

THE OPPORTUNITY OF AMERICAN INDIAN MISSIONS

Mark and Tricia Haynes have been faithful missionaries for many years, and God has richly blessed their ministry. In recent years, God has multiplied their work through both their natural and their spiritual children. It is exciting to see their goal of Indigenous Church Planting take off in a way only explained by God's Hand. As you read Mark's article below, please pray for them and their ministries.



John Peebles, IBFI Mission Director

God has graciously allowed my family and me to serve on the Navajo Nation since 1996. It has been an amazing time as we see the Lord work in and through Native people. There are challenges all throughout Indian country that present daunting circumstances, yet exciting opportunities.

The past few months have allowed my wife and me to see firsthand the need among Native people in other parts of America. In October we were part of a Conference on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota at Pine Ridge Baptist Church, led by missionary Ken Trivette. This is the Reservation of Red Cloud's people. Red Cloud was the only Indian to defeat the United States. The U.S. surrendered to him on his terms when the forts in Sioux (Lakota) country were abandoned.

The Pine Ridge is indeed a sad and needy place. The unemployment rate in Shannon County, South Dakota, is at 80%. Alcoholism and suicide run rampant. While we were there, we visited the place called Wounded Knee. I am not ashamed to say that I wept while looking at the massacre site and the mass grave where as many as 300 Sioux were buried in the winter of 1890. Amidst the sadness and depression of that area though is the shining light of the gospel of Jesus Christ! The government has failed Indian people. Other "religious" groups have abused and forced "conversions." The answer is the true Word of God! Pray for Bro. Trivette and the people of the Pine Ridge.



We also were privileged to visit the Rosebud Reservation. This is where missionary Ed Bausell has faithfully served for many years. We are excited about the opportunity the Lord has given our Navajo folks with regards to the Rosebud. Every year we have groups that graciously give of their time and finances to come out and help us with building projects and VBS meetings. My son, missionary Joel Haynes, and I thought that it was time for our people to go out and help another Tribe. In 2017 we will be taking a group to the Rosebud

to lead a VBS and anything else that we can do to be a help in Mission, South Dakota. Pray about this with us! I cannot wait to see how God works in this!



Our special speaker for our Faith Promise Missions Conference at Ganado Baptist Church this year was Dr. L.B. Wildcat. Bro. L.B. pastors Calvary Indian Baptist Church in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. It is a Cherokee church planted in the Cherokee Nation capital. The meeting was great as our folks committed over \$35,000 to missions for the coming year. Bro. Wildcat also told me how

their church was planting a church in Muskogee that is geared toward the Creek Nation. Long time missionary/church planter Josh Harjo (who himself is Creek) is heading up this new work!

The opportunities in Indian Country are endless. I learned recently about four small Reservations in Kansas with no gospel witness. Bro. David Bane has started a Comanche work in Lawton, Oklahoma. Bro. Eric Schafnitz (who worked many years ago with IBFI missionary Charles Nixon) is planting an urban Native work in Rapid City, South Dakota. Bro. Larry McKinney (Choctaw) continues to plant works among urban Natives in the Northwest.

By God's grace, we continue to plant churches in Navajoland. Bro. Justin Barnett and I were in Window Rock recently working on details of the new church site in Indian Wells, Arizona. Bro. Ryan Nez (Navajo) is doing very well on deputation and is having a great impact in Native churches nationwide. Folks, THE NEED IS GREAT!! Come and help us! We need people with a heart for Native folks whose goal is to train indigenous leadership to reach Native Americas!

Isaac McCoy (1784-1846), perhaps the Father of Baptist American Indian Missions, in his last words to his wife Christina said, "Tell the brethren never to let the Indian mission decline." Brethren, it does not need to decline! It is indeed thriving! Thanks to all of you who love and pray for Native People. Thanks also for praying for those of us who have the honor of working among them!

For regular updates on the Navajoland ministry, see our website at www.streamsinthedesertaz.com and our son's site at www.navajolandbaptistmissions.com.



