



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

NOBTS 2016 Ministry Report Ministry Inquiries

Cooperative Program

1. With an understanding that SBC entities which receive Cooperative Program funding share an equal responsibility to promote and advance the Cooperative Program, please give a description of NOBTS's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program.

Cooperative Program support is crucial for not only all SBC ministries, but for NOBTS as well. Therefore, the faculty and administration of NOBTS are strongly supportive of the Cooperative Program. By highlighting the value of the Cooperative Program, our desired outcome is that our students would come to share a commitment to the Cooperative Program as well. Here are some of the steps that NOBTS has taken over the last few years to promote the Cooperative Program.

- Every NOBTS undergraduate and master's degree student is required to enroll in a for-credit class about the CP. Following an introductory classroom session, each student is provided with a text and free materials for an online course with online lectures and links so the student can work through the program at his/her own pace. The materials are also such that the student can present the CP information in church settings. One of the assignments requires the student to detail how each \$1 gift is distributed by their own church through the association, state convention, and SBC. Underscoring the importance given this course, NOBTS Provost Dr. Steve Lemke taught this course this year.
- Several additional courses specifically address the CP, including classes such as Baptist Heritage, Christian Missions, and the Southern Baptist Convention.
- The contribution of the CP in assisting students is noted in the NOBTS catalog, Web site and other publications.
- The President and other seminary representatives routinely express appreciation to local churches, associations, and state conventions for their support through the CP.
- The President provides updates to faculty, staff, trustees, and students about the progress of CP giving and emphasizes the importance of giving through the CP.
- Membership in a church supportive of the CP is required of all faculty members, both full-time and adjunct.

- Advertisements affirming the value of the CP are posted in Chapel, in the student newspaper *The Gatekeeper*, and in the *Journal for Baptist Theology and Ministry*.
- NOBTS has classes each year at the annual SBC convention to learn more about what happens “behind the scenes” at the conventions. The Unlimited Partnerships also go to Nashville each year to tour the SBC building and meet convention personnel in order to gain a more personal knowledge of how the SBC works.
- NOBTS regularly hosts representatives of the IMB, NAMB, and other Baptist entities in chapel and other opportunities. We host an annual “Life beyond Seminary” event with representatives from a number of state conventions, and representatives of the conventions come from time to time to recruit our students. We also partner with several state conventions on missions and educational projects. IMB candidate consultants regularly interview prospective missionary candidates on the NOBTS campus. NOBTS interacts regularly with IMB and NAMB in partnering on various projects, including the IMB Embrace project (in which we have chosen 8 unreached people groups in Cuba), the Macedonia Project (in which we offer a 50 percent discount to some IMB missionaries), SEND America New Orleans, and several missions partnerships around the world. The CEO of the SBC and the President of the ERLC have also been regular chapel speakers.

2. What are the expected outcomes of NOBTS’s efforts to raise awareness of Cooperative Program funding?

The desired outcomes are to teach an understanding of the Cooperative Program to students who were not disciplined through SBC Missions organizations, to lead them to value the CP, and to give them the tools to share information about CP with the churches in which they are serving.

3. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how NOBTS perceives the role of the Cooperative Program funding theological education in the Gulf Coast region. What value does NOBTS place upon its partnership with SBC churches through the Cooperative Program?

We are nothing without our churches, and have no reason for existing apart from our churches. Equipping the next generation of leaders for SBC churches is our entire mission and focus. Therefore, we partner with individual churches, associations, and state conventions to accomplish various aspects of ministry. It would be impossible to overstate our appreciation

and gratitude for the support of churches through the Cooperative Program, and for their partnership with us in providing theological education for the Gulf South and beyond.

4. Please explain the “value add” of Cooperative Program funding for NOBTS, and how is this different from any and all other sources of funding for your seminary.

