry but still find joy in mentoring, teaching and preaching as opportunities arise. May God richly bless you as you boldly seek to fulfill your mission in the future.

Linda Pattillo • Cypress, TX

Former Adjunct Professor

Phillip Pattillo • Cypress, TX

Former Adjunct Professor

Brian Peterson • Cleveland, TN

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Associate Professor old Old Testament at Lee University (LeeUniversity.edu)

Doug Petrovich • Richmond, TX

Former Graduate Dean and Professor of Biblical History and Exegesis, serves as Professor of Biblical History and Exegesis at Brookes Bible College (Brookes.edu)

Anjeanette "AJ" Roberts • Covina, CA

Former Adjunct Professor and former Research Fellow and Staff Scientist at National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Patricia Ryan • Houston, TX

Adjunct Professor, serves as Associate Pastor at Windwood Presbyterian Church (Windwoodpc.org) and Founder and President of A Future and a Hope Counseling Ministries (afutureandahopeministries.com)

Charles Savelle • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Assistant Professor of Bible Exposition at Dallas Theological Seminary (dts.edu)

Israel Steinmetz • Brookshire, TX

Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Practical Theology (see "Why 'Bible' is Our Middle Name" on pp. 42-43)

Congratulations to The Bible Seminary on its fifteen-year anniversary! I am so grateful to be a part of this seminary community and am excited to see how God continues to bless and grow TBS in the years to come.

Josh Stout • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Associate Attorney at Kirkland & Ellis

Scott Stripling (ScottStripling.net) • Richmond, TX

Provost, Professor, and Vice-President of Donor Relations (see "Provost's Pen" on pp. 40-41)

Steve Sullivan • Oklahoma City, OK

Former Adjunct Professor and retired Professor from the College of Biblical Studies

Jacob Sweeney • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, serves as Executive Director of The Rise Initiative at Core Group Resources (CoreGroupCares.com)

Terry Teykl • Spring, TX

Former Adjunct Professor, is an author and leader of Prayer Point Press (PrayerPointPress.com)

Blake Wilson • Houston, TX

Former Adjunct Instructor, serves as Lead Pastor of Crossover Bible Fellowship (CrossoverBibleFellowship.org)



Founding Professor **Paul Helbig** and founding Librarian and Administrative Assistant **Janice Hamric** in 2016



Jim and Lisa Leggett with young Leggett grand-saplings



Paul and Cheryl Nyquist



Israel and Anna Steinmetz and family

QUOTES PROVIDED BY


THE BIBLE
SEMINARY
LIFE · LEADERSHIP · LEGACY

50
INSTRUCTORS
AND
PROFESSORS

2008
THROUGH
2025



Saturday
September
20th
2025



TheBibleSeminary.edu/seminar

Attend In-Person or Online

LEGACY PLANNING

101

FOR FAMILY AND FAITH



Bobby Dean



Julia Dean

This seminar explores the foundational principles of biblical stewardship, with a special emphasis on estate planning to maximize family and Kingdom impact. Bobby and Julia Dean have over 30 years of experience in estate planning.

Saturday, September 20 ■

Check-in at 8:00 AM

Seminar begins at
8:30 AM until 2:30 PM

Location ■

The Bible Seminary
2655 S Mason Rd
Katy, TX 77450

Register ■

TheBibleSeminary.edu/seminar
Early Bird Deadline is August 20
Receive \$20 off with code: **earlylegacy**

