



*Finding direction for your life!*

RENEW  
VIEW



# General Information

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

During the God's Missionary Church conference of 1965, after nearly fifteen years of praying and planning, the possibility of beginning a Bible School was brought to the conference floor. The ministers and delegates were told that an adjoining sixteen-acre plot of ground, owned by Clair Knapp, was available. They went to the hill that day, August 5, 1965, and joined together in a season of prayer. By faith, they claimed the ground for God's work and a school. The General Board was authorized to buy the land, providing the price was reasonable.



Before the next General Conference, the land had been purchased. A groundbreaking service took place on July 31, 1966, the closing day of that year's camp. As a large number of people walked to the hilltop, one man remarked, "It looks like the children of Israel marching toward the land of Canaan." The Lebanon Valley Gospel Band played a few appropriate numbers. General Superintendent, George I. Straub, called on Rev. Truman Wise to read the Scripture. While he read from II Chronicles 6, God placed His visible seal on the school. Rev. Arthur Thomas took a Polaroid picture, for the *God's Missionary Standard*, of Rev. Wise reading the Scripture. Opening the camera, the photographer seemed to hear a voice saying, "This is the seal of my approval upon the school." When the picture developed, a phenomenal seven-branched flame like forked lightning hovered over the Bible. God had clearly made it known that He was pleased and that His presence would continue with them. Rev. Steve

D. Herron, that year's camp evangelist, raised the first \$25,000.00, that afternoon, for the school.

On September 6, 1966, the school opened with 52 students enrolling in grades one through eleven. Classes were conducted in the camp facilities. The dormitories were completely remodeled to accommodate classrooms. They were also rewired and winterized with insulation and a new heating system. Despite the inconveniences placed upon the teachers and students, it was a good year. Rev. Edwin Mayes served as Principal that first year. The steel structure, for the school building, was erected during the camp of 1967.

The second year of operation brought with it many welcomed improvements. Rev. George W. Stepp came to be the first president of the school. Rev. and Mrs. David Fuller, graduates of God's Bible School & College joined the faculty at this time, and he became the High School Principal. The enrollment increased to 132 students. The institute department was born this year, and of the 132 students, 15 of them were enrolled in the institute courses. Eleven dedicated teachers worked and prayed together this school year. Very little murmuring could be heard as the students endured such inconveniences as walking over slippery clay to get to classes, or sitting in rooms that, on a few occasions, were slightly less than comfortable. It was a welcomed relief when they were able to complete the second year in the new school building. The Music Department organized the first school quartet and trio during this second, very successful, school year. Six high school students graduated at the close of this year.

The school continued to expand in many directions. The enrollment for the third year reached a total of 195 students. At the close of this school year, twelve students were given high school diplomas, and the institute witnessed their first graduates. Rev. LaDette Cooley, Music Director, organized the school's first choir, an addition that has helped in the School's publicity. The following year the enrollment went over the 300 mark.

May God be praised for the able men that He has brought forward to steer the school through its uncharted course. Rev. Howard Frey, following Rev. Stepp, did indeed prove to be a great leader and God's man for the job. One of his major interests centered on the development of a library. In a short time a good basic library was established. Several residences for faculty were also added to the campus as a symbol of the forward thrust we enjoyed under his leadership.

After Rev. Frey, Rev. Arthur Thomas was elected to the office of President. He served the



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school in that capacity for seven years; from 1972 to 1979. During this time, Rev. and Mrs. Earl Deetz, Jr., left their pastorate to come to Penn View to serve in an administrative capacity. It wasn't long until he was appointed Executive Vice President. The Deetz's brought with them an enthusiastic lift that proved to be just what was needed at the time. Many improvements were made around the campus during those years including landscaping, sidewalks, chapel renovations, etc. The Dollar-A-Week program had its beginning about this time, which really helped to ease the financial burden. This period of the school's history is to be remembered for the many spiritual victories that were won, for the financial gains that were made, and for the academic and musical accomplishments. The first record was made in 1972. Because of the success of this outstanding recording, the making of records and tapes continued. Sixteen recordings have been offered to the public for their spiritual enrichment.

