

TIBI HERALD

Editor

Steve Austin
Volume 17, Issue 1
April 16, 2020

THIS ISSUE

Without missing a beat...

TIBI launches new online course site!

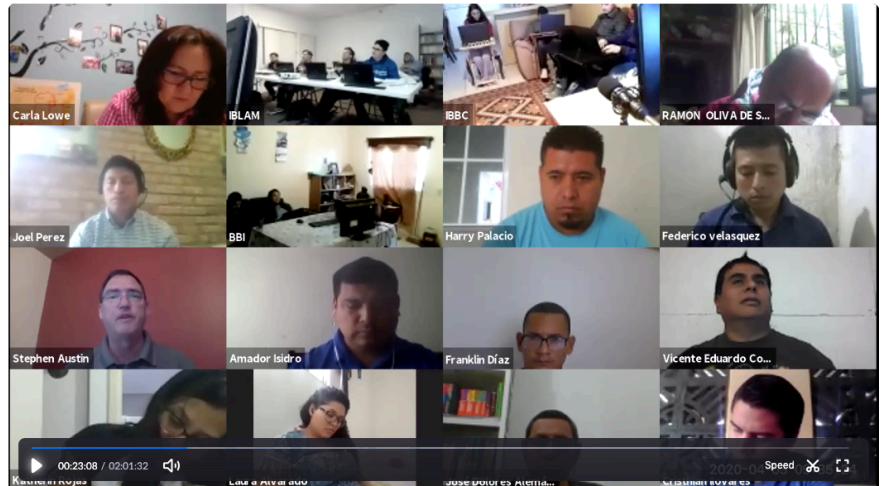
*"...the eyes of the Lord
range throughout the
earth to strengthen those
whose hearts are fully
committed to him."
2 Chron. 16:9*

**Texas International
Bible Institute**
P.O. Box 1501
1502 Avenue I
South Houston, TX 77587
(713) 910-2819

Online video courses at
www.ibitenlinea.org
[YouTube IBIT](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIBIT)

Montgomery@ibitibi.org
austin@ibitibi.org
<http://www.ibitibi.org/>
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WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT...



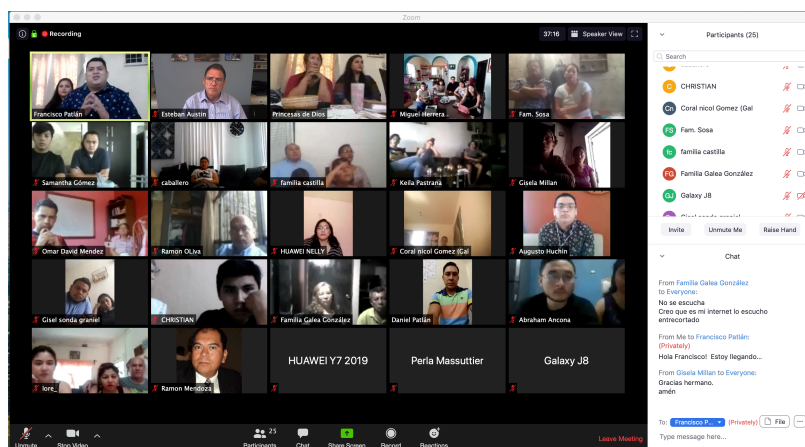
First day of class, post-coronavirus shutdown

Since March 11, when the NBA season was cancelled, and it seemed like the rest of all public events followed suit, we have entered a time unlike any other in our memory. The breathtaking scope of the coronavirus impact—geographically, socially, economically, and personally—has disoriented and perhaps changed forever our world. Much of our future remains in flux.

Yet at TIBI, because of the nature and structure of our program, we were able to continue without missing a beat. Where most people worldwide had to endure a steep learning curve to enter the world of virtual meetings--everything live, yet remote—at TIBI, we cruised along with our normal ministry.

In fact, when we began the Spring 2 cycle of courses, it was actually reassuring, because in the middle of all the unreality and craziness of late March, here was something normal. And I think everyone in class and at TIBI felt that way; their worlds otherwise were upside down, while TIBI provided a known, stable environment.

We are proud of our students also because with their knowledge of Zoom, they are leading their churches to stay connected through classes, small groups, and Sunday services. Whereas before they would attend their home church in person, now they are able to worship with Christians from numerous countries all over Latin America. The ones below are just three of many such examples.



Meeting hosted by Carlos Briceño (l), Wladimir Herrera (r), and Francisco Patlan (below), with Christians from the US, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, and Peru.

