



**A Branch of
Sunset International
Bible Institute**

Editor
Steve Austin

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*Yet when I preach the
gospel, I cannot boast,
for I am compelled to
preach. Woe to me if I do
not preach the gospel! If
I preach voluntarily, I
have a reward."*
I Corinthians 9:16-17a

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The TGCBI Herald



*Jorge Pineda, dean of Sunset's Hispanic extension program
(welcome screen on www.sunsetonline.org/es)*

First Online Course Launched!

The Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute reached a major milestone on April 24, 2008, when the first online streaming video course was launched.

As far as we know, this is the first such course in Latino churches of Christ worldwide. There are such courses in English, and written correspondence courses in Spanish, but not streaming video in Spanish.

Kirk McAfee, from the Atlantic International Bible Institute, teaches "Spiritual Formation" (*Fundamentos de la Vida Espiritual*).

As of May 30, we have 38 students enrolled in this course! We invited a relatively small group to take this first course as a pilot course, so that we could have them vet it and tell us how it worked for them, both academically and also technologically. But we also have several who just found us on the internet.

I am amazed at how God has already blessed this effort, and wonder what other tremendous surprises he has in store. As of now, we have students from 10 countries--the US, Uruguay, Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, and—stunningly—Indonesia!

We had prayed, planned, and hoped that this program would reach people who for reasons of schedule, time, or place could not participate live in our courses by video conferences or at a school. This list confirms that, and it is just beginning.



Pedro and Silvia del Pozo, online coordinators

Lord willing, over the next several years, we hope to record and place online all of our core curriculum, and so give online students the chance to earn their certificate for the entire program. The next two courses are being prepared right now to go online.

These courses will be taught by excellent professors from many churches and schools on our video conferencing network in Latin America, including US schools, of course. In this way, it may be possible for the network as an entity to back this certification.

We are offering these courses in conjunction with Sunset International Bible Institute. Jorge Pineda, Rudy Wray, and Chris Swinford have all had important parts in helping this dream come to fruition. Rob Hindman, (now serving on a mission team in Russia), developed a fabulous, easy-to-use online structure for the courses. Jeff Rader has assumed the role of webmaster, and it is a blessing to work with him.

Pedro and Silvia del Pozo are helping to coordinate this entire program, doing much of the detail work in proofreading, course formatting, and thinking through big and small picture details which are so important at the beginning of such a project.

They began with us a little less than a year ago, and bring to the project a wonderful combination of biblical knowledge, maturity, enthusiasm, academic excellence, and technological expertise. The other amazing thing is that they're doing all this from Uruguay!

To see these courses, go to www.sunsetonline.org/es, (and for English take off the "es".) Please pray that God bless this effort.

TGCBI Local Progress

Our students in Houston are progressing well, having recently finished their second quarter of studies, and begun their third. By the end of this quarter, 34 courses will have been offered on the network in 2008.

We are very pleased to report that Eduardo Pulley was baptized by Renzo Mayorga, who is working in the Clear Lake area. This is the first baptism in that new work, and we pray God will continue to bless them.



Renzo, Eduardo, Maria (wife)

Earlier this year, several board members stepped down after years of service—Bill Green, Carol McDaniel, Ron Boilla, Bob Gardner, Carlos Perales, and Steve Montgomery. They were a great blessing and encouragement during the early formative years of the TGCBI, and continue to support us. We are grateful for their service.

At our first meeting this year, we added two new board members. Lindsay Gibbons is an elder and missions leader at the Southeast

Church of Christ, which supports the Guajardo family in Alvin. Todd Morte is a deacon at the Kingwood Church of Christ, and one of the leaders in the outreach ministry there. We are glad to welcome them aboard.



Todd Morte (not pictured, Lindsay Gibbons)

Network News

God continues to bless our partners on the video conferencing network. In March, our fellow student and brother Miguel was confirmed as an evangelist for his congregation in Guatemala City.

At the end of May, 16 students graduated from the 3-year program at the Quito School of Biblical Studies. At the end of June, 5 students will graduate from the Alpha and Omega school in Little Rock.

We have had a part in training these, and others, just as those schools have shared in training our students. Your support of us does not stop at our doors, but rather continues on through us to other countries. God is granting our vision of unity and results through shared resources.

Israel 2009

We are now planning our second trip to Israel, from May 29-June 10, 2009. We anticipate a spectacular time visiting more than 55 sites, Lord willing.

Among these are the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Hezekiah's tunnel, the Mount of Olives, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Caesarea, Megiddo, the Dead Sea, Qumran, Masada, Eilat, and many more. In addition, we are extending our trip to Jordan to visit sites such as Petra and Mount Nebo.

Though we will not know final costs until later this summer (because not all the rates are yet published), an estimated trip price is \$3500-4000.

We will notify you as soon as we know.

In order to provide great personal attention and a wonderful group atmosphere, we are limiting the group size to 36. More than 25 of these spots are already reserved.

If you would like more information, please contact me at Austin@tgcbi.org, or call (281) 787-3721. Or you can go to our website at www.tgcbi.org, and click on the Israel 2009 link on the left. Our itinerary and pictures from the 2007 trip are there.

Please pray that God will continue to bless and lead us in all our activities here at the TGCBI.

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