The greatest challenge that our students face is finances. Many current ministers remember paying \$150-200 for an entire semester at seminary. Today’s students pay over \$200 per credit hour (about \$750 per course), and over \$900 per course for online classes. The value added from Cooperative Program funding is that it makes theological education more affordable for these students. Most of these students will not go to “top shelf,” well-paying jobs. They will go to church plants, mission settings, small churches, or entry level church staff positions. Unlike most professionals like attorneys or medical doctors, their earnings will not be sufficient to repay large student loans. Some missions volunteers already have to delay their going to the missions setting because they cannot afford to do so. NOBTS has no other source for \$7-8 million dollars per year, which comprises just over a third of our total budget. The Cooperative Program is not just a “value added,” it is our lifeline without which we could not exist. It allows most students the freedom to enter ministry without a large student debt.

Ethnic Participation

5. Please give a progress report of ethnic participation within NOBTS, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of the NOBTS ministry—such things as board of trustees composition, senior administrative staff, other professional staff, support staff, faculty, and ethnic church and church leader composition of any external advisory groups— demonstrating progress, if any, in ethnic participation over the past two decades (1996-2015), giving special attention to progress over the past five years (2011-2015).

NOBTS has made a determined effort to broaden the ethnicity of both its faculty and its students over the last decade. The following are reflective of the efforts in the areas listed in the last five years.

Trustees (not chosen by NOBTS) – Over the last five years, NOBTS has had two African-American and one Korean-American trustees.

Senior Administrative Staff – None of the senior administrative staff of NOBTS are non-Anglos at this point. Many in the overall Seminary staff are.

Faculty – The NOBTS faculty over the last five years has included four full-time Korean-American professors, two African-American professors, and one Hispanic professor (another Hispanic professor is currently being considered). Additionally, NOBTS employs many African-American, Korean, Hispanic, and French Haitian, and Brazilian/Portuguese teachers in its various extension center and certificate programs. We also have full-time faculty members over the last five years who were natives of Nigeria, Australia, Canada, and Kazakhstan, as well as eight faculty members who have served as IMB-appointed missionaries overseas and are proficient in various languages.

Scholarships – A donor has been giving \$100,000 a year for African-American students at NOBTS in honor of former SBC convention president Fred Luter. Also, the Seminary offers deep discounts to Hispanic students who attend the South Florida extension center in Miami. The Florida Baptist Convention has also provided funding for training Haitians in French in both the island of Haiti and in Florida. Other ethnic students are recipients of various scholarships that do not specifically target persons of various ethnicities.

Curriculum Initiatives --

For Koreans -- The Korean Theological Institute in Atlanta began in the fall semester of 2006. Initially the KTI offered the church ministry undergraduate certificate and also a graduate certificate. The initial semester had 6 undergraduate students and 12 graduate students. Now NOBTS offers the full BACM degree, M.Div. Degree, and D.Min. degree in Korean, with over 100 Korean students enrolled. Our Korean D.Min. degree was created only after careful communication and input from Korean pastors. We have also created online classes in Korean, and we are nearing completion of an all-online MTS (Master of Theological Studies) degree in Korean soon.

The Korean program has enjoyed wonderful support from Korean Baptist churches, including helping pay for advertising in Korean publications and travel costs for teachers. Some of the best known leaders in Korean churches have taught in this program. The Seminary President, Provost, and Registrar meet at least once each year for a question and answer time in May with the Korean students. We now have three full-time professors who are Koreans.

For French-speaking Haitians – NOBTS offers certificate and undergraduate classes in Haitian French in various church settings in South Florida, and in the Atlanta area. We also have a longstanding partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention to provide theological education on the island of Haiti. Both the South Florida program and the Haiti program involve more than 100 Haitian students each.

Certificate training for Haitians is provided in French at the following in recent years:

- Port-aux-Prince, Haiti
- Port de Paix, Haiti
- First Haitian Baptist Church
- Fort Myers, FL
- Mitspa Missionary Baptist Church
- Norcross, GA

For Spanish-speaking Hispanics – At our South Florida extension center at Hialeah, FL, NOBTS offers certificate, associate, and baccalaureate classes in Spanish. We are hopeful that these classes may soon be broadcast by CIV (compressed interactive video) to the Atlanta area. In all, we have over 100 Hispanic students. In communication with national Hispanic leaders in listening groups, as well as input from ministers in South and Central America, we hope to offer the MTS (Master of Theological Studies) degree online in Spanish soon. We offer Church Leadership certificates in three levels (based on educational preparation and immigration status) – NOBTS Providence Learning Center certificates (not for credit continuing education), Leavell College non-credit, and Leavell College for credit. Programs have been offered in the following churches over the last five years :

- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Kenner, LA
- Central Baptist Church, Warner-Robins, GA
- Primera Iglesia Bautista de Plantation, Plantation, FL
- Migrant Baptist Institute, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Okeechobee, FL
- Knights Baptist Church, Plant City, FL
- Lake Saunders Baptist Church, Mount Dora, FL
- First Baptist Church of Gretna, Gretna, FL
- Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, West Palm Beach, FL
- Treasure Coast Baptist Association, Fort Pierce, FL

NOBTS has also offered the equivalent of three master's degrees in Cuba in association with the Western and Eastern Cuba Theological Seminaries to train leaders of Cuba's thousands of house churches.

For Portuguese-speaking Brazilians – At First Brazilian Baptist Church in Pompano, FL, we offer a Church Leadership Certificate program in Portuguese (for persons with Brazilian backgrounds).

For African-Americans – NOBTS added another African-American professor in December 2014, Dr. Ken Ellis. NOBTS is also attempting to partner with African-American ministers to publish an online journal celebrating the ministry of our African-American churches.

For many years NOBTS has partnered with the Florida Baptist Convention to offer an African American Church Planting Certificate program offer in Jacksonville, FL. We have offered various Church Leadership Certificates in several predominantly African American SBC and National Baptist churches in the last few years. These churches include the following:

- First Community Antioch Baptist Church, Lutcher, LA
- Community Bible Church, Baton Rouge, LA
- New Hope Community Church, New Orleans, LA
- Amazing Grace (Ghanian)/Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- Decision Point Ministries, Decatur, GA
- New Calvary Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- Peace Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- South Roebuck Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL
- Green Forest Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- Mount Zion Baptist Church, Jonesboro, GA
- New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Jackson, MS

In Prison Programs -- Our undergraduate programs in the Angola Penitentiary and the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (Louisiana), Parchman Prison (Mississippi), Phillips Prison (Georgia), and Hardee Correctional Facility (Florida), have a fairly high percentage of ethnic students, particularly African American and Hispanic students. Non-credit certificate programs are offered at several other prisons. We also partner with a drug rehabilitation center in New Orleans, Bethel Colony South, teaching the male and female participants in a non-credit Bible program, and providing them jobs on campus.

Mental Health Resource

6. Please provide a status report of which programs, ministries or strategies NOBTS has implemented to assist SBC Churches in training and equipping individuals with mental health challenges and how will the NOBTS continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?

NOBTS structured a new, separate academic division in 2013 to address the specific needs of people with mental health disorders and other special needs – the Division of Church and Community Ministries, which includes the departments of Counseling and Social Work. We believe this new academic division (Counseling was previously in the Pastoral Ministries division, and Social Work was in the Christian Education division) will create a new synergism within our institution to address these issues. We also added a new Social Work/Church and Community Ministries professor, Kevin Brown, who has experience in family therapy at the Minirth Meier New Life Clinics and the Midwest Family Resources ministry before leading a faith-based community ministry organization in New Orleans for the last 17 years.

NOBTS offers several degrees and specializations to equip people to minister to persons with mental health needs – the Master of Divinity (MDiv) specialization in Counseling (with both a licensure track and a non-licensure track), MDiv specialization in Pastoral Care, MDiv specialization in Chaplaincy, MDiv specialization in Christian Education (concentration in Social Work), Master of Arts in Christian Education (concentration in Social Work), and the Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Ministry (MAMFC). Additionally, through a partnership with the nearby University of Southern Mississippi (USM), our students are offered access to the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at USM. At the doctoral level, a specialization in Counseling available in the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) and Doctor of Educational Ministry (DEdMin) programs, as well as a Psychology and Counseling major in the PhD program. The MDiv specialization in Counseling (licensure track), the MAMFW, the MSW, and the PhD in Psychology and Counseling all lead to licensure, which is increasingly being required for persons to serve in counseling positions without risking lawsuits for malpractice. Our students have had a high percentage of success in achieving LPC (licensed professional counselor) licensure in various states. Also, one NOBTS professor serves on the Louisiana state marriage and family counseling licensure board. NOBTS now has three named faculty chairs in Counseling, and one chair in Social Work. NOBTS hopes to offer its own MSW degree soon, and funding is being sought to provide more faculty chairs which are necessary to offer this degree.

