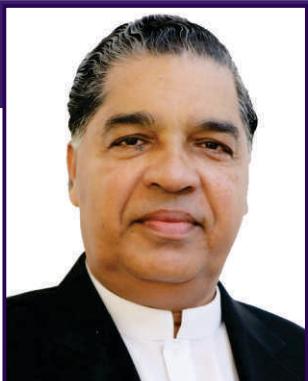




GILGAL

BIBLICAL SEMINARY

PROSPECTUS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It had always been in my mind to establish a well-organized seminary in the Middle East where focus will be on Biblical and Mission studies. I see revolution and development in all areas of our life such as Technology, Science, Industry, Commerce etc. The technological advancement has reached its peak. In spite of all these, a theology student is challenged to face the sophisticated world in order to present a view that will suit the doctrine of our Bible. Hence, my hard word, dedication and efforts were all aimed at one underlying motive, i.e., to train our students thoroughly in the infallible and inspired Word of God.

Gilgal Biblical Seminary (GBS) had its humble beginning in the Middle East, in the year 2006 as a Theological Study Centre in Sharjah. Over the course of last 15 years, it has developed into a well-organized Biblical seminary with accreditation from both Asia Theological Association and COG Grade Level IV (USA).

GBS operates in various emirates across UAE, i.e., in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai, Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah. It has a very good administration members acting as office bearers. In addition to that, an excellent team of faculty who are well qualified in theological studies and most of them with even doctorate degrees as well. The GBS faculty consists of both regular and adjunct faculties. The student body comprises of different denominations and nationalities like India, Pakistan, Philippines, Africa etc. Hence, it enables them to have a good intercultural relations and practical theology studies. We have nearly 200 students across various courses in all emirates. Over 300+ graduates have passed out from GBS in the last 11 years.

It had been my passion to extend the horizon of Gilgal Biblical Seminary not only in MENA Region but across continents. God has honoured my heart's desire and I proudly inform you that with the start of the online classes in GBS, we have finally made our mark as a global theological seminary.

GBS mainly focuses and emphasizes on systematic theology studies and believes in equipping the students for the practical ministry. Online class facility gives students from around the globe an opportunity to be a part & parcel of GBS. Moreover, students who have graduated from GBS are accepted and recognized anywhere in the world. GBS has been and will always be a stepping-stone for people to come forth and work for the expansion of God's Kingdom. I wish success to the student body at Gilgal Biblical Seminary.

In His Kingdom,

Rev. Dr. K.O. Mathew

President

Gilgal Biblical Seminary

Sharjah, United Arab Emirate

FROM PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



My desire and purpose in coming to the United Arab Emirates in 2013 was to assist in mobilizing and equipping diaspora Christians and churches to fulfill the their Great Commission responsibility within the Middle Eastern context. Gilgal Biblical Seminary in one of the primary ways I envision completing that task. Through GBS, Christian men and women of diverse ethnic, national, and linguistic backgrounds can be trained to participate in what God is doing in the United Arab Emirates and throughout the world.

Despite the obvious limitations of conducting seminary classes in the UAE, GBS offers people from various ecclesiastical backgrounds to be trained in theology, mission, and other practical areas of ministry. By training clergy and laity alike, the seminary seeks to prepare the body of Christ to serve His purpose in the region and beyond. Through creative educational platforms from a multi-cultural faculty, GBS students are prepared not only to engage their own people group, but people from any nation that resides within the UAE. This not only enables the seminary to train and reach the diverse peoples residing in the country, but through our student body, to reach the nations of the world.

As the only person in the world who holds three degrees in Intercultural Studies (missiology), it is my heart and vision to see Gilgal Biblical Seminary mobilize, prepare, and equip missionaries from all nations to embrace the missionary call and to enter the harvest of the nations. The Great Commission is not reserved for wealthy nations, or men and women from the countries of the West, but for all God's people regardless of where they are from or their socio-economic status. As principal of GBS I seek to equip the whole church, with the whole Gospel, to go into the whole world!