*Lunch provided for in-person attendance

\$89

per person

Register at
TheBibleSeminary.edu/seminar
281-646-1109

Scan to register

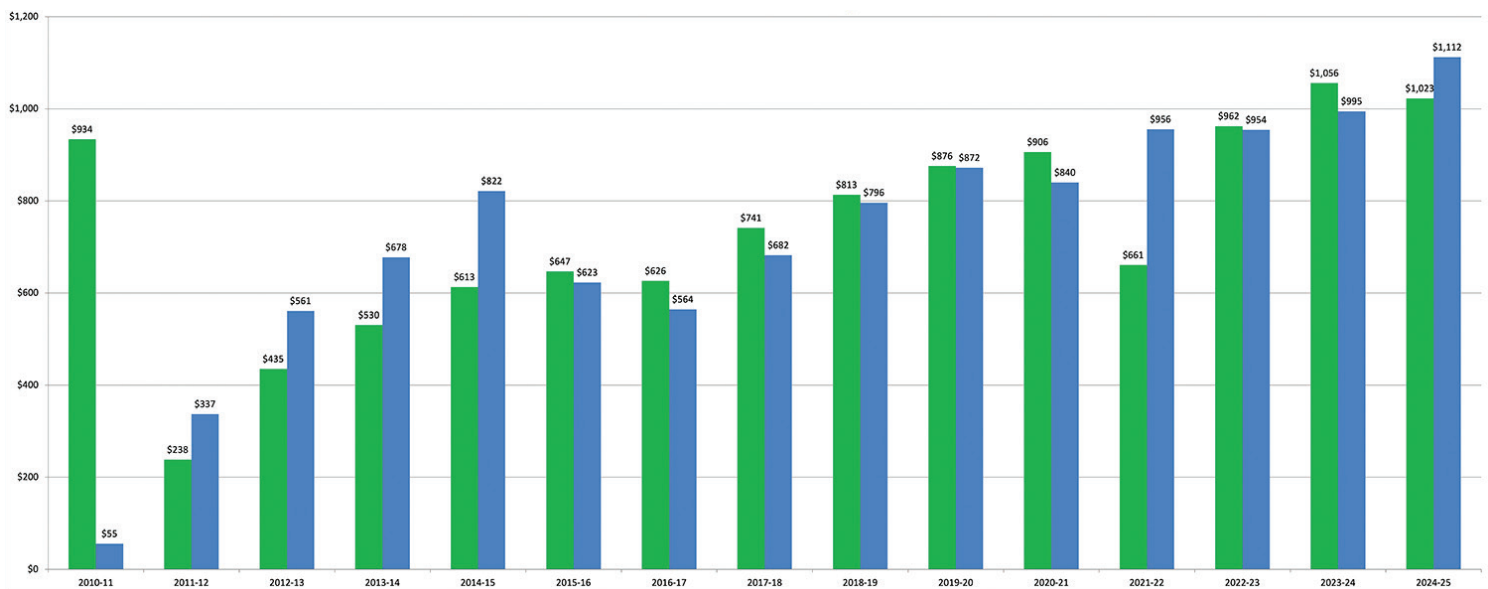




2010 - 2025

FINANCES

2010-25 Fiscal Year **Income** vs **Expenses** (x 1,000)



Total 2010-25 Income (\$11,063,000) vs Expenses (\$10,485,000)
includes an average of 17% funding provided from tuition and fees and 83% from donations.



Income exceeded expenses 9 out of 15 years, including 8 of the last 10.

Income



Expenses



Strengthening our financial future includes building a stronger financial reserve (\$300,000 goal) and starting an Endowment (\$3.5 million goal).



Average monthly operations income to meet the \$1.2 million 2025-26 annual budget equals \$100,000 per month.



