

# The BBI BULLETIN

Volume 27

WINTER 2025-2026

Issue 4

Training for Ministry

Dec, Jan, Feb

Rightly Dividing God's Word



## Celebrating 30 Years of Training Pastors, Missionaries, and Leaders for Ministry

By Dr. Robert Nix, BBI President

### Blessed by the Past

In 2026, *Berean Bible Institute* celebrates its 30th anniversary. We praise the Lord for how He has used *BBI* over the past three decades to train hundreds of students who desire to serve Christ and proclaim the gospel of God's majestic grace.

We are deeply thankful for the ministry of the *Berean Bible Society* and for its vision to establish *Berean Bible Institute* as a place where those called to gospel ministry could be grounded in the Word of God and firmly established in the doctrine of grace revealed to and through the Apostle Paul.

We are also grateful for the faithful leadership of Dr. Edward Bedore, who was chosen to serve as *BBI's* first Executive Director, and his wife, Linda. Their dedication in establishing the Institute's structure and



Dr. Edward and Linda Bedore

course plan laid a strong foundation that continues to serve us well today. Dr. Bedore and Linda worked tirelessly to ensure that *BBI* would thoroughly equip students for ministry. As a result of their labor, and the faithful service of many instructors over the years, we rejoice in seeing graduates faithfully serving

today in the pastorate, on the mission field, and in ministry leadership around the world.

### Humbled by the Present

*Berean Bible Institute* continues to carry forward the vision and legacy of those who have gone before us by faithfully and unapologetically teaching and proclaiming the gospel of God's grace.

In recent years, we have seen the Institute grow to nearly one hundred students representing twelve different countries, along with the establishment of *Berean Bible Institute Brazil*. Most of our students, both domestically and internationally, are already serving as pastors, missionaries, and ministry leaders.

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BEREAN<sup>30</sup><sup>th</sup>  
BIBLE INSTITUTE  
TODAY, TOMORROW, AND BEYOND

## THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

### BBI Stands Ready

I would like to share with you both a matter of prayer and a personal challenge.

First, as a matter of prayer, I ask that you join us in praying that the Lord would raise up men who are willing to step forward and prepare for gospel ministry. *Berean Bible Institute* stands ready to provide solid, faithful training for those who believe the Lord may be leading them into the pastorate or the mission field. Our training is firmly grounded in the Scriptures, with a clear commitment to teaching and proclaiming the gospel of the grace of God given to and through the Apostle Paul. We emphasize the foundations of biblical theology while also equipping students with practical tools to apply these truths in real ministry contexts.

One of the distinctives of *BBI* is that our students are able to study while remaining in their current ministry setting. There is no need to uproot your family or relocate across the country. Our program is designed to prepare students for wherever God may lead them, while allowing them to serve faithfully where they are now.

Second, as a matter of challenge, we regularly receive calls from churches seeking men who are biblically grounded and prepared to answer the call to ministry. The need is real and growing. I want to personally challenge you to prayerfully consider God's calling on your life and how you may more fully use the gifts He has entrusted to you for His service. The church needs men who are ready to step through the doors God opens, and *Berean Bible Institute* stands ready to help equip those whom the Lord is calling.

Thank you for praying with us and for considering how the Lord may be directing your path of service to Him.

### Congratulations are in Order

I would like to take a moment to congratulate Pastor Randy Hughes on accepting the call to serve as Pastor of Grace Bible Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Pastor Hughes currently serves as Chairman of the *Berean Bible Institute* Board of Directors and has a long-standing connection with *BBI*, having been both a student and an adjunct instructor. We are thankful for his faithful service to the Institute and for his continued commitment to sound biblical teaching and ministry.

Please join us in praying for Pastor Hughes, his family, and the congregation of Grace Bible Church as he begins this new opportunity to serve. May the Lord grant him wisdom, strength, and fruitfulness as he shepherds God's people and proclaims the gospel of the grace of God.

### A Special Thank You from the BBI Board of Directors and the BBI Faculty and Staff

As you may know, in 2026 *Berean Bible Institute* will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Over the past three decades, we have witnessed the Lord faithfully use this ministry to train pastors, missionaries, and church leaders who are committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the proclamation of the gospel of God's grace.

