



Winter Issue
Vol. XLVI, No. 2
April 2002

Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

N E W S L E T T E R

Route To:



Dr. Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director

From the Director's Desk



"TO CHANGE OR NOT TO CHANGE, THAT IS THE QUESTION!"

It was exactly thirty years ago this spring that I graduated from college. It was during my senior year that I read the runaway best seller, *Future Shock*, as part of a class assignment. The book addressed the roaring current of change, a current so powerful that it would ultimately modify our institutions, shift our values, and even shrivel our roots. *Future Shock* described what happens to people when they are overwhelmed with change. Although the book was first published in 1970, it became quite prophetic in pointing out the impact that change would have on our society. Change is the process by which the future invades our lives. Change must be looked at closely, not merely from the grand perspective of history, but also from the standpoint of how it is influencing our personal lives. Change is reality in our lives.

Just stop and think about the many changes that have taken place in our own lives over the last thirty years, particularly advances in technology and medicine. Wow! The changes that have taken place in the church and society are more than we could have ever imagined. Similarly, the new developments in North American higher education are no less mind-boggling, including the way accreditation activities are carried out.

The Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges is now at a very important juncture in its history. Although we continue to advance and assure quality biblical higher education, we are also attempting to adapt to the changes

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that are taking place in higher education accreditation. In fact, this particular issue of the *AABC Newsletter* addresses a number of these potential changes. We are also looking for ways to meet the changing needs of our current and potential member institutions while holding to certain core values. *1 Chronicles 12:32* speaks to our Association. "The men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do." It is my hope that the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges will "understand the times and know what to do."

Commitments That Make a Difference:

In spite of the many changes that are being proposed, particularly with respect to the scope of our accreditation, there are certain commitments that set biblical higher education apart from the larger higher education community. These commitments are part of the values system of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges. They are values that represent the 115 colleges and universities that are associated with AABC.

Commitment to Biblical Training: A thorough knowledge of the Bible has always been central to the accreditation standards of AABC. Serious devotion to the Word of God as the authority for all of life, both how we think and how we live, is a hallmark. The Bible is at the very core of all of our educational programs and serves as the standard for truth.

Commitment to the Integration of Faith and Learning: The lifelong integration of faith and learning should be nurtured by the curricular and the co-curricular programs of our institutions. Making connections between faith, living, and even learning is fundamental to biblical higher education.

Commitment to Christian Character: Issues of character, lifestyle, integrity, and godliness have always been important. It is reflected in the teaching and community life standards for faculty, staff, and students. We are concerned that behavior is consistent with belief.

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Commitment to Servant Leadership:

The institution should promote the development of Christian leaders who by their attitude and their service to the needs of individuals, organizations, and the church, will positively impact the world. We want our students and our alumni to have a passion to win the world for Christ.

Commitment to Academic Excellence:

High quality standards of scholarship for students and faculty must be maintained. Bible colleges can demonstrate academic quality and still foster a heart for Christian service.

I look forward to further discussion with you as together we look to the future of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges. There is every reason for optimism as we explore a number of initiatives that can potentially have a major impact on many of the institutions we serve. In our examination of accreditation issues, however, there are certain unchanging values to which we must remain firmly committed.

"To Change or not to Change, that is the Question!" ❖

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2002 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 2002. Persons wishing to submit third-party comments regarding any of these institutions should direct them to the AABC office at the following address: 5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Ste. 26, Orlando, FL 32822-1781; Fax: 407-207-0840; E-mail: exdir@aacbc.org.