In 1978, Rev. Deetz was involved in an automobile accident and was unable to continue his work. Again, God had a man. This time the man was Rev. Kenneth Walter. Rev. Walter began to assist Rev. Deetz in hopes that he would recover and be able to return to his duties. When it became apparent that this would not be the case, the General Board placed Rev. Walter in the President's position. Campus development and school spirit continued through Rev. Walter's years of service. His past experience as a builder was a valuable asset to Penn View, and everyone around campus was soon aware that Rev. Walter could still handle hard physical labor with the title of "President" on his door. During his term, the Hallam family provided funds for a beautiful building that stands to the west of the main building as a memorial to Margaret Hallam and her son, Owen. Thank God for their dedication to Christian education.

The excellent dining facility on Penn View's lower campus was completed during these years. God called on a layman by the name of Leonard Raub from the Lebanon God's Missionary Church. This God-sent man, with his zeal and ambition, brought new hope to this project, and soon others began to show interest and bring their tools and finances to the work. In the summer of 1981, Rev. Straub's vision for a new dining hall was fulfilled as the camp meeting crowd gathered for the first meal in the new building. Next, this vigorous leader and his faithful crew ventured a dormitory renovation. The beautiful exterior renovations required many hours of hard work. Thank God for the men and the money that made these needed changes possible. Although the physical changes show up the most, it must also

be noted that these were good years in every other way.

After laboring faithfully for five years, Rev. Walter felt that his work was done. Rev. Garry Spriggs, from Kansas City, was hired to fill the position as President. Although his stay was relatively short, only two years, he worked hard for the advancement of the school. The Tabernacle prayer room annex was renovated to become the Cooley Memorial Prayer and Music Studio. Also, the debt-reduction program was revitalized during Rev. Spriggs' administration enabling the school to make substantial progress in the liquidation of its overall indebtedness.

In 1986, Rev. Paul Martin was elected to serve as President of this God-sanctioned institution. Rev. Martin brought much zeal and vitality, and began to work almost immediately on clearing the indebtedness on the large Administration/Classroom Building. In October 1988, his dream came true. A mortgage burning service was held in the Straub Memorial Tabernacle to commemorate this accomplishment. Even though the total debt at the school was not cleared, a big load was lifted from the monthly obligations. Rev. Martin served faithfully until 1990, when he went to York, Pennsylvania, to pastor.

Rev. John W. Zechman succeeded him. He is the first alumnus to serve as president. God has not lifted His blessings, but continues to pour them out frequently. In the past twelve years numerous changes have been made. The Institute has grown to more than double its previous size, and the Academy has grown also so that the current total of both departments has hit 300 again. Students have come from nearly 20 states and several foreign countries. Because the growth has become so steady it became necessary to construct new buildings. In the spring of 1997, construction of a new dormitory began. It was dedicated in the summer of 2000 and named "Zechman Hall." The area around Zechman Hall, the Dining Hall, and all through the "lower campus" was developed into parking lots and then paved, thus providing sufficient parking for the dormitory students as well as hundreds of visitors who come to campus for various activities. The G. I. Straub Tabernacle has been renovated and is now used on a regular basis for the daily chapel services as well as other services. The library, that was developed during the Frey Administration, has been moved to the former chapel so that more volumes could be added and more study space created. A new maintenance facility was erected, and construction has begun on the Mason/McIntire Student Life Center, which will provide a new music hall,



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additional dining room, snack shop, student lounge, and a gymnasium/auditorium.

Through more than thirty-five years, men and women have been faithful to the calling. Staff and faculty continue to offer themselves as living sacrifices for the cause of Christian education. Hundreds of young men and women have walked from the halls of our school to find the path of life. Many are preaching the glorious Gospel at home and abroad. Others are teaching in Christian schools. Some are preacher's wives. Others are medical missionaries, doctors, sanctified factory workers, leaders, and followers. Yes, they have issued from the halls of our school, and they make it all worth while. May God bless them in all of their pursuits of life, and bless Penn View with all that is needed to meet the challenge of training young people for the work of the Kingdom.

