

November 19, 2009

Greetings! I want to thank you for your interest in the goals and ministry of the Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute. We have enjoyed another wonderful year in 2009 under God's guidance and blessing! Here are some of the highlights:

- Andres and Gloria Guajardo and Agustin Garcia became our third graduating class.
- The Guajardos continued to work in Alvin, and Agustin in La Puerta.
- Piero and Edita Drago, Juan Barron, and Jannacoeli Gonzalez came on as new students in August, when we changed the beginning of our school year.
- At least 83 baptisms (and probably more unreported) occurred at the sites we work with.
- TGCBI received a major grant to begin to expand our program internationally. Our first year international students are Daniel Urdaneta (Spain), Luis Lopez (Panama), Jertzain Gomez (Mexico), Tito Alfonso and Efrain Bermudez (Colombia), Francisco Rojas and Bernie Villalobos (Costa Rica)
- This grant also enabled us to bring on Carlos Camacho as our full-time mentor for international students.
- It also let us provide video conferencing equipment to bring on two more sites; though we have no scholarship students at Tipitapa, Nicaragua, and Santiago, Dominican Republic, they are active churches, and we are blessed to have a small part in their kingdom efforts.
- Last year's graduates—Renzo Mayorga (Clear Lake, Texas) and the Beitias (Holly Hills, Florida)—worked in establishing their works, with at least 7 baptisms.
- The video conferencing network expanded from 28 sites to 44 sites, from 10 countries to 17 countries, and offered more than 55 courses from 18 different professors. These sites include more than 200 students.
- The number of online video courses available went from 1 to 9. There are more than 240 students in 26 countries enrolled.
- We began to live stream our classes, in addition to the Polycom cameras, so that up to 50 more sites can connect to receive live or recorded audio and video of our current classes. We anticipate that this will be a great way for those whose budgets and internet capabilities are limited.
- We took 22 people to Israel on our second school trip there, seeing more than 50 sites.

What does 2010 hold? All of our students and graduates will continue to work in ministry in various locations. Lord willing, we hope to continue expanding the video conferencing network (our goal is to have at least one site in every Latin American capital by 2012). We also plan to continue to record more courses for the online program. We hope to upgrade our technology platform also.

As you plan your end of year giving, we would ask you to consider whether you think God wants you to contribute in some way to the TGCBI. Any of the above people or projects could benefit from your support, and you can help assure that these good works continue. We would be happy to count you as a one-time or monthly giver. You can contact us at (713) 910-2819, or at Austin@tgcbi.org, or Montgomery@tgcbi.org. You may send your contribution to 1502 Avenue I, South Houston, TX, 77587.

We are grateful to God for his provision and guidance, as he has also blessed us through you. We ask for your continued interest and prayers. May God bless you in 2010!

Stephen Austin
Director, Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute