

# South Texas School Of Preaching and Biblical Studies



Church of Christ North  
2013 Spring Glen  
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## History

The **South Texas School of Preaching and Biblical Studies** began in 1995 as a work of the Norton Street Church of Christ in Corpus Christi, Texas. This congregation is a bi-lingual congregation (English and Hispanic) who had a vision to provide a quality educational school for the training of preachers in the **Spanish language**. Aware of the growing population of Hispanic-speaking people both in this country and in this Hemisphere, this congregation desired to begin a Hispanic preaching school in the United States; few Church of Christ schools of this type exist today in North America.

Convinced that the ideal location for such a school was in the **Rio Grande Valley**, the elders of the Norton Street Church of Christ met with the elders of the **Church of Christ North**, a congregation then located in Mission, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley, to discuss the possibility of a cooperative effort to make this school a reality. As a result of this meeting, an arrangement was agreed upon whereby the School would use the facilities of the **Alton Iglesia de Cristo**, an Hispanic congregation located 5 miles north of Mission, Texas in Hidalgo County.

In August, 1995 the first class of the School was held. Since its inception six classes and 27 students have received their diplomas from the School.

In August 1997 the elders of the **Church of Christ North** assumed the oversight of this School.

## Location

The School of Preaching is located in the city of Alton, Texas in the **Rio Grande Valley**. The **Rio Grande Valley** is the southern-most portion of Texas. From Brownsville to Rio Grande City, the **Valley** shares a common border with Mexico, separated only by the Rio Grande River. The counties that make up the Rio Grande Valley contain a population of approximately **one million**. **Mexican border towns** adjacent to the Valley boast a population of another **1.5 million** people.

The city of **Alton** is located in **Hidalgo County** (population: 750,000) and in the **McAllen-Edinburgh-Pharr** metroplex. This metroplex recently was identified as the **third-fastest growing metroplex** in the U. S. and the **fastest growing 7<sup>in</sup> Texas**. This metroplex also contains the **13<sup>th</sup> largest Hispanic population** in the nation. **Hidalgo County's population is 89% Hispanic**. The city of **Alton** is the geographic center of the rural population of the

county. The Hispanic population of this area is above 95%. The Hispanic flavor of this community and the Valley makes **Alton** an ideal location for this Hispanic School of Preaching because it provides a perfect environment for students to apply what they learn among the native population.

With the exploding Hispanic population in the United States, there is no question that Churches of Christ need to redirect much of their evangelistic activity toward this expanding population. To do this, many more **trained Hispanic preachers** will be needed in the near future.

### Curriculum

The original goal for the School was focused on training **men** in the Spanish language who wanted to become **preachers** of the gospel. For those who plan to preach, a course of study resulting in a **Diploma of Preaching** is offered. The required course of study is designed to be completed in **three years**. In all, **forty (40) courses** must be completed to receive the **Diploma of Preaching**.

As initial registration for the School progressed, it became apparent that its parameters needed to be widened. Numerous **men and women** from area Hispanic congregations showed an interest in attending, though not all were interested in becoming preachers. Many were interested in becoming **leaders and teachers**. For such men and women who do not plan to preach, a course of study resulting in a **Certificate of Biblical Studies** was developed. Students who do not desire to preach may earn a **Certificate of Biblical Studies** after completing **thirty (30) courses** including **fifteen (15) textual courses and fifteen (15) topical courses**.

To meet the needs of our prospective students, it became apparent that both **daytime and nighttime classes** were needed to accommodate both the full-time and part-time student.

Initially, all classes at the School were held at night: five nights a week from 6:30 TO 9:30 P. M. After four years of operation, the School began offering both a daytime and nighttime curriculum. The School continues to plan its curriculum to meet the needs of prospective students. In 2004, because many of our students could not travel to **Alton** for classes, we decided to offer classes in multiple locations. We now hold classes **two nights per week in Alton** and in **Las Milpas**. We also hold classes in **Reynosa, Mexico** on weekends. **Classes at Alton** are held on **Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00 P.M.**; **Classes at Las Milpas** are held at the same hours on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. **Classes in Reynosa** are held from **3:00-6:00 P. M. on Saturdays** when the church facility at the El Centro congregation is available.

The School is dedicated to providing quality education for our students while, at the same time, accommodating their special needs.

The School remains flexible in its willingness to schedule classes as needed.

**Classes are not held in the summers.**

### Correspondence Courses

The School also offers courses, cassettes and videotapes by correspondence for both non-Christians and Christians across the **Americas**. The School presently has **over 1000 students** in 18 states and 16 countries of Latin America.

### Faculty

The **Director** of the School of Preaching is **Carrol Robertson**. Carrol and his wife, **Eunice**, have served the Lord for many years. Both have served as missionaries; **Carrol** has also preached for several congregations. Before coming to serve as Director, Carrol served as a Bible instructor at the **Baxter Institute** in Honduras. Carrol presently directs the School and teaches several courses.

The School presently has 13 different instructors. The School is fortunate to have several visiting instructors who help teach the required curriculum. Most of these instructors have experience as missionaries or ministers. Several ministers from local congregations also participate as teachers. Often these local ministers use their own congregational facilities to host the classes, especially the night classes.

### Students

It is preferred that potential students have a high-school education, although this is not required. Potential students must be able to speak Spanish. A proficiency in English is not required to attend. However, **classes in English** are available and the School strongly encourages students to develop bi-lingual proficiency in order to be better prepared for their future ministry.

There is no charge for tuition. However, students are responsible for their own housing and school supplies. **Full-time students** may request scholarship assistance to help defer living costs. The School reserves the right to

determine scholarship eligibility. Scholarship assistance is always subject to the availability of funds on hand for that purpose.

New applicants are required to complete an application and forms of recommendation. For all **interested potential students**, please contact the School at the address above and a **registration packet** will be forwarded.

### **Financial Backing**

The South Texas School of Preaching and Biblical Studies is currently a ministry of the **Church of Christ North** (Pharr, Texas) and is supported by individuals and congregations of the Churches of Christ.

For congregations looking to begin or support Hispanic ministries throughout the world, please call us for details regarding the School and/or graduates looking for job placement.

For those interested in full-time ministry in either foreign countries or in Hispanic neighborhoods in North America, we would like to talk to you about sending students to study with us.

### **URGENT NEED!!**

According to the **U. S. Census Bureau**, **Hispanics** are now the **largest minority** in the United States. And by 2050, the United States will be a "minority white" country and **Hispanics** will make up over 25% of the population.

Presently only **one tenth of 1%** of the Hispanic population of this country are members of the Churches of Christ. If Churches of Christ intend to fulfill the "Great Commission" and take the gospel to "all ethnic groups," we better **start immediately**. If the present Hispanic population is not being reached today, what will be the future of the church tomorrow? We must be diligent about reaching "all God's children" with the Good News.

To accomplish this, more churches must be aggressive in training many more Hispanic ministers for the present and future challenge. We encourage every congregation to begin making plans to plant churches in their communities that are targeted at the minority population.

To meet the coming needs, we suggest that your congregation consider sponsoring one or more students who wish to become Hispanic ministers. When finished with their training, these students can then be placed into ministry in your community among the Hispanic population there. The South Texas School of Preaching would be very happy to work with you to accomplish this great task.

#### **Curriculum courses:**

##### **Textual:**

Survey of the New Testament  
The Synoptic Gospels and the Sermon on the Mount  
Gospel of John  
The Book of Acts  
The Book of Romans  
I Corinthians  
II Corinthians  
The Book of Galatians  
Pastoral Epistles  
James  
The Epistles of John  
I and II Thessalonians  
I Peter  
II Peter and Jude  
The Epistle to the Hebrews  
The Book of Revelation  
The Book of Isaiah  
Survey of the Old Testament I, II, and III  
The Book of Jeremiah  
The Prison Epistles  
The Book of Daniel and Biblical Interpretation  
The Book of Ezekiel  
The Minor Prophets  
Wisdom Literature

##### **Topical:**

Parables of Jesus  
Infallibility of Scripture  
The Plan of Salvation  
The Christian Home  
Denominational Doctrines  
Tools for Bible Study  
Conflict in the Church  
The Purpose of the Old Testament  
Harmony in the Church  
Warnings from Israel's History  
Basic Christian Doctrines  
Teaching Workshop  
Learning New Songs  
Song-leading Workshop  
Personal Evangelism  
Christian Evidences  
Leadership Training  
The Kingdom of God  
The Spiritual Life of a Preacher  
Major Religions I  
Major Religions II  
Homiletics  
Church History  
Christian Worship

Law and Grace  
Church Planting  
Creation vs Evolution

# South Texas School Of Preaching and Biblical Studies



Las Milpas



Alton



Reynosa

We Invite You To Come  
And Study With Us