

**EXTENSION EDUCATION: TRAINING COORDINATORS
TO FACILITATE DISTANCE EDUCATION THROUGH
THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD BIBLE INSTITUTE
IN BELIZE**

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The specific objective of this project was to train coordinators to open new extension classes and effectively facilitate existing extension classes offered by the Assemblies of God Bible Institute (AGBI) in Belize. Extensive biblical and literary research and a thorough evaluation of current extension classes led to the development of a coordinator training session which incorporated various forms that addressed specific areas of concern.

Attendance at the Main Campus of AGBI has been in decline since 1990. Surveys and interviews indicated that the decline in enrollment was directly correlated to the financial cost of attending the Main Campus, which included cost-prohibitive travel, loss of steady employment, and neglect of current ministerial and family responsibilities. As a means of addressing these realities, this project developed a coordinator training program whereby coordinators could serve as a liaison between local extension sites and AGBI. By training coordinators how to deal with issues related to the main campus such as advertising, registration, accounting, evaluation, and communication, the trained coordinators were equipped to establish new extension sites where the people live. In so doing, people desiring theological education can acquire it in their local context at a significantly reduced cost.

This project achieved its purpose of creating an effective coordinator training to facilitate the establishment of theological extension education in Belize. The project could be implemented in other contexts with great success.