

Lifeline

Keeping the Sunset family connected

SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE • WINTER 2008

Also in this issue: Extension School's **Correspondent** begins on page 13!



Continuing the
Mission



God is Able

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” I Cor. 9:8

This year has been a huge challenge and an amazing testimony to the ability of God to provide all we need to do His work, even in a time of economic downturn. Like you, we have felt the effects of the economy. Contributions have been a bit down; however, some marvelous ministry opportunities have opened for us this year. We are praising God for the following blessings in 2008:

1. In spite of a reduction in contributions, we have been able to tighten our belts, delay some new ministries and continue to “write in black ink.” We are determined not to spend more than we bring in. We are committed to good stewardship.
2. We have launched a new “degree program,” offering bachelor’s degrees this year and preparing a master’s degree program for next year. This is already a blessing to hundreds of our alumni.
3. We have seen Sunset trained mission teams arrive in New Zealand, Ukraine and Ecuador.
4. With the help of partner churches we have launched new international school projects in Malawi, Sudan, Mexico, Philippines, India, and Singapore.
5. God has enabled us to expand our outreach to the Muslim world, making disciples and training leaders in Indonesia, Israel, Egypt, France, Greece and Sudan.
6. World-wide we are training over 2000 gospel preachers and have graduated almost 500 in this year alone.

We are determined not to spend more than we bring in. We are committed to good stewardship

7. We graduated 45 AIMers and had over 80 serving in 11 mission fields, while training another 47 who will go to the field next year.
8. 14 new video satellite schools have been established in local congregations in Idaho, Michigan, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and Georgia with hundreds of new students joining the thousands who study our courses through video tape, DVD and online.
9. We have seen a harvest of souls in China and other Asian nations through our alumni, students and schools in Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, India and Korea.
10. New books and Bible study materials have been published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian and Arabic, providing Bible study libraries for preachers and other church leaders.

In order to keep these and other very fruitful ministries making disciples around the world, we must raise \$480,000 in the month of December. Please consider a generous year-end contribution. According to Philanthropic Research Institute, most religious charitable giving is from individuals who make their gift in the month of December. It is comforting to know of God’s enabling grace in times like this.

2020 Vision

Sunset Workshop
January 21-25, 2009

A Prescription for the Next Generation from II Timothy



**Choose From a
Great Selection of
Practical Classes
Each Day:**

- Keys to Conflict Resolution - Ken Wilson
- Balancing Mission & Culture in Our Mission Efforts - Chris Swinford
- Early Bird Classes - John W. Smith
- Christian Living - Arthur Puente
- Body & Soul by God - Terri Fanning & Kelley Young
- AIM Camp Adventure
- Satellite School Administration
- **Many more**

"The tone of Paul's last known letter indicates that Paul knows his time is short...There is a sense of urgency in his exhortation, as if Timothy is Paul's last link with future generations of those to whom the gospel will be entrusted."

F. LaGard Smith - Comments on II Timothy, *The Narrated Bible*

Keynote Topics:

The Power of Constant Prayer - Jim Gardner
Balancing Grace, Love & the Pattern of Sound Words
- Ben Myers

The Impact of a Christ-Focus on Our Mission to the Lost
- Eli Hooper

Passing the Torch of Leadership to the Next Generation
- Truitt Adair

Building Our Future on a Solid Foundation
- Kevin Haynes

How Servants Deal with Error and Opposition
- Ken Wilson

The Value of God's Word and Godly Living
- Chris Swinford

How to Finish Well - Dennis Jones

Does Biblical Preaching Still Work? - JJ Turner

The opening Keynote will be at 7:00 PM on Wed. Jan. 21.

The final Keynote will be over around 3:00 PM on Sat. Jan. 24.

All participants are invited to worship with the Sunset congregation on Sunday morning. Worship begins at 9:00 AM and class follows from 10:30am to 11:30am.

3723 34th St. • Lubbock, TX 79410-2895
800-658-9553 www.sibi.cc/2020

Degrees from Sunset

The Bachelor of Biblical Studies

After years of prayer and preparation, Sunset is pleased to announce a new degree program in biblical studies. This is a religious degree focused on biblical studies and Christian ministry. It is a statement to churches, Christian organizations, and to congregational leaders that the holder of a degree from Sunset has achieved a high level of knowledge and training and has earned the degree designation. Our degree program is designed to equip students to teach the whole counsel of God and to effectively participate in a variety of ministry applications.

Students who complete the bachelor's degree program at Sunset have earned the standard bachelor's level of 128 to 132 hours in Bible and ministry-related subjects. Our curriculum is a post-secondary, higher education program of biblical and ministry studies.

