



# **3ABN SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP (SOD)**

Cultivating Minds for Christ

3ABN School of Discipleship  
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## Our Mission

The 3ABN School of Discipleship (SOD) is committed to teaching and cultivating minds to prepare a people to finish the gospel work. We do this by what we call the Three E's: Edify, Equip, and Excel.

Our goal is to **Edify** students with invigorating Bible instruction that will **Equip** them to live and share the undiluted three angels' messages of Revelation 14 with a lost and dying world. Through personal scriptural training and instruction, students will **Excel** to become genuine disciples, and thrive in their efforts to add souls to God's Kingdom.

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## Why SOD?

SOD puts the extra emphasis on discipleship! While SOD includes instruction on different elements of personal, public, and digital evangelism, students will experience more unique and exclusive training on how to grow into more confident and well-grounded disciples for Christ. Our goal is to train disciples who make more disciples. Not only will students receive the highest quality of in-class instruction from some of their favorite 3ABN speakers, but our instructors are committed to making time for extra small-group and individual discipleship sessions outside of the classroom. While there will be a small academic element in certain classes, students can look forward to a deeper emphasis on spiritual growth and personal devotion during their time at SOD. In other words, students will have more freedom to study, reflect, and meditate on their personal relationship with God without the pressures of heavy academic homework. The 3ABN campus will provide a safe and quiet haven for students to rest and rejuvenate. The campus is located in a quiet country setting surrounded by beautiful corn fields and lots of wildlife. Our southern Illinois location is conveniently located in the Midwest region of the United States, making it easily accessible for those who travel from either coast. Students won't have to worry about preparing meals, since they can look forward to breakfast and lunch provided daily. 3ABN also provides comfortable and clean housing for relaxation, study, and a good night's rest. Best of all, students can reap all the benefits of SOD for an affordable cost.

### Summary of benefits:

- Stronger emphasis on true discipleship
- More time with instructors outside of class
- Less academics, more spiritual growth and personal devotion
- Quiet country campus setting
- Central U.S. location
- Daily breakfast and lunch provided
- Comfortable and clean housing
- Affordable cost

## Objectives

### As a result of diligent participation in each course, students will:

1. Learn to apply practical and spiritual lessons in becoming true disciples of Christ
2. Integrate the contents of class lectures and training in their personal evangelistic efforts
3. Be equipped with advanced knowledge and understanding of the biblical teachings and principles taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church
4. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the church's mission and function
5. Grow in their daily spiritual walk with Christ

## Course Descriptions

### How to Study the Bible

This course addresses the fundamentals of personal study and daily devotion for the purpose of better understanding the Scripture, prophecy, and the writings of Ellen G. White. Students will learn the importance of good biblical hermeneutics—not just for the purpose of gaining knowledge, but to deepen and strengthen their daily relationship with God.

### Apologetics

This course takes a deeper look into all the fundamental biblical doctrines taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Students will gain a solid understanding of all the principles and teachings that set Seventh-day Adventism apart from the rest of evangelical Christianity.

### How to Study Bible Prophecy

This course is designed to deepen your understanding of God's prophetic word. You'll learn how to interpret symbolic language, identify key themes, and connect prophecies across Scripture. Whether you're a beginner or looking to grow in your study skills, this class will equip you with tools to confidently explore Bible prophecy, end-time events, and gain spiritual insight.

### The Great Controversy

This course seeks to inform and transform students' minds by highlighting the realities and eternal effects of the cosmic battle between Christ and Satan. Students will be taken on a spiritual expedition through Scripture to discover the depths, influence, and prophetic implications of the war behind all wars. They will also gain a deeper understanding of the serious nature of sin and Christ's redemptive work to save us from our sins. Ultimately, participants will come to know the true meaning behind the eternal truth that "God is Love."

### From Information to Transformation

This course is a study on how to develop Christian character after accepting Jesus. Too often, people join the church and settle for only membership. They don't experience the abundance of Christian living because they fall short of understanding how to battle against the forces that confront them daily. This series will uncover human nature, desire, the will, salvation, and baptism. It will equip you with the knowledge necessary to go from information to transformation.

