



### **Do we really need another seminary?**

In Brazil most of the active pastors and church leaders work beside their ministry in a secular job to provide for their needs. Due to this fact, most of them are not in position to go to a theological school or seminar in the traditional format.

The Bible does not differentiate between “full time” and “part time” workers in the harvest of the Lord. According to the Bible all Christians are supposed to be full time workers, even those who are working in secular jobs (as this is the case for most of pastors in Brazil, who beside their ministry need to work to provide for their families)

Martin Bucer Seminar, *Seminário Martin Bucer* (hereafter called “SMB”) developed a course to provide to christian leaders an unique opportunity to deepen their theological and practical skills. Beside this, the student at SMB will have access to a network formed by leaders of the different evangelical denominations.

And all this without any negative implications on the student’s secular occupation, his ministry and, at last not least, and foremost, his family.

### **Is SMB associated to any organization?**

SMB is an extension of the Martin Bucer Seminar (<http://www.bucer.de/>) in Germany. Its mission is to train pastors and Christian leaders for the Brazilian evangelical churches (independent or denominational). SMB welcomes partnerships with local churches in Brazil, United States, England and Germany as well with evangelical Christian organizations.

### **Who are the teachers?**

The faculty of SMB in Brazil is composed of pastors and teachers from Brazil, Germany and USA. They have to be academically qualified (master's degree in theology) and have ministerial experience and be accessible to the student. All the teachers shall work as counselors and be available for assistance in the spiritual life, family relationships and ministerial development of the student.

### **What do I learn at SMB?**

The SMB curriculum is centered on the Bible and its exposition. The goal of the teaching activity is to lead the student to a deeper relationship with Christ and have his life transformed. During the expected three years of duration of program, the student should develop three main areas for the Christian ministry: holiness, doctrinal knowledge and ministerial practice.

### **How does SMB in Brazil works?**

The format of the SMB combines intensive study weeks with the practical ministry skills as well the mentorship of the students.

Twice a year, March and September, all enrolled students have one full and intensive study week at the premises of the SMB. New courses are ministered. Also an opportunity to discuss with the teachers and other students his ideas and thoughts on Christian doctrine and practical aspects of the ministry are given during the intensive study week.

The time between the study weeks, the student will deepen what he has learned by reading and studying the mandatory books as well as developing his ministerial skills. This will help him to be prepared to attend the next intensive study week and incorporate the acquired knowledge to his ministry. During this time, the student will also receive distance support from the teachers.

### **How much time do I need to invest?**

The estimated duration of the course is three years. During this time, it is necessary to participate of the total of six study weeks. Between the study weeks, the student will study, read mandatory book for the respective period and do the written homework which is required from him (research, write essays/papers on biblical doctrine or history etc)

The student will be dedicated to develop his practical skills in the church/ministry he is part of. Additionally the student will attend a monthly meeting with a teacher of SMB in the region/city he lives.

These monthly meetings have a duration of 6 hours and will serve to assist and monitor the student in his self study and offer some of the courses of the curriculum.

The cities which are initially covered by this initiative are São José dos Campos, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

### **Inchurch Training**

The SMB is willing to offer inchurch training. That is, the SMB teachers are willing to visit churches and over a weekend (or more) run courses on theological themes, such as: Old Testament and New Testament, Christology, Christian Spirituality, Theology of the Reformation etc. So the idea is to offer churches the opportunity a good quality education or to train Sunday Schools teachers. The courses will be conducted for a fee to cover material costs, transportation, gift for the teacher, coffee breaks, etc.

### **Where is SMB?**

SMB will be located in São José dos Campos in the State of São Paulo.

### **What is the educational level required for me to study at SMB?**

SMB offers a basic course in theology and the certificate is granted by Martin Bucer Seminar in Germany. So the student should not have difficulty for reading, researching, interpreting and writing. The student is required to read several books a year plus at least a full reading of the Bible for every year of the course.

### **Does the MEC (Ministry of Culture and Education in Brazil) recognize the theological training offered by SMB?**

SMB's vision is to prepare pastors and leaders for the local church; therefore, the curriculum was designed to integrate theological education with the practical skills necessary for successful ministry. For this reason, SMB does not seek the accreditation by MEC.

