

KANSAS EXPRESSWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
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BIM Informer

Bible Institute of Missouri Newsletter

BIM Contributors (2012)

Congregations (Monthly):
39th Street church of Christ, Independence, MO
Camdenton church of Christ, MO
Carthage church of Christ, MO
Conway church of Christ, MO
Crocker church of Christ, MO
Exeter church of Christ, MO
Freedom church of Christ, MO
Highlandville church of Christ, MO
Kansas Expressway church of Christ, Springfield, MO
Mountain Grove church of Christ, MO
Washburn church of Christ, MO
West Road church of Christ, Mountain Home, AR

Individuals (Monthly):
Barnes, Jimmie
Bilbo, Mel and Liz
Hardin, Wanda
Heavin, Clyde and Robbie
Loudermilk, Carolyn
Sanders, Tiffany

Note:
Churches and individuals who send monthly contributions to support faculty and students are not listed here due to a lack of space.

Did You Receive a Copy?

If you would like to receive your own copy of the *BIM Informer* via mail or email, please send your name, address, and/or email address to Brent Green at bgreen@bim-us.org.

Bible Institute of Missouri
A Work of the Kansas Expressway Church of Christ
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General Information:
* Two-Year Program
* 40+ Courses
* Preacher Training

* Free Tuition
* 2400 Classroom Hours
* Mission Opportunities

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March 2012

Director's Desk

Our Love for God and the Lost Is the Motivation behind Our Commitment

Recently I received some information on global missions that caused me to be encouraged as well as overwhelmed with the task that is before us in evangelizing this world. The *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* published the following statistics:

- The population of the world grew from 1.6 billion to 7 billion in 112 years.
- 33% of the world's population claims to be Christian.
- There are 43,000 denominations in the world today.
- Islam claims 1.5 billion adherents.
- The number of computers in use by Christians today is 620 million.

Thus, we see the challenge before us. The world needs a proper presentation of the gospel of Christ. It must be preached to "every creature" (Mark 16:15-16). Although the United States represents a small portion of the world's population, we have a responsibility to do our best to preach to the lost of our country. Thus, our goal at BIM is to raise up faithful gospel preachers to preach to the lost of our country. We need your help in doing this great work.

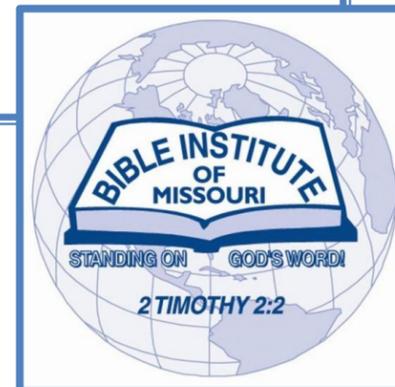
Very soon you will be receiving a request to get involved in a new effort that will help take care of the needs of those who come to the school for training to be gospel preachers. It will reveal to you a plan where we are asking those who can and will, above what they are contributing to their local congregations, to contribute \$25 monthly to the work here at BIM. It will not take many of us who are willing to get involved to give the funds necessary to provide scholarships and assistance to those who are willing to come but do not have the resources to do so. Surely, all of us can make the sacrifice necessary to give a minimum of \$25 per month to this effort to reach out to the lost of our country through the training of faithful gospel preachers. If you would like to get involved in this effort feel free to call me at 417-619-8197 or e-mail me at jerrysullins@juno.com.

On June 10th we will be graduating two students: Kent Eakins and Uriah Greer. We do hope you will come and be a part of the graduation ceremony which will be held at 2:00 PM at the Kansas Expressway church of Christ in Springfield, Missouri.

May God richly bless you all as you strive to do His will.

—Jerry Sullins

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2



What's in a Name?

Ray Sullins

Almost ten years ago we opened the doors to the Bible Institute of Missouri. What an exciting day it was after years of planning and work to see that this area had its very own preacher training school. Over the years we have had many students go through our program, and we are proud of the results and faithfulness of the majority who have committed themselves to this great work.

However, I also remember one of the early tenants of the school that often is overlooked by many and maybe keeps some from attending. From the very beginning, we saw a need for the church to be strengthened as a whole through the in-depth training of individuals in God's Word. Therefore, it was our desire originally to express to the church an overall need for anyone and everyone who was willing to be trained to do so. Despite the fact that we are primarily a preacher training school, we are much more. What greater need does the church have today than simply to have brethren who love God enough to commit themselves to a deeper understanding of His Word? The fact is the Lord's church needs men and women who have given themselves to a more in-depth study of God's Word, rather than remaining in the first principles.

It was for this very reason that we chose to call the school the Bible Institute of Missouri instead of something more specific to only preachers. Our desire and intent from the beginning has been to train not only preachers, but also elders, deacons, and any and every member of God's family who would be willing to give their lives to a greater understanding of His Word. What better way is there to "grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ" than to give oneself to a two-year intense study of God's precious Word?

Finally brethren, imagine where the church would be today if all Christians availed themselves of such an opportunity. Think of how much stronger, committed, and faithful the church would be. It is never too late, and we are never too old to commit ourselves more to the Word of God!

So what about you! Have you ever considered giving two years of your life to really develop your faith? Isn't God worth it? Is there anything more important in this life than working toward eternal life? Why not contact us today!