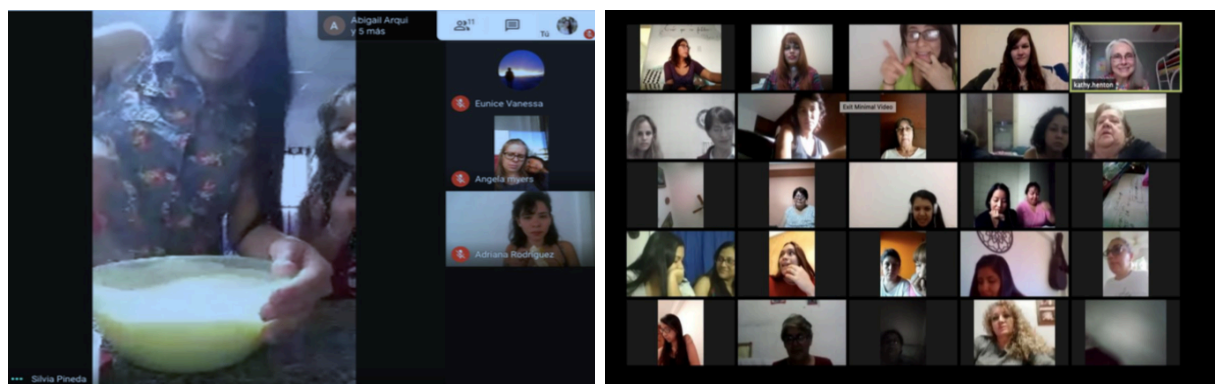
In addition, as many US churches are also going to online classes, services, and small groups of all kinds, we have been consulted at TIBI to help a number of them do so. Other ministries, professors, and teachers connected to TIBI have utilized our video conferencing system for Kingdom purposes—staff meetings, elders’ meetings, youth groups, and more.

We are happy to help, and one unexpected benefit is that our system capacity has grown to 9900 sites which could be connected at once.

One drawback of this time, as all are experiencing, is that our students are severely restricted in their practical work in their churches. Carlos Camacho, our field work supervisor, reports that it is frustrating for the students to be hampered by the lockdown orders in effect. Yet he continues his weekly appointments with them, focusing on spiritual formation and discipleship.

In Central American countries like Guatemala, curfews have been imposed, with people only able to go to essential jobs at 4 AM and return home no later than 4 PM. In Ecuador, our online coordinators, Pedro and Silvia del Pozo, tell us that citizens can only leave the house on certain days, dictated by their national ID numbers. Only certain cars with safe conduct passes can be in the streets, for specific purposes. People who violate these rules will later be punished with jail time after the crisis ends. It is indeed unusual!

However, in spite of all this, our students are creative in how they maintain contact and minister to their congregations. In Argentina, Corina Diaz helped organize a cooking and recipe sharing event live on Zoom (left, below), as well as a women's class given by long-time missionary Kathy Henton, with 54 women connected from different countries! (right, below).



Harry Palacio (El Salvador) and Federico Velasquez (Guatemala) continue with radio broadcasts from their homes. Youth meetings, women's and men's meetings, and Sunday worship all help maintain basic connections to encourage church member--separated, yet one in spirit.

Finally, several Christians connected to TIBI have been wounded by the virus. Our IT specialist, Daniel Urdaneta, and his wife Loli contracted the virus and were ill at least two weeks. A director of a partner school in Ensenada, Mexico, Liberato Ovalle, lost two members of his extended family, with a third in the hospital. We ask you to join us in prayer for them and all the others suffering in like fashion.

TIBI launches new online course site!

We are happy to announce that our new online course site is active and functioning well. Since 2007, Sunset International Bible Institute has generously shared their online server with us, and we are grateful to them, and particularly to their webmaster, Jeff Rader, for their help. Now we are hosting and operating our own server, with new features and the ability to control and design all we need or desire. We are excited about the opportunities before us. Of our 2175 online users currently, 665 have made the transition to the new server, and we anticipate excellent growth. If you would like to browse the new site, or know of churches, missionaries, or individuals who could benefit from biblical text and ministry courses online, please go to www.ibitenlinea.org. Pedro and Silvia del Pozo can help you with any questions you might have.

Categorías

▼ Cursos por categorías

- ▷ 100 - Antiguo Testamento (10)
- ▷ 200 - Nuevo Testamento (9)
- ▷ 300 - Herramientas para estudios bíblicos (7)
- ▷ 400 - Historia (3)
- ▷ 500 - Ministerio (11)



Texas International Bible Institute
1502 Avenue I
South Houston, TX 77587