

# TIBI HERALD

## Editor

Steve Austin  
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*"They received the message*  
*with great eagerness and*  
*examined the Scriptures*  
*every day ..."*  
*Acts 17 11*

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## And...they're off!

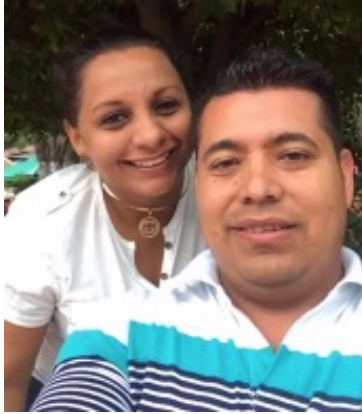


Graduation, with students, families, and church members

On Saturday, July 24, TIBI celebrated its 16th graduation ceremony. For the second year in a row, it was mostly a Spanish service, and also a virtual one. In all, 8 different nations were represented among the 11 graduates that night.

During the evening we initiated several new aspects of our program. First of all, TIBI awarded its first Bachelor of Ministry and Biblical Studies degree to Harry Palacio, from San Miguel, El Salvador (see picture on p. 2). This is the diploma certified by the Hispanic Theological Education Association (AETH in Spanish). Students take a total of 42 courses, most of which must be taken live by Zoom for the interaction with professors and students).

Second, this was also the first time we had included a section of our graduation service about our Local Bible School Project (EBL), coordinated by Silvia Acuña. She explained the purpose and function of the program, and gave various statistics. One such was 123—the number of students in various EBL in Latin America. Another was 2130, the approximate number of students in EBLs in Cuba. We believe this program will be responsible for much future growth of TIBI.



**Harry Palacio and wife Lisseth**



**Sandra LaTorre and husband Guillermo**

In addition, Sandra LaTorre, from Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico, was one of our first graduates of an EBL, outside of Cuba. Guillermo Palestina Sanchez facilitates an active and successful EBL program in Mexico. Sandra received a Christian Worker Certificate (16 courses). So we are proud of the wonderful work Silvia is doing with the EBLs, and of all the students working hard for various certificate.

We awarded Bachelor of Biblical Studies degrees to José Dolores Aleman García (Nicaragua); Pablo Yuri da Silva and Angelo Blanco (Bolivia); Edward Calvo (Costa Rica); Ramón Oliva (Mexico); Federico Velasquez (Guatemala); Joel Perez (USA); and Franklin Diaz and César Hernández (Venezuela). In addition, Amador Isidro, from Mexico City, earned a Certificate of Biblical Studies.

Please pray for each of these students, their families, and their churches, as they launch into the next phase of their lives and Kingdom service.

### **Important Area of Growth for TIBI**

By Silvia Acuña

For the first two years of TIBI, there were no full-time women students. But in 2008, history changed as women were gradually added, eager to study the word of God and to prepare full time for work in the work of our Lord. Some of them received scholarships and studied full-time, while also doing daily family activities and serving in their congregations. TIBI has had some women every year who have studied without a scholarship.

Today, 30 sisters from 8 countries have already graduated. These sisters have been a great blessing in their respective congregations, encouraging, edifying, and teaching. Of the 30 graduates, 15 of them are from Cuba, through an EBL (Local Bible School) that operates in Matanzas.

We invite our sisters in the Kingdom to participate in our program. If you want to know the different ways you can study at TIBI, visit our website

at <https://ibitibi.org/en/study-at-tibi-2>

## Intriguing Stats from our YouTube Site

By Daniel Urdaneta

In April 2015 we started our YouTube channel, with the intention of providing useful, quality free tools through video courses to all those who would like to deepen their study of the Word of God and effectiveness of their ministries.

Today, six years after starting that dream, we can say that we are on the right track and we want to share with you some of the statistics:

- \* We have had 1,200,000+ views from more than 50 countries.
- \* We have 12,012 subscribers
- \* We offer 42 complete video courses
- \* Visitors have accumulated 155,400 hours watching our courses
- \* The most popular courses are related to ancient languages: Hebrew and Greek
- \* 60% of the visits come, in order, from Mexico, the United States, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Argentina and Ecuador
- \* The average age of our visitors is between 35 and 44 years old
- \* 49% of visits have connected to the channel from their computers and 39% from their cell phones.



If you have not visited us yet, please do so, and subscribe at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/InstitutoBiblicoInternacionalDeTexasIBIT>



There you will find free courses about biblical texts, leadership, church planting, pastoral counseling, life of Christ (in English and Spanish), virtual tours of Israel (some in 360°), biblical history and geography, exegesis, homiletics, hermeneutics, and much more!

## COVID Impacts TIBI

Literally everyone in the world has been impacted by the COVID virus—some drastically and others more lightly. TIBI is no different in this respect; although our classes continued without stopping during the pandemic, and though none of our students have died, we still have mourned with our students and churches as they experience loss.

At least 20 of our live students have gotten ill, some worse than others—yet often, they have connected for class, even while lying down with cameras off. Frequently some or all of their families have also gotten sick. Some of their immediate or distant family have passed away, and just about every church has lost members to death.

In Latin America, vaccines are still relatively scarce, so the new variants have caused even more fear and suffering. In the middle of it all, we are proud to see how our students have responded by being faithful and continuing, and encouraging their congregations and communities. We have wonderful students!

Please pray for all of us as we face this pandemic together.

## Donation of Assets, By John Walker

Did you know TIBI accepts non-cash donations? For some people, donating assets can have a nice tax advantage over donating cash. Here is a simple example: You purchased XYZ stock in your personal trading account some time ago. You purchased it for \$5,000 but now it is worth \$10,000. If you were to sell it and send the \$10,000 as cash to TIBI, TIBI would thank you and you would have a \$10,000 charitable contribution -- but you would also have a \$5,000 taxable profit to report. If you instead transferred the stock directly to TIBI, TIBI would receive the stock, thank you and give you a \$10,000 charitable contribution -- but there would be no profit to report on your taxes as you never sold the stock. Talk to your financial planner to see how this simple gift strategy can maximize your charitable contributions by mitigating your tax liability.

The above works well for those who are making one-time gifts. If you're more likely to make multiple donations to multiple charities, you should consider establishing a Donor Asset Fund. Schwab, Fidelity, and Vanguard all have DAF's ready to serve you. Think of it as a charity bank account in which you make donations and control the distributions to 501(c)(3) charities. It is easy and similar to using your bank's electronic bill pay system. The benefit is you can make any size donation (cash, stock, vehicles, property, etc) to your DAF and immediately get a charitable donation credit for your taxes. But all funds placed in the DAF must be eventually given to 501(c)(3) charities -- the donation is irrevocable. There is no time limit as to holding and distributing funds. Again, have this discussion with your financial advisor or tax advisor. Ideally you want to place appreciated assets into the DAF. The tax advantage is minimized or lost if you place cash, stocks that have lost value, or assets from qualified accounts (Traditional IRA or 401(k)) into your DAF. Thanks for being someone who makes a difference. Thanks for considering TIBI and supporting the work God is accomplishing through us

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