Since Sunset is a single-purpose professional institute of ministry, our degrees reflect our uniqueness. We don't want to misrepresent the nature, scope, and substance of our degree program. We are committed to preparing students for **ONE THING**, ministry in the Lord's church. Sunset International Bible Institute is not seeking to be accredited by an outside agency, but it is already widely recognized among Churches of Christ as a quality ministry training school. Our degree program is authorized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

If a person is going to build a career in science, medicine, law, education, business or any other field, he needs a strong foundation that relates to that field. If a person is going to minister to a church, serve on a mission field, and/or edify and equip the saved for service, he must be a student of the **BOOK**.

An earned religious degree from Sunset is a testimony to the commitment, discipline, and sacrifice the graduate has demonstrated in the field of biblical study. Attending classes approximately six hours a day, five days a week, for two years of intensive study, plus spending time in personal study and research, development of the spiritual disciplines, and participation in practical ministry projects all help the student to build a solid foundation for a lifetime pursuit of ministry.

If you are a Sunset graduate or a White's Ferry Road graduate, you can apply online at alumni.sibi.cc/alumni-degree or contact Sunset directly and begin filling the requirements for receiving your Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree

The Master of Biblical Studies

The Master of Biblical Studies degree from Sunset is a religious degree focused on a Biblically balanced study of God's word and its application in Christian ministry. The classes, studies, reading and research required to earn the MBS degree are designed to prepare students for enhanced ministry in local churches, Christian organizations, or missions applications. The degree is intended to serve as evidence of an advanced level of knowledge, training, and other qualifications required for those ministry applications.

The faculty and administration of the graduate program at Sunset is composed of men who have decades of experience in ministry and ministry training. In most cases they hold terminal degrees and are widely recognized as scholars in their disciplines. More importantly, they possess the spiritual qualities that we seek to model in our lives and develop in the lives and ministries of our students. Because our faculty members are Christian leaders, they can help to prepare others to become better leaders.

The MBS requires a candidate to complete 36 hours. These hours are completed as follows:

1. Twelve hours are from four classes at two intensive week sessions at the Lubbock campus. Each session will contain two courses. Each class will cover 20 hours of study during the week and will require additional assignments to be completed before or after the week at Sunset.
2. Eighteen hours are from In-Ministry courses that will be completed remotely.
3. Six hours are from a thesis. The subject must be approved by the time the student completes 12 credit hours of study.

Each candidate for the MBS must have completed an approved bachelor's degree containing appropriate undergraduate hours in Bible, ministry, theology, or religion. No undergraduate course with a grade below a C will be accepted. Each application will be evaluated to determine if any leveling courses will be required. Through hard work and self-discipline a student should be able to complete the degree in two years, but is allowed three years to complete all of the requirements.

Prospective students who have earned an acceptable bachelor's degree and are committed to involvement in ministry are encouraged to apply for acceptance into the Master of Biblical Studies degree program. Contact the school office or find out more at www.sibi.cc/masters.



Truitt Adair congratulating Kevin Schwiger, '04, who will now receive a Bachelor of Biblical Studies in May

The Apollos Institute

Sunset International Bible Institute is committed to training able, evangelistically driven spokesmen of the Word and biblically proficient local church leaders for the body of Christ. It wants to take advantage of all opportunities to train individuals to persuasively proclaim the Christ, to instruct in how to plant healthy churches, and to prepare individuals to serve effectively. Sunset is already training individuals through a wide range of efforts including training in 57 affiliated schools, distance learning classrooms, Internet instruction, seminars, video instruction, and on site campus training in Lubbock, Texas. At present Sunset is training over 8,000 individuals throughout the world. In addition to the already existing efforts, Sunset has developed the **Apollos Institute**, which is a training program for developing congregational leaders in countries around the world.

The Churches of Christ have approximately 166 schools throughout the world dedicated to the training of men and women to be servants of Christ. Fifty-seven of those schools are connected to the Sunset International Bible Institute. These efforts have resulted in thousands of people coming to Christ and hundreds of new churches being established. However, there has not been corresponding attention given to developing leaders who will be able to direct and administer the work of God in a dynamic manner. It would be careless and

THIS CRISIS OF LEADER DEVELOPMENT, UNLESS IT IS ADDRESSED, WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF MUCH OF THE HARVEST OF SOULS!



Bryan Shelley, '06, discusses leadership issues with a congregational leader in Singapore.

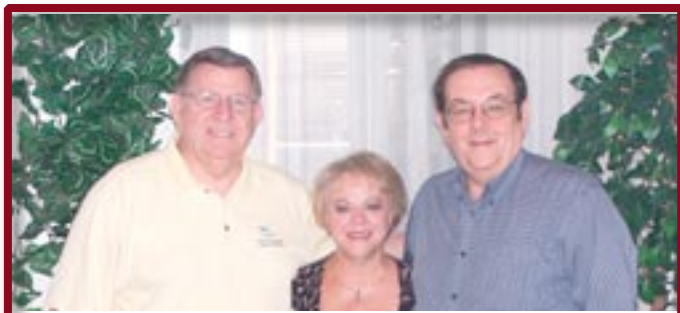
First is a three week seminar training course. The seminar training will be in an on-site academic environment where participants will be trained by skilled teachers and professors. Top teachers in their area of expertise will be used to teach the classes.

