

smoke signals

From The McKinneys

I first met Larry and Regina McKinney when I was a mission's student in Bible College in the mid-1980s. Their burden to reach the Native American people of the United States is prominent in my memories of the time we have spent together. I have known them to be faithful soul winners since they were working in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, and continuing through their present ministries in Washington State and Oregon. They have been a blessing and always an encouragement to me. Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support for them and their ministry.



In Christ,
John Peoples
IBFI Mission Director
Psalm 16:11

"It's fun learning how to be an Indian!"

"It's fun learning how to be a Christian!"

April/May 2016

Dear Friends and Pastors,

We are approaching the summer months, and we are glad since we had a lot of rain from the fall until now. Dry is good for a while...

In April, we had our NABF (Native American Baptist Fellowship) meeting in Nespelem, Washington, at the Peniel Ranch. This is on the Colville Indian Reservation and right off the Columbia River. The view was great! There were all kinds of animals and the kids rode Shetland ponies. All the Indian kids got in line to learn how to throw knives, tomahawks, and how to shoot a bow and arrow. We made Indians out of them before they left. I heard one of them say, "It's fun learning how to be an Indian."



The best part of the meeting was on the first night; a young lady came and accepted the Lord following the services. That can start any meeting off in the right direction! This young lady now can say, "It is fun learning how to be a Christian!" We will have our summer meeting in August on the Flathead Reservation in St. Ignatius, Montana, in an attempt to start a new church. Bro. Wayne Voss will be the missionary in charge and we are his helpers. There will be a lot of door knocking, praying, and fellowship. We pray for new converts to start up a new church!

The church in Portland is coming along in the right direction. We did have a good attendance for Resurrection Sunday. Our attendance that day was forty-six. The Lord blessed in the hearts of the people!

We are presently visiting the Klamath Indian Reservation and will be on the other side of Salem, OR, on the Grand Rond area. There are so many areas in Oregon that are wide open and in need of the Gospel. I would encourage you to pray for all this area, and as you pray be open to coming and helping share the Good News.

Thank you giving to our vehicle fund for a 4x4, so that we can drive around the mountains in the winter months. We do need funds to print new brochures, tracts, and prayer cards. Please keep us in your prayers.



In His Grace,
Larry G. McKinney



Larry and Regina McKinney minister primarily in Oregon, but are involved in a new church getting started in Montana.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The Searchlight

JUNE/JULY 2016 VOLUME 33 ISSUE 1

IBFI
SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING
MAY 16 -19, 2016



NOW MORE THAN EVER!

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT | NEWS AND EVENTS | ALUMNI NEWS

LET ME SHOW YOU THE WORD OF GOD – PART TWO



Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

NO CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE

Let it be known without any apology, hesitation or reservation, the Bible does not contradict itself. It contradicts those who read it with a mindset to doubt it. Mr. Spurgeon said, "It is a **crime** to add to it, a **treason** to alter it, and a **felony** to take away from it."

The wise man wrote in Proverbs 30:5,6:

"Every Word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that trust him: Add not to his words lest he reprove thee and thou be found a liar."

The Bible has lifted more spirits, dried more eyes, calmed more fears, generated more hope, blessed more hearts, changed more lives, and comforted more souls than all the books in the world combined, and it is all about Jesus. The Encyclopedia Britannica used 20,000 words to relate the story of Jesus' life and ministry. That is more than the encyclopedia used to tell the stories of Cicero, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Confucius, and Julius Caesar combined!

You do not find in William Shakespeare's works words like this: *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me."*

Do not look in Longfellow's poems for *"blessed are the poor in spirit..."* Keats never wrote anything like *"Let not your heart be troubled..."*

These inspiring, comforting, life-changing words are found only in the blessed, timeless old Book that has sailed every ocean, climbed every mountain, crossed every desert, and circled the globe with the message of salvation by the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God for sinners slain.

TRAGEDY OF TRAGEDIES

Many churches, schools, and religious organizations have relegated the Bible to a secondary place in their programs, and some have abandoned it completely. My plea to all this ecclesiastical nonsense is this:

Bring back the Bible, O ye sons of men;

Bring back the Bible, and begin again.