In the summer of 2014, NOBTS created the Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center on its campus, funded by a significant donation. This Christian counseling center has provided internship opportunities for over 40 of our Counseling students. In its first few months, the Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center is already maxed out in admitting new clients, providing counseling for over 450 persons a month under the supervision of our faculty. When appropriate, the plan of salvation is presented to clients in addition to counseling them on specific needs. Counseling majors also serve an additional dozen external sites at various counseling centers around the New Orleans area, and Social Work students serve in internships around the region as well. For the counseling needs of our own NOBTS students, a staff counselor with faculty status (sometimes assisted by doctoral students) is provided by our Dean of Students office.

NOBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries

7. What has proven to be NOBTS's most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to NOBTS, and why is that metric the one NOBTS believes is most important to watch?

The most reliable metric of the future accomplishments of NOBTS and every other SBC seminary is how healthy the churches are in which our graduates serve. We want our graduates to be characterized by doctrinal integrity and ministerial effectiveness, and that the ministries in which they serve be fruitful in the Kingdom of God. If the SBC is declining in baptisms, as it has been in recent years, there is something wrong that is happening in the seminaries in which these ministers are trained.

8. Please provide a status report of NOBTS's baccalaureate program, including origins, current status, and expansion/growth. Also, what is distinctive about NOBTS's baccalaureate experience at your seminary that distinguishes it from other Baptist colleges, as well as other divinity schools, colleges and universities within the South and Gulf Coast geographical area?

By intent and design, Leavell College of NOBTS is distinctive from typical Baptist Colleges, and goes to great lengths to maintain this distinction, including the following ways:

- Focused on adult learners – The primary target for Leavell College is adult learners, usually people who feel called into ministry out of another vocation, after retiring from the military, or bivocational ministers. We do not recruit high school seniors at college days, etc. We do not have sports teams, bands, and all the other trappings of typical college life. We tell younger students who express interest in Leavell College that we are not like Baptist colleges, and they should come just if they do not desire this and want to focus entirely on training for ministry.
- Training ethnic leaders – We have a larger percentage of ethnic ministers and lay ministers in the undergraduate program than our graduate program. We see this program as meeting the needs of many Korean, Hispanic, Haitian, Portuguese, and African-American churches by providing trained leaders at the undergraduate level.
- Call to Ministry and Church Endorsement required – All applicants for admission to Leavell College must meet the same admission requirements as the NOBTS graduate program in (a) writing out and articulating a clear sense of call to ministry, which is supported by two types of evidence – (b) sending an endorsement from their church, and (c) three personal references. These particular admission requirements are not required by Baptist colleges.
- Ministry focus – The only degrees offered by Leavell College are ministry-focused degrees (Associate in Christian Ministry, Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry). The entire curriculum is designed to train people for ministry (Church Ministry or Church Music). We do not offer degrees leading to any other professions, and these ministry-focused degrees would not be considered appropriate training for most non-ministerial vocations. Even the required general education courses are pitched toward their application in ministry. Also, all the faculty members in Leavell College are engaged in ministry, actively serving in leadership positions in a church ministry.
- Affirming Baptist Faith and Message 2000 – All our faculty members have affirmed and signed the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 statement, including adjunct teachers, as well as our own unique NOBTS doctrinal confession, the Articles of Religious Belief. Affirmation of the Baptist Faith and Message 200 by all the faculty (including those not teaching Religion courses) is done in some but not all Baptist colleges.
- Baptist College Partnership Program – Perhaps the clearest indication of our support for and non-competition with Baptist colleges is our Baptist College Partnership Program. Many times college ministerial students are told to major in some area than Bible because this will be

repeated in seminary. They are advised to major in another area in college for a “backup” career. NOBTS encourages students who feel called to ministry to go to Baptist colleges, and rewards them for doing so. Through a variety of means, Baptist college graduates who major or minor in Christian studies can test out of over a year of seminary work. We have confidence in the teachers at our Baptist colleges and the quality of education they provide, and see no need for their graduates to simply repeat the same courses all over again.