Second is a system of mentoring for one year. These trained mentors will be assigned two to four seminar participants who will have scheduled meetings throughout the year to discuss their challenges, improve their skills, and encourage each other in their function as leaders.

Sunset Apollos Institute's role is to assist the church in mission areas by training excellent leaders.

- SAI helps influential Christians in non-Western nations to be organized, passionate, and effective in evangelism and church planting.
- SAI encourages the local leaders to become proficient in leading the church into the future.
- SAI fuels the evangelistic spirit of the church all over the world.
- SAI participants do not receive any financial assistance for their national ministries.
- SAI leadership selection is based on quality and potential.
- SAI has a global reach through Sunset's relationships with 57 existing schools in countries all over the world.
- SAI faculty will come from both Western and non-Western cultures.

Glenn Gray, Director of the Sunset Apollos Institute



Glenn Gray with Jay Don and MaryLee Rogers in Donetsk, Ukraine

irresponsible for us to simply rejoice in the great harvest of souls that is happening today without addressing the issue of leader development. This crisis of leader development, unless it is addressed, will result in the loss of much of the harvest of souls!

The Sunset Apollos Institute, SAI, is where individuals who know Jesus, who are eloquent in the word of God, but who need further instruction, can come and receive additional training in leadership. The Sunset Apollos Institute will be located in major cities where Sunset International Bible Institute has an existing affiliated school. These locations and schools will provide the resources to have leadership seminars. They can provide the on-site personnel, facilities, and contact information with potential seminar participants. By using existing school locations, entrance into those countries and the availability of potential mentors is greatly enhanced.



Leadership Training in Ethiopia

The Sleeping Giant

Earlier, I was advised not to mention China in my correspondences because they might monitor us and pick up names of individuals doing Christian work in their country. That now seems to have been an overreaction. The "Sleeping Giant" is wide awake and knows very well that Western missionaries want to import their faith into their land. Hence, I will speak freely but discreetly about this matter.

One report says that in the last couple of years the number of Internet users in China has doubled. It is estimated that there are as many users in China as there are in America, about 250 million. It is also predicted that China will soon have more English speaking citizens than America. "The times they are a changing," to quote Bob Dylan. To put this into perspective, we must consider the 1.3 billion population of "The Giant." No doubt she will continue to maintain strict control and censorship over the Internet. For example, many, such as focusonasia.wordpress.com, have been blocked in China. Can you imagine the planning that Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo! have on the drawing board? I am sure Chinese officials know of their intentions.

China has one of the world's largest number of university graduates. Thousands of them will be seeking opportunities to do their undergraduate work in other countries. There are hundreds of Chinese undergraduate students already enrolled in Singapore's universities. They will be here for three to five



The inaugural class of the Singapore International Bible Institute

years. Many more students are on their way to Singapore. Many come to Singapore on a scholarship program. Our goal is to find students like these who would like to be trained in Bible and ministry while they are working on advanced degrees in Singapore. Are there other young people from house churches in China planning to come to Singapore to further their education? How can we find them? This resource seems to be a built-in opportunity to find and train Chinese young people for the future spread of God's Kingdom to China.

Charles Cook, Director of
Singapore International
Bible Institute



A World of Best Wishes

Sunset International Bible Institute

*In deep gratitude for your partnership in taking the
Gospel to the World.*

*May our God continue to richly bless you in the coming
New Year.*

Going Into All the Latin World, Virtually

God is providing exciting new opportunities in missions and ministry training. At the Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute, we are blessed to be a partner in this effort. What we call the Biblical Institutes Network (BIN) is rapidly expanding across the United States and Latin America.

The BIN consists of two parts. The first part is the video conferencing network, now comprised of 28 sites in 10 countries. Some of these sites represent full ministry training schools. These sites also include churches whose members wish to equip themselves for ministry. Finally, the network also allows instructors to teach from remote locations like Valencia, Venezuela and Portland, Oregon.

The other part of the BIN is the online video streaming program. Through the talents of people across the network we have set up a system by which people anywhere in the world can take streaming video courses in Spanish at www.sunsetonline.org/es. Our first course has more than 70 students in 19 countries, including Holland, Angola, and Switzerland!



Quito School of Biblical Studies, one of the ministry training schools on the Biblical Institutes Network

The benefit of the BIN is that we can use resources like time, instructors, expertise, and money more effectively. Additionally, we are creating a network that brethren can access daily and coordinate with others all over the world. This is something that until now has been much more difficult. We are seeing a new spirit of unity as a result of this networking and training and the sharing of ideas and experiences.