While also serving as the Regional Education Coordinator for Church of God World Missions, it is my desire to see GBS become everything God intended it to be, and play a central part in the preparation of God's people for God's service in God's world. By incorporating sound biblical teaching, experienced faculty, and Holy Spirit empowerment there is no limit to what GBS students, who faithfully participate in our programs, can achieve for the Kingdom of God.

I pray that anyone who is considering enrolling GBS do so under the direction of Jesus Christ for His glory and His purpose for His glory. By committing to the areas of study GBS provides, there is no reason any man or woman cannot receive what they need to serve in the churches in the UAE or anywhere in the world.

Rev. Dr. Vance Massengill
Principal
Gilgal Biblical Seminary



FROM ACADEMIC DEAN'S DESK

The Bible is full of metaphors that express the Christian journey. One of the prominent metaphor is to be “rooted and grounded” (Ps 1:3, Jer 17:7-8, Eph 3:16-19; Col 2:6). In gardening, roots are a pivotal part of the plant, which attach the whole to the ground and carry water and nourishment to the rest of the plant. Theological education is designed to grow roots, to develop a critical understanding of oneself, one’s world, and one’s tradition. Simultaneously, one is also deepening one’s relationship with God, others, and the world.

Gilgal Biblical seminary follows a diversified theological education model (DTE). DTE is a threefold model of engagement: Academic, Ministerial, and Grassroot. All three types of learning operate on the same continuum, yet each has a distinct purpose, distinct content, and distinct audience. Academic education trains theologians to teach and research. It follows an intellectual framework that is predominately neutral, objective, and analytical. Ministerial training equips pastors and non-ordained leaders to work in the church. Ministerial education is best achieved through an integrated curriculum where discussion is not only about the content but also about the use of content in pastoral settings. Grassroot theological education focuses on the process of equipping church members with foundational competencies in their faith.

GBS does not merely stand for academic attainment; that is not the end of it all, although it is an essential means to a higher purpose. At GBS, we strive to achieve the following goal:

- Distinct: We recognize the fact that each student is distinct and has a different calling. We realize this with a breadth of offerings that allow you to benefit from a strong theological foundation, no matter where your ministry takes you.
- Doing and Being: We strive to place where students BE and Do. The seminary invests in students and their personal development. The message and ministry are essential to the context of sharing the message of Christ.
- Diversity: U.A.E. is also home to a large number of people from different ethnic and language groups and diverse denomination. Thus, our student body is diverse. You will study alongside people like you and people from very different backgrounds, denominations, and even parts of the world. Your desire to serve will bind you together, but your differences will sharpen you.

Come to GBS: “study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)

God bless you !

Rev. Dr. T. M. Joel
Academic Dean,
Gilgal Biblical Seminary

ABOUT US



MISSION

The mission of Gilgal Biblical Seminary is to prepare men and women for the dissemination of the gospel of Jesus Christ locally and globally by teaching the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God efficiently and training them in practical ministry for producing mature graduates who work for the expansion of the Kingdom of God. Additionally, to train and instruct them to be professors, missionaries, pastors and leaders with god given vision and empowerment by the Holy Spirit.

GBS also aims to prepare men and women with extra calibre and leadership abilities to effectively contribute in the global Christian mission; to bring the lost and broken souls to the true saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through all means, keeping in mind the Great Commission of our Lord. (Matt 28:18-20)



OVERVIEW

The history of the seminary goes back to the year 2000, when it operated as a study center at Union Church, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates with its Diploma in Theology course in Malayalam. Since then it has expanded its identity and operation as a theological seminary in the year 2006. In this last 2 decades, it has developed into a well-organized biblical seminary with accreditation from both Asia Theological Association and COG Grade Level IV (USA).

GBS has its branches in other emirates like Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai, Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah. The leadership consists of the Director, Principal, Academic Dean, Registrar, Administrator, followed by the coordinators and monitors in respective emirates. It has a very efficient faculty body with excellent theological backgrounds and qualifications including doctorate degree holders as well. The student body comprises of different denominations and nationalities like India, Pakistan, Philippines, Africa, etc. The interdenominational and intercultural character of the Seminary attracts many students from different backgrounds to come together on this great platform without any reservation. We have about 200+ students currently enrolled in various courses in GBS across all emirates. Over 300+ graduates have come out from the seminary in the last decade. In 2020, GBS launched a doctoral program in intercultural studies.



ACCREDITATION

Gilgal Biblical Seminary is accredited by Asia Theological Association (ATA). Apart from this GBS is an institution with Church of God Grade Level IV (USA).



SALIENT FEATURES OF GBS

- ✧ The only institution in the Middle East with accreditation from both Asia Theological Association & COG Grade Level IV (USA)
- ✧ Excellent administration
- ✧ Highly experienced and qualified faculty
- ✧ Intercultural & interdenominational student body
- ✧ Wide range of theological courses
- ✧ Courses available in Malayalam and Urdu
- ✧ Evening classes for working professionals
- ✧ Ease of access due to online classes
- ✧ Systematic and meticulous theological studies
- ✧ Emphasis on practical ministry



DOCTRINE OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE:

- ✧ In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
- ✧ In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
- ✧ That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary.
- ✧ That Jesus was crucified, buried and raised from the dead. That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
- ✧ That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
- ✧ That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are brought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
- ✧ In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
- ✧ Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
- ✧ In the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
- ✧ In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
- ✧ In water-baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
- ✧ Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
- ✧ In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet.
- ✧ In the premillennial second coming of Jesus.
- ✧ First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air.
- ✧ Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
- ✧ In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked



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FACULTY

COURSES OFFERED IN GBS



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Intercultural Studies

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

2
YEARS

M.Th (Missiology)

MASTER OF DIVINITY

3
YEARS

M.Div

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

3
YEARS

B.Th English

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

3
YEARS

B.Th Malayalam

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

3
YEARS

B.Th Urdu



ACADEMICS & ADMISSIONS



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Intercultural Studies

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Intercultural Studies is designed to be both a scholarly and practical program, and includes a significant research component. The degree is bestowed upon those who clearly demonstrate the ability to do independent research, and who have reached a high level of competency and expertise in their field of study. The program is cohort based and delivered as a blended program with on-site modules and online courses.

Duration: 4 years

Requirements: M.Th or equivalent

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

English

The degree of Master of Theology (M.Th.) in Missiology is postgraduate degree offered by GBS. The primary purpose of this program is to train Christian leaders to face the growing challenges of the modern world through application of theological knowledge. The degree is also a preparatory program for advanced study and research at the doctoral level. The course consist of eight-core course along with an integrated interdisciplinary paper. This will be followed by a thesis in the second year of study. The course consist of successfully completing 45 credit hours.

Duration: 2 years

Requirements: B.D or M.Div

MASTER OF DIVINITY

English

Master of Divinity program is a postgraduate course to train Christian leaders in order to meet the modern challenges of ministry. The M.Div. degree requires a minimum of 35 courses and a thesis of five credits combining for 107 credit hours. Due to the limitation of the college being in an Arab world, all 35 course will be core subjects. There will be no elective course offered. All M.Div candidates are expected to take a common research methodology course on thesis writing.

Duration: 3 years

Requirements: Bachelor's degree

MASTER OF DIVINITY (UG)

For B.Th Upgraders (English)

Master of Divinity program is a three-year postgraduate course to train Christian leaders in order to meet the modern challenges of ministry. However, the B.Th. Upgraders can complete the M.Div. program in two years. B.Th. upgraders will have to complete 23 Core courses and a thesis combining of 75 Credit hours.

Duration: 2 years

Requirements: B.Th

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

English/Malayalam/Urdu

The B.Th. degree requires a minimum of 32 courses combining for 93 credit hours. Due to the limitation of the college being in an Arab world, all 32 course will be core subjects. There will be no elective course offered. The B.Th. curriculum intends to ensure that all graduates are adequately trained to meet the diverse demands of Christian ministry. The extensive list of required courses promotes a well-rounded training.

Duration: 3 years

Requirements: High School Diploma





CLASS & TIME SCHEDULE

GST

COURSE	DAY	TIME
M.Th	Monday	7:30 pm to 10:30 pm
M.Div/B.Th (Eng)	Saturday	7:30 pm to 10:30 pm
B.Th (Mal)	Tuesday	7:30 pm to 10:30 pm
B.Th (Urdu)	Sunday	7:30 pm to 10:30 pm



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