

God has blessed the deputation of Tyler Yates, IBFI Missionary to Yucatan. He has been well received by churches and pastors. His support has steadily increased. Please pray for Bro. Yates, and prayerfully consider having a part in his ministry through financial and prayer support.

John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director, Psalm 16:11

## **TYLER YATES** MISSIONARY TO THE YUCATAN PENNINSULA

Dear Pastor and Church,

These last few months have been great, since I had the privilege of meeting many new people. During the beginning of January, I arrived from my trip to Mexico. It was a very exciting. I know that in this last trip, God really began to knit my heart with Mexico. I did not want to leave, but I must do what I need to in order to get there. During this time of deputation, I have learned a lot. I have seen God open doors in ways I never thought possible.



During January, I visited with a church that I had already been to and have fellowship with some great folks. I also was able to be at a new church and meet new friends in the faith. In one of the missions' conferences, the church donated a sound system that I will use in

bebruary was a busy month. I was in a couple missions conferences and also had the privilege of meeting new pastors and friends. One Pastor in particular had been a missionary for many years. He had already retired, but one of the church plants was in desperate need of a pastor; so, he went back to help. Him and his wife were a huge blessing to me. They knew what it was like starting churches.

March was also a busy month. I had two missions' conferences, both in which the other missionaries were friends of mine. I also went to Pensacola, Florida to be with a few churches there. I got to swing by PCC and visit one of my friends who is a member of my church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Some churches ask me how I am doing on support. As of June, I am about 75% of the way to full support needed. My desire is to be in Mexico officially by April or May of 2024. I have now started to raise money to buy a truck in Mexico. I am looking to get something that blends in with the rest of the crowd, and something that won't break down on me while I drive around. Going from village to village can prove quite difficult on a little car due to the horrible roads, that is why I think it would be best to buy a small



With the decision of building a new building for the IBFI, my mission agency has changed it's address to a P.O. Box. Anything that is sent must now be sent to the new address: IBFI Mission Agency, PO Box 151259, Fort Worth, TX 76108.

I would like to briefly tell you of a man we met. This man was not able to walk or move his arms due to some kind of nerve damage. They tried many times to get a wheelchair through the Mexican government, but never received anything; so, we took him a wheelchair and a New Testament.

He was so overwhelmed with joy that he began crying like a child. Wait till he learns of the gift God has for him. I pray I can go back and spend some more time witnessing to him.

I got to meet a young man in Chunhuhub. Pastor Rovira has been working on visiting him at his house. This young man, Alex, is about 16 years old. In the beginning of the year, he was driving a motorcycle while intoxicated and wrecked. His life was immediately changed. Part of his brain has died, and he is wheelchair bound. The left side of his body does not function properly. We are not sure how much he will be able to advance, but he can respond and understand a lot. He has trouble remembering things. While we were there, we presented the Gospel. Alex responded to us that he had put his trust in Christ. Please pray as we continue working with the family.

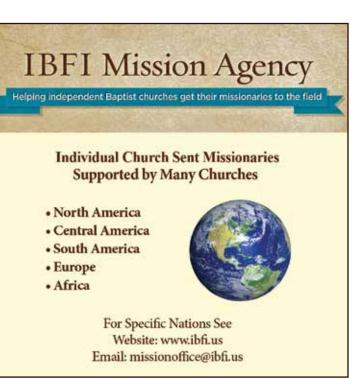


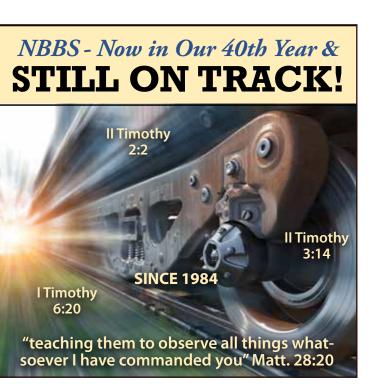
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724 N. Jim Wright Freeway | Ft. Worth, TX 76108 | Phone: 817.367.3422 | Email: info@IBFI.us | Website: www.IBFI.us IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, Evangelist Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Raymond Castro, Pastor Chad Fitts, Pastor Matthew Gage, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor David Pugh, Pastor Kenneth Ralph, Pastor Paul Shearin, Pastor Claude Sutton, and Pastor Heath Van Zandt