We see vast potential for the BIN as God opens doors. Three or four new sites may join the network by January. Our goal is to have one or more sites in every Latin American country within the next five years. Two more courses are being prepared for the online program as well. Lord willing, we hope to have 40 courses online within the next four years. This means that those who completed the 40-course curriculum either through video conferencing or the online program could receive their Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree from Sunset.

The beauty of all this is that these people are not leaving their homes, churches, and countries to go somewhere else to train. They can stay in place, while training and blessing their congregations and families as they grow, and the kingdom continues to advance.

Steve Austin, Director of Texas Gulf Coast Bible Institute

Continuing the Mission

Reaching Into the Arabic World

The Arabic language is spoken by more than 150 million people. Arabic is not limited to the Middle Eastern nations. In fact, millions of refugees and immigrants throughout Europe and the United States feel more comfortable reading and studying in their native Arabic tongue.

The Sunset Translation Center has been actively translating Bible study materials into Arabic since 2004. Sammy Flanary, Mission Coordinator for Europe, has spearheaded several efforts to reach Arabic communities in Europe. Sunset International Bible Institute continues to pursue the dream of sharing the Good News in Arabic.

Over the past decade, Sunset has sought to utilize every available resource so we might take advantage of opportunities to share the Gospel with the Arab-speaking world. Doors are now opening in many locations we would have previously not associated with Arabic-speaking peoples. Exciting opportunities exist in some of these new areas like Paris, Athens, and the Sudan.

Doug Reeves and Sammy Flanary recently traveled to Athens, Greece, to meet with Francis Habashy and his son, Alfred. The purpose of the meeting was to explore outreach opportunities in Athens and to consider how best to help Alfred prepare for ministry. What they found was a large population of immigrants and refugees from Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Egypt living in Greece.

Dino Roussos and Dino Tzanetos were very instrumental in arranging for Sammy, Doug, Alfred, and Francis to visit Arabic speaking groups in Athens. The photo below shows Alfred and Francis singing a Christian hymn in Arabic for refugees from Iraq and other Arabic nations. Our goal is to bring other native



Alfred and Francis Habashy singing in Arabic in Athens

Mission Across the World



Jason and Natalie Freed

Quality Study Materials

One of the most valuable resources for mission work is quality Bible study material translated into students' native language. Working with qualified translators in Egypt, the Sunset Translation Center has printed studies in *The Book of Romans*, *The Life of Christ*, *Old Testament History*, and *The Levitical Sacrificial System*. These books will be distributed free of charge through the church in Cairo. Funding is needed to translate, print, and distribute more study materials into Arabic. Work is currently underway on the next four books with our goal of printing a total of six more of these studies in 2009. The next step will be to make all these works available via the Internet. Then, any Arabic-speaking person with access to the Internet will be able to download and read the material without fear of persecution.

Arabic speaking teachers to Athens so they might proclaim the message of Jesus.

The local congregation in Paris, France, has been working closely with Sunset to offer ministry courses, leadership training, and Bible study courses to their members and community. With the large increase of Arabic-speaking immigrants, there is a desperate need for translated materials and Arabic-speaking coworkers. Jason and Natalie Freed have completed Advanced Missions Training at Sunset with the goal of sharing the gospel in Arabic-speaking nations. They are currently working in the Houston area with Arabic-speakers and have studied with and recently baptized one of the men. The Freed's will soon relocate to Paris and begin reaching out to the Arabic-speaking community there.

Alfred Habashy, the son of Francis and Evon, has faithfully served in the church since his boyhood. Alfred and his family recently arrived at Sunset to begin two years of intensive Bible training. Their goal is to return to Cairo and work closely with Francis in preaching and teaching. From Cairo, Alfred will be able to teach in Athens and other Arabic nations in that region.

In the war-torn nation of Sudan, plans are underway to begin a ministry-training school. In cooperation with the congregation in Obbo in Southern Sudan, a preacher-training school will become the hub for evangelistic outreach and benevolence to that area. Two men are seeking support to work with the congregation and school as teachers and administrators.

Doug Reeves, Director of the Sunset Translation Center.



YES count on me/us to help train more preachers, send more missionaries, plant more churches, and save more souls.

YES, I/we will help. Enclosed is my one time gift in the amount of \$ _____.

YES, I/we will help on a monthly basis in the amount of \$ _____ per month.

You may also give online by clicking the Donate button at www.sibi.cc

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May 1 - October 31, 2008

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Phyllis McIlroy
Vera Boatwright

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Gifts in Honor of or in Memory of provide an excellent way to follow the Biblical principle of "honor to whom honor is due," while supporting fruitful and worthy ministries.

