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Newsletter

Tennessee Bible College



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Cookeville, TN

Houser appointed as new TBC board of trustees chairman

By AMY DAVIS

It's an important job — and John Houser of Livingston is glad to do the work.

He was recently appointed as the new chairman of the Tennessee Bible College board of trustees.



John Houser

“Anytime you are trying to guide young men to be preachers of the gospel, I feel that’s the most important thing you can possibly do,” he said.

TBC, located at 1616 McCulley Road in Cookeville, offers a bachelor’s degree in religious education, master’s and doctorate degrees in theology and a two-year preacher’s diploma.

An online college is also offered through the TBC website — and Houser is especially excited about its possibilities.

“Right now, we have a lot of distance learning students, and that’s a very important part of the work,” he said.

As for Houser’s hopes and expectations, he said he looks forward to continued growth at TBC — but it won’t be easy.

“We’re in a difficult time right now because of the economy and also because people don’t have the interest in Christian things that they did a few years ago,” he said.

“It’s going to be hard, but God has left us with a job to do, and we need to do it. We need to teach people and bring as many as possible to salvation.”

Before being chosen as chairman, Houser served several years as a member of the TBC board of trustees, the purpose of which is to oversee the work of the school. TBC’s president, David Hill, manages the day-to-day operations.

We’re the Other Guys From the President

“We’re the other guys.” That was the appeal of the B. F. Goodrich Tire campaign in the 1970s. When I was a student at Tennessee Tech University College of Business in the early 80s, we studied that successful ad campaign in marketing to gain insight into what made the appeal so powerful. One of the strongest reasons for their success had to do with simple branding. They clearly identified their product, brand, by whom, and what they were not.

Recently, the *Christian Chronicle* ran an ad encouraging their readers to consider Christian education. In the ad they listed about every college or university generally associated with churches of Christ, but they left out one. Can you guess who it was? If you guessed Tennessee Bible College, then you guessed right. We must be the other guys!

It could not be our organizational structure that excluded us, because we were set-up and are organized almost identically to a couple of the institutions that made the list. It can’t be our lack of authorization, because we are fully authorized to exist and more accepted today among peer institutions of higher learning than anytime in our 36-year history. Had the list only featured liberal arts institutions among us, I would certainly have understood that we didn’t belong on that list, but it listed colleges/universities of religion as well. No preacher training school was featured in the ad which is appropriate as they are not colleges or universities, but we are a college. We’re the other guys!

Thirty-six years of training Bible teachers, Christian workers and Gospel preachers is our claim. The Lord has blessed our work to extend literally around the world and not through one but many who have been associated with TBC. We have not tried to compromise the truth—how could we?



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Newsletter for Tennessee Bible College

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Continued from p. 4—“A Law for Change”

survive. Concerned with the future of his people, Augustus set forth unusually high moral ideals for the empire. In fact, he passed laws to check the prevalence of sexual immorality and promote marriage. He actually passed a law that required all marriageable males under 60 and females under 50 to marry. Penalties were imposed on those who ignored the law. In addition the emperor issued what is called the Julian law of repressing adultery. This law made adultery a crime that was punishable by death.

How did these laws work in the Roman Empire? Not very well. The people found loopholes such as marrying to obey the law and then divorcing soon afterwards. The penalties were difficult to carry out and the people in general complained about the severity of the laws until Augustus annulled them. He came to conclude that “laws are vain when hearts are unchanged” (Will Durant, *Caesar and Christ*, pp. 222-224).

The Church was established less than 20 years after Augustus’ reign ended. As the gospel spread throughout pagan Rome, it changed hearts and lives by the thousands. The apostles taught these converts the purity of marriage (I Cor. 7:1-5). They taught husbands to love their wives and wives to submit to their husbands (Eph. 5:22-33; I Pet. 3:1-7). A growing part of Roman society came under the stabilizing influence of the teaching of Christ. Fishermen and farmers did what the most powerful man in the world could not. They changed people from the inside out. Sometimes people say, “You can’t legislate morality.” If they mean that laws should not be passed that touch on moral issues they are demanding more than they realize. Murder is a moral matter. Should there be laws against it? Stealing is a moral issue. Should it be legalized? In the past this statement was aimed at issues such as abortion and pornography, and it still is. But now it is offered as a justification for same-sex marriage. The government should stay out of people’s lives, its proponents argue. Then what about laws against pedophilia, incest, and rape? Since these are moral issues, should the government stay out of people’s private lives in these areas?

There is another sense in which this statement can be meant, however. Laws can help to curb moral evils, but it takes the Word of God to change hearts and lives. All the laws in the world cannot take the place of instilling the Bible into the consciences of children and men. Laws govern the behavior of men. They do not regulate the heart. This is why enacting “hate laws” is ludicrous and dangerous. Civil laws by themselves cannot make a man moral. This is why teaching the Bible is so important. The Word of God changes men on the inside, and their actions on the outside follow. When the laws of the land reflect these values, people who disobey the Word will be restrained from harming others by the arm of the government. When the two forces work together, society in general and Christians in particular will be at peace. When one or both fail, there will be confusion and chaos.

