



The TIBI HERALD



Editor
Steve Austin
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THIS ISSUE

*Profile of a TIBI
scholarship student*
TIBI Intangibles
Mobile Cause

*“How good and pleasant it
is when brothers live
together in unity.”*

Psalm 133:1

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Profile of a TIBI Scholarship Student

At TIBI, we're in the middle of our scholarship selection process. This year 45 candidates from 9 different countries applied to study. We would love to be able to grant all of them scholarships to study full-time. Depending on the economic conditions of the various countries, our scholarships range from \$100/month to \$600/month. So we may only be able to give eight to twelve scholarships this year.



Orientation with some of the new students from August 2015

Ideal students for TIBI are those who, first of all, love the Lord and His church. They have been a Christian for at least two years and have been involved in church activities in a variety of ways, developing their gifts, growing in knowledge and faith. They should be open-minded and loving, ready to learn from and share with others.

It's best if they have at least a high school diploma, and preferably a college one; it's also good if they are computer-literate and can handle most basic software.

We also consider whether a church has already benefited from one of their members studying with TIBI; whether a student has studied in another institute and already has training; and how many churches there are in a city or an area of a country. We want to utilize our resources as efficiently as possible.

Does your church have mission works in Latin America, or are you thinking about planting one? Do you want training for ministers or church leaders in those congregations? We can help you in several ways.

If you already sponsor a church or minister, and would like him to receive more training, we can provide that live or online. Depending on the format and goals, you could even receive this training free. Or if your minister needs to have more time for evangelism and visitation, we can free up time for him by helping train the new members and leaders of the congregation. Our goal is to collaborate with you and the local church to further the kingdom.

We believe that the resources the Lord has given us can bless hundreds of churches, if utilized. We invite you to participate in one of these ways. You can contact Steve Austin or Kevin Montgomery at the emails listed on page 1.

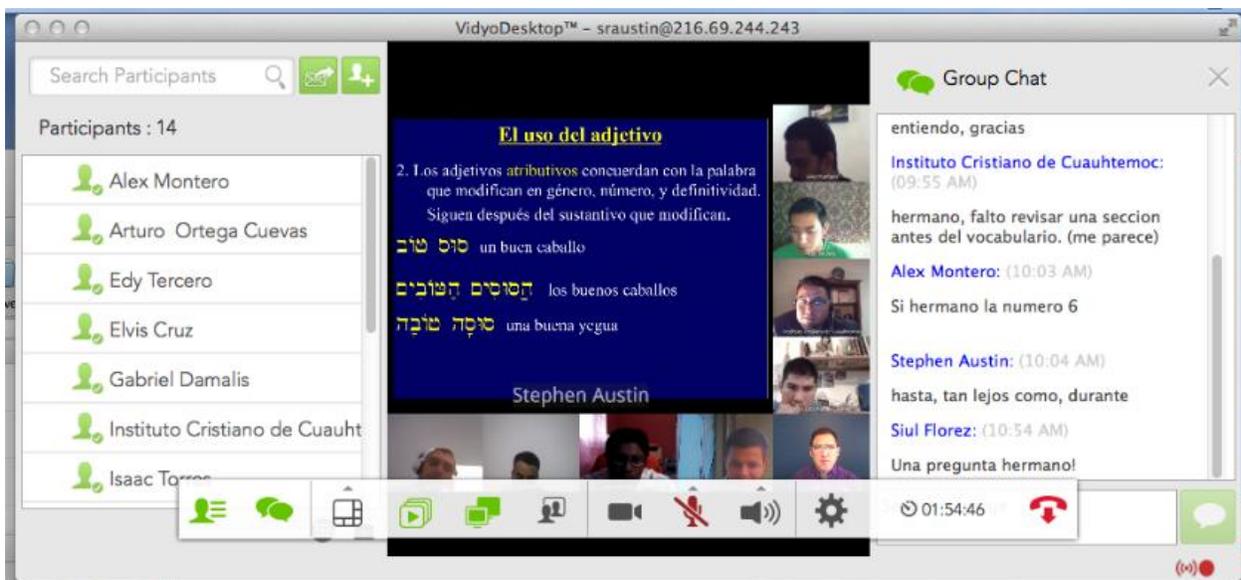
TIBI Intangibles

TIBI is now in its eleventh year of full-time training and ministry, and the Lord continues to challenge and surprise us. We have described many projects through these newsletters, pictures, and social media. Yet one aspect of our school goes somewhat unnoticed because it's intangible and unmeasurable. I'm referring to a growing, pleasant unity among the faculty, students, and churches connected through TIBI.