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In Memory of

Porter, Claudia

Poulter, Ed
Puckett, Richard

Riggs, Sharon

Ritchey, Lewis

Robertson, Byron
Rogers, Richard
Sanders, Dr. John

Shady, Jim

Shultz, Jennie
Skow, Mrs. Lou
Smith, Judith

Smith, Ralph
Snow, Edna Lou
Stephenson, Martha
Strickland, Travis
Strittmater, Jeff
Turner, Durean

Turner, Moe

Turner, Riley Wayne
Walker, Elaine

West, Waren
Winn, Lurline
Wright, Sheila
Zant, Ethelynn

Given by

David & Allene Smith
Carl & Glee O'Banion
Vera Boatwright
Margaret Poulter
Charles & Hoycille Valentine
Stuart & Cecilia Jones
Rusty & Sue Russwurm
Marilena Brigham
Karl & Mary Lee Berg
Mamie S. Buchanan
Nancy A. Sutphen
Hubert & Joyce Dutton
Mr. & Mrs. James Byars
Bob & Jan Crockett
Wesley Bell
John & Donita Paulk
Billy & Verna Gray
Dan & Joyce Pratt
Loretta & Eugene Carroll
Ray & Betty Scott
Willie Faye Jensen
O.B. & Erma Lou Dunlap
Curtis & Linda Boyd
Virgil & Joy Yocham
Bob & Sandy Jackson
Virgil & Joy Yocham
Mary Curry
Dee & Audra Martin
Richard A. Castleman
Larry & Janey Zanowiak, Szalan,
John,
Margaret Shady
Margaret Shady
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Foster
Rusty & Sue Russwurm
Homer & Judith Benson
Earlene Myatt
David & Carolyn (Kemplin) Kilpatrick
Margaret Poulter
Margaret Poulter
Gene & Modine Lundgren
Wayne Boring family
Community First Trust Company
Tom & Margo Halsey
Sherwood Church of Christ
Bob & Sandy Jackson
Phyllis McIlroy
Mary Curry
Curtis & LaMoine Harrison
Charles & Hoycille Valentine
Troy & Marilyn Randolph
Marilena Brigham
Joe & Dot Cunningham
Jack & Keeci Henderson
Gene & Modine Lundgren
Dale C. Underwood
Laura Akin
Bob & Jan Crockett
D. Thomas & Ruthie Johnson
Emmett & Shirley Bobbitt
Virgil & Joy Yocham
Lee & Sharon Towns
Emmett & Shirley Bobbitt
Don & Charlene Eddleman
Troy & Marilyn Randolph
Vera Boatwright
Robert & Faye Whitaker
JoAnn Templeton
Bob & Jan Crockett
Lynn & Celia Staggs
Helen L. Porter
Nell Helfenbein
Carl & Glee O'Banion
A.D. & Mary Reed
Zane & Campbell Boardman, Collyn,
Chase, Alyssa & Cade Brown,
Jonathan & Mindi Zanowiak, Maria, Javi,
Mariah & Kaylah Ortiz
Life Group-C/of Jerry & Katie Courtney
Rivoire, Lenora & James Word
Webber Paxton, & Joan Cummings

DEPARTURES

Wanda J. Clancy worked at Pioneer Park Church of Christ as the secretary while her husband **Louis Mahlon Clancy ('74)** went to school at Sunset in 1970-74. She passed away 8/2/2008 at age 74.

Connie Crohn, wife of **Dana Crohn ('02)**, died 8/21/2008. The phrase "Lord, make me a blessing to someone today" is on a plaque above our kitchen sink. This was Connie's favorite saying and she tried each and every day to do just that. So many of you have been a great blessing to both of us over the past several months, and I can't thank you enough for being there for us in our time of need. The memorial service was Saturday, August 30th, in Tomah, WI.

Larry Deason ('67) died 11/2/2008 at his home in Lady Lake, Florida. His brother Bobby wrote, "Dear friends and family, John Larry Deason our dear beloved husband, father, granddad, great granddad, brother, uncle, cousin and friend died this morning at 10:32 a.m. He struggled for enough oxygen the last couple of hours but didn't seem to be in pain. He died very peacefully - in the presence of his wife Helen, daughters Sherri, Tammie, Bill Bean, Brian Wallace sons-in-love (law), Amber McBrayer (granddaughter), his sister Janice and husband Henry Reist, also Joanne and Bobby Deason. The sixteen and a half hours that it took for him die, after making the decision that's what he wanted to do, was a time of singing, love and encouragement with the family. The best time of all was when Larry came out of seven hours of sleep at 2 a.m. and blessed us with teachings straight from the heart, wrapped in grace and love from the Bible. It was a true blessing, a gift from God."