### The Cost of Discipleship

The Word of God is the guidebook for humanity. Its wisdom, insight, and power provide for man's physical concerns just as much as our spiritual ones. This class addresses physical health and appetite in the context of the Christian experience and the significance of the health message in our world today.

### Essentials of Evangelism

This course deals with the multiple elements of evangelism, leading students on a deep study of practical applications related to personal, friendship, and public evangelism. The goal is to equip students with a practical knowledge of implementing an appropriate evangelism cycle in their personal lives, church, and community, while living out Christ's method of true evangelistic success.

## Admissions

### Admission to the 3ABN School of Discipleship will be based on the following criteria:

- Two (2) credible recommendations, including one by the student's local pastor and/or first elder. (*Included in application*) References should be from someone who has known the student for at least six months. Immediate or extended family references will not be accepted.
- Submission of a completed application to attend the 3ABN School of Discipleship.
- A suggested donation application fee of \$30.
- A recent photograph (*for ID purposes—include with the returned application*)
- A written response (*300 words minimum*) describing why the student wants to attend the 3ABN School of Discipleship. (*Included in application*)

**(Please inform your references immediately upon submitting your application to check their email for a reference form. They will need to submit the form before your application can be processed.)**

## Application Procedure

### Complete and submit the application, along with the application fee, by the deadline which is four weeks prior to the start of class.

To complete the application, go to [3abnsod.com](http://3abnsod.com), click on the "Application" tab, then submit the completed form along with the application fee as prompted. Applications will not be processed until the application fee has been received. If students want to submit a video of themselves describing why they want to attend SOD, it should be emailed to [contactsod@3abn.org](mailto:contactsod@3abn.org) once the online application has been completed. Applications will be reviewed and processed by the SOD committee, and applicants will be notified of their acceptance or non-acceptance into the program via email.

## Registration

All students need to check in for the intensive on Friday, the first day of the program. Anyone arriving before that date will not be accommodated in student housing. Flight and travel plans should be made so students can arrive on 3ABN campus on that Friday to register between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Central.

## Tuition and Fees

### There are two financial options for attending the 3ABN School of Discipleship 7-day Intensive.

Option 1: Tuition, food, and board	\$500 suggested donation
Option 2: Tuition and food (student brings their own camper)	\$300 suggested donation

Cancellations must be submitted in writing via mail or email. Cancellations received two (2) weeks prior to registration day (campus arrival) will receive a full refund. Any refund requests made *after* this period will receive a 50% refund of tuition only. There will be no future roster reservations or application transfers allowed for applicants who were accepted and canceled after the application deadline (2 weeks prior to registration day). This is to maintain the respect and integrity for the application process and to be fair to future potential applicants. Special, unavoidable circumstances will be taken into consideration based upon proper written communication by the accepted applicant to the SOD administration.

## Housing/Childcare

Male and female student housing will be provided on campus in a 3ABN apartment. Each student will share a room with a person of the same gender, and is expected to keep all living areas clean at all times. Students will be responsible for any damage to housing or surrounding 3ABN property. Appropriate housing arrangements will be made in the case of married couples. 3ABN has no childcare facilities, so please make prior arrangements. A second option is for students to bring their own camper, trailer, or RV. This option is recommended, due to the fact that available apartments are limited. *Note: Please make other arrangements for your pet to be cared for during your time at 3ABN, since no pets are allowed in the apartments or on campus (exceptions will be made for certified service animals only).*

## Meals

Students will be served tasty and healthy vegetarian meals while attending the 3ABN School of Discipleship. Breakfast and lunch will be provided daily. Students will be expected to provide their own supper. We offer dairy-free and gluten-free options at all meals. However, if a student must follow multiple restrictions or strict diets, he/she will be required to provide his/her own meals during the program. The cost of the program will be adjusted accordingly.

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes, planned programs, and events. Punctuality should be consistently practiced during the program. In the event that unavoidable circumstances arise, the instructors should be notified and made aware of the situation so an excused absence may be issued.

## Transportation

If possible, we encourage students to bring their own vehicles as they will be responsible for their own transportation during this program. This includes to and from the airport, to class, and to local stores/restaurants. There are many rental car companies located at or near the airports in St. Louis, Missouri, and Marion, Illinois.

