



Birmingham Theological Seminary

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NEWS

Summer 2016 Newsletter

BTS is a non-profit Alabama corporation and an independent, Reformed evangelical seminary.

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A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

Dr. William F. Thetford
Tuscaloosa Extension

It is always amusing when a group of BTS graduates or students gather and, inevitably, the subject will come up of who has been in school the longest or took the longest amount of time to get a degree. I often believed I ought to be in the running but I now know I'm not even close. My degree was 7 years in the making and, like most, it was because of so many one-course semesters. Much of my study was done through cassette tape (before the days of distance learning and DVDs). In those days I lived right outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and I still have memories of getting up early every morning to listen for an hour or more 6 days a week to those tapes – difficult but doable.



Not only did I do that for my Masters degree but did pretty much the same for my DMin. (That took another 7 years).

My point is that all that work was well worth the time and effort. I had originally, in the late 1970s, considered going full time to seminary. Those were my plans, not the Lord's; therefore it did not work out. So my next option was Birmingham Theological Seminary and it was exactly what I needed. Not only that, it has prepared me extremely well for the ministry God has given to me.

My calling was not as a full time pastor with a traditional church but first as a Ruling Elder, then as a missionary, then into local church work, and finally as a Chaplain for a large retirement community.

The education I received from BTS was a tremendous start for a life-time of learning. I have learned we never know it all and we continually grow in wisdom and knowledge. But there has to be a starting place. BTS provided that for me and I believe did it well.

As I reach the later years of my ministry, I find great satisfaction teaching at the Tuscaloosa extension and trying to pass on to the students the lessons I have learned and the idea that we are always learning. I also find satisfaction that Birmingham Seminary is not a stagnant organization but is attempting to stay on the cutting edge of teaching and presenting the truths of God's Word to the world.

My life has been deeply enriched by my association with BTS.

Tuscaloosa and Demopolis

Tuscaloosa and Demopolis Faculty



Rev. Tyshawn Gardner
Pastor, Plum Grove Baptist Church



Rev. Leander Jones
Pastor, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church



Dr. Simba Lombo
Pastor, Lighthouse International Church



Rev. Fred Moore
Pastor, Christian Chapel Baptist Church



Rev. Jim Richwine
Pastor, 1st Presbyterian Church, Eutaw



Dr. Bill Thetford
Chaplain, Capstone Village
Retirement Community



Rev. Charles Williams
Pastor, Tree of Life Christian Fellowship

*Five Tuscaloosa campus students
graduating in May.*

**Charles Williams,
Extension Coordinator
205-292-4620**

*Classes meet at
Riverwood Presbyterian Church
501 Rice Valley Road, N. 35406*

Announcements

2016 GRADUATION

The Graduation ceremony this year is on May 13th at 7:00 PM in the Briarwood Presbyterian Church Worship Center in Birmingham, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. You are invited!

Dr. William F. Thetford, BTS Board member and Professor of Old Testament, will be the commencement speaker. Come support our 2016 graduates!

If you are planning to graduate in 2017, please inform the registrar at 776-5354.



M.A. IN CHURCH HISTORY

Several students have expressed an interest in an MA in Church History. If you are a student or prospective student and interested in a master's program in Church History, please let us know in order for us to evaluate the interest level and feasibility of such a program.

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

Please note that the new website address is bts.education.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Stay up to date on BTS announcements and "like" our Facebook page.

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SUMMER SEMESTER: May 31 - August 26, 2016

Classes begin on Tuesday, May 31

Registrations/Tuition due by June 3 to avoid late fees • Drop/Add period ends June 10

BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS: Briarwood Presbyterian Church