We have also clearly seen God at work through you, our partners and supporters, whom He has used to sustain and strengthen this ministry. Some time ago, as I was praying specifically about *BBI's* student needs and financial needs, it struck me that in thirty years, *BBI* has never received a single student or a single dollar apart from the Lord moving in the hearts of His servants to respond to His leading. Every provision has been an expression of God's faithfulness through His people.

*BBI* is honored to serve the Lord in this work and is deeply grateful for your partnership and obedience to His direction in your lives.

To God be the glory!



Dr. Robert Nix, President of *Berean Bible Institute*

*Celebrating 30 Years... continued from page 1*

Because *BBI* now offers complete ministry training through distance education, we are able to equip those called to ministry wherever they live. With this in mind, if you, or someone you know, is seeking biblical training to better prepare for ministry, we encourage you to contact us at *BBI*. We look forward to seeing more men and women answer God’s call upon their lives.

### Rejoicing in the Future BBI: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond

It is amazing to reflect on the fact that *Berean Bible Institute* has been training men and women for ministry for 30 years. While we rejoice in how God has used *BBI* in the past, we are equally thankful for a Board of Directors that is not content to rest on past success but is committed to pressing forward and preparing for the future.

In May 2025, the *BBI* Board of Directors met to evaluate our current financial position and discuss the needs that lie ahead. It became clear that for *BBI* to continue growing, and to remain healthy and viable for years to come, we must strengthen not only our student body but also our financial viability.

As a result of that meeting, the Board unanimously approved the establishment of a **Strategic Growth Initiative** known as **BBI: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond**. This initiative seeks to raise \$250,000 over the next 24 months, above and beyond our current operating budget, with a focus on three key areas:

1. **Capital Improvements** – including a new roof, concrete and pavement work, and other necessary building repairs.
2. **Program Development** – including student scholarships, certificate programs, curriculum development, and program expansion.
3. **Administrative and Faculty Support** – including faculty expansion, administrative staff support, and replacement of aging computer and technology equipment.

At our August Board meeting, each Board member personally committed to supporting this initiative financially. It was also decided that, before formally presenting this initiative to all our supporters in January 2026, Board members would begin sharing

these needs personally with individuals who believe in and support our mission.

As a result, I am both humbled and encouraged to report that since the initiative was approved in August, we have already received **over \$40,000** toward our **BBI: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond** campaign.

### Where Do You Fit In?

First, we ask that you pray for us as we seek to strengthen the future impact of *Berean Bible Institute* through this initiative.

Second, if you believe in our mission to train pastors, missionaries, and leaders for ministry, we ask that you prayerfully consider joining our Board of Directors, and the supporters who have already responded, by giving toward this initiative **above and beyond** your current monthly support.

By now, you should have received our **BBI: Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond** brochure, which provides additional details about this strategic initiative. Please allow this article to serve as an update on the progress the Lord has graciously enabled thus far.

## STRATEGIC GROWTH INITIATIVE

### HOW WILL THIS INITIATIVE HELP US GROW?

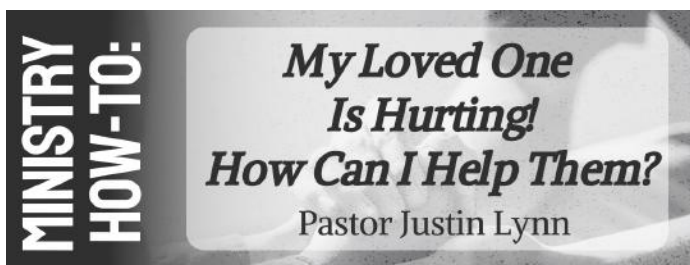


CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



ADMIN SUPPORT & EXPANSION



Perhaps you've encountered a similar situation. It's late at night. You're actively preparing for bed when the phone rings. You're greeted on the other side of the call with sobs. Your adult child is experiencing the pain of a broken relationship or undue criticism at their job. They're turning to you for help. Or perhaps you're scrolling on social media, and you see a concerning post from a dear friend. You quickly recognize something is wrong. As they grieve, you see them communicating their pain in ways that are foreign and hard to handle. They're searching for help but don't quite know how to get it.