Evening School Schedule

6:30 PM — *The Synoptics* with Jerry Sullins
7:30 PM — *The Pentateuch* with Brent Green
8:30 PM — *The Church of the New Testament* with Chuck Northrop

The current Monday evening classes will continue until April 23, 2012. If you happen to miss a class or want to watch a class from the past, then you can also find those on our [website](#).

BIM Fourth Quarter Classes

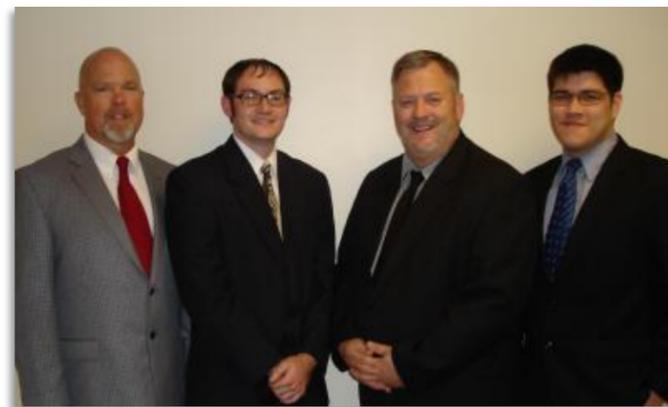
First-Year Classes:	Second-Year Classes:
Timothy and Titus	World Religions
Apologetics	The Godhead
General Epistles	Revelation
Preacher and His Work IV	Preacher and His Work VIII
English IV	Greek IV

Combined:
Wisdom Literature II

Mark Your Calendars

May 13-16 *BIM Lectureship*
Theme for 2012: "Worship"
June 10 *BIM Graduation* at 2 PM at the
Kansas Exp. church of Christ

Current BIM Student Body



Allen Fischgrabe, Jesse Young, Kent Eakins, Uriah Greer

The upcoming issues of the *BIM Informer* will highlight and showcase the present student body.

Student Showcase



Allen Fischgrabe is a native of Greene County, Missouri and is proud to call the Ozarks his home. He was born November 28, 1960 in Springfield, Missouri and was baptized in June 1971 in Strafford, Missouri. He served in the United States Marine Corp for six years and was stationed in Hawaii, Virginia, and California. In 1997, he left North Carolina and moved back to Springfield. He has been a member of the Kansas Expressway church of Christ since 2009. He has an adult daughter, Tara Joy Fischgrabe, and she is also a member of the Kansas Expressway congregation. He said his goal "is to be better equipped to present God's Word as a preacher, evangelist, or missionary."

Choosing a Church

Allen Fischgrabe

In every city in America and in almost every town anywhere in the world, a church building can be found. No matter where the readers of this article are at the time of reading, it is probable that they do not have to travel very far to find a place to worship God. With so many choices, a person may have trouble deciding which church to attend, if indeed a decision to honor the Lord has been reached. Some today say: "Worship the Lord in the church of your choice." Others state: "We are all going to the same place, just taking different paths." While these lines of reasoning may be satisfactory for the ignorant or apathetic, those of a more serious mind desire proof for such an important selection. The Bible, which is the inspired word of God, gives the truth seeker all the evidence needed to make the right choice concerning a place of worship.

There are a great number of denominations in existence today. A denomination is a division of the whole, a sect. There are Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists, Mormons, Scientologists, and the list keeps growing. Ask a member of any one of these what doctrine they follow, and the answer will be a creed that was written by a man or a group of men. In contrast, the Bible is of divine origin. It was written by men who were directly guided by God through the movement of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). Following the words of

men rather than the words of God is not a good idea. In fact, the apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 1:8-9: "If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." Some might say that their creeds stand alongside the Bible and even enhance it. The Bible states that through the Scripture the man of God is complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The one true church was founded by Christ (Matthew 16:18). Christ is also the head of that church (Ephesians 1:22). While various denominations have governing bodies made up of men or groups of men, the Bible tells of one head of the body, the church (Colossians 1:18). While the terms *head* and *body* are used figuratively, any logically thinking individual cannot imagine a head with several bodies or a body with more than one head. The Bible clearly states that there is one body (1 Corinthians 12:20).

With such a great number of religious bodies available, a person might feel inclined to compare those groups to branches which are just parts of the main vine. However, when Jesus spoke of branches, He was referring to individual men when saying that "if anyone does not abide in Me he is cast out as a branch" (John 15:6). Jesus called Himself the good shepherd (John 10:11). He went on to say that there is one flock and one shepherd (John 10:16). "The other sheep which are not of this fold" refers to the Gentile nations and not other flocks, branches, or bodies.

God is wise. His manifold wisdom was made known by the church according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:10-11). The repetition of the word *one* in Ephesians 4:4-6 ("one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all") was done for a reason. That reason is to emphasize the singleness of purpose God had for His body of believers. If God intended for there to be a multitude of choices available to those who decide to worship Him, then there would be no reason for the instructions given in the preceding verses concerning the keeping of the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-3). With so many creeds and numerous denominations to choose from, the only obvious path to follow is to use the Bible as the sole guide for selecting a place of worship.