



Birmingham Theological Seminary

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY NEWS

Fall 2016 Newsletter

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

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A Professor's Journey at BTS

By: Rev. Jackie Gaston

I began my pastoral ministry at age 39, after 15 years as a physical therapist. I was called to be the solo pastor of a small PCA church in Albertville, Alabama, having never been on a church staff and never in vocational ministry of any type.

Like many students at BTS, I had been attending seminary part-time over the course of several years while continuing to work my full-time job. This helped me become pulpit supply for this particular church, which after 3 months called me to be its full-time pastor. I passed the presbytery's ordination exams, and I felt theologically and academically prepared. My biggest concern (i.e., anxiety!) wasn't preaching and teaching, but pastoral ministry ... being the shepherd of a flock. The weight of that responsibility loomed heavy on my shoulders. Was I truly ready?

Typical of all churches, the ministry I assumed had its share of problems and I was expected to engage with Biblical wisdom and compassionate leadership. To my pleasant surprise, what happened over the course of those first few years of ministry was that as each thorny pastoral situation developed (seemingly one after another!), I found myself recalling the many vignettes, tangential "case studies" and pearls of practical application that were presented by my professors at BTS. In each circumstance, I was able to recall gems of wisdom and guidance on how to handle the situation. Even in the more academic classes of Systematic Theology, Old and New Testament Studies, and Church History, I could remember Jeff Lowman, Richard Trucks, Frank Barker, Clete Hux, Vic Minish, and Thad James applying our studies to actual real life cases from their own experience... and I found myself, even with no previous pastoral experience, prepared after all!

One of the many great benefits of a seminary education at BTS is the balance of pastoral and academic experience in its professors. Academically, we are well prepared. We come out knowing the Bible and knowing theology. We also have the advantage of a wealth of practical theology courses in Christian education, evangelism, discipleship, counseling and missions. But here is the key - our courses are taught by pastors who not only are experts in the subject matter, but are also pastors engaged in everyday pastoral ministry and living out their academic disciplines. They are truly "pastor-scholars." Our churches need pastors who know how to take their "head knowledge" and apply it to real ministry. When you have pastor-scholars as your instructors, you will continually glean real-life ministry applications that prepare you for the real world of pastoral ministry. I have had conversations with non-seminary trained pastors who boast that going to seminary is not necessary. For me and my flock, I can't imagine being in ministry without it.



*Rev. Jackie Gaston, Pastor
Grace Fellowship Presbyterian
Church and BTS professor at
the Huntsville Extension*

Prison Initiative

By: Mitch Haubert

[Editor's Note: In September, BTS will launch an inmate education program at the Bibb County Correctional Facility. Successive cohorts of 15 inmates will be taken through an intensive two-year seminary program and then assigned to various prisons around the state to minister to other inmates. Pastor Mitch Haubert of Brent Presbyterian Church has agreed to serve as the coordinator for this program.]



Hooah! That is an official greeting from your new Prison Initiative Coordinator. In God's providence, most of my Christian life has been spent preparing to serve as the BTS Prison Coordinator. Spurgeon once said, "No faith is so precious as that which lives and triumphs through adversity. Tested faith brings experience. You would never have believed your own weakness had you not needed to pass through trials. And you would never have known God's strength had His strength not been needed to carry you through." During my military career I experienced the horrors of war, the radical corruption of the human heart, and the devastation that sin brings into our lives. I believe God used those years of despair and suffering to prepare me to take the good news of Jesus Christ into the prison system!

My calling is to disciple these men and prepare them for gospel ministry in a dark and oftentimes spiritually desolate environment. These men will receive two years of intensive discipleship and academic instruction. Upon completion of the program, my hope and prayer is that these men will be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Imagine a group of men trained in the Reformed faith, intensively disciplined by a local pastor, and then sent out by twos into our prison system with one purpose: proclaim Jesus Christ in word and deed. God is advancing His Kingdom in the most unlikely place! We need prayers for physical, emotional, and spiritual strength. We need prayers for protection against Satan and his followers. We need prayers for wisdom and discernment. May God be pleased to glorify His name, gather His elect, and advance His Kingdom through Birmingham Theological Seminary's Prison Initiative Program!

Scholarship Funds Available

Owing to the generosity of donors to the BTS Founders Fund, BTS is pleased to offer tuition scholarships this year. 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 fall semester scholarship applications is September 2.



