



# AABC

## Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

Spring Issue  
Vol. XLIV, No. 2  
April 2000

Route To:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# NEWSLETTER



**Charles A. McNeely**  
Interim Executive Director

## From the Director's Desk



As with most organizations in our culture—and probably very similar to your college's experience—AABC is undergoing change again. And this time it's **another significant transition**. Ralph is already engrossed in his new ministry at Columbia and we are moving forward with the Association's business here in Orlando.

I count it a privilege to help out in the office while the Search Committee makes steady progress toward nominating a candidate for the director's position. My experience with AABC goes back 26 years. During that time my appreciation for the association and its mission has deepened consistently—especially given the trends in our culture. My goal in this interim (besides implementing the policies set by the Board and the actions taken by the Commission) is to continue to build on the excellent foundation laid by Ralph in the last year and a half.

Meanwhile **the important work of educating kingdom leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> century continues**. This issue of the *Newsletter* includes reports from the Board and the Search Committee, actions taken by the Commission, results of the election at February's convention, and encouraging notes about member institutions.

**Please be in prayer** for Ralph and Valerie, AABC's leaders and staff, and the decisions that will determine our future. **D**

## AABC INITIATES SELF-STUDY PROCESS

On Wednesday, February 16, 2000, just prior to the recent Annual Meeting, AABC decision bodies and committees came together in a "think tank" session to kick off a self-study process **designed to examine the mission and functions of the association**. The decision to establish such a process was motivated in part by some of the issues before the association and in part by recognition of the fact that the current criteria have now been in place for ten years.

As think tank participants reviewed the issues before the association, they attempted to look beyond the parameters of our history, asking what AABC should be doing to better serve its membership and to enlarge its sphere of influence. Some features of the context for the discussion are clear:

- The spiritual needs of the culture around us have never been greater.
- In some respects, the biblical preparation of the typical incoming students has never been as weak as it is at present.
- The impact of technology on education has never been greater.
- The global village in which we live and work has never before been so inter-related.

The big question before the association is **"How can AABC help its institutions to better position themselves to meet these needs?"**

Some of the suggestions dealt with the need to increase the services available through AABC. Questions rising to the surface dealt with matters such as the desirability of initiating a form of programmatic accreditation to go along with the current institutional accreditation. It was noted that some other agencies offer both types of accreditation. Some wondered if AABC should revisit the question of graduate education to determine whether a limited form of accreditation should be offered at the graduate level. There were questions about

how the criteria might deal more fully with issues of distance and international education. What criteria changes should be made in the light of technological advances? Should more be done with assessment? To what extent should the criteria be more process oriented? To understand the issue, it is necessary to recognize the difference between a criterion that states that an institution must have a sound mission statement and a criterion that states that an institution must implement a sound process for maintaining a sound mission statement. The very last session of the annual meeting provided delegates an opportunity to interact with some of the ideas raised on Wednesday afternoon. Interestingly, delegates came up with some of the same issues raised by the AABC decision makers.

It should be recognized that the self-study process comes at an opportune time. The association is experiencing a transition in leadership. Further, the association is currently working on its petition for CHEA recognition. In fact, the deadline for its submission is September 15, 2000. It is anticipated that AABC will appear before the CHEA Committee on Recognition in early November. The CHEA Board will meet to

(Cont'd Page 3) \*

## INSIDE

- From the Director's Desk ..... Page 1
- AABC Initiates Self-Study Process ..... Page 1
- 2000 AABC Evaluation Team Visits ... Page 2
- 2000 COA Actions ..... Page 2
- Newly Elected AABC Board Members Page 3
- AABC Board Update ..... Page 3
- Executive Director Search Update ..... Page 3
- 2000 Annual Meeting Update ..... Page 4

## 2000 AABC Evaluation Team Visits

Under USDE regulation 602.27(d), recognized accrediting bodies must make public the dates when an institution's accreditation or preaccreditation (candidate) status is being reviewed in order to provide opportunity for third-party comment. In view of this requirement, notice is given that the following institutions are scheduled for evaluation during calendar year 2000. Persons wishing to submit third-party comments regarding any of these institutions should direct them to the AABC office at the following address: P.O. Box 780339, Orlando, FL 32878-0339; Fax: 407-207-0840; E-mail: [exdir@aacbc.org](mailto:exdir@aacbc.org).

