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Department of
Biblical Counseling

Press Release

Baptist Bible College and Graduate School earns NANC Certification

Springfield, MO: Baptist Bible College and Graduate School received certification from the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC) at the organization's annual conference held in Spartanburg, SC on October 6, 2009. This culminates five years of effort for BBC since the trustees first approved seeking certification. BBC is the first official NANC certified Baptist college and graduate school in the country, although some training from other Baptist schools is accepted (www.nanc.org). Students may now earn NANC certification through both the graduate and undergraduate programs. One of the highlights of the NANC annual conference was BBC graduate student Brandon York receiving his NANC certification as well. He completed the Master of Arts Biblical Counseling this year.

BBC highlighted during plenary session

On Wednesday morning of the annual conference, Kevin Carson was asked to talk about why certification is important to BBC. He stated, "NANC certification is a natural fit for BBC as it relates to each of the school's core values: Biblical, Quality, and Global."

Biblical: Certification recognizes two key elements in training students at BBC. First, a formal agreement with NANC highlights BBC's commitment to the sufficiency of the Scriptures. Any student considering future education can rest assured that BBC will not only teach him the fundamental truths necessary to live a godly life, but will also build confidence in that student's use of the Scriptures in the lives of those to whom he will minister (2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Pet 1:1-11). Secondly, certification acknowledges the passion to teach students accurately what the Bible says (meaning) and how to appropriately and consistently apply the meaning of a particular Scripture to not only his own life but also to another person's in a specific life situation. Life is full of acknowledged complexity; however, the

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Bible completely and comprehensively speaks to the both the problems and solutions necessary for pleasing God.

Quality: The certification process is a rigorous process and took five full years to complete; however, it demonstrates the quality education students receive at BBC. To be certified the curriculum had to meet NANC standards for both content and quality. Additionally, a minimum of seventy-five percent of faculty in the biblical counseling department must be NANC certified. BBC surpasses this minimum standard as all faculty are certified. BBC enjoys the services of Bill Piatt (NANC Fellow), Bob Smith (NANC Fellow and Academy member), Tom Zempel (NANC Fellow), and Kevin Carson (NANC Level 2). Plus over the certification process BBC students have passed the NANC exams with the highest commendations. One grader remarked, "This work could be rubric from which all other work is graded." Another grader commented, "I can always tell when I am grading a BBC exam because the quality far exceeds what is typical." So the student receives the knowledge and corresponding skill necessary to minister the Word with distinction.

Global: Since NANC is an international organization, there is a natural fit with BBC's mission of sending students all over the globe to be ministers for Jesus Christ. The first priority of biblical counseling is to determine whether or not a counselee knows Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. If the counselee is not saved, it is the privilege and solemn responsibility of the counselor to witness. Change is only possible as the counselee becomes a true follower of Jesus Christ. Several missionaries with the BBFI are now trained in biblical counseling and are implementing biblical counseling philosophy and strategies in their ministries.

NANC Executive Director Randy Patton remarked, "We are excited about our partnership with Baptist Bible College and look forward to highlighting the good work happening at BBC to those interested in biblical counseling all over the country." If you are interested in more information about becoming a student, NANC certification, or further training in counseling, please contact Kevin Carson (biblical counseling department chair) or Bill Piatt (campus counselor) at the college.



Kevin Carson, Randy Patton, Bill Piatt