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?

Announcements

M.A. CLINICALS

M.A. in Ministry and M.A. in Apologetics students planning to graduate in May 2017 must register for PT7802 Clinical Research Development this Fall.

ANNUAL STUDENT SERVICE FEE DUE

The \$30 annual student services fee is due at registration for all students. This fee covers your student ID and name badge, printed course supplements and other student services. If you already have a student ID, you will receive a sticker to update it or you may request a new ID.

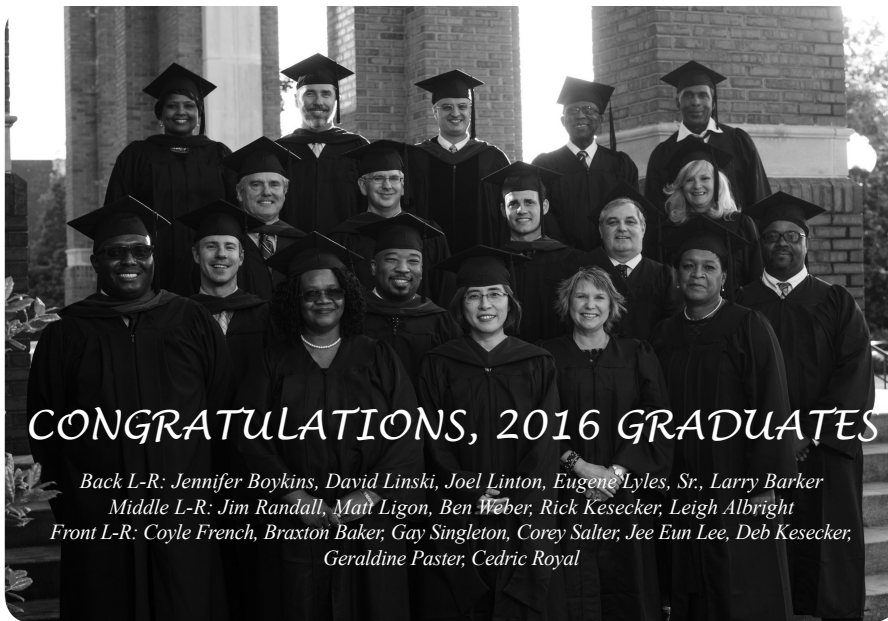
DMIN COURSES

Starting Spring 2017, DMIN courses will be available via videoconference. Look for more details later this year. If you are interested in one of the DMIN programs, please contact Dr. Thad James at 205-776-5386. New cohorts will start in January.

DEGREE AUDITS

Current students have received a degree audit in the mail. The degree audit is designed to assist you selecting your next course. If you have any questions about your degree audit or would like to receive one, please contact the BTS office.

If you have not declared a degree program, please consider selecting a program. You may be closer to earning a degree than you think. To discuss degree programs, call 776-5356 to schedule an appointment.



CONGRATULATIONS, 2016 GRADUATES

Back L-R: Jennifer Boykins, David Linski, Joel Linton, Eugene Lyles, Sr., Larry Barker
Middle L-R: Jim Randall, Matt Ligon, Ben Weber, Rick Kesecker, Leigh Albright
Front L-R: Coyle French, Braxton Baker, Gay Singleton, Corey Salter, Jee Eun Lee, Deb Kesecker,
Geraldine Paster, Cedric Royal

Diplomas Awarded:

- 3 Master of Divinity • 1 M.A. in Ministry • 1 M.A. in Biblical Counseling
4 M.A. in Biblical Studies • 8 Certificates • 1 Doctor of Ministry

BTS Professor and former board member, Dr. Bill Thetford was the commencement speaker and was awarded an honorary doctorate for his long-term service to BTS.

We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for our graduates. We pray God's blessings on them as they continue in ministry.

If you are planning to graduate in May 2017, please contact the Registrar at jhamamatsu@briarwood.org as soon as possible.

Welcome Back, Irene Hayes

Asher Allen, BTS Administrative Assistant, will be pursuing new opportunities in her home state of Georgia. Her last day was July 20. Asher brought a lot of creative ideas to BTS and we wish her the best!

Irene Hayes will be returning to BTS on August 1 after a brief time away. She is excited to return to her role as Administrative Assistant at BTS and we are glad to welcome her back.