(IA = initial accreditation; IC = initial candidacy; RA = 10-year reaffirmation)

### 2000

#### **Bethesda Christian University (CA) -**

(IA) - April 3-5, 2000

#### **Calvary Bible College (MO) - (RA)**

March 1-3, 2000

#### **Colegio Pentecostal Mizpa (PR) - (IA)**

September 25-27, 2000

#### **Carver Bible College (GA) - (IC)**

October 9-11, 2000

#### **Family of Faith College (OK) - (IA)**

September 11-13, 2000

#### **Heritage Baptist College (ON) - (RA)**

October 12-14, 2000

#### **Hispanic Baptist Theological School (TX)**

(IC) - March 8-10, 2000

#### **The King's College (CA) - (IC)**

April 26-28, 2000

#### **Life Bible College (CA) - (RA)**

March 7-10, 2000

#### **North American Baptist College (AB)-(RA)**

January 24-26

#### **Northwest Bible College (AB) - (IA)**

March 20-22, 2000

#### **Trinity Bible College (ND) - (RA)**

February 28 - March 1, 2000

#### **Wesley College (MS) - (RA)**

October 9-11, 2000

#### **Western Pentecostal Bible College (BC) -**

(RA) - October 2-4, 2000

#### **Winston Salem Bible College (NC) - (IC)**

April 26-28, 2000

## 2000 Commission on Accreditation Actions

At its February 13-15, 2000 meetings, the Commission on Accreditation of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges took the following actions regarding the accredited status of institutions:

### 1. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the accredited status of the following institutions was reaffirmed for 10 years:

- Roanoke Bible College (NC)
- San Jose Christian College (CA)

### 2. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institutions were granted Candidate [pre-accredited] status:

- Allegheny Wesleyan College (OH)
- Ecclesia College (AR)
- Pillsbury Baptist Bible College (MN)
- Tri-State Bible College (OH)
- Western Christian College (MB)
- Zion Bible Institute (RI)

### 3. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institution was granted initial Accredited status for 5 years:

- Bethany Bible Institute (SK)

### 4. A decision to grant initial Accredited status to the following institution was DENIED and, thus, the institution is withdrawn from membership. (This institution may choose to appeal this action.)

- International Bible College (TX)

### 5. In light of its failure to comply with AABC *Criteria for Accreditation*, specifically in reference to financial stability, the following institution was denied reaffirmation, continued on accreditation, and placed on PROBATION. (This institution may choose to appeal this action)

- Puget Sound Christian College (WA)

### 6. The Commission on Accreditation acknowledged the voluntary withdrawal from AABC of the following institutions:

- East Coast Bible College (NC) [accredited]
- Southeastern College (FL) [accredited]
- World Harvest Bible College (OH) [applicant]

### 7. Applicant status is a pre-membership status granted to those colleges that meet the association's *Conditions of Eligibility* and that possess such qualities as may provide a basis for achieving candidate [pre-accreditation] status within four years. Applicant colleges are required to submit annual reports demonstrating progress toward candidate status. During year four, an institutional self-study report and an institutional planning document are to be submitted to the association office prior to an evaluation team visit regarding the college's readiness for candidate status. The following institutions were granted applicant status:

- Calvary College of Bible (CO)
- Full Gospel Bible Institute (SK)
- LOGOI-FLET (FL)
- Williamson Christian College (TN)
- W.L. Bonner Bible College (SC)

## Newly Elected AABC Board Members

*Congratulations to the following who were elected to the AABC Board and Commission on Accreditation at our 2000 Annual Meeting:*



**Member-At-Large**  
(4-Year Term)  
**Kenneth D. Idleman**  
Ozark Christian College  
Joplin, MO



**Member-At-Large**  
(2-Year Unexpired Term)  
**April Lindsey**  
John Wesley College  
High Point, NC



**Public Member**  
(4-Year Term)  
(Appointed not Elected)  
**Dr. C. Wayne Freeberg**  
FL State Board of Independent  
Colleges & Universities  
Tallahassee, FL

## Newly Elected AABC Commission on Accreditation Members



**4-Year Term**  
**Dr. W. Sherrill Babb**  
Philadelphia College of Bible  
Langhorne, PA



**4-Year Term**  
**Dr. Charles N. Bethel**  
Appalachian Bible College  
Bradley, WV



**4-Year Term**  
**Dr. James P. Eckman**  
Grace University  
Omaha, NE

## AABC Board Update

By: Dr. Gilbert A. Peterson, President, AABC

To God be the glory, great things He has done. The Board approached the February 2000 meetings with a sense of both positive anticipation and genuine concern. Our deliberations were marked by the unanticipated need for a leadership transition in the midst of renewed enthusiasm and recognition of what God is doing in the association. The Board stood united and confident in its commitment to continue the positive forward progress made in the past several years and sought the mind of the Lord regarding upcoming issues and changes.