The Haynes Family American Indian Missionaries

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GUIDELINES FOR A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

Every member of Adam's race has an innate desire to be happy. The problem with many people is that they do not know how to acquire happiness. Consequently, they look in the wrong places. Happiness is found only in Christ, and His way is the only way to heaven (John 14:6).

The New Year—2016—lies before us with three hundred sixty-six unspoiled pages. No one has ever lived in this New Year. Except for the few days that have elapsed between January 1 and the time you read this article, the year is NEW, and it provides new opportunities, new possibilities, new responsibilities, new challenges, and new assignments. No doubt, prior to January 1, you had many people say to you, "Happy New Year."

The big question is, "How can I have a happy New Year?" Read on for some simple, scriptural guidelines that will show you how to be happy and prosperous in 2016.

GUIDELINE NUMBER ONE: LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 85:8, "I will hear what God the Lord will speak." God has spoken in 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 34,000 verses and 700,000 words. You do well to tune your receiving set to B-I-B-L-E. (That is God's frequency, and there is no static on the line.)

GUIDELINE NUMBER TWO: CLAIM THE PROMISES OF GOD

Peter reminds us in II Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given us exceeding great and precious promises." I list for you only a few:

- The Promise of Constant Companionship - Hebrews 13:5.
- The Promise of Answered Prayer - Jeremiah 33:3.
- The Promise of Genuine Peace - John 14:27.
- The Promise of Supplied Needs - Philippians 4:19.
- The Promise of a Home in Heaven - John 14:13.

GUIDELINE NUMBER THREE: REJOICE IN THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

In the book of Philippians (the psychology book of the New Testament) Paul uses the word JOY, or its equivalent, nineteen times. Consider chapter 4, verse 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice." Rejoice because your name is written in heaven—Luke 10:20.

Rejoice because you are free from all condemnation—Romans 8:1-4.

Rejoice because there is no separation from the love of Christ—Romans 8:35-39.

You can rest assured if you follow these three guidelines you will be blessed as you enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year.

HAVE A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

REDEEMING TIME IN 2016



Mark Brown, IBFI President

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone!! The new year is a time of REFLECTION...a time to look back and be reminded of some things. We look back at our ministries, we look back at our families, we look back at our individual lives, and we should also look back at our fellowship. As we reflect on 2015, one thing is certain: God has mightily blessed the IBFI this past year. The limited space forbids me to name the many things we have witnessed in our fellowship that only God can get the credit for. He certainly has proven Himself faithful!

The new year is not only a time to reflect, but it is also a time to REJOICE... a time to thank Him for what He has done among us this past year. Too often we are guilty of taking God's blessings for granted. Let us rejoice with one another as we witness fruit for our labor of love, our prayers being answered, and our sacrifices being rewarded continually. We truly serve a great God!

Yes, we reflect, and we rejoice, but as we enter 2016, let us be sure we REDEEM the time!

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Without a doubt this new year will present some challenges, some obstacles, and some burdens, but it also will present many opportunities, blessings and victories! "NOW MORE THAN EVER" we should "redeem the time" that God is giving us to continue the work He has called us to do.

I believe the greatest days are ahead for the IBFI Missions Agency!

I believe the greatest days are ahead for the NBBS!

I believe the greatest days are ahead for the Searchlight!

I believe the greatest days are ahead for the IBFI!

A PROMISING SPRING SEMESTER IS UNDERWAY!



Jonathan J. Stewart, NBBS President

ANOTHER EXCITING START TO A NEW SEMESTER

Last semester was "overwhelmingly good!" The first couple of weeks new students kept trickling in. We were kept busy orienting them to the school, after having already done so with the new ones who were here for the first day of school, August 18. It was exciting but made for a lively month of August.

Starting earlier than most colleges and seminaries and still getting the NBBS reestablished in the minds of pastors and churches results in prospective students not being attuned to the school's "off and running" start in mid-August. It takes a while to reacclimatize the churches, but we are getting there! Simply stated, more class time translates into more content being taught to the students.

