

ABOUT ACCREDITATION

TRUE HOPE BIBLE INSTITUTE (T.H.B.I.) is a non-secular, Christian educational institution. We do not offer what the secular world considers “academic” educational courses, we do not offer courses in “liberal arts” and/or “sciences”, we do not offer degrees in “Arts” or “Science” and the studies we offer are not courses typical to the secular higher educational establishments. **Therefore, the degrees you earn at T.H.B.I. may or may not be recognized by secular organizations or employers.**

Since we are not a denominational institution, a degree from T.H.B.I. *may or may not* be recognized by any and/or all other Christian organizations or churches in the same manner as one denomination or group may or may not recognize the ministry credentials of every other denomination or organization. (Example: Southern Baptists may or may not recognize the credentials of an Assembly of God minister.)

STATE REGISTRATION

In February of 2012, True Hope Ministries of America filed with the Missouri Department of Higher Education for an Academic Exemption (such as was carried with Arkansas Department of Higher Education through 2011 when True Hope Ministries of America relocated to Springfield Missouri).

An academic exemption does not mean that THBI is exempt from any standards or requirements of excellence, but just that as the State cannot direct or determine the curriculum of any religious institution; the academic exemption acknowledges the legitimacy of the religious school, college or seminary without endorsing or approving the curriculum taught so long as the curriculum remains non-secular.

ABOUT ACCREDITATION

Over the years, the word “accreditation” as used by those involved in higher education has acquired various interpretations, but essentially it indicates that some outside responsible body of educators have examined a school and found it to be doctrinally, academically, and financially reliable, and has certified that it meets their ethical standards. The purpose is to simply assure the public that the school is a reputable establishment.

What ordination is to a minister, accreditation is to a school. Therefore, most faculty and degree students feel that accreditation is very important, *although it is not legally required!*

Accreditation is a voluntary process. For instance, for many years the RHEMA BIBLE TRAINING CENTER was not accredited and offered no academic degrees. The same was true for the Assembly of God’s Central Bible College in Springfield Missouri (which has now merged with Evangel University & AoG Seminary)

On the other hand, there are some who discount a Christian school and rejecting their Accrediting Association unless it is linked up with the U.S.A. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This has launched a campaign to impose their opinion upon the rest of the academic world. But common understanding and every day usage determine the definition of any word. **Thus, to be accredited still means that an impartial group of professional scholars have investigated an institution and has approved the standards of curriculum and operation of that institution.**

There is no such thing as Federal or State accreditation of a Bible school, for civil government has no authority to regulate religious training or what certificates we issue for it. This is an issue of separation of church and state, as Jesus said, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”. Mark 12:17.

Civil authorities must never officially endorse or disapprove directly or indirectly the beliefs and practices of churches or their Bible Schools. A casual survey of Church history shows that such linkage with Caesar eventually leads to infringement upon conscience, bondage, and corruption. Therefore, to be accredited by any agency, which in turn is supervised by the U.S.A. Department of H.E.W., would to some degree be a compromise of the separation principle and constitute "friendship with the world" condemned as "adultery" by James 4:4.

In a Spiritual sense, the highest accreditation any school would be the blessings of Divine Providence. Our best accreditation is the successful lives and ministries of our satisfied students. Isn't graduate performance what it's really all about?

Most simply, accreditation is a process in which certification of competency, authority, or credibility is presented. Organizations that issue credentials or certify third parties against official standards are themselves formally accredited by accreditation bodies (such as United Kingdom Accreditation Service); hence they are sometimes known as "accredited certification bodies". The accreditation process ensures that their certification practices are acceptable, typically meaning that they are competent to test and certify third parties, behave ethically, and employ suitable quality assurance.

It surprises many people to learn that schools are not legally required to become accredited! However, on the school's part it is a very desirable standing. Accredited status means a school has voluntarily undergone a comprehensive examination to determine that it operates at a worthy level of performance.

Department of Education recognized accreditation. In many cases the government's Department of Education is not qualified to recognize the accreditation of a private school, such as a Bible School, because the Department of Education is secular, and a Bible or Christian School is spiritual!

Why then do a number of well known "Bible Colleges" attain accreditation from agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and State Boards of Higher Education? Because while they may claim the title of being a "Bible College", they have in fact become Colleges of Liberal Arts or Sciences that continue to offer religious degrees along with the secular degrees they now offer! In order for their students to be able to obtain student loans and grants, these "Bible" colleges must become accredited by D.O.E. recognized agencies!

But genuine Bible Colleges, Schools and Seminaries that choose to remain strictly Christian are exempted from accreditation requirements because of the U.S. Constitution!

- According to the First Amendment of the Constitution the government cannot determine the curriculum of any religious school that is strictly religious as this would be the equivalent of "establishing a religion"! Our founding fathers recognized that the secular government is not qualified to determine or direct appropriate spiritual/religious teaching!