Billie Lemons ('82) died 10/12/2008 in Midland, Texas, where he was preaching and visiting. Billie became a certified paraprofessional while working with physical and mentally handicapped children who had violent tendencies. Billie was baptized into the Lord at the age of 8. He was called to ministry in 1972 while still attending high school. He was very active in "Aggies for Christ" while attending Texas A&M University. He also went on several mission trips including Hawaii, Thailand, and Japan. Billie attended Sunset from 1978-1982. Billie was a minister for 33 years. At the time of his death, he was the pulpit minister/ evangelist at 20th and Birch Church of Christ in Lub-

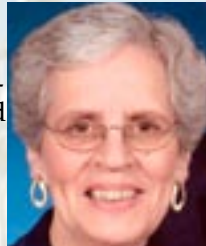


bock. He came from a line of ministers. Billie was married to his best friend and sister in Christ, Janet Lemons. Janet is a certified pharmacy technician and has just received her bachelor's degree in social work. She is currently working at the Children's Home of Lubbock as a Child Home Developer/Recruiter of foster care and adoption. Billie and Janet are the proud parents of two sons, Devin and Kolin. Billie and Janet adopted their second son, Kolin Brett, on Oct. 28, 2005. Kolin is now three years old. Billie and Janet were house parents with the Children's Home of Lubbock for 14 children in a therapeutic cottage over a period of two years and later were asked to help start and become house parents of a new ministry to mentor and teach parenting skills to teenage mothers.

Prentice Meador died 11/25/2008. Prentice was a long time friend of Sunset and respected preacher in our brotherhood who spoke at lectureships and fund raising events on behalf of Sunset. Surrounded by his wife and many family members, Prentice finished the race and crossed the finish line into the arms of Jesus. He was an influential preaching minister serving large churches in California, Illinois, Missouri, Washington, Tennessee and Texas for more than 40 years. But his ministry was not always in churches; sometimes it was on the campus of a major state university, on a nationally syndicated television show or in the hostile environment of Rostov-on-Don, Russia. Wherever God called him, he took the message of Christ and ministered to those who were there. (adapted from prayforprentice.com)



Sharon Riggs, the wife of Harry Riggs, died of cancer on 6/18/2008. She and Harry have been long time friends of Sunset International Bible Institute where Harry has served as the Sunset field rep for the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Sharon became ill in April and the lung tumors spread rapidly. She died at home with her beloved family. Our love and sympathy is extended to the family.



Verna Mae Speer, mother of Charles Speer, '72, passed away in Richarson, TX on 11/19/2008.

If you have information about any of our alumni, please let us know at alumni.sibi.cc.

PRAYER BY LEONARD FRANCIS - MISSION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2008, SUNSET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Holy Father, it is our earnest prayer that our offering of worship, thanksgiving, and praise will be worthy and acceptable to You. Father, today we have our minds fixed on our missionaries and on those to whom they minister.

We pray You will make us more aware of the needs of people everywhere. While we enjoy our life or privilege, Father, help us never to forget those who suffer grievously, especially those who do not know You.

So many people are different from us in color, language, custom, and culture. Yet, they cry as we cry, they bleed as we bleed; and they laugh in the same universal language of joy. They live under the same curse of sin, and their only hope is in the same Lord. Bless these people, Father, and our missionaries who work with them.

Bless our missionaries especially
when they feel so alone and far away,
when they are homesick,

when they long for help in solving problems,

when illness is intensified by distance,

when they wish the grandparents could see the newest accomplishment as the grandchildren grow, learn, and mature,

when they feel like strangers in a strange land.

Father, take our love across the miles, and remind our missionaries that they belong to us and to You. Our love is neither weakened by distance nor faded by time.

Thank You, Father, for making us instruments of Your peace, for entrusting to these fragile jars of clay the treasure of Your gospel.

Help us always to be true to our mission...

Never to despair because the task is so great...

Never to give up until all have heard the Good News that God is love, that Jesus has risen, and that whosoever will may come to Him.

In the name of Jesus, our risen Savior, for whom we thank You most, may it all be so, Amen.

The Correspondent

The Newsletter of Sunset External Studies • Winter 2008

Central California Institute of Biblical Studies

The Central California Institute of Biblical Studies (CCIBS) is a ministry of the Woodward Park Church of Christ in Fresno, California. This article was written by Dr. Stephen Powers, the CCIBS administrator.



The first word that comes to mind concerning the benefits of having a Sunset satellite school (known as Central California Institute of Biblical Studies at Woodward Park Church of Christ) is **FAITH**. We are in our sixth year in a six-year cycle that covers the 32 courses required for the Level 3 Biblical Studies Ministry Certificate. About two years into this six-year cycle, I was diagnosed with Level IV malignant melanoma. My first thought was an assured knowledge of my oneness with God. My second thought was concern for my family. Not until that awful moment did it occur to me the complete faith that God had developed in me and the accompanying assuredness of heaven. One of the main contributors to this absolute faith in Him was the courses we had completed through Central California Institute of Biblical Studies. After surgery and oncology visits every three months and now every six months, it has been four years and no recurrence.