To God be all the glory, great things He hath done!

## PHILOSOPHY

Penn View Bible Institute is committed to the historic Christian faith and a philosophy of education based on that faith as it is revealed in the sacred Scriptures.

At Penn View we attempt not to dichotomize knowledge into the mutually exclusive categories "sacred" and "secular," but rather to recognize that "all knowledge comes from God, and all knowledge points to God." The Christian lives in a world which may (and ought to) be explored through serious study which has as its primary goal the glorification of the Creator through a life which reflects subjection to His will and devotion to His service.

The Word of God is the necessary foundation of a proper understanding of man and his world. Hence, there is an emphasis on Biblical studies at Penn View.

The opposite side of the coin is, however, that the Christian needs to be well rounded in his education. Since he is to minister in the real world, he cannot afford to be ignorant of that world in which he lives. Hence, there are general education courses in each program curriculum to provide the future Christian worker the awareness he will need to minister effectively.

Finally, professional courses are included to complete the program of study. These courses are designed to give the Christian worker the expertise he will need to minister in the position God has called him to fill.

## MISSION

The Mission of Penn View Bible Institute is

To prepare *Christ-like Servant Leaders*

through higher education that engages *spiritual* transformation, *academic* excellence, *social* integrity, and *practical* experience,

in the conservative Wesleyan-Arminian tradition to fulfill our Lord's *Great Commission*.

## CORE VALUES

*God*, His glory, and worship form the center of all values at Penn View. This center radiates through:

- 1) *Authority of Scripture* (inerrancy) in every area of life (obedience), in all relationships (social), and in all thinking (biblical worldview)
- 2) *Personal Experience* of saving and sanctifying grace; victorious holy living; a life of prayer and faith; Christlikeness that produces integrity in spiritual, moral, relational, financial, and educational dimensions
- 3) *Stewardship* of all resources — mind, body, gifts and abilities, opportunities, influence, time, finance, and natural resources
- 4) *Great Commission* — Spirit-filled evangelism and ministry, emphasizing the dignity and value of each individual; discipleship (including a conservative holiness lifestyle)

## INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

For an institution to be effective in achieving its goals, those goals must be clearly stated and must be capable of measurement. At Penn View Bible Institute an earnest effort is made to assist each student to realize each of the following goals in his life. We seek to help the student:

### *SPIRITUALLY*

- To know Christ as personal Savior and to make a total consecration of one's life to Christ in entire sanctification
- To cultivate an increasingly intimate relationship with Christ and a holy character reflective of biblical teaching
- To cultivate a love for the Bible as the Word of God, as the source of our knowledge of



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salvation, as the source of our worldview, and as the guide for holy living

## **INTELLECTUALLY**

- To understand basic Bible content and doctrine
- To construct a biblical worldview
- To obtain general knowledge and to develop intellectual skills of inquiry, analysis, critical thinking, written and oral communication, and ethical reasoning
- To establish an adequate intellectual foundation for professional ministry

## **SOCIALLY**

- To become effective in the cultivation of interpersonal relationships
- To develop communication skills, professional courtesy, and a culture of mutual understanding
- To become a responsible member of social structures such as family, church, nation, and world

## **PRACTICALLY**

- To apply the biblical worldview in problem-solving and in decision-making that includes seeking divine guidance
- To achieve entry-level proficiency in professional Christian service
- To develop commitment to lifelong learning

## **DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

Penn View Bible Institute adheres to the historic Christian faith as expressed in the Wesleyan-Arminian position.

The Bible, consisting of the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, is the plerarily inspired Word of God and is inerrant and infallible in the autographs.

There is one God, eternally coexistent in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, died on the cross for the sins of mankind, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day following. He ascended to heaven where He is presently seated at the right hand of God to make intercession for the believer. At a time known only to the Father, He will return in power and glory to receive His disciples and to judge the world.

