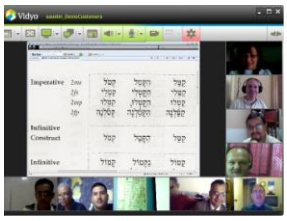

December 10, 2010

Dear :

As 2010 rapidly draws to a close, we are grateful to the Lord for the ways he allows us to participate in his Kingdom work. Each year he seems to surprise and challenge us with new opportunities, as well as putting us in community with so many brothers and sisters around the world. In fact, this year we changed our name from Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute to Texas International Bible Institute, because of the expanded scope and reach God has given the school.

All year our international students have continued strongly in the academic work they began in August 2009. Tito Peña and Efrain Bermudez (Colombia), Bernie Villalobos and Francisco Rojas (Costa Rica), Luis Lopez (Panama), Jertzain Gomez (Mexico), and Daniel Urdaneta (Spain) are a pleasure to work with. Highlights of 2010 include a new church plant in Tarbaca, San Jose with Francisco; increased unity and cooperation of congregations in Panama due to Luis' efforts; three area congregations growing and being encouraged in Mexico through Jertzain; and many other daily blessings through all these men. They will graduate at the end of July 2011, Lord willing, and we are proud of them.

In August 2010, we welcomed several new students: Eliah Saenz, Alejandro and Mercedes Robles, and Erika Quintor, all working in the Houston area (Hidden Valley church). They, along with second-year student Jannacoeli Gonzalez (Clear Lake) comprise our local component. We hope to add two more—Rafael and Edis Velasquez (Bammel) in January, Lord willing. Please pray for all our students.

The video conferencing program is blasting along, with 200 full or part-time students worldwide. Twenty-two professors offered 72 courses this year on the network to students in 61 sites in 17 countries. In addition, the online video program now has 11 full courses available online with almost 400 students signed up. Since July 2009 we have been part of more than 370 baptisms and three new church plants connected to churches and students from these sites. God is good!

We made a major technological improvement this year as we changed video conferencing systems, from Polycom to Vidyo. We had maxed out the capacity of the Polycom system and had researched other options for almost a year before settling on Vidyo (above left). It allows us to be connected efficiently to many more sites at once with clear, sharp audio and video, and to see up to 9 sites onscreen at once. It has won numerous awards for innovation in video conferencing, including Wall Street Journal's 2010 award. It is easy and fun to use. It also offers intriguing options for churches, missions programs, and para-church organizations in today's challenging economy.

We are blessed with wonderful full-time staff. Kevin Montgomery (assistant director, Houston); Carlos Camacho (mentor, Mexico); and Pedro and Silvia del Pozo (online program, Uruguay) are hard-working, creative people of integrity and vision. They are helping shape our overall program so that it can reach a diversified audience on multiple technological platforms around the world. And we believe that the kinds of programs and technology we use can be applied to other ministries and programs in other parts of the kingdom.

In 2011, we look forward to hosting our third school trip to Israel and Jordan; new students in January and August; explosive growth in video conferencing and online students; and other surprises and opportunities God hasn't had us unwrap yet.

We ask for your prayers and support. If you feel God is leading you to also give financially to any person or project mentioned above, we gratefully accept that. You may be assured your money will be well used for kingdom purposes and growth. If you would like to come visit, ask questions, or join the work in any way, please feel free to contact us at (713) 910-2819, austin@texasbible.org, or Montgomery@texasbible.org, as well as the website at www.texasbible.org.

May God bless you richly as you end 2010 and launch into 2011!

Steve Austin
Director, Texas International Bible Institute