Houser stressed that TBC is here to serve the community.

“We’d like for people to realize that we’re here to help them,” he said. “If there is something we can do to help people in the community to be more interested in Christian education, call the school and talk to us. We’ve got people available all the time willing to do that.”

As far as finances go, TBC can also use help from the community. Opting not to seek government money, the college operates solely through private donations from churches, businesses and other individual supporters of its cause. That way, TBC will never be in a position of being dependent upon government funding and compromising its convictions in order to keep it.

“Anybody interested in helping the school financially can come by and check us out,” Houser said. “We are always in need of support.”

And it goes for a good cause, he said.

“It goes to teaching young men and women to be good stewards of God,” he said. “The men are taught to be preachers, and the women learn to be good wives and teachers of the children.”

TBC was founded in 1975 by Malcolm Hill, the first president of the school, who currently serves as chancellor.

Congress has extended the IRA Charitable Rollover Gift to December 31, 2011.

Did you know that you can make an IRA charitable rollover gift that qualifies for your 2011 required minimum distribution? Act now and contact your custodian to take advantage of this special opportunity and help Tennessee Bible College.

Alumni Update

Willie Floyd Young (PC 1998) passed from this life into eternity September 23, 2011. He preached for the Roberts Street Church of Christ in Sparta, Tennessee.

Tennessee Bible College Winter Quarter Schedule January 9 - March 23

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL

MONDAY

8:30-9:25 a.m.	H201	Reformation History	Ramsey
9:30-10:55 a.m.	D401	Topical Bible Studies I	D. Hill
11:00 a.m.	Chapel		
1:00-2:25 p.m.	T321	Literature of the Prophets I	Ramsey
2:30-3:55 p.m.	T132	Eph., Phil., Col., Phile	Wilmoth

TUESDAY

8:30-9:25 a.m.	H201	Reformation History	Ramsey
9:00-10:55 a.m.	L152	New Testament Greek II	Duke
9:30-10:55 a.m.	D401	Topical Bible Studies I	D. Hill
11:00 a.m.	Chapel		
1:00-2:25 p.m.	T321	Literature of the Prophets I	Ramsey
2:30-3:55 p.m.	T132	Eph., Phil., Col., Phile	Wilmoth

THURSDAY

9:00-10:55 a.m.	L152	New Testament Greek II	Duke
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Tennessee Bible College

- Two-year preacher program
- B.R.E. Degree in Bible
- M.Th. and Th.D. in Christian Doctrine and Apologetics
- Approved for V.A. benefits
- Faculty dedicated to Bible authority

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Living Memorials

Donor	In Memory of
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M/M Kenneth Summerlin	Nan Lawson
Friends of John Lawson	Nan Lawson
M/M Michael F. Murray	Nan Lawson
Emp. of MTMC Phcy.	Jack Cronk, Sr.
Ann Roberts	Nan Lawson
Bessie Graham	George Werner



Vice-President Glenn Ramsey with Chancellor Malcolm Hill

brethren and our alumni would be willing and knowledgeable enough to help promote our work. Whatever the case may be, we're the other guys!

When it comes to Christian education, we're ready! We have as qualified a faculty and staff as any Bible department. Not only qualified with formal educational training, but also many years of on-the-job training—preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Two of our faculty have over 55 and 60 years of preaching experience! TBC has a wonderful facility completely paid for—paid in full! We have an excellent on-line campus that is fully operational and developing literally every day. We have secured articulation and cooperative agreements with most of our sister institutions in the region which allow us to share students and their work to be accepted both directions. And the Lord has blessed us with some of the best friends and supporters one could have on this earth. But with all the above listed, please remember, we're the other guys!

I am content to be one of the other guys, because that independence means I don't have to go along to get along. Our peer pressure is oriented differently, and in the present time that is an advantage, not a disadvantage. As the old hymn rightly says, "God holds the future in His hands." I don't know what the future holds for you or me, however, I do know that things never stay the same in this world. The world is ever changing and God is a part of that (Psalm 102:26).

Those who are exalted today can easily be brought low tomorrow. Those who are low today can be exalted tomorrow. Associates today may be enemies tomorrow, one just can't know for sure. One thing for sure—God stays the same, He is unchanging and He will have His way in the world (Nahum 1:3; Dan. 4:25b). So for now, we're the other guys!

Will you join us? Be one of the other guys! It's not so bad! In fact in my 22-year

tenure it has been good. The Lord has provided just what we needed and in reflection He has provided far more than I ever anticipated in blessings, opportunities, friends and brethren.

I'm looking forward to a great New Year if the Lord wills. I hope you'll be a part of the great times ahead for TBC. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from the other guys!

—David Hill



A Law for Change

by Kerry Duke

Augustus was the emperor of Rome when Jesus was born. When he took the office, the empire was morally bankrupt.

Men and women cared little for marriage and childrearing. Prostitution and fornication were common. Augustus had vision enough to see where this behavior was headed. No nation that trashes the institution of marriage and the family can