

VESSELS – EMPTY, BORROWED AND ANOINTED

And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. 2 Kings 4:2



John Peeples, Director, IBFI Mission Agency

The preacher's widow in 2 Kings 4 was in dire straits. In debt and about to lose her two sons as bond slaves to pay that debt, she cried out to Elisha for help. I believe we need to note that the answer to her problem was already in her house. In fact from her own testimony, it was all she had in the house, "a pot of oil." In life's changes and surprises, sometimes we get disoriented, we go into culture shock, we panic, and we fear we are without solutions. Yet all the while, the solution is already in our possession. It only needs to grow, to be multiplied.

The oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. If you are saved, you have "a pot of oil" even though you may not realize at the moment that He is the solution to your present dilemma. Praise the Lord, the widow sought counsel of Elisha and not another, for to follow wrong counsel would certainly lead to disaster. God's message told her how to multiply what she had. With God's blessings, and the help of her sons her friends, she would see her debts paid, keep her sons free, and have surplus to live on in the future. The borrowed empty vessels were all returned to their owners, changed and better than they were received. They were all anointed with the oil that the widow already had in her house.

If you have tried to give out the Gospel and the Holy Spirit, then you know that it is like the widow's oil. The more you give it out, the more you will have to give out. In fact your pot will never run dry. That is, as long as you have an empty vessel to pour into. And where will we find these vessels? The vessels are the lives of our friends, family, acquaintances, and those we meet.

Our task is clear, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." It is God's work and His power is both necessary and near. Still the laborers are few. Where will they come from? The vessels that God used to meet the overwhelming need above were all borrowed. God multiplied the widow's oil into borrowed vessels. If you don't have the needed vessels, go and borrow them for the Master's use. We must search out those who are presently engaged in and reserved for other uses. How many people are ready for any use except to be borrowed for the Master's use? Yes, it is their own life and I have no claim on it, but from the Master's lips come the words "Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors." May God help us as we tell them, "Come for the master has need of you today." God will wait to multiply His oil until we do.

They were also empty vessels. Before a vessel can be filled it must first be empty. What is already inside must be poured out. To be cleansed, prepared, and then filled, it must first be emptied. Just as the thorns choked the plants in Luke 8:14, the cares and riches and pleasures of this life can fill our lives so that there is no room for God to multiply his oil in us. "...even empty vessels". We need for God to multiply His oil in some borrowed, empty vessels today. If the Gospel is to reach every creature, we need more than just a few. The oil stayed when there were no more empty vessels to fill. All we really lack are borrowed, empty vessels. God will do the rest when we give to them what God has already given us. "Borrow not a few!"

MISSION SEMINAR – May 30-31, 2017

Comments from our IBFI missionaries:

"It was a great blessing." – Darrain and Mari Coker, Mexico

"The mission seminar was great! I enjoyed fellowshiping with the other missionaries. I also enjoyed all of the sessions. It was truly beneficial."

– Melissa Houston, Rio Grande Valley

"The mission's seminar was a great blessing to Michelle and I. All of the speakers helped us in many ways. I think it was the best mission's seminar that we have attended in all of our years as missionaries!"

– Danny and Michelle Jones, Mexico and Rio Grande Valley

"We enjoyed the time at the seminar and visiting with other missionaries we hadn't seen in a long time and hearing about their works. Each speaker gave something we needed to help us in our ministry. We appreciate them giving their time to minister to us."

– Bill and Sharon Smith, Brazil

"... Come ye yourselves apart..." Mark 6:31



INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The Searchlight

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017 VOLUME 34 ISSUE 2

2017 FALL
FELLOWSHIP

October
10-12

Pastor
David Webb



Walker
Springs
Road
Baptist
Church

Jackson,
Alabama

IBFI Mission Agency
Helping independent Baptist churches get their missionaries to the field

With local church sent missionaries serving in

- Brazil
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- U S A

Help us expand to reach around the world!
Visit us on the web: www.ibfi.us email: missionoffice@ibfi.us

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY
A School of Specialization Since 1984

SAME BIBLE, SAME DOCTRINE, SAME OBJECTIVE as the Old BBS

DR. LOUIS ENTZMINGER,
at the far right,
gathering with
faculty and
students at the
BIBLE BAPTIST
SEMINARY of
Fort Worth,
Texas.

The Searchlight

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724 N. Jim Wright Freeway | Ft. Worth, TX 76108 | Phone: 817.367.3422 | Fax: 817.246.4884 | Email: info@IBFI.us | Website: www.IBFI.us

IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Mark Brown, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor Phillip Blackwell, Pastor Raymond Castro, Pastor Eric Crawford, Pastor Fred Ferren, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Dale Harris, Sr., Pastor Frank Hefner, Pastor David Webb and Dr. Charles Wetherbee.