Bring back the Bible, shout it far and wide;

Bring back the Bible, and wait for the tide.

Bring back the Bible; let it be heard.

Bring back the Bible, God's holy Word."

A well-read Bible means a well-fed soul.

A chapter a day keeps the devil away.

A Bible that is coming apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

A Bible in the hand is worth a dozen in the trunk.

The Bible is not a lullaby to rock you to sleep; it is **marching orders** to send you off to war.

The Bible is God's unadulterated encyclopedia of truth and His unabridged commentary on world

history from the day of creation to the day of

consummation of all things.

Open the Bible and find Jesus there!

(Part Three: Next Issue)

DR. RAYMOND BARBER COMMEMORATED SIXTY-FIVE YEARS IN MINISTRY



A WEEK OF GREAT ADVANCEMENT AND BLESSINGS!



*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

YOU DID IT AGAIN!

At last year's annual Spring Creek BBQ alumni meeting, several thousand dollars were pledged toward projects and furnishings for the seminary. The funds came in and projects were completed and furnishings secured. The building of a platform for the Conference Center was one of the promised projects. As icing on the cake, just before the start of this year's annual May meeting, it was fashioned by Stan Armstrong and staff members of Heritage Baptist Church of Haslet, TX, a church founded and pastored by an alumnus, Eric Crawford. It is not only spacious, but it also improved the setting and acoustically enhanced the preaching before the people, because of its elevation. Two new pulpits built out of red oak arrived on Monday morning just in time for the first service that night. Pastor Glen Anderson, built four pulpits for us last year, and fashioned these new pulpits to match. The platform and the pulpits were a first fruits of what was again to occur through churches and missionaries, in the giving of funds for some more classroom, office, and dormitory furnishings. Even our outgoing secretary and her husband joined in magnanimously. **Everything on the list we had designated as immediately needed was addressed!** Also, a pledge to remodel and to install all new cabinetry in the kitchen of the dorm was made.

By establishing the Founders' Wall exhibit, we want to reinforce to these we are honoring the significance of the investment they made in eternity by getting the school off and running. We want to give the students examples of the difference that faithful, behind the scenes spouses can make. Being partners for life and serving the Lord together can more effectively touch thousands of lives. When one trains preachers, he is touching thousands of lives through them, because they will minister to thousands.

CELEBRATING OUR SECRETARY'S MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

Wednesday night's service included the honoring of our longstanding secretary, Charlotte Wyler, who retired this May, after almost 16 years of service—half of the fellowship and school's existence. She has been an anchor for the ministries of the IBFI not only serving as the secretary of the NBBS, but also of the IBFI and the fellowship newsletter publication, The Searchlight. Public accolades were given, a dozen yellow roses, a necklace with a small white gold anchor pendant, as well as the means and various supporting materials for her and her husband Gary to explore Oklahoma and Texas, and a little bit of Missouri, Kansas and New Mexico, on a nostalgic trip down a large portion of Route 66. We know that she and Gary will still be a "part of the team" at the school in years ahead, volunteering because they care so much for the cause. Gary, her husband, made it at times "two for the price of one" in the ways he has helped out at the school on various projects. Thank you again Gary and Charlotte for "being there" through the years. What an investment they have made in eternity through, not only their church but also through the IBFI!

WE WELCOME OUR NEW SECRETARY

Our new IBFI/NBBS secretary, Candy Frizzell, has warmly embraced the opportunity to serve. Danny, her husband, has joined in from day one, helping here and there in various ways much in the same vein as Gary. A lot of what was done in preparation for the week of fellowship was due to both men going the extra mile to help.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE HE MADE IN ONE YEAR!

We are very grateful for the year that Michael Wiggins was able to give us as Administrator. We asked him to give us a year in view of the many tasks that lay ahead of us in the refurbishing and ongoing further development of the seminary program. He more than "fulfilled his contract." Working part time for the school while still serving as associate pastor, astounding progress was made with his help in the ongoing of the school. Even though he will no longer be splitting his time to the same degree between NBBS and his duties at Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas, he will still teach two classes one day a week, and continue to lend his help in the school's program. **Having him around is like having a paid consultant and contractor all in one.** Thank you to his pastor, church, and family for letting him serve with us for a year at such a crucial time. I am grateful for the help of a faculty of pastors, as well as the help of Dr. Terry Riggsby, our previous longterm founding administrator. As the financial status of the school continues to strengthen, we will be able to employ a man full time for this position.