As I talk with the men who have been with CCIBS for several years, everyone has remarked how their faith has increased, their intimacy with God has deepened, their biblical knowledge has expanded, and their spiritual life has matured. Those are signs of a successful, God-centered training program.

Another word that comes to mind concerning the benefit of a satellite school is **FELLOWSHIP**. We meet every Tuesday evening, 50 weeks out of the year, for two hours. The camaraderie we have developed with each other has been worth all the memorization of scripture, the pain of studying for mid-terms and finals, and the myriad of research papers the cruel teachers of Sunset have required of us.

What has always impressed me about God's word is its power to attract people, no matter what their nationality. On a usual Tuesday night, we have Hmong, Cambodians, African Americans, Mexicans, Polynesians, and Caucasians studying, praying, conversing, and laughing together.

Another word that comes to mind is **PREPARED**. My dad always told my brother and me, "Prior planning prevents poor performance," and a Sunset satellite school certainly does this. Several weeks ago we finished the course entitled, *The Book of John*, with Doyle Gilliam. One of the assignments for the course was to research whether Jesus is advocating the impossibility of apostasy in John 10:25-29. One Sunday morning, as the elder over the College and Career Shepherding Group, before the beginning of class I asked if any from the group had seen our teacher. Before anyone answered, I had a rush of adrenaline hit my stomach. The teacher had told me two weeks prior that he was going to be gone and



Administrators preparing at the Satellite Administrator's Workshop

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asked if I would teach the class. Two devotional songs later, with a rough outline of the scriptures and concepts used in the research paper, a 45-minute discussion ensued. It was a successful class, but it might not have been if not for the satellite school's requirements for its students.

Another word is **INFLUENCE**. Sunset and its satellite school curriculum have a wide circle of influence. Several in our congregation and other congregations borrow our DVDs to assist their quest for a better understanding of God's word in their lives. Men who have agreed to teach a class at Woodward Park will borrow our DVDs to use as the foundation for their study. A ladies class meets on Sunday morning. The leader uses the Sunset curriculum as her guide, and I poke my head in every Sunday morning to see how they are doing, to answer questions, and to lead a Q&A if necessary. That wouldn't be happening if Woodward Park didn't have a satellite school. One of my responsibilities is to schedule a rotation of men to preach at a little congregation in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The list of preachers is comprised from several area congregations and is replete with men who have studied or continue to study in our satellite school.


A satellite school has the **WOW-FACTOR!** Six years ago, our first course was Ed Wharton's *Distinctive Nature of the*

Church. After every lesson, when I turned off the television the students would continue to stare at the TV with eyes wide open in utter silence. We were mesmerized by the energy and the way Ed explained Christ's church. The most exclaimed word during those 12 weeks was "Wow!" Another course that has the same wow-factor is Richard Rogers' *The Book of Romans*.

For CCIBS, the best combination of classes has been Gerald Paden's *Sacrificial Systems* and *The Book of Hebrews*. By God's Providence, we started "Sacrificial Systems" at 7:00 p.m. a couple of weeks before we started *The Book of Hebrews* at 8:00 p.m. For about 10 weeks, we had Gerald teaching us for two hours. As Gerald finished a particular aspect of the Old Testament's sacrificial system, we would then hear him explain how the Hebrew writer, using the Jewish sacrificial system, showed how Jesus was the better sacrifice. The most common comment at this time was, "That makes sense!" This was always accompanied by a small and knowing smile showing the sense of accomplishment that always comes with learning something new and significant.

Now you know why, for six years, we have committed our Tuesday nights to the Central California Institute of Biblical Studies.

Satellite Administrator's Training



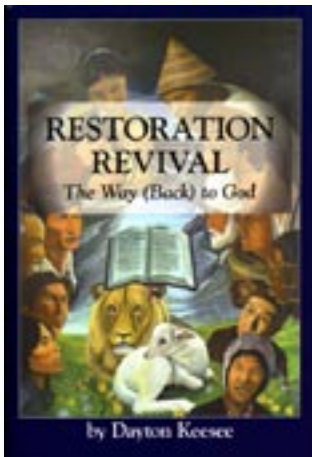
One of the highlight events of the year is our Satellite Administrator's Training Seminar at the Sunset Workshop in January each year. During this time brothers and sisters from all over the country make their way to Lubbock, Texas, for three days of fellowship, training, and encouragement. Several of our Satellite School administrators, helpers and students share their school experiences and learn ways to improve their ministries. Lessons on how to better train the local members as well as how to reach out into their communities are presented. Sessions about "the nuts and bolts" of starting and maintaining a Satellite School will assist anyone considering establishing a school. Record keeping and general information on how to conduct classes will be covered in this session as well. Sessions on how to present the Satellite School concept to the congregation and even to the community are critical to the continuing success of an effective Satellite School. How to advertise your school to both the church and the community will be presented in this class session. The type and quality of school leadership will be the subject of another session.