COURSE	PROFESSOR	DAY/TIME	ROOM
ST3744 Contemporary Theology	Dr. Thad James, Jr.	MON 5:30-7:30PM	A201
OT1563 Advanced Hebrew	Mr. Bruce Horsley	MON 5:30-7:30PM	A202
BC7509 Counseling Theory ⁽¹⁾	Dr. Howard Eyrich	MON 5:30-7:30PM	A209
MS6658 Intercultural Communication & Ministry	Dr. Thad James, Jr.	MON 7:30-9:30PM	A201
NT2525 New Testament Theology #	Rev. Seth Richardson	TUE 6:00-8:00AM	A201
BC7668 Crisis Counseling ⁽¹⁾	Dr. Larry Dozier	TUE 5:30-7:30PM	A202
OT1526 Old Testament History & Theology #	Rev. George Shamblin	TUE 5:30-7:30PM	A209
OT1563 Advanced Hebrew	Mr. Bill Stroup	WED 6:00-8:00AM	A201
OT1023 Old Testament III*	Dr. Frank Barker	WED 5:30-7:30PM	A201
PT5637 Personal Evangelism ⁽²⁾	Rev. Dan Allison	WED 6:00-8:00PM	FH-A
ST3566 Ethics	Mr. Robbins/Dr. James, Jr.	THU 9:00-11:00AM	A201
ST3528 Systematic Theology III (Christology)*	Dr. Jim Maples	THU 5:30-7:30PM	A201
ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology #	Dr. Jay Haley	THU 5:30-7:30PM	A209
AP8791 Special Topic: Word-Faith-Prosperity	Rev. Clete Hux	THU 7:30-9:30PM	A201
ST3566 Ethics	Dr. Jay Haley	THU 7:30-9:30PM	A209
DM9121 Understanding the D.Min. Dissertation Project ⁽³⁾	Dr. Jim Maples	FRI 9:00-4:30PM	A201

(1) BC7501 Introduction to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite for BC7509 and BC7668.

(2) DM9121 Understanding the D.Min. Dissertation Project will meet on June 3rd, July 8th and August 5th.

(3) PT5637 Personal Evangelism will meet on May 25th, June 15th and 29th, July 13th and 27th, August 10th and 24th for On the Job Training.

(Contact Leigh Ann Reese at 205-776-5301 or lreese@briarwood.org to register with the Evangelism office.)

#: These classes will be available by video-conference for a limited number of students. Pre-registration and the proper computer equipment are essential for these courses.

* Old Testament I-III, New Testament I-II, and Systematic Theology I-VI do not need to be taken in any particular order

SUMMER 2016

REGISTRATION FORM
Registrations due the week of May 30

MAY 31 - AUGUST 26

NAME: _____ Check if contact info has changed

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (Home): _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____ EMAIL: _____

DEGREE PROGRAM: _____ New Student? Yes No When did you last take classes at BTS? _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: _____ DENOMINATION: _____

Course # _____	Instructor _____	Location _____	<input type="checkbox"/> M.A. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Cert. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit
Course # _____	Instructor _____	Location _____	<input type="checkbox"/> M.A. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Cert. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit
Course # _____	Instructor _____	Location _____	<input type="checkbox"/> M.A. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Cert. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit
Course # _____	Instructor _____	Location _____	<input type="checkbox"/> M.A. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Cert. Credit <input type="checkbox"/> Audit

OFFICE USE ONLY

Tuition: _____

App. Fee: _____

Student Serv. Fee: _____

Late Fee: _____

Video Conf. Fee: _____

Amt. Past Due: _____

Subtotal: _____

CC Fee (4%): _____

Total Due: _____

Amount Paid: _____

ck# _____ Cash _____

Balance Due: _____

Fees: M.A. App. Fee \$30 (one time) • Tuition \$100 per M.A./Cert. credit hr.; \$150 per DMIN credit hr. \$40 per audit hr. • Late Fee: \$25 per course after June 3 • Annual Student Serv. Fee: \$30

By completing and signing this form, I am registering for the above courses and agree to pay all tuition and fees.

Signature _____ Date: _____

MC VISA DISCOVER Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ - _____

*Use of Credit card incurs a 4% service charge

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LOGOS Bible Software Discount



For many years, BTS has enjoyed a 50% discount off the LOGOS Bible software. On June 1, the discount will be decreased to 40%. If you have not yet purchased the software, please be aware that the cost to BTS students will be increased slightly.

The LOGOS Bible software is a requirement for Master's degree students, and several courses require the use of this software to complete assignments. Payment plans are available on the LOGOS website. Contact the Seminary office for additional details or questions.

Distance Education Update



The Distance Education program has some new options available. In addition to the courses being available on CD-ROM and DVD (select courses), we now offer courses via Dropbox and USB flash drive.

The material fee for Dropbox and USB is \$20, CD-Rom is \$40 and DVD is \$80.



*Dr. Fank Barker, Jr. and Dr. Bill Hay,
BTS Co-Founders*

Scholarships

Owing to the generosity of donors to the BTS Founders Fund, BTS was pleased to offer tuition scholarships during the Spring semester. Eligible students may receive up to 75% tuition discount for up to two courses.

There are funds available to award scholarships on the basis of a student's financial need. Scholarship applications are available from the BTS office and the deadline for summer semester scholarship applications is May 13.

Contributions are still being made to the Founders Fund. If you or your church have not already made a commitment to the BTS Founders Fund, would you consider doing so?



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED