

For those who Seek the Path of Biblical Higher Education to Lead and Serve our Communities

President's Desk

Dr. Jack R. Finch



The question before us in an unsettling world may be “Do we as believers need more or less of God?” The new marketing voice of your college is, “For those Seeking the Path of Biblical Higher Education to Lead and Serve in Communities.”

The student who is trained to be a faithful servant today for tomorrow will be equipped with the Word of God to serve in a multi-diverse world of communities. Today's issues facing the church, our homes, and our nation require all the equipping a servant leader can accumulate with a special set of biblical skills.

Now is the time for God's servants to prepare for the tough plowing that is no doubt here before us. God's desire for the believer is to place our shoulder to the gospel plow and not look back!

Therefore, Tri-State Bible College continues to make available as many biblical tools as possible for those who seek the path of biblical higher education to lead and serve communities.



President Jack Finch speaking to TSBC friends and family at the Broomhall Bible Research Center Dedication

Tuition-Free Program Helps High School Juniors and Seniors

The President's Scholars Program, administered by Dr. Stephen Willis, offers college-bound high school juniors and seniors a chance to earn religious studies credits at the college or university they choose to attend.

“This semester we are offering a survey of New Testament literature,” Steve says. “It gives students a scholarly overview of the New Testament, the various authors and the various genres—the historical narratives in the Gospels and Acts, the expositional accounts in the letters, and the apocalyptic/prophetic passages in Revelation. It also includes how the New Testament was compiled and how it was handed down to modern readers.”

In addition to the free tuition, the texts are on-line and also free. Only registration fees are required.

“This program will give students a very fundamental understanding of the New Testament as a whole,” Steve says, “which also will benefit the congregations to which they belong.” The program will continue during summer semester with Spiritual Formation, a three credit class, starting May 23. Contact admissions for additional information.

Steve, lead pastor of First Baptist Church of Kenova, is TSBC's vice president of collaborative programming and an adjunct professor.



Dr. Steven R. Willis, TSBC VP Collaborative Programming and faculty member

Graduation scheduled for May 14

Graduation exercises will take place in the Broomhall Bible Research Center's chapel on the South Point Campus at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 14. The speaker will be Dr. Clifford Marquardt, chancellor and past president. The event is open and free to the public.

Dr. Clifford Marquardt, TSBC Chancellor and faculty member. Dr. Marquardt is the featured speaker at the 2016 TSBC graduation, scheduled for 5 pm Saturday, May 14.



Chapel Services Focus on Worship Over Study

While students are heavily involved in academia, they shouldn't forget to nourish their spiritual lives, TSBC Chaplain John Arnold declares.

That's why John schedules chapel services every three weeks during a semester in the Broomhall Bible Research Center's chapel -- waiting about three weeks before he starts so students who enroll late can participate. And John's wife, Kaye, always brings refreshments.

The services usually rotate between Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, always beginning at 7 p.m., but John had to change some of the earlier dates at the beginning of this semester because of scheduling conflicts.

"I try to sign up speakers from different areas of ministry, including the Gideons, visiting missionar-

"Pastors share insights on pastoring," he says. "We have had missionaries from Puerto Rico and Mongolia, which lets students see what's going on in those places. We've had Barry Smith, who ministers to the homeless along the riverbank, and Necia Freeman, who has a ministry called Backpacks and Brown Bags. We have had Mike Smith, assistant pastor at First Baptist Church in Proctorville, who is a chalk artist, and Mitch Webb, executive director of the Huntington City Mission."

John says those who gather for chapel services sing a hymn or hear a soloist -- only one, because he wants to give the speaker the most time possible.

"We are strictly limited to 45 minutes because the students have to go to classes afterward," he says. "We don't want to cut into their class time any more than is absolutely necessary."



Recent Chapel Service featuring Voice of the Martyrs in the Broomhall Bible Research Center Chapel.



Student Chaplain James Ferguson, Chapel Speaker Ron Long of Luther Rice Seminary, and James' wife Kayla during fellowship after a recent chapel service.



John and Kaye Arnold. John earned degrees at TSBC in 1995, 2000, and 2001. He is currently TSBC Chaplain and Secretary of the Board of Directors.

ies, and area pastors from Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky who have gone on to earn higher degrees elsewhere," he says. "I also use TSBC graduates who are serving in various forms of pastoral and evangelistic work."