9. Understanding NOBTS’s ministry assignment(s) to “...assist churches by programs of master’s level, professional doctoral and research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators...” how does NOBTS counsel students to pursue different degree programs?

Master’s level training is a prerequisite to be considered on the ministerial staff of many churches. However, we recognize that many Southern Baptist ministers may already be serving in various ministerial roles even before coming to seminary. We do not require them to leave that ministry to come be a residential student for several years on the New Orleans campus. We strive to make theological education as accessible as possible to as many God-called ministers as possible. So we offer training not only in a number of formats on the New Orleans campus (once weekly, once monthly hybrids, weekends, nights, one-week classes), but also at graduate extension centers all over the Southeast, and via internet. Regardless of their location, any minister can earn a master’s degree through NOBTS. We advise our students at multiple levels from admission through new student orientation, academic advisement, and other ways about which degree or specialization is best for them. The catalog lists the degrees or specialization that fits best with each calling in vocational ministry, and students are advised to find the degree or specialization that best fits their calling.

The primary master’s degree that we encourage students to take is the Master of Divinity, the standard degree in theological education. Our M.Div. is specifically designed to train students in the key competencies in ministry identified by extensive research –

- Biblical Exposition
- Christian Theological Heritage
- Disciple Making
- Interpersonal Skills
- Servant Leadership
- Spiritual and Character Formation
- Worship Leadership

There are many master’s degrees available in theological education at this time that are shorter than the M.Div., but they do not provide the thorough training that the M.Div. does, either in

the classical disciplines or in the ministry disciplines. Also, many students in M.A. degrees do not realize that these degrees do not qualify them for some ministerial positions, and that leveling work may be required before they qualify to enroll in some doctoral degrees. The Standard M.Div, which provides broad theological training applicable in any ministerial setting, and is also available in several formats – on campus, at any of 20 extension centers across the Southeast, all online, through several mentorship-based tracks (with concentrations in Church Staff and Ministry Leadership, Pastoral Ministry, Collegiate Ministry, and both North American and International Church Planting), weekend classes, hybrid classes, and short one week classes.

We also provide M.Div. specializations in the following areas:

- Biblical Languages
- Biblical Studies
- Christian Apologetics
- Christian Education
- Christian Theology
- Christian Thought
- Church Planting (North American Church Planting)
- Church Planting (International Church Planting)
- Collegiate Ministry mentorship track
- Counseling (Licensure Track)
- Counseling (Non-Licensure Track)
- Evangelistic Church Growth,
- Expository Preaching
- Islamic Studies
- Leadership (concentration in Ministry Leadership and Administration)
- Leadership (concentration in Pastoral Leadership)
- Missions
- Missions Strategies
- Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Ministry
- Philosophy
- Urban Missions
- Women's Studies
- Worship Ministries

For students interested in more focused training in a specific area, we offer the following specialized degrees (those with asterisks are available all-online) --

- Master of Theological Studies *

- Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) *
- Master of Arts (Theology) *
- Master of Arts in Apologetics *
- Master of Arts (Archeology)
- Master of Arts (Cross Cultural Studies)
- Master of Arts in Christian Education *
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling
- Master of Arts in Missiology *
- Master of Arts in Worship Ministries
- Master of Music in Church Music
- Master of Theology

Beyond master's level training, many ministers are finding after their early years in ministry that as they share resumes with larger churches, the search committee has many candidates who have a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) or Doctor of Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min.) degree. These churches often have many professionals within the church fellowship, and therefore prefer a minister with doctoral level training. The D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. provide the training to take a minister to the next level of excellence in ministry, whether in his current ministry or a larger ministry. We advise students who intend to focus on church-based ministry to earn these professional doctoral degrees. The training provided is primarily ministry-focused rather than research-focused; practical rather than theoretical. D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. graduates are able to teach in some settings in the ministry disciplines, but not in the classic disciplines such as Bible or Theology.