It is not the goal of SMB to be a school that provides in first place a college degree, but offer an effective theological training for Christians who are called to be involved in the ministry and be prepared to build the kingdom of God spreading sound doctrine in the power of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, the structure of the course has been developed to allow Christian workers to have access to the training without the need to quit/restrict their secular jobs and ministries, or allowing, to attend a traditional and secular college course even during the time while being enrolled as a student of the SMB.

SMB encourages Christian leaders, pastors and similar ministries, to be in the market place and have a secular college degree or apprenticeship certificate, if the calling allows so.

**Why would someone choose SMB?**

There are a lot of advantages:

- Each student will be accompanied by a teacher (mentor)
- There is no need to quit ministry and/or job, no need to move from one place to the other, no need to change the church
- There is no need to have completed high school. SMB prepares pastors at their pastor’s college so far independent or even denominational churches recognizes the pastoral ministry and gift of the leader, independently if graduated or not in “Theology”.
- Low cost
- Ministry skills are developed during the course
- Curriculum developed to prepare pastors, elders, deacons and Christian leaders in general

**What are the requirements to study in SMB?**

- Read, accept in written form and support SMB faith statement
- Read, accept in written form and support SMB norms of conduct
- Be an active church member for at least two years since baptism
- Be involved in a church ministry (leader in church, congregation or mission, home group leader, Sunday school teacher, church council etc...)
- Be supported and recommended by his home church
- Be in position to honor the due payments as per schedule

**To Whom is the SMB?**

To whoever speaks Portuguese, regardless of living in Brazil or not. The SMB is focused in meeting the demand on the part of evangelical leaders. Of course, full-time Christian ministers are also welcome to study with us!

**What is the Curriculum?**

FIRST YEAR	
Hermeneutics I Biblical Introduction I [OT] Systematic Theology I Biblical Exposition OT [Pentateuch] Basic Greek I ** Literature and Arts I ** Research Methodology**	Biblical Introduction II [NT] Liturgy Biblical Exposition NT [Gospels] Hermeneutics II Literature and Arts II **
SECOND YEAR	
Christian Ethics Expository Preaching Biblical Exposition OT [Historical] Pastoral Catechesis Basic Greek II **	Systematic Theology II Church History I Biblical Counseling and Basic Psychology Biblical Exposition NT [Pauline Letters]
THIRD YEAR	
Biblical Exposition OT [Prophets] Systematic Theology III Church History II Pastoral Ministry Apologetics **	Biblical Exposition NT [General Epistles and John] Church Planting Religions and Sects Structure of the Church

	Basic Greek III Translations and Grammar**
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\*\* Optional classes ministered at distance through internet. They are introductory and instrumental courses.

### **How is the day structured?**

Breakfast

Communitarian Prayer

Class [class 4] 1 + 2x90 min coffee break

Afternoon

Communitarian Prayer

Lunch

Class [class 3] + 1x135 min coffee break of 15 min.

Evening

Communitarian Prayer

Dinner

Class [class 2] 1x90 min

Like the classes, the time for prayer and meals is for the entire group together along with all the teachers.

### **What are some of the responsibilities of the students?**

1. The meeting begins with registration and distribution of material on the first day (Monday), after the lunch time.
2. Students should arrive spiritually prepared (ready to learn and grow in their faith), physically prepared (rested and in good health) and emotionally prepared.
3. The student must bring your Bible, laptop, pencil, pen, notebook and the recommended books for the course.
4. The readings and the work required by teachers to be delivered at the time you apply and receive their books.
5. The rate of the meeting must be paid upon registration on the first day, or it can be deposited in the account of SMB.

### **Why this format?**

1. In response to the depletion of traditional models of denominational seminaries, which are normally far from the local church and thus unable to prepare workers to serve his community.
2. The rediscovery of spirituality and monastic discipline with an emphasis on spiritual direction.
3. The rediscovery of Puritan education of Christian ministers, where pastors form and shapes other pastors.
4. Formation of emotional bonds between pastors and future workers, fostering friendship and cooperation the spiritual, ministerial, educational and missional areas.

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