



Inside LABTS

A look at the ministry of the Los Angeles Bible Training School
March 2003

*Set your heart to study
the word of God*

Witnessing God's Blessings—A New Semester

Calendar

3/31; 4/3, 7, 10
Missions Conference

4/14 & 4/17
Easter Recess

5/5 & 5/8
Alumni Week

5/18
Commencement

After a four-week break, the Spring semester began on January 20 and 23. The faculty and staff were pleased to welcome approximately 269 students. Both morning classes are well attended. In fact, the Personal Evangelism has exceeded the maximum of 50 students. The Revelation II class is near capacity with about 45 students. The large attendance of day classes will possibly require adding another day class for Fall 2003. Evening classes on Monday and Thursday are well attended also. Thursday evening won the attendance award with 141 students beating the Monday evening crowd, which has 128 students. Old Testament Survey II is full with 50 students. Evidence that students are hungering for God's word is the closing of the Bible Study Methods' class during registration due to the maximum class sized being reached. Other classes with an attendance of at least 35 students are I & II Timothy, Titus and Doctrine II. All classes have at least 20 students.



Although the school semester is relatively new, already the students have been exposed to the preaching and teaching of the word of God during chapel time. President Felix presented two messages related to being a student of God's word. The first stressed the importance of making sure that the goal of studying the Word is to know Christ in an intimate and personal way (Phil. 3:10). The second message highlighted the principle that those who study the word are to

be doers of the word (James 1:22-25). Pastor Bobby Scott of Los Angeles Community Bible Church provided a stirring message on personal holiness taken from Isaiah 6. The Director of Bible Church Missions (IFCA), Jose Fernandez, also blessed the students with a challenge from Ephesians 3:14-21.

As you can tell, the spring semester is off to a successful beginning.

Little Known Facts

- Ninety-three (93) students enrolled in the first classes in 1962.
- The two men whose idea it was to have a local community Bible study, only had a single class in mind and not an organized school.
- Ralph Bell, a teacher on the first faculty, has been a world-renown member of the Billy Graham Evangelistic team since 1965.
- James Irvin, class of 1965, was the one and only blind student at LABTS. He took class notes on his portable Braille typewriter from 1962 to 1965.
- In the late sixties, two summer sessions were held with a class meeting in the chapel every weekday night for two straight weeks, taught by the late Dr. Curtis C. Mitchell.

Missions Conference 2003

From its inception, the leadership of LABTS desired that each student would be exposed to missions. It was felt that the only awareness many students had of God's work in the world was based upon quarterly literature, women organized in missionary circles, and Christian ladies adorned in white dresses on the fifth Sunday. In order to promote a more comprehensive view of missions, LABTS has used its chapel time to present missionaries and missions organizations. In

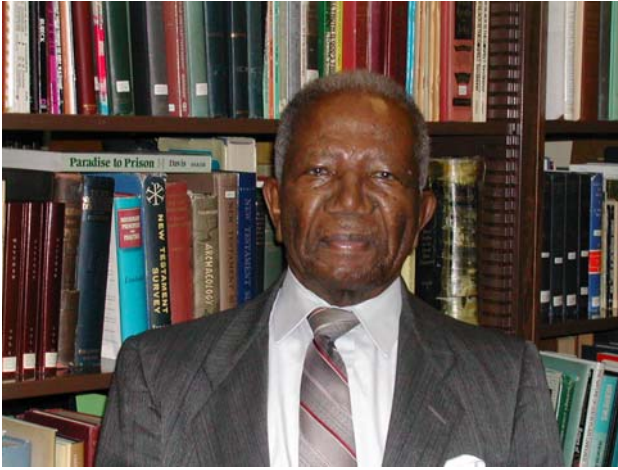
addition, each year a missions conference is held for four consecutive extended chapel periods. The theme of this year's conference will be: "Reaching the World at Your Doorstep". God has brought people from all over the world to the greater L.A. area and the conference will equip those in attendance to reach these individuals for the Lord Jesus Christ. Friends of LABTS are invited to come on March 31, April 3, 7, and 10 at 7:30 p.m. Ask God to greatly use the

Graduation

conference.

Another school year is rapidly coming to an end and plans are being made to celebrate with several students who will be graduating with either a Bible Diploma or a Biblical Studies Certificate. The commencement speaker will be Dr. Irvin Busenitz, who is the Vice-President for Academic Administration and Professor of Bible Exposition and Old Testament at The Master's Seminary. Please join us on May 18 at 3:00 p.m. at LABTS as we conclude the

Faculty Profile: Calvin Sills



- **Birthday:** February 9, 1923 (Birmingham, Alabama)
- **Wife:** Lutelia (married 53 years; July 1, 1949)
- **Children:** Gloria J. Cowart and Gwendolyn Sills
- **Education:** Diploma, LABTS; M. Min., Talbot Theological Seminary
- **Hobbies/Interests:** Reading and building things
- **Courses taught at LABTS:** Doctrine I, II, & III, Old Testament Survey I & II, Jeremiah, New Testament Survey I & II, Matthew, Romans, I Corinthians, Pastoral Epistles, etc.
- **Class currently teaching:** Personal Evangelism
- **Favorite verse:** Phil. 1:21 – “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
- **Current church:** Greater Height Mission Bible Church, Pastor Joseph McDowell
- **Current local church ministry:** Pastor of Missions; Community Outreach; Convalescence Home Ministry; Women’s Home Ministry; New Members’ Class; Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study
- **Favorite Bible personality:** Joseph. He pictures an excellent life of godly character of obedience and submissiveness. He is a good example of genuine forgiveness. He is one of the best examples of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Words of encouragement for LABTS students:** I would encourage every student to be a devoted student of the word of God and a person of godly wisdom in reaching out and helping others. Each student should give his or her life to studying the word of God.

A Word from the President

Paul W. Felix

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! It is a wonderful privilege to serve as the president of LABTS. I am grateful to God for this marvelous responsibility He has entrusted to me. It thrills my heart to witness what God is doing in our midst. How exciting it is to see some classes filled to a maximum of 50 students, to come to a full chapel on both nights, and to see students coming to school early so they can get a parking space. God is truly doing great things!

Yet, the thing that continues to amaze me is how God provides for the school. Many faithful givers, both individuals and churches, support LABTS. The oldest supporter of LABTS is 101 years old and lives in Florida. In a letter sent during the Christmas time, she closed by writing, “I trust the Lord will give you all a good year, and I ask His blessings upon you. Greetings in His precious name!”

Please continue to support LABTS with your gifts and especially your prayers. We recently held a prayer chapel, where the students took the needs of the school to God. The leadership of this institution realizes how important it is to have the people of God pray for us. If LABTS is not on your prayer list, please add us to it. Until the next time, may God continue to richly bless you!

Got Internet?

LABTS has its own website at www.labts.org. Not only will you find helpful information concerning the school, but also a recent addition has been the chapel messages. The newsletter is also available online. The next time you are surfing, take a look.

New Pews and Carpet



The facilities continue to get a facelift. Last summer the offices, classrooms, and hallways were upgraded with new tile and carpet. At the beginning of the spring semester, the chapel was enhanced with new carpet and pews. Praise God for these much needed improvements and for the Foundation that made all of these upgrades possible.

LOS ANGELES BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL

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