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

2002

Alaska Bible College (AK) - RA

April 8-12, 2002

American Baptist College (TN) - RA

September 30 - October 2, 2002

Beulah Hghts Bible College (GA) - RA

March 6-9, 2002

Central Christian Clg. of Bible (MO)-RA

April 8-10, 2002

Emmanuel Bible College (ON) - RA

Fall Visit (Date TBD)

Huntsville Baptist College (AL) - IC

Fall Visit (Date TBD)

John Wesley College (NC) - RA

March 18-20, 2002

LIFE Bible College East (VA) - IC

Fall 2002 (Date TBD)

Williamson Christian College (TN) - IC

Fall 2002 (Date TBD)

2002 Commission on Accreditation Actions

At its February 10-13, 2002 meetings, the Commission on Accreditation of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges took the following actions regarding the accredited status of institutions:

- 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**:
 - Arlington Baptist College (TX)
 - Central Pentecostal College (SK)
 - Crown College (MN)
 - Faith Baptist Bible College (IA)
 - Prairie Bible College (AB)
 - Trinity College of Florida (FL)
 - Vennard College (IA)
 - Washington Bible College (MD)
- Following completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the **accredited status** of the following institution was **continued but not reaffirmed pending an interim action by another recognized accrediting body**:
 - Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN)
- Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institution was **granted Candidate [pre-accredited] status**:
 - Family of Faith College (OK)
- Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institutions were **granted initial Accredited status for 5 years**:
 - Rosedale Bible College (OH)
 - Somerset Christian College (NJ)



L-R: Leon Zimmerman, Levi Sommers, Jonathan Showalter



L-R: Pauline & Robert Dallenbach, Robert Cruver, Walter Nistorenko, Greg Hagg



L-R: Don Brubaker, Paul Chappell

- One institution was placed on **WARNING status**. This status does not constitute a public sanction.

Annual Business Meeting Follow-Up

As a follow-up to our Annual Business Meeting presentation on potentially expanding the scope of AABC accreditation and potentially expanding the services of AABC through affiliate institutions, I draw the following items to your attention:

1. Results of Membership Survey

| A. Proposal to Explore | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|
| • Expansion of Scope-Programmatic | 86 | 31 | 10 | 5 |
| • Expansion of Scope-Graduate-Level | 74 | 46 | 10 | 1 |
| • Expansion of Services-Affiliates | 88 | 35 | 7 | 0 |

| B. Ranking in Order of Importance | (1) High | (2) Moderate | (3) Low |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| • Expansion of -Scope-Programmatic | 74 | 38 | 18 |
| • Expansion of Scope-Graduate-Level | 36 | 35 | 59 |
| • Expansion of Services-Affiliates | 24 | 56 | 50 |

Space does not permit the listing of written comments

2. Results of Meetings with USDE and CHEA Representatives

I am pleased to report that I had favorable meetings with representatives from both USDE and CHEA in Washington, D.C. on March 28. I first met with Carol Griffiths, (Chief, Accrediting Agency Evaluation) Office of Postsecondary Education of the United States Department of Education, and then with Judith Eaton (Executive Director) and Judith Watkins (Vice President for Accreditation) of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The feedback I received from both agencies was very similar. Ultimately, the mission or accreditation scope is a matter we determine. We define ourselves. However, it is our responsibility to demonstrate to both agencies that we have the capacity to accredit institutions in the areas of the proposed expansion (programmatic & graduate-level). There are extensive and different petitions that would need to be submitted to USDE and CHEA. Both agencies felt it would be appropriate to do a joint petition (programmatic and graduate-level) rather than produce separate documents if we do choose to move ahead with the proposed initiatives.

Needless to say, there is a great deal of work involved in applying for an expansion of scope with USDE and CHEA. However, the representatives from both agencies felt the timing was good since we are already working through a comprehensive review of all of our standards.

3. Feasibility Studies will be Conducted

Suffice it to say, with the rather favorable feedback that was received from the membership surveys at our Annual Business Meeting on February 15 and the helpful advice given by the representatives from both USDE and CHEA at the March 28 meetings, we will move ahead with our feasibility studies. The months of April, May, and June will be spent on instrument design, distribution, and compilation of results. This is consistent with the timetable that was preliminarily proposed at our Business Meeting.

I trust this information serves as a helpful update. I will keep you fully informed.

Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director

Newly Elected AABC Board & Commission Members

Congratulations to the following who were elected to the AABC Board and Commission on Accreditation at our 2002 Annual Meeting:

AABC Board



Secretary
(4-Year Term)
Dr. Dwayne Uglen
Briercrest Bible College
Caronport, SK



Member-at-Large
(4-Year Term)
Mrs. April Lindsey
John Wesley College
High Point, NC



Member-at-Large
(4-Year Term)
Dr. Martha MacCullough
Philadelphia Biblical University
Langhorne, PA

AABC Commission on Accreditation



(4-Year Term)
Dr. Ronald R. Roach
Roanoke Bible College
Elizabeth City, NC



(4-Year Term)
Dr. Helen Sullivan
Arlington Baptist College
Arlington, TX



(4-Year Term)
Ms. Nancy Olson
Lincoln Christian College
Lincoln, IL

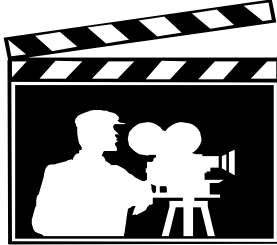


Public Member
(4-Year Term)
(Appointed - Not Elected)
Dr. Kenneth Gangel
Toccoa Falls, GA

2002 Annual Meeting



Larry McKinney Presiding



Richard Allen Farmer



Working Behind the Scenes



Linda & Sherrill Babb



Plenary Session



Board/Commission Dinner

Pictorial Highlights



Debbie & Larry McKinney

Dan & Rosalie Anderson



Dwight & Cynthia Perry



Kay & Marvin Brubacher



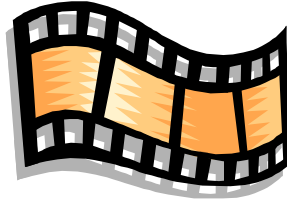
Randy & Carol Bell

Celebrating Biblical





AABC Office Team Hard at Work



Phillip McLeod, Jim Richard & Marta Alverado



Ladies' Tea



Exhibitor Program



Resource Table

Higher Education



LARRY J. MCKINNEY
SPRING/SUMMER 2002 SCHEDULE

April

- 15 Lincoln Christian College (IL)
- 16 Central Christian College of Bible (MO)
- 16 Calvary Bible College (MO)
- 17 Central Bible College (MO)
- 17 Baptist Bible College (MO)
- 18 Ozark Christian College (MO)
- 19 St. Louis Christian College (MO)

May

- 22 Heritage Baptist College (ON)
- 22 Emmanuel Bible College (ON)
- 23-25 Association of Canadian Bible Colleges Conference-Tyndale College

June

- 7 AABC Committee on Professional Development
- 13 NAICU Secretariat (DC)

AABC Position Statement
Religious Freedom & Human Sexuality

The Board of Directors and the full membership of the Association normally do not comment on political and social issues due to the diversity within our membership and their churches. However, recognizing the protection of religious freedom under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the United States Civil Rights Acts is being questioned in a growing number of discussions about discrimination and faith-based institutions, we believe it is important to state our official position.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible authoritative word of God. Therefore, everything we say and do must be under the guidance and authority of the Scripture. Our integrity depends on consistent application of commonly understood biblical truths.
2. We will be vigilant in defending our rights as faith-based organizations, as expressed in the federal constitutions of Canada and the United States. While some within the educational community may not always agree with us on specific positions, we believe all leaders in higher learning and the extended society have a stake in preserving basic freedoms and, therefore, encourage them to join us in defending these basic rights.
3. The issue of marriage and human sexuality is a very contentious issue in today's society. Yet, the Bible provides significant guidance in this area, accordingly, we must make a clear statement that can help to lead our institutions, their churches and their related communities in defining and protecting the rights of individuals and institutions.
4. We uphold the sanctity of marriage as God-ordained, a special union between a man and a woman, within which sexual relations are honored and affirmed by God. We share the conviction that all sexual unions, outside of marriage as thus defined, are sinful. In dealing with sexual sins outside of marriage, we must be attentive to Scripture and therefore consistent in applying campus policies to both heterosexual and homosexual situations.
5. We will demonstrate civility and compassion as we engage in dialogue with others on these issues. The Bible calls upon us to respect people even though we may disagree with them. We affirm the dignity of all human beings.
6. We will also separate the value and identity of each person from the behavioral choices one makes. We must never reject people, but only those actions that Scripture defines as immoral. We rejoice in the fact that God encounters, embraces, forgives, and heals all people who are responding to His grace. We must also extend the same grace and forgiveness, to those we may discipline for violating campus standards for biblical living.