The Holy Spirit, third Person of the Trinity, is the operative Agent in the redemption of mankind. Likewise, He enables men to understand truth,

*imparts* life to those who repent and believe, and abides as the Comforter of the children of God.

Man was created by God in His own image. Through willful disobedience the first man fell from his original righteousness, incurring both physical and spiritual death. Thus sin came upon the whole human race.

Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, whose death alone was meritorious in securing salvation for men. Full salvation is received in two crisis experiences. Initially the one who truly repents of his sins and exercises faith in Christ is justified, thus being restored to a right relationship with God through Christ; regenerated, thus receiving new life and the ability to live above willful sin; and adopted, thus becoming a true child of God. Subsequently, the believer may by faith receive the fullness of the Spirit through which the heart is cleansed from all sin and the believer is empowered for effective service. This is sometimes termed entire sanctification. These relationships with God can only be maintained by a consistent walk of obedience and faith.

At the second coming of Christ to the earth, there will be a resurrection of all men; of the saved to everlasting bliss in the presence of God, and of the unsaved to everlasting punishment.

## **DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION**

Penn View Bible Institute is sponsored by God's Missionary Church, Inc., but is governed by its Board of Directors. In attitude, the school is non-sectarian, open to qualified young men and women of any denomination. The faculty has traditionally reflected a broad spectrum of denominational affiliations.

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

Penn View Bible Institute holds candidate status with the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd, Suite #130, Orlando, FL 32822; phone 407-207-0808. Candidate Status is a pre-accredited status granted to those institutions that show promise of achieving accreditation within a maximum of five years.

Penn View is a quality school that trains pastors, missionaries, musicians, schoolteachers, children's workers, and other Christian workers. Please note that Penn View does not offer degrees. The school is not a degree-granting institution in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Penn View Bible Institute does offer post-secondary education in a



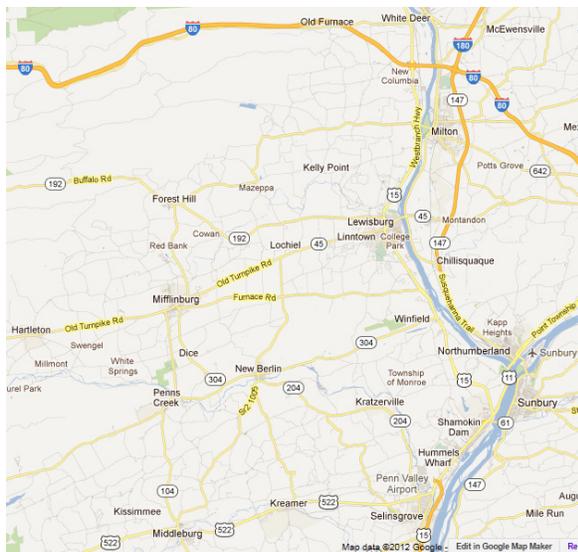
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spiritual atmosphere, all in obedience to the commands of Scripture. The programs culminate in a Certificate for the one-year, and an Advanced Diploma for the four-year program. Our four-year Advanced Diploma is high quality post-secondary education, similar to that of other Bible schools. Whatever the nature of the award conferred upon the completion of studies, the objective remains academic excellence in the context of total devotion to God and dedicated service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## LOCATION