THEBIBLESEMINARY.EDU/SUPPORT





Ways to Support

The Bible Seminary

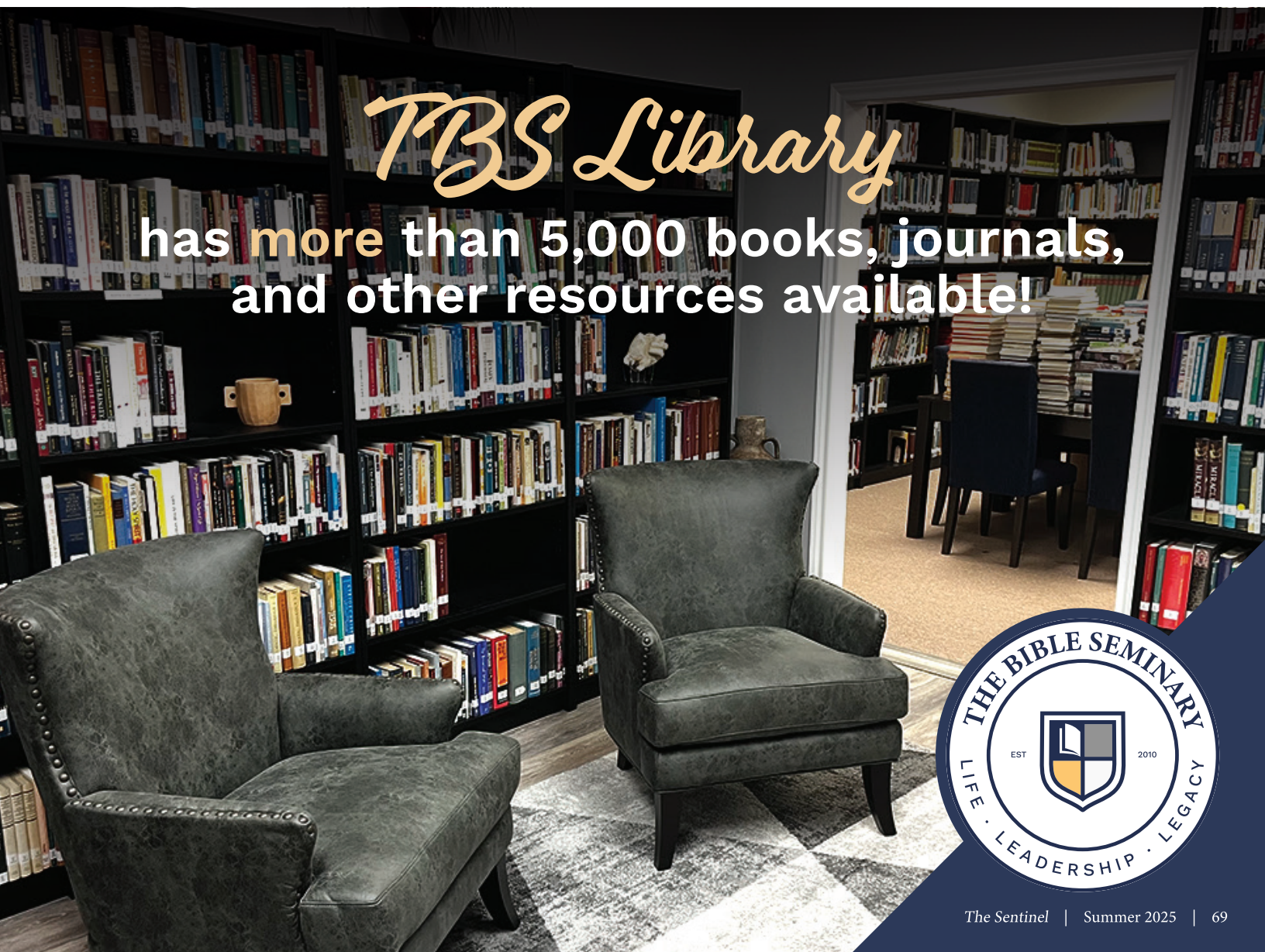
Online / Give Online via a one-time or recurring donation. Automatic monthly donations are super helpful! Visit TheBibleSeminary.edu/support.

Mail / Please make checks payable to “The Bible Seminary” and mail to 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd, STE H120-930, Katy, TX 77494-3109.

QCD / Give via Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from an IRA to TBS up to \$108,000 per individual in 2025. This can also help satisfy Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from traditional IRAs for persons aged 73 or older.

Adopt-a-Book / Adopt-a-Book for \$100. If supporters adopted at least 3,000 books in TBS library, that would fund the \$300,000 reserve needed to stabilize seasonal fluctuations throughout the year and help meet TRACS accreditation requirements. Visit TheBibleSeminary.edu/adopt.

All donations are charitable and tax-deductible as allowed by law. If you have any legal questions, please see your tax advisor for more information. The Bible Seminary is an incorporated 501(c)(3) institution of higher education, an Accredited member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) approved to offer Distance Education, an approved CEU provider by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), an Accredited member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), and holds a GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency.