Reminder to Certificate Students

For each class, certificate students have a choice. They may either satisfy the higher academic workload required of M.A. students or a slightly reduced workload tailored for certificate students. But why would anyone choose a higher workload? Well, some of our certificate students either have a college degree already or plan to finish one within the next few years. Those certificate students choose the higher workload because they want to earn M.A. credit for the class. That gives them the option later to earn an M.A. without having to re-take that class.

You will notice M.A. Credit and a Certificate Credit options on the registration form. All M.A. degree program students should "check the box" for M.A. Credit. Certificate students who wish to satisfy the higher M.A. workload should also check the box for M.A. Credit. All other certificate students should check the box for "Certificate Credit."

(Certificate credit courses taken prior to Fall of 2015 already satisfy the M.A. Credit standard and are so designated in the Seminary's records.)

Clear as mud? Please contact the seminary office if you have any questions.

Mark your Calendars

JAN TERM CLASSES

January 5-7 and 12-14

Mark your calendar for Jan Term 2017. Courses will be announced by e-mail later this semester. Each Jan Term class will meet Thursday through Saturday from 8:00-5:00.

These intensive courses are a convenient option for students wanting to take classes at a faster pace to complete their degree program.

STUDENT ORIENTATION

Tuesday, Sept. 1

6:30 P.M. Room A-201

All students invited. Come learn about:

- Important information found in the student handbook and catalog
- What to expect from courses
- Which libraries to use
- The LOGOS Bible software
- And much more.

Get started on the right foot. Don't miss student orientation!

LOGOS TRAINING SEMINAR

Saturday, September 24

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

\$50

- No academic credit for this seminar
- Registrations due by **September 16**

The LOGOS software is required for all masters degree-seeking students. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn how to use this valuable ministry and study tool.

BTS is one of the few schools to enjoy a 40% discount on Logos. Take advantage of this great deal by following the link on our website.

NAME: _____ Check if contact info has changed
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: (H): _____ (W) _____ (C) _____ EMAIL: _____
 DEGREE PROGRAM: _____ New Student? Yes No When did you last take classes at BTS? _____
 Course # _____ Instructor _____ Location _____ M.A. Credit Cert. Credit Audit
 Course # _____ Instructor _____ Location _____ M.A. Credit Cert. Credit Audit
 Course # _____ Instructor _____ Location _____ M.A. Credit Cert. Credit Audit
 Course # _____ Instructor _____ Location _____ M.A. Credit Cert. Credit Audit

OFFICE USE ONLY
 Tuition: _____
 App. Fee: _____
 Student Ser. Fee: **\$30**
 Late Fee: _____
 Amt. Past Due: _____
SUBTOTAL: _____
 CC Fee (4%): _____
TOTAL DUE: _____
 Amount Paid: _____
 ck# _____ Cash _____
 Balance Due: _____

Fees: M.A. Application Fee \$30 (one time) • Tuition \$100 per M.A./Cert. credit hr. \$200 per DMIN credit hr. \$40 per audit hr. • Late Fee: \$25 per course after Sep. 9 • Student Services 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

Birmingham Theological Seminary • 2200 Briarwood Way • Birmingham, AL 35243 • (205) 776-5650

TUITION-FREE COURSE IN BIRMINGHAM

We are pleased to offer three tuition-free courses this fall semester. These courses are open to any student, but new and returning inactive students pay no tuition.* This is a great opportunity to give seminary a try or for current students to bring a friend.

BIRMINGHAM:

OT1526 Old Testament History and Theology (Shamblin) Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM.

DOTHAN:

ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology (Miley) Monday 7:30-9:30 PM.

MONTGOMERY:

HT4641 Church History in America (Taylor) Tuesday 5:30-7:30 PM.



To register for these courses, new and returning inactive students will need to submit a new or updated application for admission and a registration form for the class. New students will need to pay the one-time \$30 application fee, but the \$30 annual student services fee will be deferred for new and returning students until they register for their next class.

