



# AABC

## Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

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# NEWSLETTER



Dr. Larry J. McKinney  
Executive Director

## From the Director's Desk



### A Christmas Carol

We all remember the scene from the well known Christmas story—"A Christmas Carol." Two "portly gentlemen" as Charles Dickens calls them, enter the offices of Scrooge and Marley, hoping to raise money "for the poor and destitute who suffer greatly at the present time of the year."

They present their case, pointing out that "hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts," but Scrooge is not responsive. "Are there no prisons?" the old miser asks. "Aren't the workhouses still in operation?" he snarls.

"Yes," one of the gentlemen replies, "I wish I could say they were not." Not to be discouraged, the two gentlemen continue. "What shall we put you down for?"

"Nothing!" says Scrooge.

"You wish to be anonymous?" the gentlemen ask.

"I wish to be left alone!" says Scrooge.

The gentlemen leave with their hearts full of sadness. They grieve for the poor and the homeless "who would rather die" than suffer the humiliation of a nineteenth century English workhouse, but they also grieve for old Ebenezer Scrooge whose self-centered misery has blinded him to the simple joys of Christmas.

How many times have we heard contemporary versions of the same old story? How many times have we found ourselves playing the part of Scrooge—saying to those who ask for our time and money, "Please don't bother me. I wish to be left alone.?"

Although he never uses the word, Charles Dickens' wonderful story, "A Christmas Carol",

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is about much more than just the sentimental (or commercial) "Christmas spirit" that comes and goes each holiday season.

Scrooge is not a good steward. He hoards what he has been given (time, talent, and treasure) and he buries his gifts deep within himself. He cannot give or share, and the result is a twisted, self-absorbed, miserable individual. Along with his gifts and talents, Scrooge accumulates and hides all the hurts, resentments, and disappointments of a lonely lifetime. In the end, nothing makes him happy or gives him peace.

There is only one thing that can save this unhappy old man from the misery he has made for himself. Open, generous giving is the only cure for the likes of Ebenezer Scrooge. As long as he holds back—asking "What is in it for me?"—Scrooge is condemned to live that life he has fashioned for himself through many years of lonely self-centeredness.

Fortunately, Charles Dickens believed in a God who is generous and forgiving. Old Scrooge is given one last chance to experience life as it truly is meant to be lived. The spirits who visit Scrooge help him to face the painful truths about himself. And by comforting him with his selfishness, the spirits give Scrooge something far more valuable than all his gold. They give him a glimpse of who he was, who he is now, and who he could become, if only he would let go of his bitter resentment and embrace the joy of giving.

You will recall that following his change of heart, as he hurries to join his nephew's family for Christmas dinner, Scrooge encounters one of the two "portly gentlemen" who had asked him for a contribution the day before. After greeting the gentleman so warmly that the man barely recognized the old miser, Scrooge whispers in his ear the amount of the pledge to help the poor and destitute.

"My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?" cries the gentleman, as if his breath has been taken away.

"Not a farthing less," says Scrooge. "A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me the favor?" he pleads.

And then the most amazing thing happens.

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As the astounded solicitor tries to express his gratitude, stammering from both appreciation and belief, Scrooge says it for him. "Thank you. I am much obliged to you. I thank you fifty times. Bless you!"

In "A Christmas Carol," Dickens wants each of us to discover what old Scrooge had to learn the hard way: **The only way to hold onto something is to give it away.** This is the paradox of giving: The one who gives a gift or gives of himself or herself is the one who is the most grateful. Besides being the giver, the generous person is also a beneficiary. That's why Scrooge says thank you "fifty times" and also why he asks the gentleman **to do him a favor by accepting the gift.**

Even afterwards, Dickens says, it was said of Scrooge **"that he knew how to keep Christmas well."** Like any good steward, Scrooge kept it well by giving it away. And so, as Dickens observes at the conclusion of his story, **"may that truly be said of us...everyone!"**

We are certainly reminded of the joy of giving through this Christmas classic. However, God provided a more perfect example by giving His only son to demonstrate His love to the world. God set the pattern when He gave the gift of His Son. This kind of gift should make our Christmas meaningful.

May you "keep Christmas well" as you give of your time, talent, and treasure this season. ❖

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## 2004 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 **2004**. 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@aacb.org](mailto:exdir@aacb.org).