It is our desire to respond to this current challenge with resolve and sensitivity. We stand for the clear moral teaching of the Bible while demonstrating compassion for those with whom we may disagree. Just as Christ had a "love morality" that was combined with a "law morality", may we also find that healthy balance as we seek to represent our Lord in the higher education arena and the larger society.

Approved by the AABC Board of Directors - 2/12/2002

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE FOR
NEWER CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS

October 18-20, 2002

Hampton Inn

Orlando International Airport

Orlando, Florida

The room, board, and program costs will be provided in the form of scholarships through the AABC Leadership Development Fund. The individual or sponsoring institution will be responsible for transportation costs. Please write the dates down on your calendar if you are a newer chief academic officer in your first, second, or third year of service.

Invitations and more specific details will be sent out in June.

Leadership Development for Biblical Higher Education

Pledges and gifts totaling **\$18,840** were received for the **Leadership Development for Biblical Higher Education fund** in conjunction with the banquet at our Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project!

Gifts are still being received for the fund and can be sent to our office designated to the **Leadership Development for Biblical Higher Education**.

The Wise Investor: A Parable for College Administrators

By: David J. Agron

He made a killing in real estate. When I met him in the late 1980s, he had already taken early retirement – very early retirement. He was not yet forty years old! Now, he cannot even afford health insurance for his family. His financial collapse was due to the fact that he did not diversify his investments. Wise investors diversify.

The emergence of conservative theological seminaries has helped fill a need that had once driven the growth of the Bible College movement. Furthermore, the Master of Divinity degree has become the preferred credential in many communities. However, in some ethnic communities, an AABC-accredited BA degree is a very marketable credential (e.g. among certain Latino, Black, or Korean constituencies). If a businessman sees a shrinking market, he may want to expand the services he offers or expand his targeted client base. This would be similar to the investment strategy of diversifying types of investments. Expanding services offered would correlate to the AABC offering 1) programmatic accreditation to portions of larger schools, 2) an affiliate program to schools that are not yet able (or do not desire) to seek accreditation or 3) graduate accreditation. We should also consider how to expand our potential "client base." A college that has been serving Anglo and Hispanic students may want to consider how to also recruit among Koreans or Blacks. Making adjustments that enable a college to recruit significant numbers of students among new ethnic groups contributes to institutional stability. The AABC Ethnic Diversity Committee has been striving to develop services to assist colleges in such tasks.

AABC colleges should increase initiatives to cultivate, recruit and retain students from a variety of ethnic groups. There are underserved young people that are unaware of our existence or that we desire to serve them. They are less aware of how to access our schools than we are of how to access their communities. Therefore, we must cultivate relationships with ethnic churches, secondary schools, teachers, leaders and populations. We may want to offer our campus for special events for these ethnic populations. We may want to develop some ethnic scholarships to prime the pump for future recruitment in these

communities. We must also develop curricula that are relevant to the contexts these students come from and will serve in. The primary purpose of diversity initiatives is not merely to add students and stability to our colleges, but rather to help fulfill the Great Commission.

In a similar manner, the emerging theological schools among various ethnic constituencies are an under-tapped population that the AABC could serve. *There are many such schools. I have identified sixty-eight in Southern California.* We could build relationships with emerging ethnic schools through an affiliate program that provides services to unaccredited schools. Together AABC and ethnic schools could share valuable resources and experience to develop quality programs that will equip graduates from various under tapped populations to better impact the world for Jesus Christ. Could God have raised AABC up for such a purpose?