**Inactive students are students who have not taken a course in more than 2 years.
 Current students may register for the course, but regular tuition is required.*



Birmingham Theological Seminary
 2200 Briarwood Way
 Birmingham, AL 35243
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FALL SEMESTER: September 6 – December 9, 2016

Drop/Add Period Ends September 16

**Fall Break is October 10-14 • Classes will not meet November 23-25 in observance of Thanksgiving
Walk-Through Nativity Dates: December 7-9 (no classes at Briarwood)**

BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS: Briarwood Presbyterian Church (unless otherwise noted)

COURSE	PROFESSOR	DAY/TIME	ROOM
OT1021 Old Testament I (Genesis-Ruth) *	Rev. Kuna Griggs	Mon 6:00-8:00am	A201
BC7501 Introduction to Biblical Counseling ⁽¹⁾	Dr. Howard Eyrich	Mon 5:30-7:30pm	A201
NT2011 Beginning Greek I	Mr. Bruce Horsley	Mon 5:30-7:30pm	A202
PT5621 Conflict Resolution in the Church	Mr. Glenn Waddell	Mon 5:30-7:30pm	A209
BC7630 Marriage & Family Counseling	Dr. Dave Matthews	Mon 7:30-9:30pm	A201
AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics	Mr. Brandon Robbins	Mon 7:30-9:30pm	A209
BC7622 Biblical Approach to Addictions	Dr. Larry Dozier	Tue 5:30-7:30pm	A201
HT4529 Early & Medieval Church History	Rev. Thomas Joseph	Tue 5:30-7:30pm	A202
OT1526 Old Testament History & Theology ⁽²⁾	Rev. George Shamblin	Tue 5:30-7:30pm	A209
NT2022 New Testament I (Gospels -Acts) *	Dr. Gary Purdy	Tue 7:30-9:30pm	A201
AP8531 World Religions	Rev. Clete Hux	Tue 7:30-9:30pm	A209
NT2011 Beginning Greek I	Mr. Bill Stroup	Wed 6:00-8:00am	A201
OT1021 Old Testament I (Genesis-Ruth) *	Dr. Frank Barker	Wed 5:30-7:30pm	A201
BC7502 Counseling in the Local Church I	Dr. Howard Eyrich	Wed 6:30-8:30pm	A209
PT5637 Personal Evangelism ⁽³⁾	Dr. Barker/Mr. Allison	Wed 6:30-9:30pm	FH-A
BC7606 Using the Bible in Counseling ⁽⁴⁾	Dr. Lou Priolo	Wed 6:30-8:15pm	VC
ST3526 Systematic Theology I (Study of God)	Rev. Robert Alexander	Thu 9:00-11:00am	A201
PT5523 Ministry of the Word I ⁽⁵⁾	Dr. Michael Reese	Thu 9:00-11:00am	A209
PT5631 Theology & Practice of Church Administration	Rev. Larry Cockrell	Thu 5:30-7:30pm	A201
PT5527 Communication	Dr. Jay Haley	Thu 5:30-7:30pm	A209
PT7802 Clinical Research Development ⁽⁶⁾	Rev. Cockrell/Dr. James	Thu 7:30-9:30pm	A201
ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology	Dr. Jay Haley	Thu 7:30-9:30pm	A209
NT2022 New Testament I (Gospels-Acts) *	Rev. Mike Jones	Fri 6:00-8:00am	A201
LOGOS Logos Bible Software Training Seminar ⁽⁷⁾	Dr. Thad James, Jr.	Sat. 9/23 8:30am-12:30pm	A201

(1) BC7501 Intro to Biblical Counseling is a prerequisite for all counseling courses except BC7630 Marriage & Family and BC7502 Counseling in the Local Church I.

(2) OT1526 Old Testament History & Theology (Birmingham) is being offered tuition-free for new and two-years or more inactive students. Please see the Newsletter or contact the seminary office for details.

(3) PT5537 Personal Evangelism -Seminary students must also register with the Briarwood Evangelism Ministry. Contact lreese@briarwood.org or 205-776-5301.

(4) VC: Valleydale Church- 2324 Valleydale Road Birmingham 35244. Class will begin September 14 and end December 14.

(5) PT5523 Ministry of the Word I is interchangeable with PT5722 Expository Preaching I.

(6) All M.A. in Ministry and M.A. in Apologetics students seeking to graduate in May 2017 are required to take PT7802 Clinical Research Development.

(7) Logos Bible Software Training Seminar - students should register by September 16. The cost is \$50; this is not for seminary credit. Must have Logos Software to participate. See the Newsletter for additional information.

