

TIBI HERALD

Editor

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THIS ISSUE

***TIBI celebrates 20 years!
Second RIB graduation
Double Graduation
Saturday!***

*"We pray that our God....by
his power may fulfill every
good purpose of yours and
every act prompted by your
faith."
2 Th. 1:11*

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(Masters)

TIBI celebrates 20 years!



On January 25, 2003, the newly-formed board of TIBI met for the first time in the Lawndale church of Christ in Houston to discuss the best way to begin the Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute.

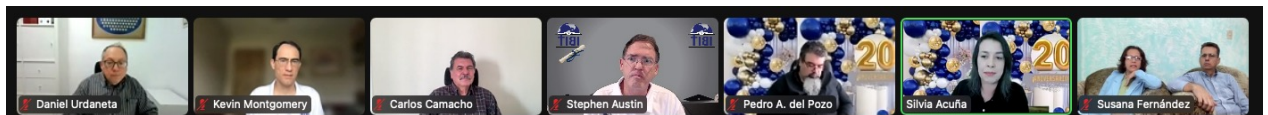
On January 28, 2023, people from 14 countries gathered to celebrate what the Lord has done in and through TIBI during the last 20 years.

- From one small classroom in South Houston, we now have a presence in 76 countries.
- From our first night class of 5 students in Houston, we now have about 4000 students worldwide.
- From that first class in person, we now offer courses on three different digital platforms to the entire world.
- From the first video conference class between Houston and Dallas in August 2005, we now commonly have 40-50 sites in our live courses.
- From the first cumbersome, limited Polycom cameras which cost about \$3600 per year to use, we now enjoy Zoom, with a capacity of 11,700 sites connected at once.

It is truly remarkable to have witnessed first-hand what God has done. It is certainly "more than we could ask or imagine!" We look back at the pictures of first students and professors, the first video conferencing sites we connected with, early graduations, "primitive" video conferencing equipment, first newsletters—and we are simply stunned and grateful to have been part of this marvelous group of churches and individuals from so many cities and countries.

We have seen more than 5500 baptisms and 66 new churches planted in the sites where we help train people. We have 264 graduates and/or current students who work in 179 congregations in 123 cities in 20 countries. And those stats are just from the ones who are required to send us reports! We have literally thousands of part-time students not required to report to us; we are confident that the Lord has also used them to baptize many more, plant many more congregations, and form and shepherd people spiritually.

We now offer two kinds of bachelors degrees and four different certificate programs, with another program in the works. If people cannot afford to take our courses online, all our courses may be seen for free (non-credit) on YouTube, where we've had more than 1.32 million views since 2015. And you can stay tuned for all our activities with our various social media sites.



TIBI admin team: Daniel Urdaneta, Kevin Montgomery, Carlos Camacho, Steve Austin, Pedro/Silvia del Pozo, Liudmila Bencosme and Tony Fernandez

Throughout it all, we have been blessed with a stable, mature, hard-working, good-natured team (above) which has dreamed big and then tried to obey whatever we felt the Lord was calling us to do. Steve started full-time in 2005, Pedro and Silvia in 2007, Kevin in 2008, Carlos in 2009, Liudmila in 2012, and Daniel in 2013—and all have stayed and grown into their roles as those changed and expanded.

We look forward to what the Lord has planned for us in the coming years!

- We hope to continually add to our numbers of students, teachers, and course options.
- We hope to continue to collaborate with churches, individuals, and schools worldwide (see the coming June issue).
- We are intrigued by the potential in live automatic translation apps that could open doors for students from other languages, while still using one teacher and no translators for each course.

God is good, creative, and faithful. And we are grateful to so many who have supported us faithfully all this time. We are excited about our future and ask for your prayers for God's guidance.

