



The TGCBI Herald

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Editor
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THIS ISSUE

**First Graduates!
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*The important thing is
that in every way...
Christ is preached. And
because of this I rejoice.*

Philippians 1:18

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José Dimas Velasquez

Giovanni Mendoza

First TGCBI Graduates!

The Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute is proud to announce José Dimas Velasquez and Giovanni Mendoza as the first two graduates of our full-time program.

On December 14, 2007, at the Watters Road Church of Christ in Pasadena, Texas, we all enjoyed celebrating with the Mendoza and Velasquez families as they arrived at the conclusion of two years of study and field work.

Rudy Wray and Armando Alaniz reminded the graduates (and the audience) of the task of evangelism that confronts us, as a church and as individuals.

More than 100 people, from two schools and nine congregations, represented how God has blessed the TGCBI with growing support and impact. They watched a power point of the story of how the institute has developed and walked through doors God has opened since 2003.

One of the most meaningful moments was the opportunity to bless Dimas and Giovanni with a charge and prayer. At the end of the service, leaders from the schools and congregations represented gathered around these two men and laid their hands on them as Charlie Middlebrook led us in a prayer of blessing.



Afterwards we all enjoyed a reception and refreshments, prepared by Julio and Fior Beitia and a hard-working group from Baytown.

Now Dimas will continue his work as an elder (and full-time minister) of the Impact church of Christ in inner-city Houston, and Giovanni will do full-time mission work with a congregation in Honduras.

We are proud of them, and grateful to all who supported them—at Alvin, at Southeast, at Impact, at the institute, and from the TGCBI supporters at large. You have all made a kingdom investment that will bear eternal rewards.

2008 New Students

This year God has blessed the TGCBI with four new full-time students as we begin our third year of full-time classes. Including our second-year students, the school now has seven full-time students. We are grateful to God for this growth, and pray that it continues.



Andres and Gloria Guajardo (above) come to us from the Dallas area. Originally they are from Monterrey, Mexico, where they converted to Christ 30 years ago.

Then they came to Texas, and Andres kept working in his occupation as baker, in Lufkin, Texas. Wherever they have worked, they have been faithful and active members in the local church, participating in fellowship and evangelism activities.

Andres and Gloria will be working in the Alvin area, southeast of Houston, where Giovanni Mendoza worked before graduating from our school last December.

Cruz Hernandez is the Hispanic minister for the Hidden Valley Church of Christ in Houston, Texas. He is full of energy and good ideas, hard-working, positive, intelligent, and servant-oriented, qualities which have earned him a good reputation in the Houston area.



Cruz has also worked as a youth minister in the Southwest Central Church of Christ in Houston, and as a minister of the Hempstead Church of Christ. He has a beautiful family with his wife Olga.

Agustin Garcia worked for many years for the City of Houston. When he retired, he was given the chance to begin a new Baptist church called The Door.

Agustin began to visit the school last year to take some courses, in order to prepare himself to preach better.

This year he decided to become a full-time student. We are very pleased with him. His attitude and character are excellent. What is more, he has been married to his wife,

Thelma, for 37 years, and has wonderful children and grandchildren.



For us, Agustin represents a group of ministers and/or members of other churches that the TGCBI could bless. We believe we teach the Bible accurately, and try to apply it in our lives and church plants. We are happy to share this knowledge with anyone from the community who wishes to take advantage of it. We look forward to meeting and sharing with other people like Agustin.



Please pray for these students as they learn and work in Alvin, Baytown, South Houston, and Clear Lake.

Spring Classes Begin

This quarter the video conferencing network will offer 12 courses, by 11 professors, to more than 85 students at 16 participating sites.



Armando Alaniz teaching Hebrew, in a class spanning six different sites.

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How Can You Help?

- ◆ Please pray for all students, activities, and churches related to the school, here and in the rest of the world.
- ◆ Please recommend any potential full-time students you might know of.
- ◆ Please consider whether your church might use these video conferencing classes as a method of outreach to the Hispanic population in your community.
- ◆ Please consider if you and/or your church might become partners in giving toward any person or project related to the TGCBI.