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

### 2004

**Bethany College (SK) - RA**

March 10-12, 2004

**Carver Bible College (GA) - IA**

Dates TBD

**Cincinnati Bible College (OH) - RA**

March 22-24, 2004

**Ecclesia College (AR) - IA**

October 4-6, 2004

**Grace University (NE) - RA**

March 8-10, 2004

**Magnolia Bible College (MS) - RA**

October 4-6, 2004

**Moody Bible Institute (IL) - RA**

September 20-22, 2004

**Selma University (AL) - IC**

Dates TBD

**Western Christian College (SK) - IA**

Dates TBD



## Presidents' Leadership Conference A Great Success!



Nineteen newer AABC presidents came to Orlando on October 24-26 for the second Presidents' Leadership Development Conference. The weekend focused on presidential responsibilities and expectations, skill development, and problem solving. The program included plenary sessions, case studies, small groups, and round table discussions. The instruction and mentoring was provided by veteran presidents from within the Association. The evaluations from this conference were very positive and will assist in the planning of future leadership events. ❖



**Midwestern Regional Deans' Conference  
Kansas City, MO**

## Regional Meetings Held in Orlando and Kansas City for Chief Academic Officers

Fifteen of our eastern regional chief academic officers met at the AABC office for the second year in a row on October 16 and 17 for the Eastern Regional Deans' Meeting. Similarly, 17 chief academic officers met in Kansas City on the campus of Calvary Bible College for the first Midwestern Regional Deans' Meeting on October 31 and November 1. Both conferences provided times of instruction and idea sharing relative to the challenges and opportunities of academic leadership. ❖

## Three New Institutions Granted Affiliate Status

The Affiliate Status Review Committee recently reviewed applications and granted affiliate status to three more institutions. This recently approved designation affords affiliate institutions the opportunity to take advantage of many of the programs and services without becoming an accredited member. These three new affiliates bring the total to ten institutions. The affiliate institutions listed below are the latest additions:

- **Bethany Divinity College & Seminary—Dothan, AL**
- **Hispanic Institute of Ministry—Dallas, TX**
- **Worldwide School of Ministry—Las Vegas, NV**

## Regional Hearings for New Standards Completed

AABC held a total of seven regional hearings regarding the proposed new criteria. The first was held during the May 22-24 meeting of the Association of Canadian Bible Colleges on the campus of Briercreech Bible College (SK). Meetings were subsequently held on the campuses of Life Pacific College (CA), September 29; Washington Bible College (MD), October 10; Columbia International University (SC), October 29; Calvary Bible College (MO), October 31; and Wesley College (MS), November 5. Additionally, a hearing was held for the Florida institutions at the AABC headquarters, October 27. Participants included representatives of member colleges, representatives of interested non-accredited colleges, and members of the public. Most suggestions dealt with refinements, not substantive matters.

The AABC staff is currently summarizing all of the suggestions and recommendations made in a manner that will facilitate their review by the Standards Review Committee. It is hoped that the Committee can make determinations regarding potential changes based on the feedback in time to re-circulate the materials via email by December 15. Comments received after the December 15 distribution will be shared with the AABC Commission on Accreditation and Board of Directors at their forthcoming February meetings. On Thursday morning, **February 19**, there will be an open forum for one final review by the membership before the criteria are placed before delegates for adoption. ❖



# Holiday Greetings

*Yours, Oh Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is Yours, O Lord, and this is Your kingdom. We adore You as the One who is over all things.*

*1 Chronicles 29:11*

*Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt His Name together.*

*Psalms 34:3*

*Oh what a privilege to celebrate our Savior's birth! May your hearts be filled with joy and wonder as you enter into this Season of celebration. Oh come let us adore Him together.*

*The AABC staff wishes you a very Merry, Christ-filled Christmas.*

*May God bless you with grace and peace,*

*Kathy, Larry, Carol  
Patti, Randy & Stephanie*

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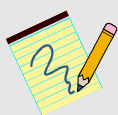
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**Dr. Larry J. McKinney**  
Executive Director

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

**Ms. E. Carol Dibble**  
Editor, Design & Layout - AABC Newsletter



**Make a Note of It!**

**Upcoming Events**

- **Christian Stewardship Association (CSA) Chicago Conference**  
January 25- 28, 2004  
Hilton-Americas Hotel, Houston, TX
- **CHEA Annual Conference**  
January 26-28, 2004  
Marina del Rey, CA
- **Ethnic Leadership Development Conference** – February 17-19, 2004  
Orlando Airport Marriott, FL
- **AABC Annual Meeting – Joint Meeting with ABACC & ACCESS**  
February 19-21, 2004  
Orlando Airport Marriott, FL
- **AABC Board Meeting**  
February 15-16, 2003  
Orlando Airport Marriott, FL
- **AABC Commission on Accreditation**  
February 15-18, 2003  
Orlando Airport Marriott, FL



**57th Annual Meeting**

**February 19-21, 2004 \* Orlando, FL**

Register Online!  
[www.aabc.org](http://www.aabc.org)

**Rooted in Core Values:**  
*Casting a New Vision*



PLENARY SPEAKER:  
**Dr. Crawford Lewis, Jr.**  
Associate Director  
Campus Crusade  
for Christ, U.S.



PLENARY SPEAKER:  
**Dr. Clive Caher**  
President,  
World Relief



PLENARY SPEAKER:  
**Dr. David Warren**  
President,  
MAOU



PLENARY SPEAKER:  
**Ms. Kaye Shelton**  
On/Offine Education  
Dallas Baptist  
University