

The *Searchlight*

Promoting IBFI Missionaries, Churches, Crown Southwest and Norris Seminary

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RAYMOND WESLEY BARBER Sixty Years in the Gospel Ministry

Raymond Wesley Barber was saved and called into the ministry simultaneously when he was eleven years of age. After high school graduation, he left his home in Danville, Virginia, to enter the Bible Baptist Seminary in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, to prepare for the gospel ministry. **Dr. J. Frank Norris**, founder and president of the Bible Baptist Seminary, became his mentor.

In January 1962, at age twenty-nine, Worth Baptist Church, called Dr. Barber to be the pastor, a position he held until his retirement in April 1997. Under his leadership, he led the church in three building programs, including the present facilities. He was named Pastor Emeritus of Worth Baptist Church when he retired from the pastorate.

Dr. Barber founded and for twelve years was president of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International, president of the Norris Bible Baptist Institute, and executive editor of the *Searchlight*. Upon retirement, he was elected to a lifetime title of President Emeritus of the IBFI and chancellor of the Norris Bible Baptist Institute. He is currently serving as chancellor of Crown Southwest and Norris Seminary. Located at 724 N. Jim Wright

Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas, the Conference Center at Crown Southwest/Norris Seminary is named the Raymond W. Barber Conference Center in his honor.

Dr. Barber taught Bible college classes for thirty-five years at the Bible Baptist Seminary, Arlington Baptist College, and Norris Bible Baptist Institute. His courses on the Life of Christ and Major and Minor Prophets were inspiring subjects for young ministerial students preparing for the ministry. He often teaches module courses in Christian colleges. He has authored more than twenty books and currently is engaged in writing several more manuscripts.

For the past fifteen years, Dr. Barber has traveled extensively, preaching in churches, Christian colleges, and conferences throughout the nation. He is known for his powerful Gospel preaching, prolific quotations of Scripture from memory, and consistent life of dedication to God. The focus of his ministry is the Lord Jesus Christ. No

matter the topic or text, his messages always focus on Christ.

Dr. Barber has an Associate of Arts degree from Averett University, Danville, Virginia; a Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, Texas; a Master of Theology Degree and a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Bible Baptist Seminary. He also has been awarded several honorary doctor degrees: Bethany Theological Seminary, Dothan Alabama, Doctor of Biblical Literature; Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary, Shreveport, Louisiana, Doctor of Humanities; Northeast School of Theology, Downingtown, Pennsylvania, Doctor of Divinity; Crown Seminary, Powell, Tennessee, Doctor of Divinity.

Dr. and Mrs. Barber will commemorate sixty years of marriage this May. They met in 1951 while both were students in the Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth. Dr. J. Frank Norris united them in marriage in the First Baptist Church on May 20, 1951.



Dr. A. F. Jernigan and others shared special memories.

WHAT KIND OF A LEGACY WILL YOU LEAVE?



Dr. Willie Weaver
President
IBFI

I recently was reading a book on leadership. One chapter dealt with the issues of leaving a legacy. According to "dictionary.com," a legacy is defined as "anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor." A legacy can be possessions or principles that carry beyond our lives.

Remembering that I am a senior citizen, I began thinking about what I want to leave as my legacy. What will my family, friends, and acquaintances say about me? If they could put it into one succinct sentence, what would they say? Claire Booth Luce cleverly called



Pastor Mark Brown
Alumni President
Maranatha Baptist Church

"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

Through the years much planting and watering has taken place at the Norris Bible Baptist Institute, Norris Bible Baptist Seminary and currently the Crown Southwest-Norris Seminary. There has been so much given by so many to the ministry of our school. Many have given finances, prayers, as well as labor. It is exciting and encouraging to look around, and see much fruit blooming as a result of the planting and watering, giving and praying.

this your "life sentence." It is a sobering thought. Nobel Prize-winning novelist Anatole France observed, "The average man does not know what to do with his life, yet wants another one which will last forever."

John Wooden, the legendary college basketball coach of the UCLA Bruins, at age ninety-two, was asked about his legacy and how he wanted to be remembered by those who knew him. "I certainly don't want to be remembered for trophies and national championships," he said without hesitating. For a long time he paused, thinking. Finally he said, "I hope people will remember me as one who was kind and considerate of others." Coach Wooden achieved professional success beyond what most people could only hope for, yet he wanted to be remembered for his treatment of others.

I'm still contemplating and refining what I really want to leave as a legacy. Simplistically put, I want others to be able to say about me that I was a kind person who loved others and that I left them with a knowledge of how to go to

Heaven and how to have a sincere, personal, and intimate walk with Christ.