In either situation, you have the opportunity to love a cherished friend, family member, or a brother or sister in Christ, by coming alongside them and offering comfort. Likely biblical counsel and spiritual direction will be needed at some juncture (we'll discuss this in a future article), but for now, these hurting hearts need comfort for their soul. How can we do this best? While there are potentially unlimited ways to ponder, let's briefly explore two biblical principles to guide you. We will consider more in our next article.

### **Be at rest.**

If I were to re-title Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians, I would likely call it, "The Believer's Handbook of Comfort". This is exactly how Paul starts the letter, reminding these struggling saints of the "God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation" (2 Cor. 1:3-4a). This is the starting point of all ministry. We can only pass on to others the truths of God that have first been deposited into our own heart. In other words, you can't give what you don't have. If I do not have the comfort and rest of God within, I cannot be a channel of blessing to others. Notice Paul instructs here that we are *first* comforted by God in every possible trial or struggle so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble.

Whenever God offers you an opportunity to minister in this way, first take a moment for Him to capture your heart as you humbly place yourself

before Him. You often will not know the exact thing to say (or *not* say). Take your own weary heart before the Lord and rest in His perfect peace (Phil. 4:6-7), allowing you to embody and actively live out that peace and comfort to your loved one. You will be of little service (and possibly even detrimental) to your friend if you yourself are not comforted by God, resting in His peace and goodness. This requires deep faith in a personal God who is ever-present, providing our every need so that we may channel this grace and truth to others.

The Psalmist captures this reality in Psalm 46. In context, this song of praise begins with the faithful presence and secure help of our God in the midst of trouble (v. 1). Despite whatever awful calamity or circumstance, the singer encourages us to "not fear" (v. 2). This assurance crescendos by the end of the psalm in verse 10, "Be still, and know that I am God." Not only are we to remember that God is our "refuge and strength, a very present help", but we are to be comforted to the extent that we can "be still".

In the midst of grief and crisis, emotions run high and can easily overwhelm. Even though, circumstantially, a thousand things could be occurring around us, our heart can find a place of stillness and rest in the reality and comfort of God's identity and presence. A silent prayer (and slow breath) can encapsulate these truths, giving us a pathway forward to remind our struggling hearts of these precious truths. God is on His throne. He is in control. He is good. He is present. He is. As an essential first priority, you must consider yourself (Gal. 6:1) prior to being able to help another.



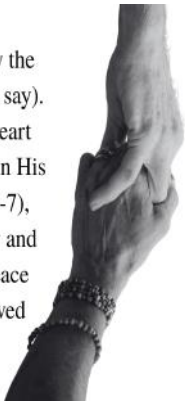
### **Be present.**

Biblical comfort is unique. In His earthly ministry, Christ foretold of a coming "Helper" who would be their "Comforter" – the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-27). The original language paints a picture of coming alongside another to offer help and encouragement. What a living demonstration of God's gracious provision for us! He comes near - side by side with us, so to speak - to bring us comfort! How this stirs our hearts when we consider the access to God we have through the indwelling Holy Spirit and the finished work of Christ (Eph. 1:13-14; 2:16-18)! It is this coming-alongside type of comfort that Paul referenced in 2 Cor. 1:3-7. This working definition offers us a starting point for how to tangibly express

comfort to someone who is hurting. It sounds simple and basic (because it is), but one primary way we can communicate comfort to a hurting soul is simply to be present with them.

The book of Job offers plenty of living examples of grief. At times, Job's friends and companions got things right in terms of meaningfully caring for their loved one suffering under the burden of indescribable pain. In Job 2:13, they are showing loving kindness and comfort in a tangible way to their hurting friend for "*they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.*" They spoke volumes to him without ever saying a single word as they simply sat with him – even on the ground. Sitting on the ground for this extended

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period indicates a season of grief and mourning. His friends lovingly recognized the need for this lament (think about it, Job *had* just lost his *entire* family!) and came right alongside him in the dirt

and mire of grief offering their continued presence. At this juncture, they read the room and didn't feel the need to "fix" a single thing, quote platitudes, offer simple one-sided fixes, or deliver a theological treatise or indictment. They appropriately gave time and space but with the tremendous comfort of their presence.