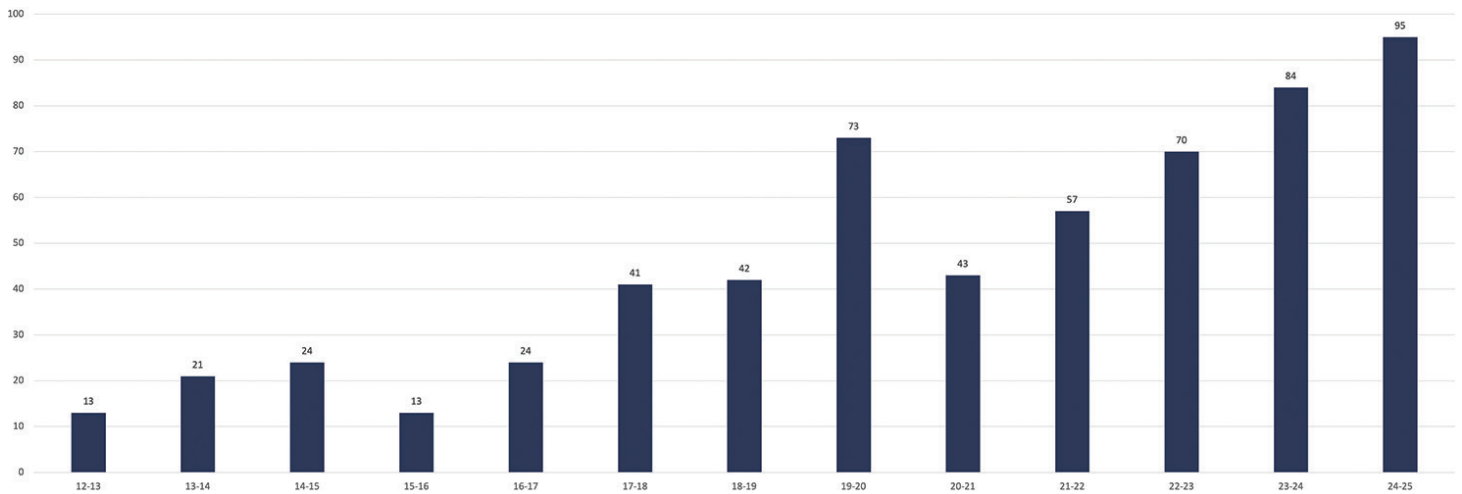




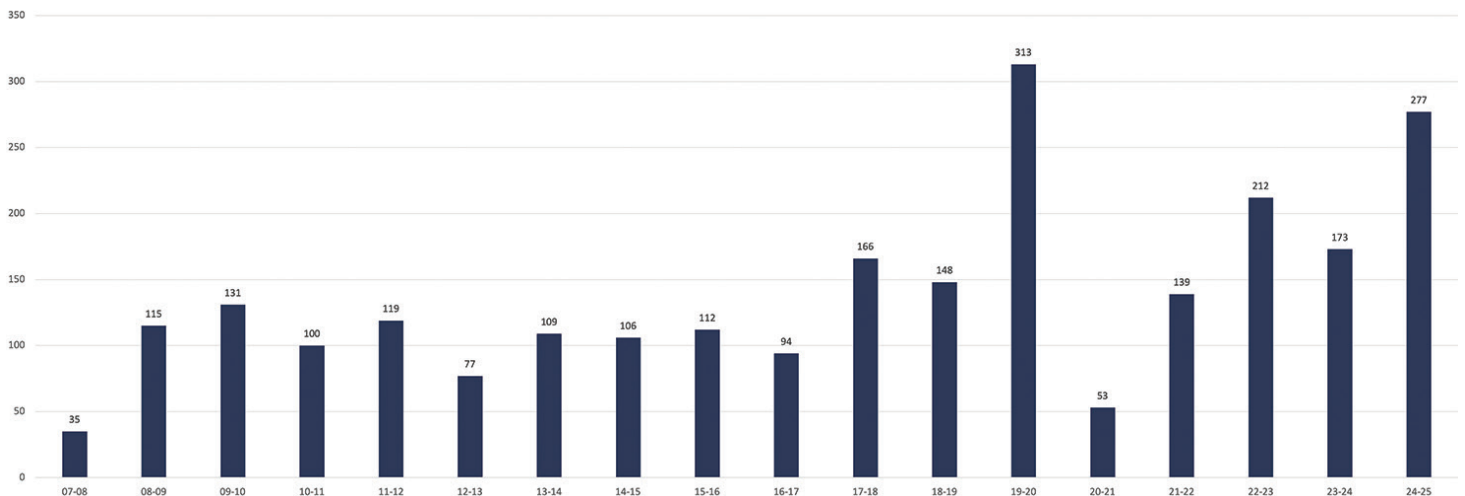
THE BIBLE SEMINARY

»» STUDENTS ««

Individuals Enrolled in Grad Classes Per Year



Total Individuals Enrolled





TBS Enrollment

TBS enrollment **continues to grow** as the 2024-25 academic year continued a 5-year pattern of increasing enrollment with a historical record of 95 individuals enrolled in graduate courses. Total individuals enrolled in courses and seminars reached the second highest level ever with 277 as of July 1.



2025-2026 Student Government Association (SGA) Board

Janet Fischer President

Jared Martin Chaplain

Jacob Kohlmeier Vice-President

Emma Clodfelder ... Activities Director

Rebekah Yi Secretary/Treasurer

Ruth Farthing Virtual Liaison



Prayer Parchment Ministry

As disciples of Christ, we believe praying for others is both our sacred responsibility and a profound privilege. The Apostle Paul instructs us to make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for all people (1 Timothy 2:1), thereby making ourselves a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7). For in this way, we bear each other burdens (Galatians 6:2), treating strangers like friends, and friends like family (John 13:34-35).

To help facilitate this kingdom-oriented vision, the TBS Prayer Team will share its compilation of the previous week's prayer requests, every Thursday, with the entirety of the TBS faculty and student body, inviting each person to join us in prayer each week. A PDF version of each week's prayer requests will also be provided, enabling our prayer warriors the ability to conveniently print out the requests, and pray over them throughout the week.

We likewise desire to extend the invitation to receive prayer to anyone in need. Thus, if you would like to submit a prayer request or provide a testimony of answered prayer to encourage and edify the broader prayer community:

Please Contact SGA Chaplain, Rev. Jarred Martin >>> Prayer@TheBibleSeminary.edu
or Text "Prayer For" >>> #833-834-3786



Michelle Berrong | MDiv student Flagstaff, AZ