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL



# 39th IBFI Annual Fall Fellowship Meeting Tuesday Morning-Thursday NOON • Oct. 10-12, 2023

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." I John 1:3

## IBFI & NBBS are Still on Track Training and Promoting Preachers & Their Wives!

| TUESDAY<br>9 AM - NOON<br>6:30 PM          | Pastor Barry<br>Bedwell<br>Faith Baptist Church<br>Canton, Michigan | Bro. Daniel Barker  Senior at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary                 | Dr. David<br>Gibbs, Jr.<br>Christian Law<br>Association                 | Evang. Jonathan J. Stewart  NBBS President Victory BC, W'ford, TX      |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <u>WEDNESDAY</u><br>9 AM - NOON<br>6:30 PM | Pastor David Grice Lighthouse Baptist Ch. Grand Prairie, TX         | PRESIDENT'S HOUR  Pastor Eric Crawford  Heritage Baptist Church, Haslet, TX | GENERAL ASSEMBLY<br>NBBS Update<br>Special Offering<br>Business Session | Jared Blair Missionary - Norway  Dr. Raymond W. Barber  IBFI President |
| <u>THURSDAY</u><br>9 AM - NOON             | Pastor Charles Pugh First Baptist Church of Cottondale, TX          | Pastor Raymond Castro  Hickory Creek Baptist Church, Denton, TX             | Pastor Mark Brown  Maranatha Baptist Church, Columbus, GA               | \$40,000<br>OFFERING<br>GOAL   |



Special Note! Revival Services **Start at Cornerstone Baptist** Temple, Dayton, OH - Sunday 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM and Continues Monday Night at 6:30 on into the 3-Day IBFI **Meeting Tuesday Morning** through Thursday NOO!



## YOU'RE INVITED! Bro. Jerry Siler



We're extending a warm invitation to come to Dayton, Ohio October 10-12, 2023. We will have the welcome mat out, and food on the

table! Please bring your families, church staff, church members, and even your mother-in-law! Let's work together to keep the IBFI/NBBS Gospel train running strong. Remember, the Gospel is only good news if it arrives on time. Looking forward to seeing you in October!

## **HOTELS:**

Tru Hotel by Hilton 3813 Colonel Glenn Highway 2777 Fairfield Commons Fairborn, OH 45324

Courtyard by Marriott Beavercreek, OH 45431







## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW

TO ATTEND IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday - Thursday, October 10-12, 2023 Cornerstone Baptist Temple Dayton, Ohio Host Pastor – Jerry Siler

> METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS

November 16, 2023 Central Baptist Church Chico, TX Host Pastor: Fred Ferren

December 14, 2023 Worth Baptist Church Fort Worth, TX Host Pastor: Tyler Gillit

**OPENING DAY RALLY** FOR NORRIS BIBLE **BAPTIST SEMINARY** 

January 16, 2024 **Student Orientation** begins at 8:00am.

The Opening Day Rally will begin at 9:30am. A lunch will be provided afterwards.

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT | NEWS & EVENTS | SCHOOL, MISSIONS & ALUMNI NEWS

## THE FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Article One in a Series)



Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

Luke, the physician, opens his gospel account with these words Verses 1: "FORASMUCH as many have taken

in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, ...

Verse 4: "That thou mightiest know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been instructed."

is to separate them from their heritage."

Our heritage as Fundamental Baptists is firmly fixed on the Word of God, and we must never permit man or demon to separate it from the Holy Scriptures. We are living in a world of

religious "Hodge podge" where anything goes. Many Christian leaders and their followers embrace a theological duke's mixture.