In the brokenness of my own sorrows through the years, I have been comforted time and time again by precious family members and dear friends in the Lord who have rightly recognized my grief and came alongside me to simply be present. They showed up for me in my adversity (Prov. 17:17) and spoke volumes to my soul. They have been a living, tangible representation of God's faithful presence in each dark moment.

While the Job text doesn't explicitly state so, it is possible if not probable that Job's friends in "sit[ting] down *with* him" weren't just present with him but also offered hugs and physical comfort as appropriate. Again, we must be sensitive to the

individual and always be appropriate in honoring the Lord (1 Thess. 5:22) but broadly speaking in Western cultures (i.e. North America and beyond), appropriate physical touch is often appreciated and helpful. Humility and an others-centered love of Christ should lead any such expression (Phil. 2:1-4). Nevertheless, Scripture guides us to be present, near, and attentive in whatever meaningful way possible for our loved ones during their suffering.

Living in a highly mobile and geographically distant context like we do today, we may not always have the luxury or opportunity to be physically present with a grieving loved one. We can often leverage technology to still apply these principles. Perhaps we make a concerted effort to call or video chat. I have sat silently on the phone, listening to the cries of a physically distant brother while occasionally giving vocal nods of attention and presence. It may not be as good – but it's a blessing nonetheless! A simple text message can communicate your presence and availability. A card sent in the mail can be a physical reminder of your faithful presence. Seek the Lord for creative ways to apply these biblical truths in every ministry opportunity He provides.

### Where are your opportunities?

We will continue to build upon these principles by adding 3 more in a future article. Until then, ponder your own world. Where are your opportunities? Who is hurting in your world right now? Consider your family, near and far. Mentally thumb through the pictures of your church. Where is their grief? Where is their sorrow? Who needs comfort? Seek the Lord and prayerfully consider how you can begin to embody the comfort He blesses you with to the hurting souls around you. In what ways can you specifically be present for loved ones laden with burden? Comfort begins between God and you and is further carried out between you and fellow hurting souls. Be at rest. Be present. God is working, even in the burden.

*God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear...  
Come, behold the works of the Lord...  
Psalm 46:1-2a,8*

# STUDENT IMPACT



**Leanne Beauchamp**  
*Current BBI Student*

I am constantly amazed by how much the Lord is using *BBI* in my life!

I learned years ago that there is nothing like teaching young, inquisitive minds to show you what you do (or do not) understand. I was asked to write a book for middle school-aged students; however, after recognizing the numerous challenges they face in their faith every day, I questioned my ability to address these issues effectively. Taking an apologetics class sounded like a good way to fill that gap. I signed up and discovered I really enjoyed apologetics, but what surprised me most was how much I needed it! It gave me such confidence in God's Word. I started looking at other apologetics materials recommended by my instructor while continuing to work on my Worldview Certificate.

It is fascinating to me how, in each class I've taken, the Lord has used it to teach me so much more than was listed in the curriculum! Each class has gone way beyond facts; it consistently touches my heart. In every class, "Christ is clearly portrayed" (Gal. 3:1) in such a way that I can't help but see more of God's love, His grace, and the fantastic blessings we have in Him!

I love asking questions when I'm reading, and I noticed questions that I've had as far back as I can remember began to be answered in my classes, often before I even asked.

I was a Seventh-Day Adventist for the first half of my life. It took me at least a year of searching the Scriptures (and asking a lot of questions) before I accepted Grace. There was so much unlearning to do. By the time I got to *BBI*, I had been teaching classes to children (and learning along with them) for many years. Yet as I sat in classes like Basic Bible Doctrines and Hermeneutics, I realized I still had a lot to learn (and unlearn) and so much I really wanted to understand better!