The spring semester started with new students being added to the student body. In the mix of those who are new to the school is a couple who moved from Georgia just after the Christmas holiday. They had been making preparations accordingly for several weeks. The husband came to visit for the Opening Day Rally in August, then they both visited the school around Thanksgiving time. The more they found out about the NBBS and experienced it, the more peace they had that this was the will of God for their lives.

THE WEEK OF CONCENTRATED STUDY WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 23-26

We are looking forward to a special week with Bro. Randy Carroll, who will be conducting this semester's Week of Concentrated Study. Regular classes are suspended and for four days, Tuesday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 12 NOON, teaching sessions are conducted on subjects important to equipping preachers, but not topics that would merit a whole semester of study. Last semester, we had a four day presentation on Judaism and how to witness to Jewish people. This semester, we will be studying Islam, and how to reach out to Muslims with the Gospel.

FOUNDER'S WEEK IS APRIL 26-29

Every year, during the spring semester, Dr. Raymond Barber, as the leading founder of the NBBS, preaches in chapel each of the four days of the week. He touches on the history and philosophy behind the NBBS, speaks of Dr. Norris and Dr. Entzinger, and challenges the students to doctrinal commitment and its practical application.

SPRING SEMESTER ENDS MAY 13 AND GRADUATION IS TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 18

We have three candidates for May graduation: John Lund, for a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor; J.D. Young for a Bachelor in Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Missions Minor; and Chad Fitts for an Associate's Degree in Church Ministry.

A NEW SERIES OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

A new promotional packet for the seminary is being finalized. A sample copy of the first of five coordinated brochures was mailed out. A packet of that first brochure, as well as a couple of posters was sent shortly thereafter. The four other brochures will be printed soon. All of the brochures will be then mailed out together nationwide in a few weeks. Other promotional materials are to follow in the early summer.

NBBS SUNDAY IN IBFI CHURCHES IS MARCH 6

As suggested by an IBFI Board member in the October meeting in Florida, and then heartily approved by all the board members, a Sunday has been set aside for a special offering to be taken by IBFI churches for the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. It can obviously be taken a Sunday or Wednesday evening before or after, if it would be better for a church. We are looking for the Lord to do another great thing! The school is surging forward and this offering will help to keep the momentum building!



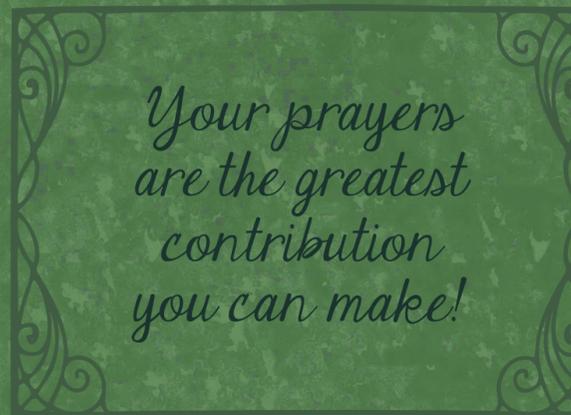
Terry Riggsby, NBBS Field Representative

The fall semester at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary was very successful.

January 12 we welcomed back former students and several new ones along with our faculty.

I am looking forward to being with Bro. Paul King and Messiah Baptist Church in Richland Hills, Texas, on Sunday evening, February 28, to present the ministry of NBBS.

A reminder, I am available to present the ministry of NBBS, especially on Sunday or Wednesday evenings. Please call the school office to set up an appointment.



Michael Wiggins, NBBS Administrator

I am very thankful for this great opportunity to serve God here at NBBS. Being able to see the growth of the students in the Word of God is worth more than gold! I want to take time over the next two issues of the Searchlight to introduce to you our 2016 graduates.

John Lund is a member of Pleasantview Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas. John feels he is called to the pastorate as either a senior or an associate pastor. I asked John what his next step after graduation would be. He said that he plans to continue serving at his local church while he finishes preparations to seek where God wants him and his family to go.

Also I asked John how he felt that NBBS helped him. He said, "NBBS has helped me greatly in every aspect of my life - reinforcing the need for daily devotions, showing me how to study the Bible and lay out a sermon, stressing the importance of building a solid family life, and showing me the importance of standards and convictions."