"I feel blessed to be part of The Bible Seminary. Our school is such a spectacular gem in every way!! The quality of instruction is world-class (unequalled, in my decade+ of post-graduate studies), the classes are small and intimate, and the community is just wonderful—each one of us bringing something unique and valuable to class discussions. I can't even tell you how much I've grown and how much TBS has changed my life and my walk with the Lord—it has been spherically transformative—affecting every single area of my life. This place created with God's help is a REAL TREASURE and my heart is full of love for the school, the staff, and our brilliant professors."

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart!



TBS Geocache

Geocaching is a real-world treasure-hunting game that has captured the imagination of adventurers since it began in May 2000. Participants use GPS-enabled devices to search for hidden containers—called geocaches—all over the globe. TBS is now on the map joining more than 3 million active geocaches worldwide. By hiding a geocache on campus, we join a global community of explorers, families, and travelers eager to discover new places. We hope our geocache sparks curiosity and guides a whole new group of visitors to the 3J Museum, where they'll enjoy the thrill of adventure as they encounter incredible stories and artifacts highlighting real places, real people, and real events in the Bible.

Visit [Geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com) or Download the **Geocaching®** app 



» GRADUATES «



David Adams

Bible Certificate (BC)

A retired U.S. Army veteran, David's many military awards and achievements include earning the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas Tech University, an Applied Jewelry Professional (AJP) from the Gemological Institute of America, and an HVAC System License from Vista College. Loving son to his mother and stepfather, Nikki and Gary Don Smith, and brother to Michelle and her husband, Steve Tuttle, David hopes to serve in a ministry or nonprofit focusing on persons struggling with mental illnesses.