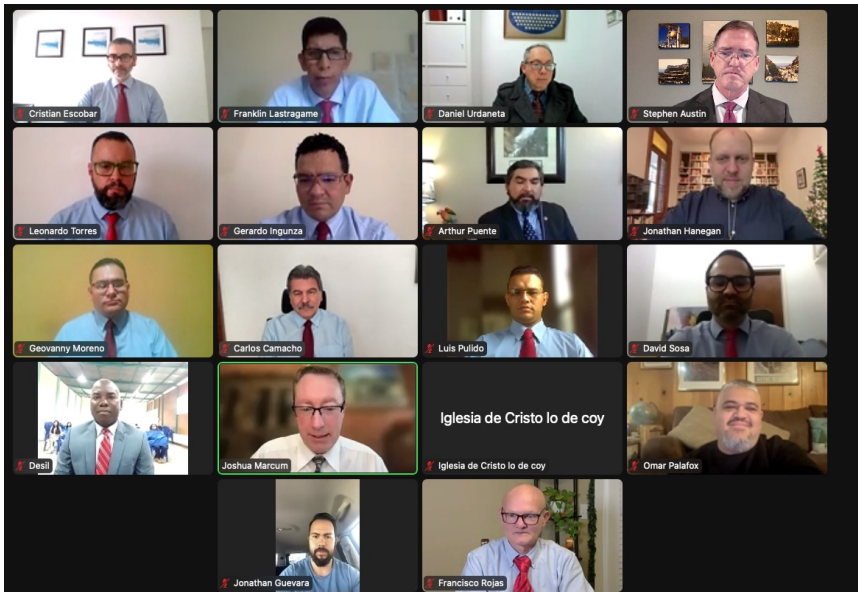
**If you'd like to see the video of the anniversary celebration (in Spanish), you can go to our video library at

https://ibitibi.zoom.us/rec/share/4F1TL2_4IHrWlKIXwmvQIUcja00ZnFOSgC2r_Ua62_uoNTOQK2yP2P0VMsv33QPZ.Sl17KiA2TIKWfM?startTime=1674936186000.

Second RIB Graduation

On December 10, 2022, the Red de Institutos Bíblicos graduated its second cohort from the Masters of Practical Theology program. This group consisted of 11 men from 7 countries:

Carlos Camacho (Mexico); Besías Desil (Colombia); Cristian Escobar (Bolivia); Othoniel Gutierrez (Mexico, not present); Gerardo Ingunza (Ecuador); Franklin Lastra Game (Ecuador); Geovanny Moreno (Honduras); Luis Pulido (Venezuela); Francisco Rojas (Costa Rica); David Sosa (Venezuela); and Leonardo Torres (Colombia).



2022 graduating class of the RIB, as well as several professors and the RIB executive committee

This group was somewhat unusual in that no one dropped out of the cohort in the entire three years. The students displayed good humor and unity throughout, in spite of the demanding work and long hours of class and study during their program

Arthur Puentes, Joshua Marcum, and Stephen Austin (the executive committee of the RIB) shared scripture, prayer, and blessings with the students, and each helped present diplomas to the group. Leonardo Torres gave the response of thanks and challenge on behalf of the graduating class.

We are proud of these men! We believe they are better equipped for service in their congregations, countries, and the Kingdom. We ask that you pray for God to bless and guide them as they continue their ministries.

If you'd like to see the video of the graduation, you may go to our video library at:

https://ibitibi.zoom.us/rec/share/IWTgN_yXdPSgcT_cS-G5Vm6wvFn7bATa6SNV1uJx5YsXJnbJx9HusscNY2T6k-c.QdYzVzrw-XbLOyg_?startTime=1670698350000

Double Graduation Saturday!

On Saturday, January 14, TIBI celebrated not one, but TWO graduations! First, in the early afternoon, we honored Ismael Flores and Elvis Chacon, from Cuzco, Peru. Both of them had completed the 42 courses of our Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree online.

We then honored Monica Arteaga and Roberto Zúñiga, from Santa Marta, Colombia, who had studied as part of a Local Bible School at the church there. Both of them finished the Biblical Worker certificate, a set of 16 of our courses to better prepare church members for ministry in the local church. We congratulate all four for their hard work!

Two hours later, 54 students connected by Zoom with the Tipitapa Centro church in Nicaragua. These students had taken 5 courses on various aspects of pastoral counseling, in order to prepare themselves to respond to all manner of complex problems, situations, and addictions.

Ignacio Barcenas, a professor of TIBI and one of the original founders of TIBI in 2003, and also a licensed family and marriage counselor for 30 years, gave all 5 courses during about 48 weeks of the year, one night per week, including lecture, discussion, and lab work.

We are proud of these students and wish them the best as they apply what they have learned in their churches in 15 countries of Latin America. Please pray for them in their ministries.

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