

# TIBI HERALD

## Editor

Steve Austin  
Volume 19, Issue 2  
August 26, 2022

## THIS ISSUE

**Graduation 2022**  
**Israel 2022**  
**Fast facts**

*“All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.”*  
Col. 1:6

## Texas International

**Bible Institute**  
P.O. Box 1501  
1502 Avenue I  
South Houston, TX 77587  
(713) 910-2819

Online video courses at  
[www.ibitenlinea.org](http://www.ibitenlinea.org)

[YouTube IBIT](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t)

[Montgomery@ibitibi.org](mailto:Montgomery@ibitibi.org)  
[austin@ibitibi.org](mailto:austin@ibitibi.org)  
<http://www.ibitibi.org/>  
<http://www.redinbi.org/>  
(Masters)

## Graduation 2022!



*Graduation, with students, families, and church members*

TIBI celebrated its 18th graduation on the afternoon of July 23, with people connecting by Zoom from 10 different countries (including Israel—our director, Steve Austin, joined from Jerusalem!).

The service was also livestreamed to friends, families, and church members on our YouTube channel. If you’d like to see the video, you can go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jzz0Uip4jl0>.

The administrative team of TIBI welcomed everyone and led in prayer and scriptures. Then Alejandro Mena, one of the graduates from Nicaragua, gave the response on behalf of the graduating class—a wonderful, moving, humorous message. Kevin Montgomery then handed out the diplomas and mezuzehs (digitally!), as always adding comments regarding each graduate’s achievements and qualities.

Those receiving the new Bachelor of Ministry and Biblical Studies degree, certified by AETH and ATS, were the following:

Bayron Alonso (México)  
Abraham Ancona (México)  
Leonardo Balladares (Nicaragua)  
Arnold Narvaez (Perú)  
Leonardo Capodicasa (Venezuela)  
Nekel Barbosa (Venezuela)  
Bismarck Castañeda (Nicaragua)

Reinner Hernandez (Colombia)  
Alejandro Mena (Nicaragua)  
Juan Montaña (Colombia)  
Yheison Parada (Venezuela)  
Harold Peralta (Ecuador)  
Estéfani Sanchez (Bolivia)  
Elizabeth Tabares (Colombia).

in addition, eight former graduates of TIBI had done the leveling work to earn the new AETH degree. To accomplish this, they had to take five new courses which TIBI had added to qualify for the AETH certification, plus additional projects for two more courses. We appreciate this because it shows the commitment these graduates have to learn continually in their lives and ministries.

These graduates included:

Jose Alemán García (Nicaragua)  
Naudy Corro (Venezuela)  
Franklin Diaz (Venezuela)  
Carlos García (Venezuela)

Cruz Gutierrez (Venezuela)  
Victor Landa (Mexico)  
José Medina (Venezuela)  
Joel Perez (US)

We are very proud of our graduates, and excited to see how God will continue to work through them in their lives and ministries. Please pray for them to be blessed and led by the Spirit.

## Israel 2022

From July 14-27, Steve Austin and Brent Isbell guided a group of 34 people to Israel, marking the eighth such trip TIBI has sponsored since 2007. This trip was the most challenging we have ever led, yet also rewarding, enjoyable, and informative, as other trips have been.

This group marked several superlatives in our Israel history. First, it was the longest in planning and execution, as COVID forced us to postpone it not once, but twice—from June 2021 to October 2021 to July 2022! Because of this, it was also the hottest trip, in mid-July, with temperaturas often over 100, or heat index of over 110 some days.

We also set a new record for the oldest person to go, with one sister at 90 years old! Yet she did amazingly well and kept pace, with grace and good humor. Two others were over 80 years old. It was wonderful to watch how the group helped each other out as we walked up and down and around mountains, rivers, cities and tells of over 50 sites. Members of the group were kind and positive in spite of some challenges, such as two people of the group needing hospital attention during the time (not on their personal bucket lists, but taken care of well anyway!)

Besides these challenges, the group also overcame cancellations of 3 of the 4 flights, including the last two home, only 17 hours before we were to leave for the airport! Instead of going home on two flights, we had people on 10 different flights! But eventually all made it back safely.



Synagogue at Nazareth



Site of John 21, Sea of Galilee



Jacob's well, Sychar (Nablus)



Alternate transportation, Samaria

As always, each night we would gather as a group after supper to talk about the day, and what places or events had impacted the group. Many places were traditional favorites, such as our Sunday Lord's supper service in the Garden of Gethsemane, the church at Calvary, the Sea of Galilee (whether on the boat or shore), the Masada fortress overlooking the stark Dead Sea landscape, the En Gedi oasis, or the living village at Nazareth, among others.

If you are interested in going on our next trip, it is planned for June 29-July 12, 2023. On that journey, Lord willing, we plan to visit not only Israel, but also spend two days in the country of Jordan, including sites such as Mount Nebo, Macherus, and a new Wonder of the World in the rose-red city of Petra. You may contact Steve Austin at [Austin@ibitibi.org](mailto:Austin@ibitibi.org) to get information and reserve a spot.

## Fast Facts

At least twice a year, TIBI evaluates and analyzes our program and performance, from academics to student body to financial status to new opportunities. What we learn from these assessments is useful, interesting, and often pleasantly surprising.

Some of the recent changes or numbers include the following:

- We now have 155 graduates from our bachelors' program; one-third of these have been in the last three years, reflecting recent growth experienced in spite of COVID challenges.
- The number of students completing at least one course online through our video program doubled from last year to this year, revealing a growing utilization of that format.
- We have graduates from 19 of the 22 Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, and students from 76 countries.
- Of our 28 faculty members from 9 countries, 19 of them teach at least one course each year in our live Zoom program. Of these, 4 have doctorates and 17 have masters' degrees.
- Our Master of Practical Theology program welcomed its fifth cohort this August; we currently have 40 in that program, and this December will celebrate the second cohort's graduation.
- Over the last year, our academic program has been strengthened by faculty equipping and the introduction of Canvas as our learning management system.

We are grateful to the Lord for his blessing and leading in all this, as well as for our wonderful faculty and student body. We also appreciate your support in prayer and donations as we head in to another school year.

Texas International Bible Institute  
1502 Avenue I  
South Houston, TX, 77587