However, if you require special arrangements, we can provide transportation to and from the Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois (Marion, IL) ONLY. Please notify us as soon as possible if you require a pickup from the airport in Marion. Students who don't bring a vehicle are encouraged to help drivers cover fuel and other vehicle-related costs, if needed.

## Conduct

Students will be respectful of each other, 3ABN employees, and guest instructors/speakers at all times. Any rude, discriminatory behavior, harassment, or victimization will not be tolerated and will be subject to disenrollment from the school and dismissal from campus.

## Dress Code

Dress and appearance should be neat and modest, as befits a disciple of Christ. Please do not wear skin-tight apparel, revealing, or low-cut clothing. Business casual is required while participating in class; jeans are permitted provided they are clean, washed, and free of holes, rips, or distressing (no t-shirts). For women, if choosing to wear a skirt or dress, it should reach the knee or below when seated. Sandals and flip-flops are not permitted in the classroom.

## Items Needed

The only required textbook is the Bible. Students should have a KJV or NKJV translation of Scripture, or access to an app, website, or software with those versions. We recommend students bring personal computers, or any typical classroom items, i.e., folders, pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.

## Staff / Instructors



### **James Rafferty - 3ABN Director of Discipleship, SOD Coordinator, Instructor**

**James Rafferty** is Director of Discipleship Ministry for 3ABN. He is an ordained pastor, evangelist, and author of several books. He has been in full-time gospel ministry for over 38 years with a special focus on Daniel and Revelation. God has opened doors for James to share the everlasting gospel in North America, Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and the South Pacific. He has been married to his lovely wife Risë for 33 years and they are blessed with two adult children.



### **Ian Vandervalk - SOD Assistant Coordinator, 3ABN Producer**

**Ian Vandervalk** was born and raised in South Florida. He spent the majority of his life searching for an identity in all the wrong places and lived for the pleasures of the world. After spending 12 years in the United States Army, Ian turned his life over to the Lord and began a new journey. He is a graduate of the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism. Currently, Ian serves as a 3ABN Producer and is the Assistant Coordinator of the 3ABN School of Discipleship. He and his wife Angela, who also works for 3ABN in production, have two wonderful children together.



### **Curtis Badger - SOD Registrar, 3ABN Kids Network Admin. Assistant/Producer**

**Curtis Badger** proudly served over four years in the U.S. Army. Later in life, he joined the 3ABN family, now happily serving in God's Army. Married to his wife Dara, who works in 3ABN Radio, they are actively involved in church as an elder and clerk, and head deaconess, plus a moving ministry. With a "saint under construction" attitude, he is growing in his relationship with God and continues to learn daily what it means to walk with Him. He strongly desires to share Jesus with others—not just in words, but through the example of his life.



### **John Lomacang - SOD Instructor, 3ABN Director of World Evangelism**

**John Lomacang** is 3ABN's Director of World Evangelism, and appears on many 3ABN programs, including the 3ABN Sabbath School Panel, 3ABN Worship Hour, and 3ABN Today programs. His music ministry and his vast experience in sharing the gospel throughout the world have made him a valued network speaker and vocalist. An ordained minister for over 30 years, he serves as pastor of the Thompsonville Seventh-day Adventist Church, and his wife Angela works in our 3ABN Radio Network.



### **Ryan Johnson - SOD Instructor, 3ABN Dare to Dream Network General Manager**

**Ryan Johnson** is the General Manager of the 3ABN Dare to Dream Network. For years he has served as an ordained pastor, working closely with young people, bringing his passion for sharing the gospel. Committed to spreading the remnant message, Pastor Johnson seeks to engage communities and to educate people in godly Christian principles through media and outreach, ultimately readying them for Christ's return.



### **Risë Rafferty - M.S., RDN, SOD Instructor, 3ABN Health Ministries**

**Risë Rafferty**, MS, RDN is a wife, mother, and registered dietitian. Her enthusiasm for promoting spiritual and physical health fuels her service and ministry. Her faith, family, the role of lifestyle in promoting health, preventing disease, and the quest for wholeness are her top passions.



