Understanding the Times
The Changing Demographic of Education

Spring 2018
The Changing Demographic of Seminary Education. Why might seminary be a good fit for you or someone you know

What can seminary offer? In years past, going to seminary often meant moving to a new city and spending a lot of money. Today, things look a little different. We live in a post-modern and increasingly post-Christian culture. Student loan debt has sky-rocketed, leaving little funds for a graduate degree. Seminaries have been working to address these issues and trends in recent years, but BTS was founded to address the needs of our city 45 years ago. The result was a model that can stand the test of time while providing quality, affordable, practical theological education to an increasingly wider demographic.

If you think seminary is not for you, consider these trends. According to Daniel Aleshire, the Executive Director of the Association of Theological Schools, the current national trend for enrollment is away from 30-40 year olds leaving their first jobs for seminary and is increasing among 20 year olds out of college and baby boomers in their 50s and 60s seeking a second career. The percentage of people of color has increased to 50% and women are 34% of seminary populations. At BTS, you will notice a full range in age, background, race, nationality, and ministry goals. This makes for well-balanced classes where you will always learn something new.

Schools are also beginning to address the issues of cost and debt. Low cost, affordable tuition has always been a distinctive at BTS and that is here to stay. You do not have to go into debt or leave your city and church for quality, affordable theological education. Compared to other seminaries, BTS tuition is about 1/5 of the cost. We are able to keep our tuition low by employing an adjunct faculty of pastor-professors and using existing church buildings for our offices and classroom space.

Trends show that it is not just pastors who seek seminary education. Lay leaders, parents, counselors, professionals, and educators are all seeking seminary education to further their biblical knowledge and to be better equipped to serve the Lord according to their various capacities. As our culture shifts, many people are finding that they need to deepen their theological and biblical knowledge to address the challenging issues in our society.

How about you? You may be called to ministry as pastor or missionary or you may want to know how to better serve the Lord at your job, be a better parent to your kids, a more god honoring spouse, or a more knowledgeable Sunday school teacher. A seminary education will change your life and better prepare you for ministry wherever the Lord has called you. We hope to see you in class this Spring!
Enlarging Our Borders for Greater Ministry
Rev. Willie Wells, Jr.

Seeking The Opportunities

The Great Commission instructs us to, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world,” (Matthew 28:29-30).

Jesus not only gave the Great Commission, but in the fifth chapter of Luke, He gives us what I have called “The Great Reaching Out Commission,” where the nets are cast out into the deep water and let down for a catch. Notice the command to reach out in deep water where all sorts and kinds of fish can be found.

Here at BTS, we are an extension of the local churches, having the same obligation to enlarge the borders so that the Kingdom word can be maximized for His glory. It has been said that our seminary is the “best kept secret.” Well, we must over turn that saying by launching deeper into the areas before us. Great accomplishments are being made through establishing more extensions, increasing advertisement throughout the communities, and moving into the prison system, to mention a few. But there are still deeper waters to reach.

Seizing The Opportunities

During a faculty meeting this year, BTS Professor and Board Member Dr. Jeff Lowman, presented some very eye opening facts on the demographics of the Christian population of our cities in Alabama. From this study, he revealed how to help BTS become even more effective as a seminary. For instance, did you know that Birmingham is the second most Bible minded city in the United States, the fifth most churched or the second highest in people who self identify as Christian? In these strange times in which we live, I believe that God has called our outreach to the neighborhoods to be heterogeneous, reaching out beyond human desires for homogeneity.

There’s always a threat from the enemy to thwart God’s plan, but this information breaths new life for advancement.

“There had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.” (Acts 9:31) I’m not oblivious to the fact that persecution still exists, but our God Is Able!
SPRING SEMESTER: January 16th - April 20th
Registrations/Tuitions due by January 19th • Drop/Add Period Ends January 26th
Spring Break is March 5th -9th
Classes will not meet on March 29-30 for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday
Graduation: May 18, 2018 at 7:00PM at Briarwood Presbyterian Church

BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS: Briarwood Presbyterian Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>PROFESSOR</th>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HT4743 Presbyterian Church History+</td>
<td>Rev. Jackie Gaston</td>
<td>Jan. 4-6</td>
<td>8-5pm</td>
<td>A201</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS6652 Techniques in Church Planting</td>
<td>Rev. Larry Cockrell</td>
<td>Jan 11-13</td>
<td>8-5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC7735 Group Dynamics</td>
<td>Dr. Howard Eyrich</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT1512 Beginning Hebrew II</td>
<td>Mr. Bruce Horsley</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT5641 Curriculum Review and Development</td>
<td>Dr. Dave Matthews</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC7624 Readings in Biblical Counseling (1)</td>
<td>Dr. Howard Eyrich</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT1526 Old Testament History &amp; Theology+</td>
<td>Mr. Brandon Robbins</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP8525 Apologetics &amp; the Bible</td>
<td>Dr. Matthew Burford</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT2023 New Testament II (Romans-Revelation)*</td>
<td>Rev. George Shamblin</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT5554 Ministry of the Word II</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Reese</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT5531 Christian Worker’s Pers. Life &amp; Spiritual Form.+</td>
<td>Dr. Jay Haley</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC7606 Using the Bible in Counseling (2)</td>
<td>Dr. Lou Priolo</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>6:15-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST3550 Bible Interpretation+</td>
<td>Dr. Thad James, Jr.</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<td>ST3526 Systematic Theology I (Study of God)*</td>
<td>Dr. Jay Haley</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT1512 Beginning Hebrew II</td>
<td>Mr. Bill Stroup</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>6:00-8:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT1022 Old Testament II (Historical Books &amp; Prophets)*</td>
<td>Dr. Frank Barker</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<td>BC7755 Counseling in the Local Church II</td>
<td>Dr. Steve Cloud</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>6:30-8:30pm</td>
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<td>PT5637 Personal Evangelism (3)</td>
<td>Dr. Barker/Rev. Allison</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>6:30-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST3527 Systematic Theology II (Study of Man)*</td>
<td>Rev. Robert Alexander</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>9:00-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP8553 Christianity &amp; Competing Worldviews</td>
<td>Rev. Clete Hux</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>5:30-7:30pm</td>
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<td>PT5522 Communication</td>
<td>Dr. Jim Maples</td>
<td>Thu</td>
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<td>AP8532 Contemporary Cults</td>
<td>Rev. Clete Hux</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<td>HT4641 Church History in America</td>
<td>Dr. Jim Maples</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>7:30-9:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT7803 Clinical Writing Project (4)</td>
<td>Rev. Larry Cockrell</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>5:00-9:00pm</td>
<td>V/C</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM5513 Biblical Hermeneutics for the Pract. of Biblical Couns. (5)</td>
<td>Dr. Jeffery Forrey</td>
<td>Thu</td>
<td>5:00-9:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT2023 New Testament II (Romans-Revelation)*</td>
<td>Rev. Mike Jones</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>6:00-8:00am</td>
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<td>PT5800 Church Revitalization (6)</td>
<td>Dr. Harry Reeder</td>
<td>Jan. 18-21</td>
<td>F-Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logos Bible Software Training Seminar (7)</td>
<td>Dr. Thad James, Jr.</td>
<td>Sat/Feb.</td>
<td>10 8:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td>A209</td>
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+ These classes are available by video conference to students living outside of Birmingham. $25 video conference fee applies.
1. BC7501 is a prerequisite for BC7624 Readings in Biblical Counseling.
2. VBC - Valleydale Baptist Church - 2324 Valleydale Rd. 35244 classes begin on January 9th.
3. PT5673 Personal Evangelism BTS students must register with Briarwood Evangelism Ministry (i.eese@briarwood.org or 205-776-5301) and with BTS.
4. All Master of Ministry students seeking to graduate in May 2018 are required to take PT7803 Clinical Writing project this fall.
5. Please see the course syllabus for the DM5513 class dates.
6. PT5800 Church Revitalization students must pre-register and pay conference fee (50% discount) with Embers to a Flame and also submit a BTS registration form with tuition. Contact Embers to a Flame at 776-5399 or latherton@briarwood.org.
7. Logos Seminar students must register with the seminary office by February 2nd. The Seminar is free to all BTS students. You must have the software loaded on your laptops for the seminar.

*Old Testament I-III, New Testament I-II, Systematic Theology I-VI do not have to be taken in any particular order.
Extension Campuses

**Calhoun County**
Anniston Bible Church- 3230 Coleman Road. Anniston, AL 36207
Extension Coordinator: Dennis Bradford- 202-821-7409/ calhouncounty@bts.education

- OT1021 Old Testament I
  - Dr. Steve Schrader
  - Mon 2:00-4:00 PM
- AP8531 World Religions
  - Dr. Vic Minish
  - Mon 5:30-7:30 PM

**Demopolis**
Christian Chapel Baptist Church- 500 W. Decatur Street
Contact the BTS Office: 205-776-5356/ BTSAdmin@briarwood.org

- ST3550 Bible Interpretation
  - Rev. Fred Moore
  - Tue 5:30-7:30 PM
- PT5621 Conflict Resolution in the Church
  - Rev. Fred Moore
  - Tue 7:30-9:30 PM
- PT5733 Leadership Development
  - Rev. Major Burrell
  - Thu 5:30-7:30 PM
- BC7501 Intro to Biblical Counseling
  - Rev. Major Burrell
  - Thu 7:30-9:30 PM

**Dothan**
Westwood Presbyterian Church- 5480 W. Main
and Dothan Community Church- 5390 Westgate
Contact the BTS Office: 205-776-5356/ BTSAdmin@briarwood.org