- The Board was delighted at the progress that was reported by Dr. Dwight Perry on the Pilot Program accomplished by the Committee on Ethnic Diversity.
- A Task Force was assigned to conduct a comprehensive review of our Criteria and to follow up on the work and findings in Dr. Ted Ward's study. This will greatly facilitate and enhance the anticipated CHEA and USDE recognition renewal

cycles in the 2000-2001 time frame. Dr. Ralph Enlow will serve on that task force.

- New Board and Commission members were elected. (See side panel)
- The strategic planning process was tabled until a new Executive Director is in place to provide guidance and monitor progress.
- The Board is thankful to the Lord for the provision of Dr. Charles McNeely as an interim director after Dr. Enlow's return to CIU. Dr. McNeely's proximity to the office, prior work in the AABC office, and immediate availability were all providential.
- The Board urges all of our membership to pray for the Search Committee as it prayerfully, carefully and expeditiously carries out its work. Look carefully at their report in this *Newsletter*.

We are anticipating a great convention in Atlanta in 2001. **Think ahead, plan ahead, and join your colleagues for a time of enrichment and advancement for the cause of Christ.**

## Executive Director Search Update

The AABC Executive Director Search Committee, Chaired by Dr. Dan Anderson (President, Appalachian Bible College), has been actively carrying out their duties of gathering information and personal data on **nominees** selected from a pool of affirmative responses from individuals. This is part 1 of a 3-part process involving nominations, personal interviews, and then selection of a candidate.

The Search Committee will meet, via conference call, in mid April to select from the nominee pool **interviewees** to meet with the Search Committee in Chicago the end of April. At that time, the committee is

trusting the Lord to help them identify a **candidate** to present to the Executive Committee of the AABC Board for further review, and, finally, a recommendation to the membership for their acceptance.

The Search Committee is actively pursuing the schedule that was adopted by the AABC Board at its February meeting, and it is their desire and goal to have this process completed by mid to late summer. However, they want to remain open to the Lord's timing and leading first and foremost. We appreciate your prayers for all involved during this process in the next few months. **D**

## AABC Initiates Self-Study Process (Cont'd from Page 1)

consider the recommendation of the Committee on Recognition sometime in late January. It is further anticipated that AABC will be scheduled for reaffirmation of its USDE recognition sometime in late 2001 or early 2002. The dates are uncertain because USDE is adjusting its review schedule to provide some time for internal work on its policies and procedures.

Efforts are currently underway to establish a task force to provide leadership for the self-

study project. It is hoped that such a task force can be assembled and meet in early summer. AABC invites *Newsletter* readers to forward suggestions and comments to the association's office regarding ideas they might have for the self-study process. In the meantime, personnel in the member colleges are encouraged to support the process in prayer, asking God to give the association's leadership clear direction as steps are taken to prepare for the future. **D**



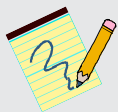
P.O. Box 780339  
Orlando, Florida 32878-0339

Phone: 407-207-0808  
Fax: 407-207-0840  
E-mail: [exdir@aabc.org](mailto:exdir@aabc.org)  
URL: <http://www.aabc.org>

*A publication of The Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, the leader in Advancing and Assuring Quality Biblical Higher Education throughout North America*

**Dr. Charles A. McNeely**  
Interim Executive Director

**Dr. Randall E. Bell**  
Associate Director



**Make a Note of It!**

**Upcoming Events**

- **Association of Canadian Bible Colleges (ACBC) Annual Conference**  
May 25-27, 2000  
Prairie Bible College (AB)
- **Christian Stewardship Association Summer Institute**  
June 14-17  
The Cove, Asheville, NC
- **CSA Annual Conference**  
September 28-30  
Hilton Towers, Atlanta, GA
- **Association for Christians in Student Development (ACSA) Annual Conference**  
June 5-8, 2000  
Taylor University (IN)

**Mark Your Calendar**  
**AABC Annual Meeting**



**2001**

**February 15-17**  
Omni Hotel at CNN Plaza  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Featured Speakers:**

- ❖ **Howard Hendricks**, Plenary Speaker  
Dallas Theological Seminary
- ❖ **Luder G. Whitlock, Jr.**, Plenary Speaker  
President, Reformed Theological Seminary

**2002**

**February 14-16**  
**The Hyatt Orlando**  
**Orlando, Florida**