

TIBI HERALD

Editor

Steve Austin
Volume 21, Issue 2
July 29, 2024

THIS ISSUE

Record-setting Graduation

Trip to Turkey/Greece/Rome

Masters Partnership

“The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”

2 Chronicles 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

Montgomery@ibitibi.org
austin@ibitibi.org
<http://www.ibitibi.org/>
<http://www.redinbi.org/>
(Masters)

Another Record-Setting Graduation



On Saturday, July 20, we celebrated our 21st graduation, with the largest class ever—28 students from 11 different countries. Of this group, 8 of the graduates were women, a blessing and also the largest number of women in a graduating class. With this group, the number of students who have received our bachelors' degree rises to 205.

During the ceremony, we honored Gisela Millán with a Christian Worker certificate. She had taken more than half our courses, even while fighting cancer, before she passed away earlier this year. Her daughter was with us Saturday night.

There were 36 sites connected to the Zoom classroom, including the TIBI administrative committee and the graduates. At least 85 family and church members were present in those sites to bless them and lay hands on them during the final prayer. Around 80 people watched the the livestream on our YouTube channel, with another 645+ seeing the video in the next five days.

During the ceremony, William Martinez from El Salvador gave the student message and response. Kevin Montgomery and Silvia Acuña awarded the diplomas to men and women, respectively.

This class was responsible for at least 50 baptisms and 5 new churches planted during their two years, and we know that this number is low; not all students report their numbers. Now they go out to use all the knowledge and skills gained during their time at TIBI. We expect great things of them, and ask for your prayers that God might bless and lead them in their lives and ministries.

Trip to Turkey/Greece/Italy

Ever since TIBI hosted its first trip to Israel in 2007, we have also dreamed of going to other biblical sites such as Turkey, Greece, Italy, and Egypt. Many tours focus on the 7 churches of Revelation in Turkey; some track Paul's missionary journeys in Turkey and Greece; others emphasize Greece and Rome. So far, due to political and economic conditions, and complex logistics, we have not yet hosted a trip to any of those places.



We are pleased to announce our first trip to these regions; it combines the best sites of most trips. We begin in Turkey, visiting Hierapolis, Colossae, Laodicea, Ephesus, and Istanbul. We continue to ancient Macedonia and modern-day Greece by seeing Philippi, Thessalonica, and Delphi. After arriving in Athens, we embark on a cruise ship for three days, in which we travel to Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini.



After docking at Lavrio, we head to Corinth, then end the day at our hotel in Athens with a wonderful view of the Acropolis. The next day we tour many of the major sites of Athens, such as the Parthenon, Mars Hill, and the Acropolis, ending the day on the highest point in the city, Lycabettus. The next morning we fly to Naples, Italy, drive to see Pompeii, then arrive that evening in Rome. The next day we visit the Vatican and its museum, the Sistine chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, the catacombs, and St. Paul's church outside the walls. On our final day we focus on the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Arch of Titus, the Mamertine prison, Trevi fountain, Spanish Steps, and the Pantheon.

The dates for this trip are October 4-18, 2025, so you have time to start saving! As always, the price for our trip covers airfare, 4-star hotels or better, breakfasts and dinners, entrance fees, transportation, cruise, guides, tips--everything except lunches, snacks, and souvenirs. If you would like to download the brochure with more details, go to our site at <https://ibitibi.org/en/tibis-inaugural-trip-to-turkey-greece-and-rome>. The group is filling up fast, so let us know if you are interested, and send in your deposit. We would love to have you with us!



Masters Partnership: ACU and the Biblical Institute Network


One of our valued partnerships at TIBI is with Abilene Christian University. For years we have been in conversations with them regarding ministry training for Hispanic leaders, and how we might combine their excellent Bible faculty and courses with our program, in Spanish. In August 2022, ACU launched a Certificate of Ministry Equipping, consisting of six courses which are part of their Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry, to be taught entirely in Spanish.



The first course of that certificate is Effective Practice of Ministry, originally taught by Charles Siburt, which overlaps significantly with our masters-level course in Foundations of Ministry. So we combined their first cohort in the certificate program with our incoming masters cohort in August 2022, and Steve Austin taught a group of 21



students. We did the same thing in 2023 and now will enjoy the third combined group beginning August 12. It is a good dynamic--the students get to know each other, learn about their respective backgrounds and ministry contexts, and extend their network of ministers and resources.



It's exciting to imagine the possibilities of this partnership and others like it. We have a wealth of knowledge, training, and experience in biblical studies and ministry available to us at ACU, Harding, Pepperdine, Lipscomb, Baxter, Quito school of Biblical Studies, Sunset, and TIBI; and of course there are other schools and people.

Instead of working separately or competing, we can and should seek ways to collaborate. Rather than duplicating curriculums and courses and professors, we can and should select the best-trained, most-qualified teachers with ministerial experience to share their best courses. This makes sense in terms of ministry, expertise, and finance, particularly considering the great lack of and need for trained men and women to work in ministry in our churches, and limited financial resources.

It benefits us greatly to seek out partnerships like this. Of course, there are logistical challenges involving scheduling, funding, accrediting, degree granting, and staffing. But I believe these could be (are being) solved, if we work together humbly and intelligently to administer all our resources wisely. This will only become easier as technology makes global participation and language translation easier, so that any course could be available worldwide in the service of the church.

We have dreamed about this during TIBI's entire history, and it remains one of our goals to pursue. We ask you to pray with us for God's guidance and open doors to continue the good beginning we have enjoyed.

<p>Texas International Bible Institute 1502 Avenue I South Houston, TX, 77587</p>