### **Angela Vandervalk - SOD Administrative Support, 3ABN Production Crew**

**Angela Vandervalk** is a valuable member of the 3ABN Production team. Born in Louisiana and raised in South Florida, Angela grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist household. However, during her early teenage years, she strayed from her faith. It wasn't until many years later, through the grace of God, that she found her way back and rededicated her life to the Lord. Angela has a passion for serving others and spreading the message of Jesus. She works alongside her husband, Ian Vandervalk, in ministry at 3ABN and they have two children together.



### **Luz Erling - SOD Chef**

**Luz Erling**, originally from Puerto Rico, moved to the United States as a child and grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. After marrying, she settled in Florida, where she raised her two wonderful daughters. Luz has a deep love for family and the culinary arts. She has a God-given gift of hospitality, she delights in serving others and creating warm, welcoming environments.

## Schedule

### Friday (Arrival)

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Check-in  
6:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Meet-n-Greet

### Sabbath

8:30 a.m. Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Sabbath School  
11:00 a.m. Divine Worship  
(Fellowship Lunch afterwards)  
6:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner

### Sunday

7:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Syllabus Overview  
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Class  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Class

### Monday - Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Class  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Class

### Thursday

7:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Class  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Class  
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tour of 3ABN Studios

### Friday

7:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Class  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Class

### Sabbath

8:30 a.m. Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Sabbath School  
11:00 a.m. Divine Worship  
(Fellowship Lunch afterwards)  
6:00 p.m. Presentation of Certificates/Charge  
(Refreshments afterwards)

## Travel/Arrival Information

### **Airports:**

Lambert International Airport (STL) in St. Louis, Missouri, is approximately two hours from 3ABN (see enclosed map). Guests need to make their own arrangements for transportation, and may rent a car at the airport.

Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois (MWA) is a small regional airport in Marion, Illinois. This airport is approximately 30 minutes from 3ABN, and rental cars are available at the airport. **Flights to Marion are direct only from Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD).**