Dr. J. Frank Norris, along with other fundamentalists, left a great legacy. They were men who took a stand for right. In these days of liberalism and compromise, as recipients of such a great legacy, let's be determined as Bible-believing fundamentalists to carry this legacy on and hand it down to others in our churches, families, Bible colleges, and universities.

Choose today the legacy you want to leave others. Live out the legacy you want to leave. Charles F. Kettering, inventor and onetime head of General Motors' research division, stated, "The greatest thing this generation can do is lay a few stepping stones for the next generation." As a fellowship and as individuals let's "lay a few stepping stones for the next generation." May God help us to leave a good legacy.

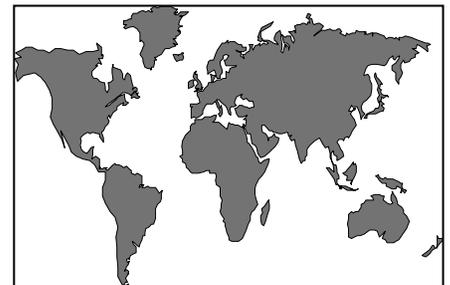
ALUMNI

As I look around and think about the "fruit that remains" of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, I am inspired by the diversity of ministries that our graduates are a part of. The alumni of our school are literally serving the Lord all around the world in various capacities. Many of our graduates are serving in local churches as pastors, assistant pastors, youth pastors, music ministers, bus ministers, children's ministers, Sunday school workers and many other positions (sometimes serving in many of these ministries simultaneously). There are also missionaries around the globe serving the Lord who are graduates of Norris. Our alumni are also serving as mission directors, Christian school administrators, and evangelists. Our graduates are making an impact for the cause of Christ all over the globe!

There are times when we wonder if all of the "blood, sweat, and tears" are worth it. We wonder if all the money, time, and labor that we have invested have been wasted. When we stop and look around and see what God is doing through the minis-

tries of our graduates, we must conclude it is worth it all!

As alumni, let us never take for granted the things that have been sacrificed to get us to the places of service that God has called us to. As supporting pastors, churches, and individuals, let us remember that all the plowing, planting, and watering has produced a great harvest in the Lord's vineyard, and that our labors have not been in vain!



"Our graduates are making an impact for the cause of Christ all over the globe!"

J. FRANK NORRIS - THE EDITOR

(continued from last issue)



Dr. Raymond Barber
Chancellor CSW-NS
Pastor Emeritus,
Worth Baptist Church

In 1908, the directors and stockholders of the *Baptist Standard*, the publication of the strong Texas Southern Baptist Convention, asked Norris to accept full responsibility as editor and manager of the paper. Accepting the invitation,

Dr. Norris wrote, "In obeying the voice of the Director of the *Standard*, I do so with conviction that would not let me do otherwise."

It took only a short period of time for the readership to learn of Norris' editorial abilities. A master of rhetoric, Norris created widespread interest among Baptists with his cringing criticism of evils within the denomination and of individuals who Norris felt were detrimental to the progress of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Photo-Journalism

The first area of upgrading in the *Standard* was his introduction of photo-journalism, an approach that was fairly new to Texas Baptist journalism. Featuring pictures of local churches and coverage of individual preachers and ministries, Norris gained prominence and popularity as the editor of the official voice of Texas Baptists.

Another area in which Norris should receive credits as a gifted editor was the dramatic improvement he made in style and paper substance. The notable change with its first issue in 1909 was satisfying to the sight as well as to the touch. Favorable comments flooded the editorial offices, and Norris continued to produce more of the same.

Not least among the many areas of Norris' natural genius as a publisher was his unusual ability to promote. His extensive campaign of advertising in the pages of the *Standard* included items as diversified as a safety razor in a plush Morocco box and a striking picture of

R.C. Buckner of the Buckner Orphanage.

A Natural-Born Writer

With a pen of a natural-born writer, Norris served the Baptist cause well, giving outstanding coverage not only to issues that affected statewide ministries, but to local programs and individual churches. One of the more prominent causes Norris aided through the pages of the *Standard* was the Southwestern Baptist Seminary, located in Fort Worth, Texas, which was founded by **B.H. Carroll** assisted by Dr. Norris.

Mortal Combat Against Sin

Where was Norris best and most effective in his editorial ability? No doubt he employed his finest "marksmanship" in his battle against moral sin. Early in his editorship, his innate fighting characteristics emerged in full battle array as he led the *Standard* into mortal combat against any and all sights or scents of unrighteousness in high or low places. To illustrate, the following is quoted from one of his editorials on "wickedness in high places."