Often as a student goes to a traditional school on a campus for 2-4 years, he lives mainly in that environment—that campus, that town, those churches. Students come to know each other very well, and yet it in some ways it's a micro-environment.

At TIBI, since we train our students in place, they remain with their churches, towns, governments, countries, all living different experiences. As they connect to class every day, they step on an international stage where every day they hear about what's happening in more than 20 different places from 7-8 countries.

(Notice in the picture below the chat windows to the left (private) and right (public). Just in this screenshot on the left we have people from Venezuela, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Nicaragua. On the right they can make comments, ask questions, share scriptures, ideas, prayer requests, even humor as they go through the classes.)



Our students learn directly what their Venezuelan brethren suffer each day with the economy, food lines, internet troubles, and politics; they pray for people in Central

and South America with the Chikunguya and Zika fevers; they empathize with gang problems in El Salvador; they rejoice with baptisms from a campaign in Colombia; they are saddened when fellow Christians pass away in Nicaragua; they realize the challenges of work in places like Cuba.

They see they are not the only ones to struggle with certain varieties of church problems, and so they learn from their brethren how those struggles are addressed in other countries. They see that their congregation's doctrine or practice on a certain topic is not the only way to believe or work; sometimes they find they are unique (in good or bad ways!).

They come to value other perspectives besides their own. They give and receive respect in class from teachers and fellow students even when they differ significantly. They can relax in an environment where they are safe to ask questions which perhaps they can't ask in their home congregations, and work through the answers freely. They may change a particular idea, or may not—but they see modeled and model the process of dialogue and critical thinking.

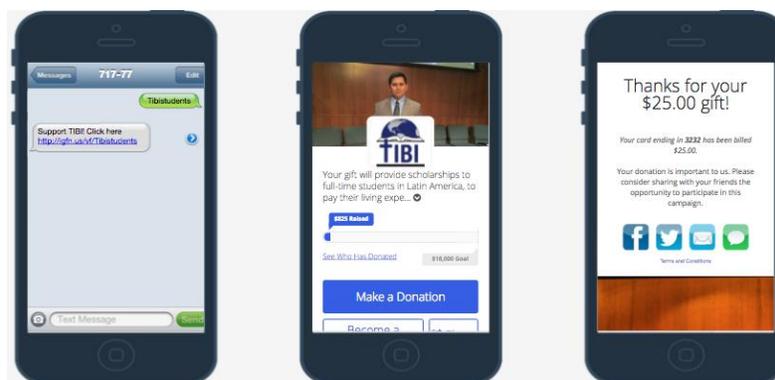
Education always should enlarge the mind; yet often we find our students' horizons' expanding much more than we or they expect. One comment we've heard numerous times from graduates is how much their perspective about Bible study, doctrines, and practices has changed positively from their first course to their last. That is gratifying to hear!

We strongly believe that part of our mission is to help create an atmosphere of trust, openness, and unity in not only TIBI but also the brotherhood of the churches of Christ. As our students cultivate new relationships and widen their network, they create new ways of working together virtually or even travelling to other countries to collaborate.

We look forward to a future in which our Hispanic brotherhood grows in love, respect and appreciation for one another, and also in a unity based on Christ's character, life, and teaching.

Mobile Cause

This past November, TIBI contracted with a company called Mobile Cause, a company which provides software and structure for online and mobile fund raising.



They are trusted and used by organizations as diverse as the United Way, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, Boys and Girls clubs, the Special Olympics, and many others, including schools and major universities like USC and Ohio State.

Now, with several clicks on your computer, iPad, iPhone, or Android devices, you can sign up to give one-time or regularly. You receive immediate confirmation and acknowledgement of your tax-free gift, and can respond to specific TIBI needs. And 100% of your donation goes to TIBI, not to administration or card fees.

For example:

- If you want to help fund our Cuba training program, you just text the word **TibiCuba** to **71777** on your phone, and you get a link to click that takes you to the page to give.
- If you want to give to our regular program, text **Tibistudents** to **41444** on your phone.
- If you just want to sign up for text updates, you can text **TIBI** to **51555** to, and you give us your phone number so we can add you to that list.

It takes just seconds, it's easy, and is completely encrypted and secure.

Besides that, you can also help us with crowdfunding. Each of you are friends with many people we don't know. From the same screen where you donate, you can tap "Become a Fundraiser", and then post TIBI news or needs to your Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, or LinkIn accounts, and help TIBI reach those people. It's easy, and is a great (free) way to bless TIBI.

We appreciate your support, and ask for your prayers that God will continue to provide new opportunities for us to share the gospel and expand the Kingdom.

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