The ostrich has a reputation for squandering a great asset (i.e. its height from which it could see threats while they are still far away. Unlike the ostrich, Bible colleges often do SWOT analyses. As we scan the horizon, we are naturally concerned about increasing our impact among an ever-increasingly diverse population. Suddenly, ethnic diversity has become more than something nice to pursue if there is time. It is time to place diversity in a prominent place on the agenda.

*If your school has a program or practice that has been helpful in promoting a cross-cultural environment, please forward these best practice ideas to Dr. Marta Alvarado [Chair, AABC Ethnic Diversity Committee], Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL. Please log on to the AABC web site (www.aabc.org) and check out the Ethnic Diversity Committee's **Institutional Self-Study Assessment Process for Student Diversity** link for further information.*

David Agron (Ph.D. candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary) is the former Academic Dean of Bethesda Christian University and currently serves as a consultant for a variety of faith-based institutions. ❖

Task Force on Review of Standards Meeting

The AABC Task Force on the Review of Standards will be meeting at the AABC headquarters on April 11-13 to continue its work. Following the February AABC Commission on Accreditation meeting, Dr. Charles Bethel, current chair of the Subcommittee on Criteria of the Commission, will join the task force as a regular member. His participation will retain the link between the Commission and the Task Force since the existing Task Force members representing the Commission have completed their terms of Commission service. Dr. Bethel serves as Academic Dean of Appalachian Bible College (WV).

The primary thrust of the Task Force activity will be to continue the work underway on the comprehensive review of standards. Members will review a revised schedule for completion of the project with a goal of presenting proposals to the membership at the 2004 AABC Annual Meeting. Additionally, members will review new proposals prepared by staff in light of the potential expansion of AABC's scope. The proposals attempt to highlight the implications of both graduate education and programmatic accreditation for the work underway. Finally, the Task Force will be reviewing its work in the context of the Commission's response to certain philosophical issues that have emerged in the course of the project.

Please include AABC on your institution's mailing list. We would love to receive a copy of your newsletter or key mailings. Please send to:

Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Suite 26

Orlando, FL 32822-1781

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Orlando, Florida 32822-1781

Phone: 407.207.0808 • Fax: 407.207.0840
E-mail: exdir@aabc.org
URL: <http://www.aabc.org>

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Dr. Larry J. McKinney

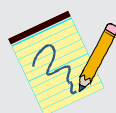
Executive Director

Dr. Randall E. Bell

Associate Director

Ms. E. Carol Dibble

Editor, Design & Layout - AABC Newsletter



Make a Note of It!

Upcoming Events

- **Review of Standards Committee**
April 12-13, 2002
AABC Office - Orlando, Florida
- **Association of Canadian Bible Colleges Conference (ACBC)**
May 23-25, 2002
Tyndale College - Ontario, Canada
- **Professional Development Comm.**
June 7, 2002
AABC Office - Orlando, FL
- **Association of Christian Librarians Conference - www.acl.org**
June 10-13, 2002
Trevecca Nazarene University
Nashville, TN
- **NAICU Secretariat**
June 13, 2002
Washington, DC

Mark Your Calendar

AABC Annual Meeting



2003

February 13-15
The Hyatt Orlando
Orlando, Florida

Guest Artist

- **Mr. John Fischer**
Recording Artist

Pre-Convention Workshop:

- **TBA**

Theme:

A changing Church in a Changing Culture -- Implications for Biblical Higher Education

Plenary Speakers:

- **Dr. Jay Kessler**, Chancellor
Taylor University
- **Mrs. Jill Briscoe**
Briscoe Ministries
- **Mr. John Fischer**
Recording Artist
- **Dr. Bruce Fong**, President
Michigan Theological Seminary