In spiritual terms, these are days of uncertainty, uneasiness, and unbelief. Apathy, apostasy, hypocrisy, and heresy are running rampant in the ecclesiastical world. I trust that we fundamentalists would allow the Holy Spirit to inoculate us with the serum of biblical truth to make us immune to the infectious

Ephesians 6:10-18: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to in the fall of 1992 to start school, he immediately made an *quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.* 

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, in many lives of men and women, training them to enter the which is the word of God:

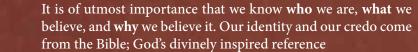
"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for

Satan is on his final rampant to blind people to the truth (II Corinthians 4:3,4). He is the master deceiver, and his final end is not? Any pastor that has built a building in the last few years, laid out clearly in Revelation 20:10:

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and I have already been asked several times, "When will it be done brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be and when will we be able to use our new campus?" My answer tormented day and night for ever and ever."

The devil operates his pernicious plots by transforming himself into "an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14,15).

#### BACK TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED!



library composed of sixty-six books. Someone observed that it is not sixty-six stories, but **one** story told from **sixty-six** points

We Independent Baptists are a people of the Book. In fact, we are married to the Bible, and we are the lock in the wedlock that the devil cannot unlock as long as we are anchored to the solid Rock. If the Bible could be taken away from us, we would drown in an ocean of chaos, confusion, and consternation.

The Bible is our only rule of faith and practice. It contains our Bill of Rights, and our Bill of Wrongs. We accept it as our Constitution, our Charter, and our Compass. We live Karl Marx said: "The first thing necessary to control the people according to its precepts, and we must be willing to die for its

(Continued in next issue)

### ALL IN THE LORD'S TIMING



new campus possible.

Eric Crawford, IBFI President

Opening day of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary was a true blessing with a great crowd in attendance. The music was sweet and the preaching fantastic. There was a light lunch served, as we enjoyed good fellowship with students, missionaries,

After lunch, we drove a few minutes to the new property and had a groundbreaking service. Dr. Barber and a few others spoke, and prayers were lifted up to the Lord. It was a great historical event! Several times in the morning services, and at the groundbreaking, we were reminded of the sacrifice of many pastors and their churches, who sacrificed the last 40 years to invest their time, prayer, and finances to make the building of a

Bro. Riggsby was one of those men. When I came to Norris impression on me that will never be forgotten. He invested ministry. His impression will be felt for many years to come.

The selling of our campus is completed and the purchase of the new property is done. The civil engineer has been hired and he has begun the process of putting the necessary things together so we can move dirt and hopefully and prayerfully start the project in three months. That seems like a long time does it understands that we have to be patient in this building process. is, "All in the Lord's timing." He is never late and never early -He is always on time. Amen!

# Ionathan I. Stewart,



In 1984, Worth Baptist Church of Ft. Worth, Texas, began housing the newly established NBBS, and did so until the school moved into its new facility in 1993. Now, we are back at

Worth Baptist Church for our 40th year of schooling, while our new facility is being built "just down the road" from the previous longstanding Northwest Loop 820 location. The church has opened its beautiful accommodations to us, and we are off to another great start. By this time next year though, we will be close to moving into a new 25,000 square foot facility designed just for housing the seminary, and the IBFI mission agency and offices. This is possible because of the financial value of the 12 acre site on which we have been located for many years. It was more cost effective in the present and the future, to build the This 40-year period of time, also included faithful church

needed larger facility, than to repair and remodel the two existing 10,000 square foot buildings that have housed NBBS, and IBFI ministries, for nearly 30 years.

