

December 12, 2014

Once again, as we reflect on the blessings of 2014, we see God's grace and love demonstrated through the generosity of so many of you who support TIBI, in the sacrifices made by brethren worldwide to spread the gospel, and the diversity of gifts applied to a multitude of Kingdom tasks.

God is faithful. Most of the numbers below reflect significant increases over the stats at the end of 2013.

- At least 378 people were baptized in 2014 in sites where we help train, from January-October—and this is just what we know about!
- At least two new congregations were planted—in the last 7 years we have helped plant at least 29 congregations.
- Seven men graduated in the full-time program in July, and 14 more students began in August, our largest incoming class by far. We currently have 24 full-time students in 7 countries.
- Our graduates and most active current students are working in at least 58 different congregations, in 13 different countries.
- We currently have 740+ students in 52 countries in our online video course program
- Our video conferencing network currently has 220 sites in 20 countries.

High points this year included adding at least 100 students to our "School in a Box" program. Many places in Latin America have poor to no access to the internet, and so we are putting our online video courses on hard drives to take to those countries, such as Cuba. A local minister or school leader works with us to coordinate those courses, handling much of the facilitating and grading. This involves almost no money for them, but their investment is in time and effort, which they are glad to do. And we can free them from the preparation and teaching, and provide them tools they did not have before. It's a multiple-win situation! In 2014 we added branches in this way in Lima, Peru; Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico; Santa Clara, Cuba; and Havana, Cuba, to name a few. The response has been tremendous, and we anticipate this to be a major growth area in coming months and years.

We also had a major Vidyo software upgrade, adding private and group chat to the Vidyo window, allowing for better interaction between teachers and students. We added 5 more channels to our video conferencing system, for a total of 30 channels in all. Many of our courses now have more than 20 sites from 7 or 8 countries at once. Next year we hope for another major upgrade that will allow 16 sites onscreen instead of the current 8, which will be great for teaching. We also added three new teachers this year—Omar Palafox, Pablo Sanabria and Juan Meza.

In 2015 our goals include continued expansion of our video conference network into countries with few sites; equipping more churches with our School in a Box materials; and persevering in all the good activities of teaching and making disciples which we currently do. And Lord willing, we will sponsor our fifth trip to Israel and Jordan in June 2015.

As always, we need your prayers, interest, participation, and encouragement. We pray that the Lord will open doors to expand this ministry to other countries and languages. With good organization, coordination, and cooperation, there is every reason to believe what we do could bless hundreds more churches and thousands more people.