

**2023 TIBI Year-end Summary**

TIBI has enjoyed another wonderful year in 2023. We are grateful to the Lord! Here are some of the highlights:

* In January, TIBI marked its 20-year anniversary. From one small classroom in South Houston, we now have a presence in **78 countries**. From our first night class of 5 students, we now have more than **4200 students**. The Lord has truly done “more than we could ask or imagine!”
* Also in January, we celebrated *two* graduations! The first was a group of **54 students from 15 countries**, who received their Certificate of Counseling, after completing 5 counseling courses including practicum work. The second was the graduation of four students from two different programs online—the Bachelor of Biblical Studies, and the Christian Worker certificate.
* In May, we finally returned to Cuba, after being unable to travel there during the pandemic. We gave a training seminar for a group of 31 students from 4 different provinces. We also celebrated a graduation of 10 students who had finished the Christian Worker certificate, and baptized two people.
* In July, we hosted 23 people on our 9th trip to Israel and Jordan, in spite of complications from storms, wildfires, lost luggage, and delays.
* In July we also graduated our largest class ever, with 27 graduates, including one from Cuba.
* We welcomed our **17th class** of incoming undergraduate students in August. We had **117 students in live Zoom classes**, our second-highest total ever, an increase of 26% over the previous fall.
* August also saw the arrival of our **sixth and largest cohort** to our Masters of Practical Theology. We have a total of **33 active masters students**. In December, **5 students** from four different Latin American countries received this degree.
* In late December, we had our first-ever **video conferencing class with 10 sites in Cuba, by WhatsApp**. We didn’t even know that was possible till Liudmila Bencosme and her daughter Susana made it happen! We plan to do most of our courses in Cuba in this way in 2024, if possible.
* In 2023, we saw **at least 397** **baptisms** in all this year at sites where TIBI helps train leaders, making a total of **about 5800**+ since 2009. Four new congregations were planted, for a total of 77 since 2009.

Please pray for new possibilities we are investigating the area of **translating apps**. It may be possible to offer courses in Spanish and have them simultaneously translated into many different languages. We will see how the Lord might expand our work in this way.

God is always faithful, and we are grateful for his provision through your help and prayers. For 2024, we are focusing on expanding our fund raising through different people, churches, and contacts, in order to benefit our student scholarships and our translation technology. Contact Steve Austin at 281-787-3721 or austin@ibitibi.org with any potential donors. If you would like to learn about different ways of giving, including ideas about tax strategies, go to <https://ibitibi.org/en/benefactor>. God bless you!

Steve Austin, Director, TIBI