"Municipal crimes and public dishonesty are mine in my town, in my state, in my nation, and in my world. I share the burden that presses me down. I fight, therefore, the social battles for righteousness and peace in a truceless war; I whet my knife sharp against the social malefactor..."

Attacking the State Fair of Texas, Norris unleashed a barrage of punctuated opposition against what he termed "high-handed wickedness." In an editorial arsenal of December 1908, in which no words were minced, Norris unloaded both barrels of his "adjective loaded" shotgun on the racing interests of the Fair, declaring it to be a "gambling hell." As a result of Norris' devastating attack, the Robertson Bill outlawing race track gambling in Texas was introduced in the Texas legislature, and after several months of diligent effort, it was passed in March 1909.

The days of victory for the "crusading editor" kept coming as he

clamored for reform and against social evils. With a growing readership and an enlarged circulation, the *Baptist Standard* enjoyed unusual success under the Texas "apostle of reform." Even though it was apparent that the finest days of the *Standard's* history under Norris' control were just ahead, the providence of God changed the entire picture when in 1909 came a call from the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth for Dr. Norris to serve as its pastor.

His Final Issue

Norris announced his decision in his final issue: "With this issue my work as editor ceases. My duty is clear, and my convictions unmistakable. I enter the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Fort Worth." And so, after two years as owner-editor of the *Baptist Standard*, Frank Norris laid down his editorial pen in favor of the church pulpit. Thus ended a colorful career as editor, which was overshadowed in the years to come in the pulpit where Norris proved to be a "prince among preachers," giving to the world of Bible-believing Baptists some of the finest soul-searching, heartwarming messages delivered with oratorical ability possessed by few men of his generation. To this his friends agree, and with it his enemies cannot disagree. (to be continued)

Books Available by Dr. Raymond Barber

Golden Moments with God

A devotion for each of the 365 days of the year. A companion book for your Bible.

Order from Crown Publications
Bookshop

@faithforthefamily.net

Heaven's Hymnbook

Dr. Barber's newest book:
A three-volume discourse on all 150 Psalms.

Available at:
SwordoftheLord.com

Metro-plex Area IBF Meetings



Left: **Dr. Richard Wallace** was the speaker for the Christmas banquet of the Metro-plex Area IBF meeting. Right: **Worth Baptist Church** in Fort Worth, Texas, hosted the meeting..



Left: **Dr. Clarence Sexton** speaks at the IBFI January Metro-plex Area IBF meeting, which was hosted by Crown Southwest. Right: **Moderator Eddy Johnson**



Student, faculty, pastors, evangelists, and missionaries attended, the Metro-plex Area IBF meeting the opening week of classes at Crown Southwest. The students and staff served breakfast and lunch..

Spring Fellowship Meeting - May 16 -19, 2011

Fort Worth, Texas



Great preaching



Wonderful fellowship and delicious meals

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday evening, May 16 - J. Frank Norris Memorial Banquet

Tuesday at noon, May 17 - Alumni Luncheon, all guests are invited to attend

Tuesday, 2:00 P.M. - Ladies' Tea, all ladies and daughters are invited

Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. - Crown Southwest, Norris Seminary, Fort Worth School of the Bible Graduation

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 A.M. - noon - A full lineup of great speakers

Wednesday, 7:00 P.M. - Service to be held at Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas



Inspirational Christ-honoring music



All services, except Wednesday evening, will be held at the Raymond W. Barber Conference Center.

www.ibfi.us



Bro. John Peeples
IBFI
Mission Director

www.ibfi.us

I invite you to go to our new website at www.ibfi.us. It is designed to be a helpful resource of information about the ministries associated with the Independent Baptist Fellowship International. Important information available to you there includes the following:

- Missionary Prayer Letters (both current and past) as well as photos, biographical information, and Wings of Prayer newsletters.
- *Searchlight* - current and past editions. (recent editions in color)
- Information on upcoming Fellowship Meetings (National, State and Local) as well as photos from past meetings.
- Contact information and links to other websites of ministries that we support such as Crown Southwest / Norris Seminary, Fort Worth School of the Bible, and Lake Texoma Baptist Youth Camp and Conference Center.

I encourage you to help us keep the information current. Please put me on your mailing list and send information about upcoming meetings to me at the IBFI office or jpeeples@ibfi.us. We hope to expand the website in the future to be a greater service to you.