CALHOUN COUNTY

Anniston Bible Church • 3230 Coleman Rd., Anniston, AL 36207

Extension Coordinator: Dennis Bradford 202-821-7409 calhouncounty@bts.education

OT1526 Old Testament History & Theology	Dr. Stephen Schrader	Mon	5:30-7:30pm
HT4528 Early & Medieval Church History	Rev. Bob St. John	Tues	5:30-7:30pm
AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics	Dr. Vic Minish	Thu	5:30-7:30pm

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

DEMOPOLIS

Christian Chapel Bapt. Church, 500 W. Decatur St. 36723

Extension Coordinator: Albert Jackson • 205-496-4133 • demopolis@bts.education

PT5527 Communication	Rev. Major Burrell	Tues	5:30-7:30pm
PT5631 Theology & Practice of Church Administration	Rev. Major Burrell	Tues	7:30-9:30pm
OT1021 Old Testament I (Genesis-Ruth) *	Rev. Fred Moore	Thu	5:30-7:30pm
NT2022 New Testament I (Gospels-Acts) *	Rev. Fred Moore	Thu	7:30-9:30pm

DOTHAN

Extension Coordinator: Angela Smith • 334-797-8572 • dothan@bts.education

NT2665 Romans:Book Study	Rev. David Temples	Mon	5:30-7:30pm	NVC
ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology ⁽²⁾	Rev. Lynn Miley	Mon	7:30-9:30pm	NVC
OT1023 Old Testament I (Genesis-Ruth) *	Rev. Clark Cornelius	Thu	5:30-7:30pm	DCC
OT1526 Old Testament History & Theology	Dr. Charles Lewis	Thu	7:30-9:30pm	DCC

(2) ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology (Dothan) is being offered tuition-free for new and two-years or more inactive students. Please see the Newsletter or contact the seminary office for details.

NVC - New Vision Church 786 North Park Avenue 36303 • DCC - Dothan Community Church 4390 Westgate 36303

HUNTSVILLE

Connections Presbyterian Church • 897 Capshaw Rd. Madison, AL. 35757

Extension Coordinator: Matt Ligon • 256-509-5822 • huntsville@bts.education

HT4721 Reformation & Modern Church History	Rev. Jackie Gaston	Mon	5:30-7:30pm
NT2023 New Testament II (Romans-Revelation) *	Rev. Steve Grissom	Tue	5:30-7:30pm
ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology	Dr. Chris Bolt	Thu	5:30-7:30pm

MONTGOMERY

Young Meadows Presbyterian Church • 5780 Vaughn Rd. 36116

Extension Coordinator: Lydia Pickett • 334-284-5056 • montgomery@bts.education

OT1023 Old Testament III (Minor Prophets-Psalms, Proverbs) *	Rev. Kirby Smith	Mon	5:30-7:30pm
PT5531 Christian Workers Personal Life & Spiritual Formation	Rev. Reed DePace	Mon	5:30-7:30pm
AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics	Rev. Billy Reinhardt	Mon	7:30-9:30pm
HT4641 Church History in America ⁽²⁾	Dr. Harrison Taylor	Tue	5:30-7:30pm
ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology	Rev. Lee Bloodworth	Tue	7:30-9:30pm
NT2022 New Testament I (Gospels-Acts) *	Dr. Jim Simoneau	Thu	5:30-7:30pm
PT5527 Communication	Dr. Josh Carmichael	Thu	7:30-9:30pm

(2) HT4641 Church History in America (Montgomery) is being offered tuition-free for new and two-years or more inactive students. Please see the Newsletter or contact the seminary office for details.

TUSCALOOSA

Riverwood Pres. Church-501 Rice Valley Rd., N. 35406

Contact the BTS Office • 205-776-5356 • BTSAdmin@briarwood.org

NT2023 New Testament II (Romans-Revelation) *	Rev. TyShawn Gardner	Mon	5:30-7:30pm
OT1021 Old Testament I (Genesis-Ruth) *	Dr. Bill Thetford	Tue	5:30-7:30pm
HT4721 Reformation & Modern Church History	Rev. Leander Jones	Tue	5:30-7:30pm
PT5527 Communication	Dr. Lombo Simba Lombo	Thu	5:30-7:30pm

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