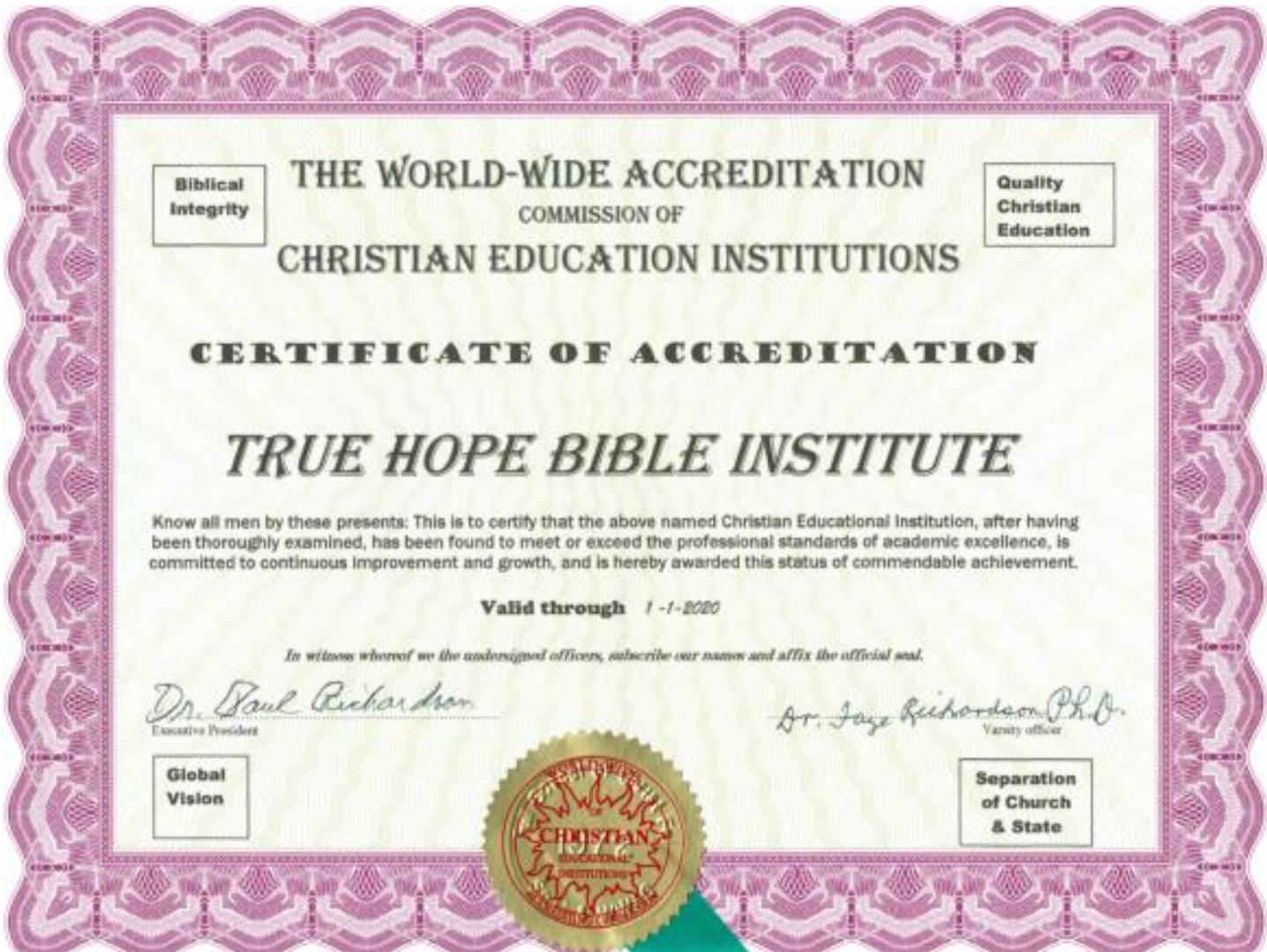
As we find in 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Therefore, a state agency is not able to determine if a spiritually directed learning institution is meeting the mandates of the Bible!

This being the case, we prayerfully determined to voluntarily submit T.H.B.I. to the standards of a Christian, Full Gospel oriented accreditation agency.

T.H.B.I. ACCREDITATION

True Hope Bible Institute is Biblically accredited by the **World-Wide Accreditation Commission of Christian Educational Institutions**. A copy of our current accreditation certificate is found at the end of this section.



The W.W.A.C. has accredited over 200 Christian Schools and Institutions around the world and is growing steadily each year! Accreditation with the W.W.A.C. is not a permanent award, but typically a school must be re-accredited on an annual basis – thus the standards of schools accredited by the W.W.A.C. must maintain the quality standards if they desire to remain so accredited.

The W.W.A.C. is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to making a significant contribution to the promotion of Christian education everywhere. The W.W.A.C. is governed by a Board of Directors, all of whom are reputable born-again Christians. The W.W.A.C. was founded to:

- Upgrade standards of scholarship among evangelical educational institutions.
- To award certificates of accreditation to deserving schools.
- To continue to monitor compliance with set standards.

The W.W.A.C. specializes in Theological Seminaries, Christian Colleges, and Bible Institutes of all sizes, including both traditional and alternative programs. They are also concerned with helping any formal ministry teaching the Word of God in an on-going relationship between instructor and students, which may not fit into any denominational mold, to develop into a viable school.

The W.W.A.C. is part of the Full Gospel of Christ Fellowship, Inc. The Board of Directors of the F.G.C.F.I. has formally announced its full recognition, endorsement, and approval of the W.W.A.C.

The W.W.A.C. holds itself accountable to God, the Church, the laws of the land, and the general public. It is not governmentally connected and does not engage in partisan political activities. Unlike regional accrediting associations which are limited to one area, the W.W.A.C. was established as a multi-national association of Christian Educational Institutions.

To learn more about the World Wide Accreditation Commission of Christian Educational Institutions contact:

**W.W.A.C.
Executive Director
2800 Blendwell Road
Richmond, VA 23224
Telephone: 804-276-4709**
