

Video Bible Institute

*“The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”
(2 Timothy 2:2)*

We can not read what Paul wrote Timothy without seeing how important it is to show others how to become both students *and* teachers of God’s word. When students become teachers and show others how to duplicate the process, the gospel spreads like wildfire.

That’s what we witness in the early church. Luke recorded that early Christians “went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Their efforts were so successful that Paul later stated that the gospel had been “preached to every creature under heaven” (Colossians 1:23).

After we have been taught we *must* “teach others to teach others.” When we fail to do so, we limit God’s message of salvation.

“Teaching others to teach others” is what Video Bible Institute (VBI) is all about. **World Video Bible School (WVBS)** started in 1986 with the dream of producing and distributing gospel preaching on video. More than twenty years later hundreds of thousands of WVBS videos are in use around the globe.

Video Bible Institute began in 1997 as a division of WVBS. Its purpose – provide a self-paced, worldwide school offering in-depth Bible teaching. All VBI courses are built on WVBS videos. Students watch videos, read course notes and text books, take tests, complete memory work, and write papers for each class. VBI provides a unique program designed for Christians who want to increase their knowledge and faith through concentrated Bible study. VBI exists to “teach others to teach others.”

Some VBI students want to preach. Others want to become elders, or become better elders. Some want to improve their teaching skills or learn how to share the gospel with friends and neighbors. And some simply want to become the best Christians they can be. VBI helps all of them attain their goals.

Students enrolling in VBI complete an application and register for courses online. They have access to instructors and other students via discussion forums, email and other internet based course management systems. When they complete their course work each receives a certificate.

Video Bible Institute really fills *two* crucial roles. Most of the students enrolled in VBI live in the United States and most are members of the body of Christ. But a significant portion of our students live abroad, and a growing number, both here and abroad, are non-Christians. VBI not only exists to “teach others to teach others,” it also exists to teach the lost.

Why are we telling you all of this?

While we certainly want to inform you about VBI and generate interest in our work, that is not the only reason for writing.

Since January 1, 2007, VBI has been under the direction of the Central Church of Christ in Martinsburg, West



Virginia. The congregation's elders oversee the work of VBI, and Jody Apple serves as its director. Moving the work under an eldership has been a long standing goal of WVBS and Central's oversight came after result of many months of discussion by the staff at WVBS, the Central elders and Jody.

When WVBS transferred VBI to the Central congregation in Martinsburg, VBI had about 290 active students. Since January 1, 2007 **more than 1000 new applications have been received.**

While this kind of growth is wonderful and exciting, it presents its own set of challenges—not the least of which is the funding necessary to support this, and future, growth.

And *that* is the real reason for writing you. We want to introduce you to VBI and let you know about our recent growth and plans for the future, but **we also would like to ask for your financial assistance to keep the work going.** What we need most right now are funds that we can use to:

- repay Jody the money he personally borrowed since January 2007 to keep this work going
- provide monthly support for the coming year
- create and maintain a work fund to cover three key areas:
 - ✦ technical: hardware, software, hosting and upgrade costs
 - ✦ office: postage, paper, envelopes, office equipment and supplies
 - ✦ promotion: travel, fundraising and advertising

Video Bible Institute, within five years, could easily **have more than 5,000 students enrolled.** But only with adequate support and proper management.

We need your help to turn what is now only potential into reality. One-time, lump-sum gifts certainly are not only welcome, but desperately needed to repay what Jody borrowed as this new phase of VBI got started.

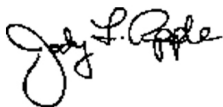
But we also need regular monthly or quarterly donations to keep the work going.

If you could consider putting VBI into your budget, we would be most grateful. Donations may be sent to:

The Elders, Central Church of Christ, 90 Waverly Court, Martinsburg, WV, 25403.

If you need additional information, please call Mark Everson, one of the Central elders, at (304) 267-6212. You also will find support information readily available at www.TheBible.net/support. Jody can be reached via cell phone at (610) 717-6320 or via email at Jody@TheBible.net.

In Christ,



Jody L. Apple

This letter is archived at www.TheBible.net/support/fundraising1.pdf

VBI is hosted at www.TheBible.net, a site I created and maintain. The site generates 3-5,000 unique visitors daily and 300,000+ pageviews monthly. Our goal is to increase daily visitors to 10,000 and monthly pageviews to one million.