We advise students who desire to teach or to minister in churches with highly educated ministers to enroll in the Ph.D. program (or Doctor of Musical Arts for musicians). The Ph.D. degree, though not disconnected from Christian ministry and the church, is primarily research-focused. Our Ph.D. graduates are qualified to teach in any college or seminary. We offer ten Ph.D. majors, most of them accessible for non-residential students.

10. Please give a status report of NOBTS's additional campuses where theological education/training is being conducted? How does having additional campuses strengthen Southern Baptists' ability to penetrate *lostness* across North America and around the world?

NOBTS has over 20 extension center campuses all over the Southeast, many of them in the largest cities in the South (Atlanta, Orlando, Miami, Birmingham, Jackson, Shreveport, etc.). Having these extension centers allows students to pursue theological training without having to move away from their church field. Also, the Seminary's programs in four prisons (Angola and Louisiana Correctional Institution for Women in Louisiana, Parchman Prison in Mississippi,

Hardee Correctional Facility in Florida, and Phillips Prison in Georgia) present a unique opportunity for penetrating lostness. Our prison ministry students normally lead over 100 of their fellow convicts each year to faith in Christ. Our mentorship programs, particularly those in North American Church Planting, International Church Planting, and Collegiate Ministry, provide a focus on penetrating lostness while they earn their degree. The addition of six fully online degrees allows students anywhere in the United States or around the world to receive excellent theological training.

11. Can you predict the long term viability and sustainability of multiple campuses for NOBTS? Does the growing number of online students impact future projections along this line? Please explain.

We see no immediate need to reduce our extension centers across the Southeast. While many of our students do take at least some online classes, few take only online classes to earn their degree. They take a mixture of on-campus, off-campus, and internet courses. However, some students dislike online classes and prefer only traditional classes with a teacher in the classroom. If we tried to force them to take online classes, they would simply drop out.

The University of Phoenix has been a leader in online education for many years. However, they have large classroom buildings in most major cities. Why? Because students want to have the “high-touch” of meeting face-to-face with their teacher and classmates, along with the convenience they have from their “high-tech” online classes. The wave of the future appears to be some version of blended or hybrid courses which have both online and in-person elements. Our extension centers allow us to do just that in locations across the Southeast.

12. Does NOBTS have written and formal guidelines for Admissions Office personnel to follow when determining whether or not a prospective student qualifies for the Southern Baptist student discount? If so, please attach a copy of the written guidelines.

Only SBC students are given the SBC discounted tuition. To receive the discounted price, students must provide a church endorsement affirming that they are active members of a Southern Baptist church. If students later move to a different denomination, their fees change. Their church endorsement is also confirmed with each new degree or if the student does not enroll for more than a semester. The written policies (on the church endorsement form) stipulate what is acceptable as a participating Southern Baptist church --it must participate with the Southern Baptist Convention in at least one of the following ways: (1) gives to the Cooperative Program, (2) gives to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering or IMB directly; (3) gives

to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering or to NAMB directly; (4) is dually aligned with the SBC; (5) is a member of a local SBC Association; or (6) gives to the SBC Executive Board directly.

13. What is the most newsworthy feature, initiative or issue currently orbiting around the programs of NOBTS? Please explain.

Probably the most exciting program the last couple of years has been our program for bivocational ministers. The Caskey Center for Church Excellence is providing full scholarships to bivocational pastors, particularly in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Another similar program is beginning in Wyoming. These scholarships not only pay the full tuition for the students, but also provides them with an excellent Bible software package. The Caskey scholarship students are required to share their faith with someone at least once a week, and to affirm our Baptist confession of faith and the Danvers Statement on Marriage. The Caskey Center has also begun an annual conference for bivocational ministers. Many of the Caskey Center students are serving in SEND America church planting situations.

14. Would you consider a change in ministry assignment to develop seminary education locations in strategic international locations in cooperation with the IMB?

We are already offering certificate level training in locations around the world. We have also offered the equivalent of three graduate degrees in Western Cuba Baptist Theological Seminary in recent years. We would be interested in partnering with IMB in such an effort. It is fairly easy to offer training leading to continuing education certificates. It is harder to offer accredited training, because it requires credentialing by both that national government and by our own accrediting agencies, including sending visiting teams from the accrediting agencies to that international location. So having accredited programs overseas is possible but it is fairly expensive.