January 10, 2021 

The year 2020 was completely unique in our modern experience, a year when virtually no aspect of our lives went untouched—jobs, church, any kind of gathering or relationship, sports, public life, travel, economy. Like you, all of us at TIBI know numerous people who contracted COVID, including some of our own staff’s families, our students, our colleagues, and their families. We mourned the passing of several within our sphere of students and teachers.

As you would surmise, our students’ practical work in their churches was greatly impacted; evangelism, home studies, visits, discipleship, and baptisms were all significantly reduced.

Yet in the midst of all this, God remained faithful. At TIBI, our work of teaching and mentoring continued without any significant loss; in fact, we recorded our highest fall enrollment and number of courses offered. The Lord helped us achieve wonderful results in spite of the challenges, including:

We saw **508** **baptisms** in all this year at sites where TIBI helps train leaders, making a total of **4800**+ since 2009.

The national Association for Hispanic Theological Education, with the approval of the Association of Theological Schools, **certified TIBI’s Bachelor’s degree in Ministry and Biblical Studies**, which means that our graduates can apply to any seminary in the country for graduate studies.

We were happy to welcome **Lewis Norman and Paul Gidden to our board**, and extended our gratitude to Lanny Partain and Lindsay Gibbon as they stepped down after many years of faithful service. We were sad when Lindsay passed away in late December, after decades of faithful service to the Kingdom.

Cuba: we now have had **15,775 students in all in Cuba in the last 8 years; 2293 of these are active** students in one or more courses. After Cuba had to lock down throughout the nation for at least two extended periods of time, and all mail delivery was canceled, Tony and Liudmila Fernandez creatively hosted the first ever virtual youth conference through the social media app, WhatsApp. Using this same app, they have also launched four new groups of students (at least 60 in all) taking four different courses. Two more groups will begin with other courses soon.

In August, we welcomed our third cohort to our Masters of Practical Theology project, making a full rotation for our three-year program, with a total of **39 masters students**.

In 2020, **TIBI graduated 11 more students from 7 countries**. Now we have 177 current full-time students or graduates working in 113 congregations in 78 cities in 18 countries.

In 2020 we completed the transition to **our own server**, so that we control all aspects of the online self-study courses. With this came a complete analysis of all students; currently **831 students** are signed up for one or more courses. Since 2018, we have had students from **76 different countries** create an account with us on ibitenlinea.org.

As of December 2020, we have a total of **2730+ students in live, online, or EBL formats**.

Our YouTube channel has 900+ videos; this year we topped **1 million total views (1,100,000) and have 11,300 subscribers**, in our first five years.

God is always faithful, and we are grateful for his provision through your help and prayers. For next year, we are raising funds especially for two growing areas: student scholarships, and the Cuba program. Thank you for considering us! God bless you!

Steve Austin

Director, TIBI