- ST3511 Survey of Systematic Theology
  - Rev. Lynn Miley
  - Mon 5:30-7:30 PM WPC
- PT5637 Personal Evangelism
  - Dr. Charles Lewis
  - Thu 5:30-7:30 PM DCC

**Montgomery**
Young Meadows Presbyterian Church- 5780 Vaughn Road
and Trinity Presbyterian Church-1728 Hull Street
Extension Coordinator: Lydia Pickett- 334-284-5056/ montgomery@bts.education

- ST3550 Bible Interpretation
  - Rev. Billy Reinhardt
  - Mon 5:30-7:30 PM YMPC
- AP8521 Introduction to Apologetics
  - Rev. Billy Reinhardt
  - Mon 7:30-9:30 PM YMPC
- ST3528 Systematic Theology III (Christology)
  - Rev. Lee Bloodworth
  - Mon 5:30-7:30 PM YMPC
- HT4641 Church History in America
  - Dr. Harrison Taylor
  - Tue 5:30-7:30 PM TPC
- PT5527 Communication
  - Dr. Josh Carmichael
  - Thu 5:30-7:30 PM YMPC

**Tuscaloosa**
Riverwood Presbyterian Church- 501 Rice Road, N.
Contact the BTS Office: 205-776-5356/ BTS Admin@briarwood.org

- PT5531 Christian Worker’s Pers. Life and Spiritual Form.
  - Dr. L. Simba Lombo
  - Mon 5:30-7:30 PM
- BC7630 Marriage and Family Counseling
  - Rev. Shamus Drake
  - Thu 5:30-7:30
Announcements

BTS President: After 11 years of excellent service at BTS, President Glenn Waddell has taken a position at a local financial corporation. Longtime board member and BTS graduate, Dr. Douglas Haskew is serving as the Interim President. Please be in prayer for the search committee as they seek to fill the president’s position.

Graduation will be on Friday, May 18, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Briarwood Presbyterian Church. Evangelist Dr. Al Baker will be the commencement speaker. All are invited. Come support our 2018 graduates! If you plan to graduate in 2018 or in 2019, please contact the registrar at registrar@bts.education.

Text Messages: BTS will soon implement a text message feature for important announcements. If you have a cell phone that can receive text message, please mark the box on the registration form and provide your cell phone number.
In Acts 17 we read that the men of Athens took Paul to the Areopagus, for it was there that the ideas and philosophy of the day were passed on. There were very few books and no printing press to make it easier to pass the teachings of a person on to another. Technology changes the way we can pass information and instruction along. In ancient times, the only way to really learn anything was to go and hear from a teacher. After the printing press was invented, then you could learn from a book. These days, the options for gaining instruction are countless.

As a seminary, BTS seeks to disciple our students, not just provide them with information. Part of discipleship is the process of passing along information and instruction. Live classes where you can interact with the professor and other students remains an ideal way to learn, but we want to make sure education is available to everyone. As the Director of Distance Education, I understand the concerns that distance classes don’t offer true discipleship tools, but distance education can play a role in overall ministry training. The reason BTS is so committed to distance education is because it provides another option to continue theological education for individuals who need to stay active in their home churches or continue their jobs. Students are encouraged to seek a mentor at their church while they study. In that way, we see distance education as aiding the discipleship process of the local church while equipping people for ministry.

The number of students who enrolled in some form of a distance course in postsecondary educational institutions in 2014 was 5,750,417 and this number continues to rise. The process of learning and gaining instruction is no longer confined to a classroom, let alone the public square as in ancient Areopagus. Ideas and information can be gained while we drive down the road or sit in our local coffee shop. We can listen to lectures at the start of our day or during our lunch hour. Distance education provides us the opportunity to study when and where we have time-- and we don’t have to fight the traffic on the highway to get there.

BTS offers multiple options for distance training. First, many students have taken advantage of our convenient, traditional distance education courses where the lectures are delivered by a web link download or USB flash drive. When taking these courses you have up to 4 months to complete the course from your registration date. You will correspond with our office and take exams with a proctor.

In addition to the distance education courses, we recently added a new classroom to living room option using GoToMeeting web software for select courses. These courses will be marked on the schedule each semester. This allows students who can’t come to the Birmingham campus to continue their education while being able to interact with the class live.

Perhaps you or someone you know would benefit from Distance Education. Contact our office today for more information.
Jan Term 2018

January 4 - 6 (Thursday - Saturday)
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
HT4743 Presbyterian Church History*
Rev. Jackie Gaston, Professor

January 11 - 13 (Thursday - Saturday)
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
MS 6652 Techniques of Church Planting
Rev. Larry Cockrell, Professor

January 18 - 21 (From Embers to a Flame Church Revitalization Conference)
PT5800 Church Revitalization
Dr. Harry Reeder, Professor

*Presbyterian Church History is available by video conference. Contact office for details

Find a class near you. Extension campuses in:
Calhoun County, Demopolis, Dothan, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa.