

# South Africa

## INTERNATIONAL BIBLE READING SCHOOL

— Fulfilling The Mandate Of 1 Timothy 4:13 —

### Focus On Bible Reading & Study!

The International Bible Reading School (IBRS) is a unique worldwide school in which students follow a Reading Schedule to read and study through the Bible in one year. Students determine when to enter the “classroom” of reading and study, as well as when to conclude the required curriculum. Students are thus personally responsible for keeping the required IBR School Reading Schedule of the Bible and textbook in order to grow spiritually in following the mandate of 1 Timothy 4:13. Though there are no exams in an IBR School, students have the opportunity to grow in their personal discipline by following a program of Bible and textbook reading.

### Following God's Instructions To Read!

King David wrote, “*O how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long*” (Psalm 119:97). In his or her meditation on the law of God all day long, an IBR School student seeks to be guided in meditation by a disciplined program of Bible reading and textbook study. Diligent Bible reading and study is what the apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote, “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15). Paul’s diligence in reading was emphasized, when, in his latter years, he instructed Timothy to bring to him his reading material (See 2 Timothy 4:13). Paul continued to be a reader of the word of God because he knew that what he wrote was the commandment of the Lord. He inscribed, “*If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write to you are the commandments of the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 14:37). Reading the Scriptures was the educational culture of the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews (See Matthew 12:3,5;

19:4; 21:16,42; Acts 13:27). They publically read their Scriptures in the Synagogues every Sabbath (Ex 24:7). God had mandated that throughout their history they read His word. God commanded that a copy of the word of God to give to the king of Israel so that he “*read it all the days of his life . . . , to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them*” (Deuteronomy 17:19; see 31:11; Is 34:16). **This culture of Bible reading was continued with the early church.** By the instruction of the Holy Spirit, the early disciples read the Scriptures (See Colossians 4:16; 1 Th 5:27). Peter read Paul’s written Scripture, even though he too was a Christ-sent apostle (2 Peter 3:15,16). A regional or church IBR School is an opportunity to enjoy a restoration of daily Bible reading, with the instructional comments that are provided by the textbook. When we read the Spirit’s revelation of the Bible, it is then that we better understand the gospel of Christ (Ephesians 3:4), and thus fulfill the Holy Spirit’s mandate of 1 Timothy 4:13 to “*give heed to reading.*”

## The Two-Textbook Bible School!

There are advantages to the educational system of an IBR School. Most important, only two textbooks are required to enroll in and complete the curriculum: (1) a **Bible**, and (2) a copy of the **Teacher's Bible Commentary (TBC)**. This textbook can be downloaded from

the provided website. To complete the school's curriculum, these are the only two textbooks to which one must have access as a student in order to complete the Reading Schedule of the school. Therefore, you can download the textbook and get started immediately!

### — The Holy Bible —

In order to follow the required daily Bible Reading Schedule of the curriculum, as well as reading the assigned chapter material in the textbook, each student must possess their own Bible, as well as a copy of the textbook. If one seeks to read from the *International King James Version*, upon which the commentary textbook was originally based, then this version can also be downloaded from the website. Acquiring a copy of the Bible, as well as the required textbook is the first indication that a Bible student is serious about meditating daily on the Scriptures in a daily reading and study program.

### — The Teacher's Bible Commentary —

By following the IBR School's Reading Schedule, a student is directed to read the equivalent textbook material in the *Teacher's Bible Commentary (TBC)*. Over a period of forty years, Dr. Roger Dickson, your instructor, wrote the material of this textbook. Every student, therefore, has the opportunity to research years of study that have been published by this author who has also written over 150 books and Bible study manuals. In an IBR School, students are directed to first read in the Bible the required assignments of the Reading Schedule. They are then instructed to read the parallel chapters of material in the *TBC* textbook. In this way, Dr. Dickson is the "teacher" for those who progress through the curriculum of reading. Reading the Bible is the Holy Spirit's direct instruction, and reading the *TBC* textbook is the interpretation and instruction of the teacher.

## ENCYCLOPEDIA BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

At the back of the hard copy of the *TBC* textbook, and on the website, is the 100-page **Encyclopedic Bible Study Guide** (*EBSG*). There are hundreds of Bible study readings in the *EBSG* that every Bible student should research in order to understand and teach the Bible. On the Reading Schedule, students are assigned readings in the *EBSG* that they must complete every month. In this way students glean from the *EBSG* in order to teach the word of God to those of their community.

## Requirements For Enrollment

In order to enroll and complete the one-year program of study in an IBR School, the prospective student must keep the following in mind:

### THE HOLY BIBLE

Students must possess a version of the Bible in his or her home language. The version must contain both the Old and New Testaments.

### TEACHER'S BIBLE COMMENTARY

In order to complete the required reading of a registered IBR School, each student must have access to the *Teacher's Bible Commentary*. If one does not have a hard copy of this textbook, then it can be downloaded from the website.

### READING SCHEDULE

The one-year Reading Schedule is a program of reading the Bible, *TBC* and *EBSG*. Students are allowed to determine their own daily reading, as long as they have completed the entire curriculum of reading in one year. In order to complete the assignments of the Reading Schedule, prospective students must be committed to reading and study of the Scriptures as a part of their daily gospel living.

### EBSG TEXT READING

Reading the *EBSG* assignments is important. In study through this material one is prepared to bring together key thoughts in order to reach out to others.

## Advantages Of Bible Reading Schools

- Establishment of personal goals for Bible reading for spiritual growth.
- Outreach to Bible readers to establish other Bible reading schools.
  - Research of the *TBC* textbook for instruction in the word of God.
  - Encourage friends to fellowship around the word of God.
  - Enjoy the experience of restoring a Bible-based faith.
  - Establish fellowships that are based on the Bible.
- Obedience to the command to give heed to reading the word of God.

## Fellowship Based On Bible Reading

A regional IBR School can be a fellowship of Bible lovers who seek to read and discuss regularly the word of God. Though students read and study on their own in the privacy of their own homes, they can also fellowship with one another in order to fulfill the mandate of 1 Timothy 4:13. Bible readers, after conducting an initial registration workshop in order to organize future meetings with one another, have the opportunity to register with other IBR Schools within their country. They can then schedule dates to come together on a regular basis for

mutual encouragement (Tea Talks). If there is a IBR School Team in your nation, the team can plan occasional visits with regional school students in order to encourage all those who are enrolled. This meeting is coordinated between the national IBR School Teaching Team and students in order to enhance and encourage the continued reading and study of the Bible and *TBC* textbook. Through a systematic program of fellowship, all those who are enrolled with a local IBR School seek to accomplish the following objective:

***Grow in the grace and knowledge  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***  
(2 Peter 3:18)

## Certificate Of Completion

Only the students who are enrolled in a registered IBR School have the opportunity to graduate from their reading program, and thus, be awarded a *Certificate of Completion*. The awarding of this certificate is based on the complete reading of the text of the Bible, reading of the parallel text in the *TBC* textbook, as well as reading all the assigned material of the *EBSG*. Once these requirements are fulfilled within one year, then the Regional Director may call for a public awarding ceremony of the *Certificate of Completion* for all those who have successfully completed all the reading and study of the Reading Schedule.

### REGISTER AN IBR SCHOOL IN YOUR COMMUNITY

If there is a group of dedicated disciples in your community or church who want to start an IBR School fellowship of Bible readers, please contact the following:

To download the *TBC* textbook and *EBSG*, to the following website:

**[www.roger-e-dickson.org](http://www.roger-e-dickson.org)**