Jennifer Bartlett / *Magna Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS)

Master of Arts in Bible Languages and Culture (MABLC)

A distance education student in Palm Coast, Florida, Jennifer and her husband Brett have six children—whom they have homeschooled—and four grandchildren. Founder of Alpha Women's Center (the only crisis pregnancy center in her local area and now celebrating its 26th year), she has been teaching and coaching children and teens in various ministry contexts since 1998. She served as Production Assistant for Associates for Biblical Research's *Bible and Spade* magazine from 2016 to 2020 and currently works as a freelance writer and editor for various Christian publications.

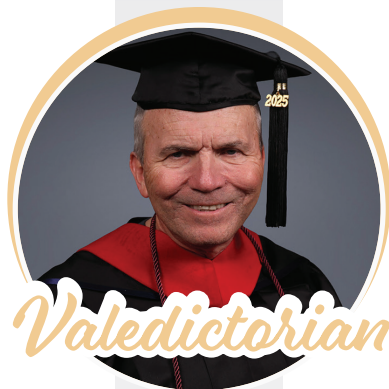


Jennifer Blandino

Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS)

Executive Director of Grow Ministry (Prayer Team, Small Groups, and 1:1 Leadership Development) and previous Youth Ministry Leader at The Waters Church, Jennifer looks forward to ordination following Commencement by the church where she and her family have grown deeply in faith, community, and purpose. She plans to continue studying toward a Master of Divinity while simultaneously pursuing a bachelor's degree in counseling. She has served as Executive Assistant and Project Administrator for 24 years at CORE Real Estate, LLC—a Houston commercial real estate development firm where deep Christian roots and strong leadership profoundly shaped her faith and growth.

I am incredibly grateful for the support of my family—my greatest joys and a steady source of strength and encouragement throughout my life—including my husband and best friend of almost 27 years, three remarkable adult children, wonderful daughter-in-law, and deeply adored extended family. The opportunity to serve and be transformed by God's work in both ministry and vocation has been incredibly rewarding. Above all, it is my love for Christ and desire to walk closely with Him that fuels my life, my learning, and my service.



Dan Lawless | *Summa Cum Laude*

Master of Arts in Church History and Theology (MACHT)

Former Rio Grande Region President of Chase Bank of Texas and Relationship Manager/Senior Vice-President of Chase Bank, Dan earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Statistics and Operations Research from the University of Texas at Austin (1977) and MBA in Finance from Arizona State University (1979). Husband to Kathy, dad to Katie and David, and proud “Pops” to seven energetic grandkids who keep life lively, he recently wrapped up his fourth season digging into the past as an archaeology volunteer at Tel Shiloh, Israel. A volleyball court veteran with 25 years of referee experience under his whistle, he also enjoys playing disc golf.



Pam Magee

Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS)

Current Executive Pastor and former Business Pastor of Parkway Fellowship Church in Richmond, Texas, Pam worked in banking for more than 30 years overseeing production in as many as 16 states. Former President of the Bellaire location of First City Texas Bank, Southeast Regional Manager of Wells Fargo Bank, Senior Vice-President of Whitney Bank, and Vice-President and Business Services Manager of PrimeWay Federal Credit Union, she has been named one of the “Top 5 Houstonians,” one of the “Top 5 Texans,” and nominated as one of the “Top 10 Americans.” She studied Finance, Accounting, and Marketing at Houston Christian University (1988), earned a degree in Commercial Lending from the University of Oklahoma (1989), and a Master’s in Commercial Banking from Southern Methodist University (1992). She has been married to Mark (a career SVP Banker with Amegy Bank) for 32 years. They have son, Michael (married to Lyndsey with two children, Loden and Sutton), twin son Phillip, and twin daughter Marci (married to Stephen with two children, Caleb and Alaina).



Yamile Soto | Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS)

Current Business Manager and CFO at TBS, Yami has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Accounting from Florida Gulf Coast University (2008) and a Master’s in Accounting from Liberty University (2015). She previously worked as a Senior Financial Accountant at Opportune LLC in Houston, Accounting Manager at Element Materials Technology in Houston, and Controller/Operations Manager at Superior Foods in Miami, Florida.