WHAT A BLESSING THE SPANISH MINISTRY HAS BEEN!
The Spanish ministry, Iglesia Bautista Victoria, housed in the Conference Center since October, was an amazing help. As per our arrangement with them for use of the facility, the lawn all across the campus was mowed and trimmed to a "t" and the floor of the center was fresh with a new shine that was the result of completely stripping the floor and laying down several layers of wax. What a job they did each night in preparing the building for the next day! They directed the nursery as well. **They have truly been partners in the work of Christ.** Thank you, Bro. Antonio Aguilar and his wife Edith, and all the members who did so much to glorify Christ in their service. They capped it all off with an offering of \$1,000.00 toward the special offering! Pray for Bro. Aguilar as he heads up this ministry.

THE FOUNDERS' WALL INITIATED

The first two of four portraits have been made that will grace our Founders' Wall in the foyer of the school building. The seminary's first President, Executive Director, Administrator, and Secretary stayed by their posts for many years. Numerous pastors rallied around the cause and provided the support that was needed, but these four, day in and day out, nurtured and directed the school. These portraits will be of Dr. & Mrs. Barber, Arvie & Pat Jernigan, Dr. Terry & Peggy Riggsby, and Patsy Cooper. Patsy's husband Gary, who went home to be with the Lord in 1993, will be included in accompanying secondary aspects of the display.

By establishing the Founders' Wall exhibit, we want to reinforce to these we are honoring the significance of the investment they made in eternity by getting the school off and running. We want to give the students examples of the difference that faithful, behind the scenes spouses can make. Being partners for life and serving the Lord together can more effectively touch thousands of lives. When one trains preachers, he is touching thousands of lives through them, because they will minister to thousands.

KEEP PRAYING

New students are being enrolled for the new school year. Other prospects are in view. Please keep praying and enlisting more of your members to do so. God is greatly blessing. The NBBS is needed now more than ever!

*Michael Wiggins,
NBBS Administrator*

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6

What a joy it was for the past year to be the administrator of the NBBS! God allowed me to see men and women grow in the Word of God. It was a privilege to work with Bro. Stewart, Charlotte Wyler, and a great faculty this past year. I believe in preparation for the week of fellowship was due to both men going the extra mile to help.

It was God's will for me to give a year to being the administrator of NBBS. I pray that God used me somehow to make a difference in the buildings and in the lives of others. Due to the amazing growth of our church, I believe through much prayer it is the will of God for me to return full-time to Heritage Baptist Church. I believe God's call upon my life, at this point, is to be the associate pastor at Heritage Baptist Church and to work alongside Pastor Eric Crawford. I will still be involved in the school as an instructor and in any other way that I can be a blessing. Thank you all for your support of me and the school. God's hand is no doubt upon our school, and greater things await in the days to come.

Appreciation gifts presented to Bro. Stewart and Bro. Wiggins from John Lund on behalf of the NBBS student body.



Dr. Terry Riggsby, NBBS Field Representative

SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The Independent Baptist Fellowship International has just completed its 32nd Spring Fellowship Meeting held at its facilities in west Fort Worth, Texas. Having had the privilege of attending all 32 meetings, it is my opinion that the most recent meeting was one of the best we have had. The fellowship was highlighted by great preaching, sweet fellowship, and generous giving!

ALUMNI PREACHERS

Four of our NBBS alumnus preached during the meeting. Pastor Glen Anderson, pastor of Pensacola Baptist Temple, Pensacola, Florida, and alumni president, gave the commencement address at the NBBS graduation services held on Tuesday evening. Missionary to Honduras, Leslie Friday, one of the first NBBS graduates, class of 1985, preached on Wednesday and challenged our hearts for Missions.

IBFI President Mark Brown, pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia, preached on Wednesday morning, and provided great leadership during the meeting. Pastor Dale Harris of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas, began the morning sessions by preaching on the theme, "NOW MORE THAN EVER!"