I want all our prayer and financial supporters to know that you have a part in the people John Lund is able to reach throughout his ministry. By your support, you have a part in helping people you have never met - the husbands and wives John is able to counsel and keep their marriages together, backslidden Christians who are put back on the right path, souls being gloriously saved, and so much more. Please pray for John and his family as he finishes school and seeks God's will for the future.



ALUMNI NEWS Glen Anderson, Alumni President



Here we are in 2016, a New Year. Last year seemed to pass by so quickly. It was January, then it was May before I knew it, and then it was October, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and then it was gone! Last year at Pensacola Baptist Temple we celebrated the church's eightieth anniversary May 3, hosted the October IBFI Meeting and celebrated my fifteenth anniversary as pastor of the church. God is so good to us!

Our fellowship had a great year last year. The NBBS also had a great year, with enrollment up and an excitement amongst the student body. I am anxious to see what God is going to do this year.

The October 2015 meeting was refreshing and encouraging. It was wonderful to gather together and enjoy some great fellowship. There was such a sweet spirit that we didn't want it to end.

The spring fellowship meeting of the IBFI is set for May 16 - 19. I want to encourage all alumni to put forth a special effort to attend the meeting this year. I am ready for some fellowship, and I am looking forward to our May meeting. In the last few years, our meetings have been such a time of encouragement and refreshment for me. Fellowship is vital to all of us and is something we all need. Since fellowship is biblical, practical, and profitable, let's fellowship together. See you in May!!

If any of our alumni have any news to share please let me know, so that we can get it in the next issue of the Searchlight. My email is pastor@pbtinfo.org.

WORTH BAPTIST CHURCH HONORS DR. AND MRS. WEAVER

Sunday, November 29, was a "red letter" day at Worth Baptist Church, as Dr. and Mrs. Weaver were honored for their 18 years of faithful service to the membership of Worth Baptist Church and 48 years of godly ministry. Dr. Weaver had announced his retirement in

October to be effective beginning with the first Sunday in January, 2016.

The special 10 a.m. service consisted of the following: PROCLAMATIONS: Dr. Weaver received proclamations from Texas State Senator Konni Burton, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Governor Greg Abbott for his years of faithful service. In addition, Dr. Weaver received a congratulatory letter from Fort Worth Mayor, Betsy Price.

Following the proclamations, two videos were shown: A walk down memory lane featuring the life and ministry of Dr. Weaver and a video of some key pastors giving their encouragement concerning Dr. Weaver. The list included Dr. Joe Arthur, Dr. Paul Chappel, Paul Gaymon, Dr. Raymond Barber, Jonathan Stewart, and Dr. Troy Shoemaker.

PRESENTATIONS: The board of deacons presented Dr. and Mrs. Weaver with a new car on behalf of the congregation. They also presented him with an album consisting of pastors, missionaries, and full-time workers offering their words

of kindness. A video featuring members of the church expressing appreciation was also given.

Mrs. Weaver received an album of letters written by the Women of Worth, in appreciation of her leadership.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY: Bro. George Allen, former police chief of the Connerville, Indiana, Police Department, gave a personal testimony of Dr. Weaver's winning him to the Lord and disciplining him through the years!

PREACHING: The "retirement" message was given by Dr.

Weaver's friend in the ministry, Reverend Troy Todd, former pastor of the Vandalia Baptist Temple, Vandalia, Ohio. Bro. Todd commended the ministry of Dr. and Mrs. Weaver and challenged the church to continue on as they have been taught!

Following the morning service a catered meal was served with over 500 people present.

The special day continued with an afternoon service that consisted of singing and giving members of the church opportunity to publicly express their thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Weaver.

POSTSCRIPT: Dr. and Mrs. Weaver will continue to reside in Burleson, Texas, and continue to serve at Worth Baptist Church. Dr. Weaver will be available for Bible Conferences, Mission Conferences, and pulpit supply. Contact the church offices for more details.