My husband, Omar, and I are blessed with three amazing kids (Jesus, Alyette, and Dalilah) and one precious grandson who brings so much joy to our lives. Earning my CTS has been a dream for a long time and working at TBS truly feels like I’m living out my dream job every day. Omar and I also have the privilege of pastoring a home group where we walk alongside others in their faith journey and are deeply involved with WOW Life World global ministry.

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.

— Israel Steinmetz



Allison Taylor / *Magna Cum Laude*

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (MABS)

Allison serves as Marketing Director for TBS and the 3J Museum. Along with her mother, Linda, she owns Taylor Insurance Agency where they have served greater Houston for over thirty years. An alumnus of Stephen F. Austin State University where she received a BS in Agriculture/Horticulture (2005), she later trained as a chef at Le Cordon Bleu and earned a diploma in Baking and Patisserie (2012) giving her the opportunity to run kitchens and serve as resident chef at the cooking school, Sur la Table. She plans to serve as a City Leader and missionary to Houston and serve Grace Fellowship as strategy coordinator for an unengaged and unreached people group (UUPG).



Ryan Wood / *Summa Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies (BACS)

Master of Arts in Biblical History and Archaeology (MABHA)

Native of Dalhart, Texas (top of the Texas panhandle north of Amarillo), Ryan grew up helping in the cattle and trucking business owned by his father. Youngest of two boys, his mom is a nurse, and his background includes myriad 4-H projects, Houston Livestock Show Junior Commercial Steer Feeding & Management contests, graduating in the top 10% of his high school class, and receiving the National Honors Society "Boy of the Year" Award his senior year (2020). A Square Supervisor on the 2025 Tel Shiloh Excavation, he plans to enroll in doctoral studies and conduct future research in the field of Biblical Archaeology.

Congratulations

..... to our

2025 TBS GRADS!

DAVID ADAMS



JENNIFER BARTLETT

JENNIFER BLANDINO



DAN LAWLESS

PAM MAGEE



YAMILE SOTO

ALLISON TAYLOR



RYAN WOOD



PUZZLE »» ANSWERS ««



CROSSWORD

puzzle can be found on pp. 46-47

01	Theological	16	Divinity
02	Languages	17	Nehemiah
03	Archaeology	18	TBS
04	Dunham	19	Peters
05	Lewis	20	Evans
06	Pieterse	21	Helbig
07	McCalip	22	Biblical
08	Christian	23	McClinton
09	Steinmetz	24	Leggett
10	Soto	25	Taylor
11	PRS	26	Audit
12	Theology	27	Quimby
13	Clodfelder	28	Shiloh
14	Stripling	29	Mesa
15	Seminars	30	Dual

NUMBER

puzzle can be found on p. 51

01	2010	13	4,000
02	15	14	2,500
03	5	15	600
04	10	16	125
05	101	17	38
06	109	18	159
07	82	19	30
08	370	20	4,700
09	45	21	175
10	75+	22	5,000
11	13	23	3
12	4,400	24	33

THE BIBLE

SEMINARY

Mailing Address

23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd, Ste H120-930
Katy, TX 77494-3109

Physical Address

2655 S Mason Rd, Katy, TX 77450

Office: 281.646.1109

Email: info@TheBibleSeminary.edu

TheBibleSeminary.edu



Vision

»» The Bible Seminary exists to glorify God by impacting multitudes of souls for Christ and to help fulfill the Great Commission by the power of God's Spirit.

Mission

»» Our mission is to foster biblical literacy through studies of all 66 books of the Bible, cultivate professional and lay leadership skills, and deploy trained Christian disciples in service worldwide.

Key Verse

»» "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

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.g. 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, integrated with the curriculum, in classroom settings, meetings, and continual 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 church universal (the body of Christ) is God's plan (Matthew 16:18), comprised of local churches (Acts 5:42, 20:28; Romans 16:3-5), we will have a symbiotic relationship of service, training and education with local churches and parachurch ministries.

COMMUNITY

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

COMPASSION

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