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks is extended to Open Door Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, for allowing me to come and present the ministry of the NBBS. The church is pastored by NBBS graduate Heath Hogue who took over the pastorate from his father, James, who is also a graduate of the NBBS! The church has a reputation for its emphasis on mission work around the world.

NBBS PRESENTATION

As a reminder, I am available to present the ministry of the NBBS to churches. If interested, please feel free to call me at 817-648-1859 to set up an appointment.



Glen Anderson, Alumni President

It has been my privilege to be involved in the IBFI since 1990. I was able to become more involved in the Fellowship in 1994 when I graduated from the NBBS. God has allowed me to serve in many of the ministries of the IBFI because I personally chose to be involved.

Being involved in the IBFI allows me to fellowship with men who are like minded in the "faith." Through that fellowship I am encouraged and strengthened. Friendships are built with fellow preachers that will last a lifetime.

If you missed the May meeting you missed a great opportunity to hear some great preaching and experience some wonderful fellowship. The spirit was great and the Lord's presence was surely with us.

On Wednesday the Alumni Luncheon was held at the Spring Creek BBQ. After the meal we had a brief meeting, where over \$13,000 was ultimately raised for furniture and equipment for the NBBS and the dorm. Praise the Lord!

There are still several items we would like to purchase. If you would like to see the list or would like to contribute toward the purchase of an item, please contact the fellowship office. If we all pull together we could complete the list very quickly.

Alumni, let me encourage you to mark your calendar and come to the IBFI National Fall Meeting, October 11-13, in Dearborn Heights, MI. 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@pbinfo.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IBF METROPLEX MEETINGS

July 21 - Thursday - McPherson Road Baptist Church

Fort Worth, Texas

Host Pastor Bill Hardin

August 18 - Thursday - Central Baptist Church

Chico, Texas

Host Pastor Fred Frerren

September 19 - Thursday - Galilean Baptist Church

Cedar Hill, Texas

Host Pastor Matt Wilkerson

IBF OF TEXAS AND THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

Monday and Tuesday, September 12 - September 13, 2016

Countryside Baptist Church

Mansfield, Texas

Host Pastor Claude Sutton

Contact Bro. Sutton for more information, 817-477-3789

A great lineup of preachers, food and fellowship



GO FORWARD Mark Brown, IBFI President



The Independent Baptist Fellowship International convened last week for the 32nd Annual Spring Fellowship meeting at the IBFI properties. What a great spirit surrounded the entire meeting, from beginning to end! We kicked off the meeting with the J. Frank Norris Memorial Fellowship, where we enjoyed a fish fry, great fellowship, a special recognition of Dr. and Mrs. Barber (65 years in the ministry), and a challenging message from the Word of God delivered by Dr. Johnny Pope, Pastor of Christchurch Baptist Fellowship in Houston, TX.

Highlights of the week included God honoring music, encouraging preaching, and a sweet spirit during each session. What a blessing to witness the commencement exercises of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary on Tuesday evening! During the graduation service, Ray Richey, longtime supporter and friend of the IBFI/NBBS, received an honorary doctorate. On Wednesday evening the fellowship honored Mrs. Charlotte Wyler, who is retiring. Mrs. Wyler has served as IBFI/NBBS secretary for 16 years. Thank you, Mrs. Wyler, for all that you have done through the years for our fellowship!

The May Fellowship offering total was \$54,300 (\$41,000 Fellowship Fund and \$13,300 toward the school). A special "thank you" is in order to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this fellowship meeting such a blessing. So many people gave of themselves to give us a great time of encouragement. Again, thank you, and we pray the Lord will abundantly bless you for your service!

Continue to pray for all of the ministries of the IBFI as we move forward. The missionaries are continuing to get the gospel around the world. The Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is continuing to train preachers. NOW MORE THAN EVER we need to work together for the cause of Christ!

CHARLOTTE WYLER'S RETIREMENT IS CELEBRATED



"A very special thank you to IBFI for making my retirement so memorable. The gifts, reception, and many kind words were so special!"

—Gary & Charlotte Wyler