Melissa Houston Missionary
to the Children of Mexico

Arriving in Monterrey, Mexico, in July of 2008, I dedicated my first year to learning the language better. **Mike and Cindy Lancaster** helped me greatly, not only with the language, but also with getting assimilated into missionary life. Working with them at La Gracia Baptist Church in Guadalupe, Mexico, I was given the great opportunity to teach the young children's class, and I was also able to help in the adult choir. This first year was an invaluable time of learning.

My second year, I came to work with the **Daniel Jones** family in San Nicolas at Bethesda Baptist Church. There I was given the oppor-

Mission Store 2011

Please do not forget our annual Mission Store. Throughout the years God has used it to be a blessing and an encouragement to our missionaries. Now, once again we have an opportunity to be a blessing to them in this way. If you would like to be a part, you may send your items and gift cards to the IBFI Mission Office or bring it with you to the May Fellowship Meeting.

Missionary Seminar

There will be a Missionary Seminar on Thursday afternoon, May 19 and on Friday, May 20. If you would like to send an offering to help cover expenses for lunches for this seminar, it would be greatly appreciated.

tunity to teach the young children's Sunday school class (4-6 yr. olds). I also had the opportunity to be the director of the "culto infantil," which is the evening children's service for kids aged 3-6. As well as being director for the teams in charge of the service, I was a team leader. This means that I organized the service and gave my team members jobs to do (memory verse, prayer, offering, etc). I also began to work in two Bible Clubs. Bible clubs are weekly children's services held at an individual's house. We have singing, Bible verses, Bible lessons, review games, and food.

I also began working with the adult choir. Our choir director invited me to teach the choir some basics of singing every week. We take time each choir practice to do this. This year, I will be taking over one of the Bible Clubs, which means that I will be taking over all of the responsibilities for that club as I continue to work with the choir. We hope to teach them more about singing in different parts (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass).

I feel very blessed that God has allowed me to help in so many areas. He is very good to use a saved sinner like me. I believe God will use a willing heart. Thank you for all of your prayers!

CROWN SOUTHWEST~NORRIS SEMINARY



Perfecting That Which Concerns Me

The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me:

Psalm 138: 8.

When I think of the Christian life I am reminded that God is seeking to perfect me. The word *perfect* is often revealed in scripture by the thought of completion. It is always exciting to see the Lord performing things in our lives that bring Him glory. Whether we deal with ...

- The Parent/Child relationship of training our children to live for the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.

- The Husband/Wife relationship of making plans to produce a close and sweet friendship. *Eph 5:21 Submitting yourself one to another in the fear of God.*

- The Servant/Ministry relationship of perfecting God's plan while here on earth.

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The fundamental Baptist movement as we know it can be considered by many as irrelevant, unorganized, lazy, and critical of others: that is not what our Lord meant when He referred to things being done decently and in order. John penned these words, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Jesus intended for us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Paul told Timothy, "*If a man therefore purge himself from these, (those things that defile and hinder our testimony and effectiveness) he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. II Timothy 2:21*

May we heed God's Word and, by God's grace, hold forth the words of truth. May we earnestly contend for the faith and speak the truth in love.

May we honor the Lord as He perfects that which concerns us!



We have been perfecting the college building by adding chair rail and baseboard molding. Above, chapel area



We are so thankful for the opportunity to improve such great facilities. Above, entry hall



Dr. & Mrs. Dan Knickerbocker
Director

Crown Southwest ~Norris Seminary
Ft. Worth School of the Bible

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

724 Jim Wright Freeway, North
Fort Worth, Texas 76108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 817-367-3422
Fax: 817-246-4884
Email: info@ibfi.us

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**CROWN SOUTHWEST
NORRIS SEMINARY**
A Distinctive Baptist School

IBFI MISSION AGENCY
*A clearing house for local church-sent
missionaries.*

**27th Annual
Spring Fellowship Meeting
May 16 - 19, 2011**

**Raymond W. Barber Conference Center
Fort Worth, Texas**

*Mission
Store*

**This is a very
special event for our
missionaries.**

**See full details on
page 6.**

The Searchlight

A Publication and Ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International
724 N. Jim Wright Frwy., Ft. Worth, TX 76108
Telephone: 817-367-3422 • Fax 817-246-4884
Email: info@ibfi.us • Web site: www.ibfi.us

IBFI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Dr. Willie Weaver, Dr. Raymond Barber, Pastor Jim Pointer, Mission Director John Peebles, Bro. Ray Richey, Pastor Barry Bedwell, Pastor Mark Brown, Pastor Eric Crawford, Pastor Bill Hardin, Pastor Charles Pugh, Dr. Terry Riggsby, Dr. Don Shipman, Dr. Jerry Siler, Pastor Claude Sutton, Dr. Charles Wetherbee