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News Release

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for immediate release

NEW PRESIDENT OF CBS-HOUSTON SAYS STUDENTS SHOULD “PREPARE THEIR MINDS FOR ACTION” AS THE DIVERSE BIBLE COLLEGE SCHOOL SEEKS TO ADDRESS RAPID CHANGES ACROSS SOCIETY

Hundreds Attend Inauguration Events for the CBS' Fourth President Dr. William W. Blocker

HOUSTON, Texas – During his inaugural address Oct. 19, Dr. William W. Blocker said the College of Biblical Studies-Houston (CBS) is “poised and ready” to tackle society’s challenges and rapid changes, including those created by globalization and the demographic revolution being experienced in its home state.

“The Houston metropolitan area is now the most racially and ethnically diverse large metropolitan area in the nation, narrowly surpassing the New York metropolitan area,” Blocker said. “CBS is one of the most diverse Bible colleges in the nation, and we have a model here that works. While many schools are working to figure out how to address educational issues in this changing world, we have been doing so for more than three decades.”

Dr. Blocker encouraged CBS students and alumni to “prepare their minds for action” based on 1 Peter.

Hundreds of academic executives, community leaders, pastors and friends of the College of Biblical Studies-Houston traveled from around the country to attend inaugural events Oct. 18-19 designed to formally usher in Dr. Blocker as the college’s fourth president since its founding in 1979.

The CBS-Houston Inaugural events began with an Inaugural Celebration Dinner Oct. 18 at the Hilton Americas-Downtown, focused on the theme, “Celebration for Today, Promise for Tomorrow.”

About 550 people, including many prominent Houston civic and Christian leaders, attended the dinner, which featured national speaker and pastor Dr. George W. Waddles, Sr., of Chicago, and Grammy- and Dove-award winning performer CeCe Winans. The emcee for the evening was Houston’s own Melanie Lawson of KTRK Channel 13.

Co-chairs Rev. Bill and Audrey Lawson and Kevin and Paula Hunt were pleased to see Christian leaders from the African American, Hispanic, Asian and Anglo churches come together to lend their support to Dr. Blocker and the college.

“I am very much impressed with the progress made by CBS since it was founded and I’m also very happy to see Dr. Blocker as the new president. He is a very able theologian and capable administrator.” Stated Rev. Lawson.

On Friday, Dr. Blocker was inaugurated among distinguished leaders from colleges and universities across the country. The charge to the president was given by Dr. Paul Nyquist, president of Moody Bible Institute, and local and national college presidents took part in the ceremony by presenting greetings and words of encouragement.

Dr. Blocker came to CBS from Moody Bible Institute in July. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian education from Dallas Theological Seminary. As a Moody vice president, he managed the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Educational Technology Services, Moody Distance Learning and Library Services. He also led a number of strategic initiatives including marketing, global impact, technology and the school’s media ministry and many others.

James Pitman, of the CBS Development Office believes the inauguration had an added benefit. "This has been a great time for the college. Not only did we have the opportunity to inaugurate our new president, we were able to introduce our mission and passion for Houston's diverse communities to many who had not heard about CBS before."

The College of Biblical Studies opened its doors in Houston in 1979 in borrowed space with 65 part-time students, most committed to becoming better prepared for their work as pastors and ministry leaders in churches across Houston. Since that time, CBS has grown in innumerable ways, but has continued to serve those working in small congregations and underserved communities, and attending school on a part-time basis.

Eight in 10 attending the College of Biblical Studies are ethnic minorities, and in the past, the predominantly older, part-time students took classes for enrichment or to earn a certificate, but were not enrolled in degree programs.

CBS-Houston is a nationally accredited Bible college founded in 1979 that has provided biblical studies courses to more than 24,000 people. The school's 500-plus students are diverse in age, ethnicity, gender and cultural perspectives. The average age of a CBS student is 38. CBS-Houston offers bachelor's and associate's degrees as well as certificate and non-certificate courses with evening, weekend and weekday classes. The college is located near Highway 59 and Hillcroft.

More information about the College of Biblical Studies-Houston can be found at www.CBSHouston.edu or calling 713.77.BIBLE.