All of this has been possible through the steady involvement of so many faithful persons and churches through the years, and because of some amazing financial gifts from various persons. Ray Richey gave

the primary building we have housed NBBS in since early establishing a new church in the 1990s, to the IBFI after we had paid on it to him for some two mid 1980s, I attended some of the years. Then in 2014, the day after Christmas, Ray wrote an Weeks of Concentrated Study that \$840,000.00 check to the IBFI to liquidate our indebtedness the seminary would conduct each on the Conference Center that was built some 20 years ago on semester. One of them was on church additional land that was secured. The grace of God has brought planting. In view of my wife being on it all about, and it has been undergirded by the prayers of faculty at NBBS from its start, Dr. Riggsby and I interacted in

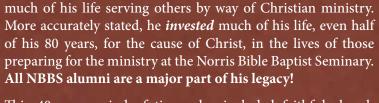
Now in our 40th year, we are still on track with specializing in the training of preachers, their wives, and ladies who desire to Previous to and after coming on board as a faculty member 32 be further prepared for church-based ministry. Our future is years ago, I became the recipient of his thoughtfulness many still as bright as the promises of God!



## DR. TERRY RIGGSBY'S NBBS LEGACY NBBS ADMINISTRATOR:

1984-1999 FACULTY MEMBER 1984-2022

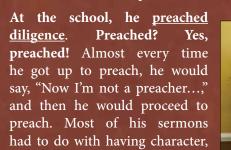
BRO. JONATHAN STEWART There is yet another man to whom we shall always be indebted, our colleague, Dr. Terry Riggsby. A man who did more than spend



ministry in various capacities at Worth Baptist Church. He was therefore not just teaching Christian service, he was practicing what he taught. Furthermore, it can be said that he invested 2/3rds of his adult life in the ministry when one considers what he did for the cause of Christ in churches and schools in Ohio, and Michigan, before coming to Ft. Worth in 1984 to be the first administrator of the Norris Bible Baptist Institute (later seminary).

Personally speaking, he was a friend to my wife and I right from the start. Early in the process of

this past fall semester.



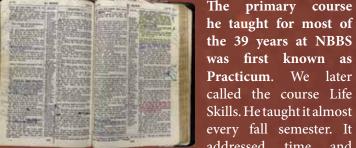
times. He often gave me articles, books, keepsakes, and various other items he thought would be an encouragement to me and helpful to the ministry. Of course, he did like things for many NBBS students and faculty members through the years.

general fairly often from those early days on - right up through

He was known to do many things beyond teach, and direct the school as its administrator for its first 15 years. He gave money out of his own pocket to students in need, bought groceries, paid for tires, gasoline, or car repairs, paid for textbooks, and paid toward many students' tuition. Many of these students never knew from whom the funds came. More recently, as we were revitalize the school in most every way, he raised money in his Sunday School class to help with very needed remodeling projects we had at the school. *He was a giver!* 

"diligence." He practiced diligence. I remember I could come during the fall semester of 2022. in very early in the morning if need be, on the day that I was teaching, to make copies, and to prepare in general for my seven o'clock class. I knew I could come as early as 6:00 AM, if not before, because he would already be at the school.

pointed, practical sayings that promoted punctuality, phrase we affectionately coined in order to call attention to his **big part in that too!** proverbial expressions of advice.



money management, character-related issues (punctuality, the work ethic, honesty, etiquette), as well as the school's heritage via J. Frank Norris and Louis Entzminger. Bro. Riggby's Bible to the left.

He taught other courses as needed. For example, he helped to do so! His life was a "teachable moment" in view of eternity, out in the early days of the school getting back to being just a seminary, by teaching at least once, the courses Church Polity and Administration, Homiletics, Prayer, and some of the books of the Bible in the Prophetical Books II course.

Christ-likeness, being ethical, and practical aspects of the Christian



life and ministry. In various ways he was saying to the students "Don't just talk it, walk it!" To us, at Norris, he was the Book of James, on two legs.