One of the great blessings of having a Satellite School ministry is your participation in a world-wide network of Satellite Schools. At this time, there have been **389 Satellite Schools** begun, both in the U.S. and in several other countries. Recently we set up a web site especially for our coworkers in Satellite Schools, www.satelliteschools.org. We want this site to be used by Satellite Schools to communicate with us and with each other to share victories and needs. As you will see on this site, the dates for our Administrator's Training Seminar is January 22 – 23, 2009. You can register for the Sunset Workshop at www.sibi.cc/2020. We will be praying for you as you consider being with us at that time.

Virgil Yocham, Dean of External Studies

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Now Available in Our Store



RESTORATION REVIVAL: *The Way (Back) to God,* by Dayton Keese

A new book from Sunset Institute Press focuses on two periods in Christian history, the first century and the 18th century. In the first century the church was united by a commitment to a common set of beliefs. In the 18th century men of various denominational groups abandoned their group distinctions in a commitment to unity based on those same first century ideals.

"I hunger for the day when all who claim to follow Christ may serve shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart in answering Christ's prayer for us all to be one like God and Christ are one!" – Dayton Keese

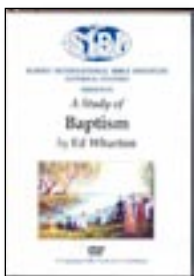
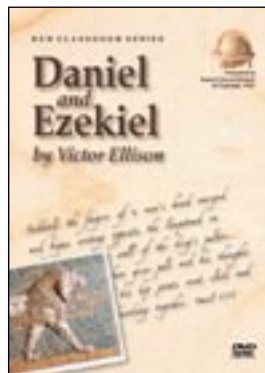
Hardback, 402 pages **\$24.99**

DANIEL & EZEKIEL (DVD) by Victor Ellison

Daniel & Ezekiel was filmed live in the classroom at Sunset International Bible Institute in 2007. The DVD series consists of 18 lessons from Daniel and 10 lessons from Ezekiel, totalling 26 hours on 14 DVDs.

Victor Ellison is a graduate of Sunset and of Lubbock Christian University. In his career he has served as a youth minister and pulpit minister. He also worked for many years in India as a missionary. Victor joined the faculty at Sunset in 1999 and is an accomplished instructor in the Old Testament.

DVD Set (Regular price \$119.99)..... **\$95.00**



A STUDY OF BAPTISM (DVD) by Ed Wharton

Eight 25 minute video lessons on baptism in the New Testament:

- The One Baptism
- Purpose of Baptism
- Baptism & the Church
- Identifying the Child of God
- Baptism in Relation to Faith
- Baptism & Relationship to God
- Baptism & Righteousness

DVD Set & Study Guide (Regular price \$60.00)..... **\$45.00**



JESUS: THE MAN (DVD) by Richard Rogers

Twelve video lessons on the humanity of Jesus. Individual lesson topics include Jesus' tears, patience, anger, compassion, humor, graciousness, and more! Includes a 48 page study guide.

DVD Set & Study Guide (Regular price \$60.00)..... **\$45.00**



HECHOS DE LOS APOSTOLES *(Acts of the Apostles)* by Abe Lincoln

Book based on the popular course by Abe Lincoln, now available in Spanish. 24 chapters, 300 pages.

Book (Regular \$14.99) **\$12.00**



EFESIOS *(Ephesians)* by Gerald Paden

Book based on the video course by Gerald Paden, now translated into Spanish. 12 chapters, 135 pages.

Book (Regular \$12.99) **\$10.00**

Special DVDs for Classroom & Evangelism



Are you looking for something challenging and thought provoking for outreach or a special class? Here are several professionally produced DVDs which address current issues from a Biblical perspective.

TRUTH BE TOLD, by Kyle Butt & Eric Lyons. Six 38 minute lessons on the creation/evolution controversy. It covers God's existence, dinosaurs, evolutionary hoaxes, creation, and the fruits of atheism.

Truth Be Told DVD..... **\$4.00**

ABORTION: A WOMAN'S RIGHT? by Tyler Young. A look at abortion from cultural, scientific and Biblical perspectives. It also offers practical suggestions for making a difference. Two 30 minute lessons.

Abortion: A Woman's Right? DVD..... **\$2.00**

FAITH FOR LIFE, by Brad Harrub. Do you want to raise children faithful to God? This DVD helps parents commit and prepare themselves. It deals with apathy, priorities, protecting hearts and minds, proper teaching, and more.

Faith for Life DVD (50 minutes) **\$5.00**

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