I think it is hard for those who grew up with mid-Acts biblical teaching to understand what it is like to see the truth for the first time! To me, living with bad

doctrine is like a house with bad wiring. If you are saved, the Power (Holy Spirit) comes to the house, and the outlets are where they should be. But if the wiring (doctrine) is bad, the power doesn't run things in the house. But once you start replacing the bad wiring with good wiring, suddenly, things start working, little by little. Even though I learned about Grace a long time ago, I keep finding places where my doctrine is incomplete or faulty. That's what is happening to me at *BBI* —I'm getting re-wired! It is so wonderful when the "light goes on" and you see something more clearly! It leaves me in awe of our magnificent God and the blessings and freedom we have in Christ! The more you see, the more you want to see, and the more you want other people to see, too! *BBI* classes are places where this happens, I'm living proof!

If I could, I would take every class offered at *BBI*. I'm learning so much and enjoy studying God's Word and fellowship with others who love it as well. I'm learning and growing in the Lord. But I also long to be used by the Lord —however and wherever He wants me. I pray He will use me to teach others just as He is using the fantastic teachers at *BBI* in my life.

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# Bible Answers to Bible Questions

## & Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

**QUESTION: If we have not been married on earth, can we still be part of the marriage of the Lamb in Revelation 19:7?**

**ANSWER:** Being married on earth has no bearing on the future marriage of the Lamb. In fact, the marriage supper of the Lamb has to do with Israel's prophetic future, not the Body of Christ. Paul, the Apostle of Grace, presents our relationship to the Lord in this Age of Grace as being part of the Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head and believers being a member of that Body. The only way we do not partake of eternity is if Christ were to sever off one of His Body parts, which absolutely will not happen.

Prophecy illustrates Israel's relationship with the Lord as a marriage covenant. This is extrapolated in the book of Hosea. There, Hosea was to take a wife who was unfaithful, representing Israel in her unfaithfulness (1:2). Hosea was to put his wife away for a season due to her unfaithfulness, representing the Lord withdrawing His favor (not His promises) from Israel (2:1-13). Even Hosea's wife's children represented the Lord's judgment as He removed the kingdom of Israel, removed His mercy, and her unique status as His people (1:4, 6, 9). Then, Hosea was to pay the redemption price to take his wife back (3:2-3), showing that the Lord, the Husband, will return to Israel, His bride, one day. In that day, she (Israel) will be His bride forever (1:10-11; 2:14-23; 3:4-5).

Furthermore, the marriage involves the holy city, for Isaiah 62:4 declares that in a future day Jerusalem will no longer be labeled "forsaken" or "desolate." Instead, Jerusalem will be called "delight" and "married." This fits with Revelation 21:2, which describes new Jerusalem as a bride adorned for her husband.

In specific regards to the marriage supper of the Lamb, it is only mentioned in Revelation 19:6-10. Revelation is a book detailing the culmination of the promises made to Israel. Like Hosea's wife, those who attend this marriage supper will have to prepare themselves (Rev. 19:7b cf. Hos. 3:3). The identity of the attendees being the faithful of Israel fits perfectly with the nation's program, prophecies, promises, and parables (e.g., Matt. 22:1-14; 25:1-13).

In conclusion, our hope today is the Rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ, which will involve all believers in God's Grace, living and dead, who will go to Heaven to be with Christ. The marriage supper of the Lamb has to do with the regathering of faithful Israel into an eternal covenant with the Lord. A person's marital status here on earth will not hinder or promote those waiting for the Rapture or those who will partake in the Lamb's marriage supper.

In regard to being married here on earth, many people put a premium on finding a spouse, and some churches act as if being unmarried means you're not following God's will. This is the Lord's response to those who were overfocused on earthly relationships: *"For in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven"* (Matt. 22:30). The Apostle Paul speaks on this subject when he tells the unmarried not to be overly concerned with changing their status but to be content to serve the Lord as they were (1 Cor. 7:25-35).

It is important to know that your participation in eternity is based solely on God establishing your relationship to Christ through faith in His redemption, not on what church you belong to, or who your friends are, or what your marital status happens to be.

*Answered by Pastor Matthew Ritchey*

**BEREAN**  
BIBLE INSTITUTE

The BBI Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Berean Bible Institute Inc., and is sent free of charge to any that request it. The mission of Berean Bible Institute is to train Pastors, Missionaries, and Christian Leaders for the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of the gospel of the grace of God given to and through the Apostle Paul. *Berean Bible Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.*

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