SPEAKERS FOR 2017 FALL FELLOWSHIP:

Tues.	9:00 A.M.	Karl Ogdie	Trinity Baptist Church	Willis Point, TX
	10:00 A.M.	Charles Pugh	First Baptist Church of Cottondale	Paradise, TX
	11:00 A.M.	David Grice	Lighthouse Baptist Church	Grand Prairie, TX
	2:00 P.M.		<i>Board of Directors Meeting/Ladies' Meeting</i>	
	7:00 P.M.	J.D. Weido	Bible Baptist Church	El Dorado, AR
Wed.	9:00 A.M.	Andrew Tewell	Lighthouse Baptist Church	Theodore, AL
	10:00 A.M.	The President's Hour	Mark Brown Maranatha Baptist Church	Columbus, GA
	11:00 A.M.		<i>General Assembly/Special Offering/Business Session</i>	
	7:00 P.M.	Missionary Dr. Mark Haynes Navajo Nation Raymond Barber, Pastor Emeritus	Ganado Baptist Church Worth Baptist Church	Ganado, AZ Fort Worth, TX
Thurs.	9:00 A.M.	Charles Webb	Cornerstone Baptist Temple	Dayton, OH
	10:00 A.M.	Frank Hefner	Mountain Home Baptist Church	Jacksboro, TX
	11:00 A.M.	Michael Wiggins	Heritage Baptist Church	Haslet, TX

OFFERING GOAL: \$30,000

THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD WANTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

The Word of God clearly outlines the church that is as effective in the twenty-first century as it was in the first century. (Read Acts 2:41-47) When we analyze the church of the first century, we must conclude some things about the church in today's world. In many ways, they seem worlds apart. The church today is a pale copy of the New Testament church of yesterday. Today's church is a poor imitation and a puny likeness.

- The philosophy of the church of the first century was **Christ-centered**; the philosophy of the church of the twenty-first century is **self-centered**.
- The philosophy of the church of the first century was **Spirit-oriented**; the philosophy of the church of the twenty-first century is **sin-oriented**.
- The philosophy of the church of the first century was **Biblically-based**; the philosophy of the church of the twenty-first century is **worldly-based**.

- In the first century church, they talked about **sacrificing** their lives; we talk about **saving** ours.
- In the first century church, they talked about **giving**; we talk about **keeping**.
- In the first century, they talked about **going**; we talk about **staying**.
- In the first century church, they talked about **dying**; we talk about **living**.
- In the first century church, they talked about **crosses**; we talk about **cushions**.

If the church of the twenty-first century is to be the kind of church that God wants it to be, three things are necessary:

I. THE CHURCH MUST FUNCTION ACCORDING TO WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE HAVE BECOME.

- A. We are Christians (Acts 11:26), and as Christians we have become the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).
- B. We are Christians (Acts 11:26), and as Christians we have become the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).
- C. We are Christians (Acts 11:26), and as Christians we have become witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:8).

II. THE CHURCH MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO THE PRESCRIPTION FOUND IN GOD'S WORD.

- A. The membership must be united (Acts 2:1).
- B. The membership must be steadfast and unwavering (Acts 2:42).
- C. The membership must uplift Christ (Acts 2:22-24).

III. THE CHURCH MUST LIVE IN READINESS FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST.

- A. The angels said He was coming (Acts 1:9-11).
- B. Jesus Himself said He would return for His own (John 14:1-3).
- C. Paul said He would come to raise the righteous dead, transform the righteous living, and rapture both (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO BE WHAT WE HAVE BECOME?

BUSY TIMES!

Mark Brown, IBFI President

The summer months are flying by as churches are busy with Vacation Bible School, camps, revivals, and many other ministries which occur every year at this time. The ministries of the IBFI are busy as well. Our missionaries are occupied with like summer ministries and activities as our churches, and the NBBS staff is diligently working, to prepare for the fast approaching school year.

In the fourth chapter of Zechariah, God's message to Zerubbabel was that His work will not be accomplished by human strength, but by His Spirit. The theme of the IBFI/NBBS for the new school year is **"By His Spirit,"** taken from *Zechariah 4:6*

"...This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

As we look back and see all that has been accomplished in recent days in and through our fellowship, we can't help but acknowledge that, though the Lord uses us in His service, nothing can be done without Him! It is **"by His Spirit"** that missionaries can take the gospel *"to the uttermost!"* It is **"by His Spirit"** that the NBBS continues in the work of teaching and training preachers! It is **"by His Spirit"** that we have experienced a sweet spirit in our fellowship, and it is **"by His Spirit"** that God has provided our needs each step of the way!