Sometimes that results in adjusting the schedule of chapel services to fit the speakers.

"For example, an area church had a speaker from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Ga., last October," he says. "We changed the night of our service to get him while he was here." Another example was a visit last fall from a speaker for The Voice of the Martyrs in Bartlesville, Okla.

Visiting missionaries present special opportunities, too.

"If a church that one of our students attends has a missionary home on furlough, I usually try to get one of them because it gives our students a worldwide perspective on missions," John says.

Exposure to people involved in various ministries is valuable, especially for newly converted students.

Chapel services will continue until around the first part of April.

"After that, students must concentrate on their final exams and graduation," he says.

John is a member of TSBC's board of directors and serves as its secretary. He received the Alumni of the Year Award in 2009. He has earned three degrees at the college -- Graduate of Theology in 1995, Associate of Arts in 2000, and Bachelor of Arts in 2001.

Helping with chapel services this semester is Student Chaplain James Ferguson, 24, of Wayne, W.Va. A member of Bethesda Baptist Church in Wayne, God has called James to preach -- and he already has started.

This semester, he's taking English Literature, Major Prophets, Basic Greek Tools, Scientific Reasoning, and Introduction to Philosophy at TSBC. Upon graduation, he will apply to Dallas Theological Seminary.

Currently, he is trying to schedule Dr. Terry Mortenson, a speaker for Answers in Genesis in Covington, Ky., to speak at a chapel service.

North Campus Enjoys Five Years of Growth

Rev. Clifton Norwood, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Akron, Ohio, and vice chancellor in charge of TSBC's north campus in Akron, has seen that campus enjoy five years of steady growth.

"We came on board in the fall of 2009 after President Jack Finch and Chancellor Clifford Marquardt came up here at our invitation and met with Dr. Jonas Butts and me," Rev. Norwood says. "We were looking for someone to take us under their wing."

After what he describes as "a real good meeting," Jack and Clifford went to the ABHE, asking for permission to add the north campus as an additional location. ABHE granted that permission.

"We started with four on-line students," he says. "When on-site classes started, we met in my church."

Then, in 2013, the north campus moved into Hurzing University.

"It was a wonderful arrangement," he says. "We now had access to computer labs, modern classroom technologies, and plenty of space. Hurzing's 700 students met in day classes, and we conducted our classes in the evenings."

Today, the north campus has several capable administrators, including Gina Gould, administrative assistant and director of admissions; Keyra Poulson, registrar and financial aid director; and Dr. Alecia Malone, a faculty member who serves as director of student affairs. In addition to overseeing everything, Rev. Norwood also serves as director of Christian services.

"We have seven faculty members, with most of



Vice Chancellor Clifton Norwood and his wife at the TSBC 2015 graduation

them teaching between 10 and 13 credit hours per semester," he says.

The campus sees an average of 20 students per semester, and during one recent semester saw a record 30 students.

"Our first graduate earned an associate degree in 2013, and two more students graduated with bachelor degrees in 2015," he says. "We have a couple more students close to graduating with bachelor degrees."

Rev. Norwood is pleased.

"We've come a long way," he says. "But we still see a great growth potential."

Excitement Grows Over TSBC History Book

The hardback Volume 1 of Tri-State Bible College's history, which was written by Norma Jean Staten and Bob Withers, will be published by Goodall Printing Company in Huntington on May 1, 2016. And it is generating excitement in all quarters.

"I just felt compelled to write down the college's history, which involved a lot of people -- students, teachers and friends of the college," Norma Jean says.

She adds that the project was Spirit-driven.

"I didn't set out to do that," she says. "I never claimed to be a writer, but somebody had to take it upon themselves so that the information would not be lost. I never dreamed it would be published."

Norma Jean is astonished at how God works.

"It is amazing how we do things," she says. "It's part of our Christian nature to do things as we are directed by the Holy Spirit when we don't even know what we're doing!"

President Jack Finch sees the importance of people writing histories about their colleges.

"It's impossible to see where we're going until we know where we have been," he says.

He adds that Volume 1 will cover the first 46 years of the college's history.

"Future leaders of the college can make a determination on the appropriate time to publish Volume 2," he says.



Mrs. Norma Staten, speaking at a prayer service commemorating the 40th year of TSBC (2010)



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