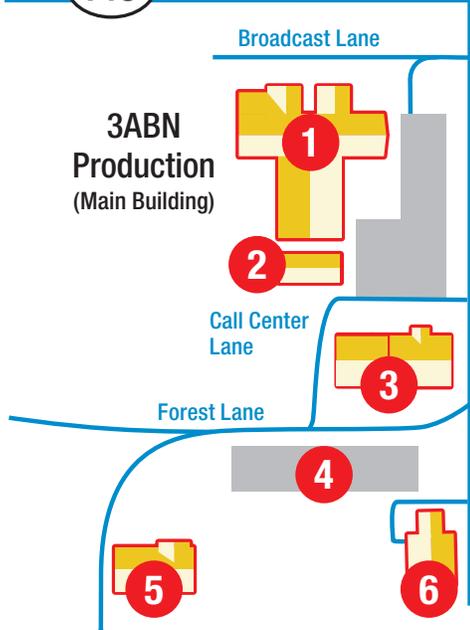
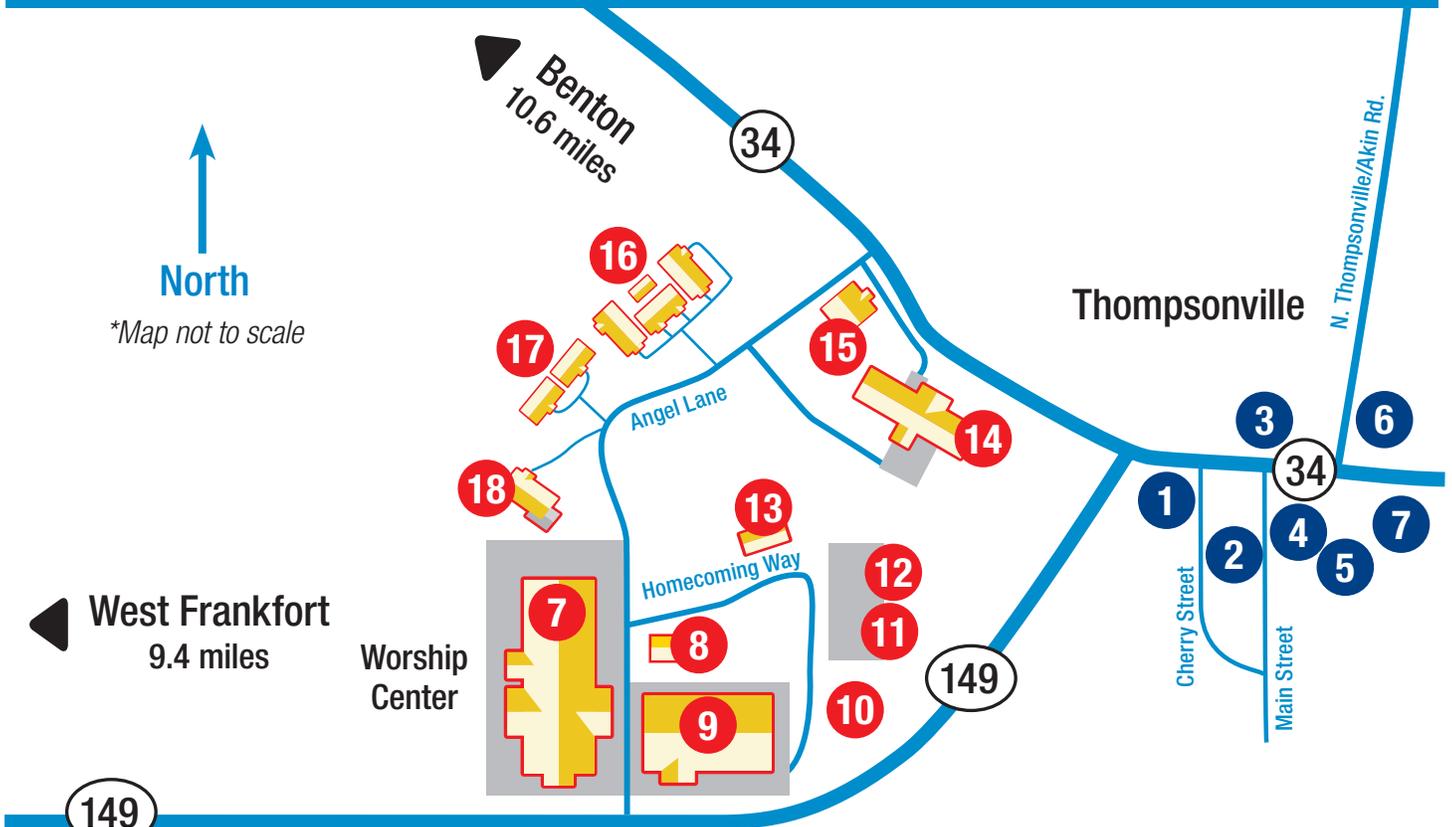
If you require special arrangements for transportation, please notify us as soon as possible. We will provide transportation from the Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois (MWA) to 3ABN for those who notify us ahead of time.

### **By Car:**

3ABN is about 5.5 hours south of Chicago, Illinois, and 3.5 hours northwest of Nashville, Tennessee. Set your GPS address to 3577 Angel Lane, Thompsonville, IL 62890, for 3ABN's Worship Center, where registration will be held. Be sure to bring your 3ABN campus map.



# 3ABN CAMPUS MAP



## 3ABN Locations

- 1 3ABN Production Center - Studio A, Studio B, Radio
- 2 Donation Center
- 3 3ABN Call Center
- 4 RV Parking #1
- 5 3ABN Sound Center
- 6 Guest Rooms B8, B9 - Lower Level 3189 Charley Good Road
- 7 Worship Center - Studio D, Thompsonville SDA Church
- 8 3ABN Information Center
- 9 Junior Academy/Gym
- 10 Camping Area
- 11 Bathhouse
- 12 RV Parking #2
- 13 Pavillion/Picnic area

- 14 3ABN Planned Giving, Lower Level-Guest Rooms C10, C11, C12 Angel Lane (Entrance)
- 15 The Browse Around Thrift Store
- 16 Guest Rooms A0-A7 3993 Angel Lane
- 17 Guest Rooms A16, A17 3927 Angel Lane
- 18 Guest Rooms D13, D14, D15 3865 Angel Lane

## Thompsonville

- 1 Post Office
- 2 Laundromat
- 3 Payne Service Center (gas and convenience store)
- 4 The Hangout Restaurant
- 5 Southern Illinois Bank
- 6 Dollar General
- 7 Deb's Restaurant