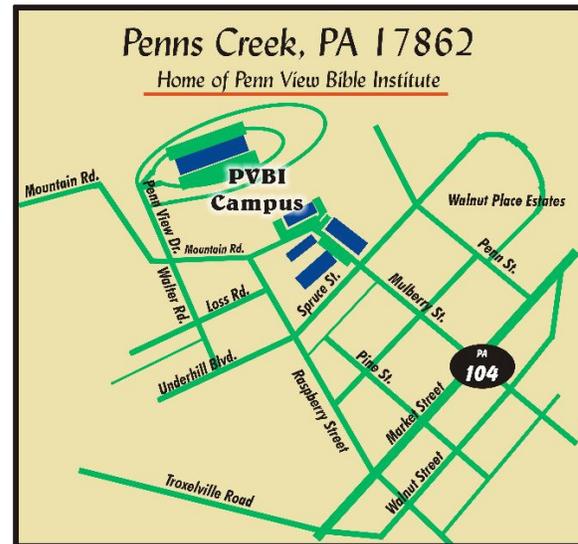
Penn View Bible Institute is located in the village of Penns Creek, which is situated on Penns Creek, one of the tributaries of the Susquehanna River. In the heart of the Appalachians, an area unrivaled for natural beauty, the campus lies nestled against the southern slope of Jack's Mountain.

Less than sixty miles from Harrisburg, the state capital, Penn View Bible Institute is flanked by Susquehanna University and Bucknell University, both less than thirty minutes driving distance from the campus. Penn State University lies fifty miles to the west. In contrast to these symbols of the 20th century's advancement are the quaint Mennonite and Amish horse-and-buggy rigs one may see every day on the public thoroughfares, signs of the abiding culture of the Pennsylvania Dutch.



Traveling Route 104 between Mifflinburg and Middleburg, one will arrive in the town of Penns Creek. A used car sales lot is located at the intersection of Route 104 and Raspberry Street. One

should turn north and ascend the hill. Raspberry Street becomes Mountain Road. Travelers will be able to see the camp meeting tabernacle nearby and the main administration/classroom building on the hill, next to the mountain.



## SCHOOL FACILITIES

Six main buildings comprise the facilities of Penn View Bible Institute.

### ADMINISTRATION/CLASSROOM BUILDING

This fine block and brick building stands at the highest point on the nearly fifty acre campus and functions as the center of academic life at Penn View. The second level contains the classroom facilities of Penn View Christian Academy's high school and junior high departments as well as the library, while the first level houses the Institute classrooms, bookstore, and administrative offices.

The library was formerly the Institute's chapel. On entering the main library doors, one's eye immediately is drawn to the beautiful stone wall. Two walls are window-lined allowing for an attractive display of natural lighting. The college is committed to making the library a drawing place for study and research. Library personnel are actively involved in making the facility a learning commons as well as adding to the collection resources that support the curriculum and showcase a wide representation of holiness literature.

### PENN VIEW CHRISTIAN ACADEMY BUILDING

This property was acquired in the spring of 2005. Previously it was a public elementary school. When it went up for sale, God provided the means to purchase



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this beautiful property. It now houses the kindergarten through sixth grade classes. It includes a library, kitchen, art studio, and office as well as a ball field and playground.

## ***G. I. STRAUB MEMORIAL TABERNACLE***

The tabernacle is a fully enclosed and heated camp meeting auditorium that will seat 1,000 persons. The home of the annual Penns Creek Camp Meeting, this facility is also used for school functions. The Cooley Memorial Prayer and Music Studios provide facilities for instruction and practice of students taking applied music lessons, as well as office space for the music faculty.

## ***MILLER DINING CENTER***

Placed in service for the 1981 Penns Creek Camp, the beautiful and spacious dining area is not only used as a dining center by both school and camp, but is also used for banquets and receptions. The full basement in this building contains a snack shop and storage areas and is utilized for various activities.

## ***MEN'S DORMITORY***

The original building provides living accommodations for 45 students and for a Social Dean and contains vending and laundry appliances.

## ***WOMEN'S DORMITORY —ZECHMAN HALL***

Occupied September 1999, the dorm can house up to 48 students. It provides a Social Deans' apartment and contains vending and laundry appliances.

## ***MASON/MCINTIRE STUDENT LIFE CENTER***

The new Student Life Center, presently under construction, will house a gymnasium/auditorium, music classrooms and practice areas, additional dining area, and a new snack shop.

Also located on the campus are twenty staff residences and a large athletic playing field including an outdoor basketball/volleyball court.