We look forward to the new school year as the doors of the NBBS will open again to welcome the students, beginning with the opening day rally on August 15. We look forward also, to the upcoming Fall Fellowship Meeting (October 10-12), hosted by the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama. Pastor David Webb and his people are always gracious hosts, and we eagerly await our time with them.

Let's continue to do our part. We will serve, give, and pray for the ministries of the IBFI, and see what God does in our midst this year. **"Not by might, nor by power but... BY HIS SPIRIT!"**



BY HIS SPIRIT!

*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

WE ARE GRATEFUL

Our 34th school year is under way, and we have set our sails afresh to catch the favorable

winds of God's grace! As a school, we want His ministry in our midst as much as ever and are, therefore, heeding the words of God to Zechariah, **"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."** *Zechariah 4:6*

We often emphasize to the students and faculty that we want the **Spirit of God to be the ultimate Director of the school and the Instructor in the classrooms,** even enabling the students to learn beyond what they can do on their own. Accordingly, one of the students suggested this year's theme, **"By His Spirit."** Above all, this is a spiritual endeavor. We need Him who is **"Grace Personified"** fulfilling the words of Paul in I Corinthians 2:9-14 at NBBS and in our churches.

In Old Testament days, David was told to wait for the "the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees" in II Samuel 5:24 (I Chronicles 14:15) before going again to battle. The sound not only meant to signal God's presence, but also His readiness to lead David's army in battle—a rustling, as commentators state, divinely caused by wind if not also angels.

Later, Christ compared the work of the Spirit in the regeneration of a soul to that of the wind (John 3:8). On the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, the sound of wind signaled the Spirit sent down by the ascended Christ—first as an outward baptism for endorsement from on high and the inward filling that followed for enablement in ministering the Word (Acts 2:37; I Peter 1:10-12).

In Scripture, the breath of the incorporeal God is often in reference to the Holy Spirit. May the breath of God indeed be upon us and in us today in the way spoken about in days gone by.

There is no better way to experience His ministry in our midst than to lift up Christ in song, sermon, and lesson. Nothing directs the "wind of His grace" our way from "chambers on high" more than the magnification and particularization of the person, life, and work of Christ. Hence, we seek to excel in this area at the school.

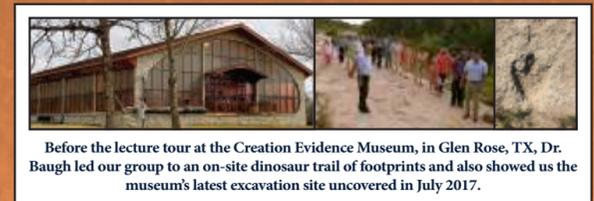
MID JULY FIELD TRIP

The Spirit of God who moved upon the face of the waters the first day of creation (Genesis 1:2), moved upon men to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:21). J. Frank Norris, the namesake of our school, took the Genesis account of creation literally, as we readily do. He strongly stood against the theories of evolution throughout his ministry, not only in sermon, but in print, and by object lessons. He was known to have brought cages housing monkeys to the platform of the First Baptist Church, and with tongue in cheek, introducing to the audience their "forefathers," or at least those of some of the science teachers and professors of that day, as he put it. In so doing, he captured the essence of the issue and the attention of the people.

Not only do we have a course entitled Creation Science at NBBS, but the Genesis account of creation is heavily emphasized and elaborated upon in Pentateuch I, as well as being addressed strongly in the two courses Biblical Structure and Apologetics/Ethics.

In addition to the nationwide influence of the Answers in Genesis ministry in northeastern Kentucky and the Institute for Creation Research in Dallas and the *Henry M. Morris Study Bible* and through various publications and videos, NBBS has access to the Creation Evidence Museum nearly in its own backyard in Glen Rose, Texas. Accordingly, on July 14, many of the students and some faculty members were able to participate in a private session with Dr. Carl Baugh. First, we made our way to the Paluxy River and viewed dinosaur tracks and a recent excavation site. We then relocated to Creation Evidence

Museum. We enjoyed over two hours of private instruction with Dr. Baugh. Even though many of our students were tied up with VBS programs, youth camps, mission trips, and jobs, we had some 36 total attendees. We look forward to Dr. Baugh being with us for the Week of Concentrated Study, Oct. 24-27.



Before the lecture tour at the Creation Evidence Museum, in Glen Rose, TX, Dr. Baugh led our group to an on-site dinosaur trail of footprints and also showed us the museum's latest excavation site uncovered in July 2017.

SEVERAL NEW STUDENTS

We are excited about our new students, returning students, and those who are eligible to graduate in May. We anticipate additional new students coming for the spring semester in January.

NEW CARPET IS IN PLACE!

By the time you read this article, the new carpet will have been installed on the school side! (You may have already gotten pictures showcasing it. If not pictures will be forthcoming.) A special thank you to those who have invested and prayed.

WE ARE TRAVELING MORE

Since June 1, we have been in a **couple of dozen churches either conducting Bible conferences, preaching in a service, presenting the ministry of the seminary, or at the least, expressing our appreciation** for financial and prayerful support to pastors and congregations. After nearly 21 years, I am no longer the Associate Pastor at Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, with pastor Dr. Charles Wetherbee. However, I am now in the role of a staff evangelist sent out of Victory Baptist Church. I am a "churchman" by conviction, and I am ministering under the authority of a church, which is consistent with our school's approach of preachers-training-preachers.

CLOSING WORDS OF GRATITUDE

If you are not supporting NBBS on a monthly basis financially, please do something of even greater significance, pray for us! Above all, the training of preachers is a spiritual endeavor.

"Ye also helping together by prayer for us" II Corinthians 1:11a



STILL CALLING...

*Terry Riggsby,
NBBS Field Representative*

A special thanks to the following Pastors/Churches for allowing me to present the NBBS ministry:

Pastor Bob Degg, the new pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Mineral Wells, Texas. Bro. Degg has recently taken over as a bi-vocational pastor following the passing of former NBBS graduate, Rbie Threatt.

Northside Baptist Church, Burnett, Texas, pastor Jimmy Frazier. Bro. Frazier has just finished his ninth year there and is doing a good job ministering to his people and reaching the city with the Gospel.

Pilgrim Rest #2 Baptist Church, Golden, Texas, pastor Craig Kearby. Bro. Kearby is also a former NBBS student and doing a great job in reaching the area for Christ.

I am looking forward to the beginning of the fall semester as the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary will begin its 34th year of operation. I am also looking forward to meeting all the new students and am convinced that the Lord is still calling men and women to serve Him!

IT THRILLS MY HEART!



Glen Anderson, Alumni President

Wow! What an exciting May fellowship meeting! It was a blessing and an encouragement to see so many of our alumni attend the meeting. It was great to see some that I had not seen in awhile and catch up on what the Lord is doing in their ministries. It thrills my heart, and I know that it must also thrill the hearts of those who have invested their lives in the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary alumni.

It is wonderful to see our alumni taking an active part in serving in the IBFI as officers and board members. It is encouraging to see them involved in the various special projects and sending funds to help improve NBBS and dorm facilities. I personally stand in awe at what God is doing through our alumni. These things cause me to think of the words of the Apostle Paul found in I Corinthians 3:9, **"For we are labourers together with God."** It is truly wonderful to labor together in unity for our Great God.

I am eagerly looking forward to our October meeting, which will be hosted by alumnus Bro. David Webb and the good people of Walker Springs Road Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama. Our theme for this year and the meeting is **"By His Spirit"** (Zechariah 4:6). Bro. Webb and his people have done an outstanding job of hosting our meetings in the past, and I am sure they will do so once again. I hope that our alumni will once again make a special effort to attend the October fellowship meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone and enjoying some great fellowship!

UPCOMING EVENTS

IBF METROPLEX MEETINGS

September 21 - Thursday - Victory Baptist Church
Weatherford, Texas
Host Pastor Charles Wetherbee

November 16 - Thursday - First Baptist Church of Cottdale
Paradise, Texas
Host Pastor Charles Pugh

December 21 - Thursday - Worth Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas
Host Pastor Tyler Gillit

IBF OF TEXAS AND THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

Monday and Tuesday, September 11 - September 12, 2017
Berean Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

Host Pastor Jason Pugh
Contact Bro. Pugh for more information, 940-393-9196
or Bro. David Grice, 214-315-5422

A great lineup of preachers, food and fellowship

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND

IBFI Fall Fellowship Meeting
Tuesday - Thursday, October 10 - 12, 2017
Walker Springs Road Baptist Church
Jackson, Alabama
Host Pastor David Webb

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY OPENING DAY RALLY

August 15, 2017
Student Orientation begins at 8:00 AM
Rally begins at 11:00 AM with Dr. Barber,
the NBBS Chancellor, speaking
A luncheon will follow

Full details can be found at the
NBBS website www.norrisseminary.org

HOTEL INFORMATION

for Fall Fellowship Meeting

Hampton Inn
4150 N. College Ave.
Jackson, Alabama 36545
251-246-7300

A block of rooms have been reserved for the IBFI at a room rate of \$99 per night which includes a full breakfast each morning and fresh cookies after 5 PM. Mention code NIB or that you are with the IBFI to get this special rate.

Full details will be at the IBFI website www.ibfi.us