Of course, Bro. Riggsby could preach on various other topics from the Scriptures, and did so in various settings. For example, in 1992, before Dr. Charles Wetherbee accepted the call as pastor of the church, he filled the pulpit at Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, for several weeks when they were and every student, Bro Riggsby was one of a kind. The quotes

okay to go by and see him and Peggy at their house, we started blank)?" To which I responded, "He really did." Bro. Riggsby arranging for small groups to go see him. We started with his will certainly be missed around the halls and in the classroom,

If I could sum him up in one word though, it would be most recent Life Skills students – those who had taken his class

Outside of his family, and Worth Baptist Church, NBBS alumni and current students were top on his list, as he was on theirs. They were a constant reminder that, all the time, energy, and money, he put into the school was not in vain. The best He promoted diligence. He was a man of axioms – pithy, expression of gratitude they could give him in this life, and in the life to come, is to continue to bear fruit for the Lord. Their persistence, thoroughness, industrious, commitment, fruit will also be fruit to his account with the Lord. He saw that attentiveness, and so forth! *These are synonyms for diligence one* **the school was a gift from God to him**. He knew he was given would find in a thesaurus. If one looked up diligence in the an impactful ministry that few others get to have. The school's "right" dictionary, the definition might read "Riggsbyism." A resurgence these past few years thrilled his heart. He played a

> I wonder how many alumni he has encountered in Heaven, after The primary course greeting family and relatives, who had gone on before. He may he taught for most of have already sung the school's theme song, "I'm Glad Salvation the 39 years at NBBS is Free" with Dr. Norris, Dr. Entzminger, Bro. Jernigan, and was first known as even Patsy Cooper.

> > We are committed to keeping Dr. Riggsby's legacy and teachings alive at NBBS until the Lord returns. Many of his notes will be used in the course by those who will now teach it. His special study from the Book of Nehemiah also will be kept

> > What Bro. Riggsby taught will always be in the hearts of NBBS alumni - past, present, and future! Through them, he has touched thousands of lives around the world! He will continue and it will always matter with us, with Worth Baptist Church, and with his family - down here, and forever!

So much of the above that addresses Bro. Riggsby's service, includes Peggy his wife, who also played a very great role in it all. We are much indebted to her also. Together, they both made a difference in the lives of people, for the glory of God, in a way very few have the opportunity to do. We express our great appreciation to Peggy, and the Riggsby family, for sharing Bro. Riggsby with us these many years!

Last year, the student body celebrated his 80th birthday with him at the school. Ultimately, we will all, forever celebrate (alumni, faculty, and all those within the sphere of the IBFI and the Lord) with him in heaven for what we were able to accomplish for the cause of Christ together here on earth.

#### DR. HEATH HOGUE

One of the classes that Bro. Grice will be teaching is Life Skills. How can you mention Life Skills without mentioning Dr. Riggsby? Bro. Riggsby from the very beginning, has and will continue to have a major impact on the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. From his humor, his life lessons, to his love for each from taking his class in 1992, still echo in my ears 31 years later. While teaching a class at the seminary, I was asked by some These past few weeks, when students found out it would be students, "Back in the day, did Bro. Riggsby really...(fill in the

but the legacy he leaves, and the Life Skills he planted in the students, and now many faculty, will continue to produce fruit for many years to come.

#### **BRO. JOHN PEEPLES** I first met Terry Riggsby in 1984 during the early days of

the Norris Bible Baptist Institute. I was a 26 year old Bible School transfer student looking for something missing at my previous school, and Bro. Riggsby was experiencing his first days in Texas. I found what I was looking for that first semester of the NBBI, and Terry Riggsby was a large part of it all. He was a motivator of young preachers. Many times, I heard him say, "Now I'm not a preacher" then he would start preaching. We smiled as he mispronounced some common Texan words like "nacho," "Waco," and "Waxahachie". We knew that he cared for us, as he gave us what we needed to become successful ministers of the New Testament. I translated his first semester "Practicum" class notes into Portuguese and taught them in seminary classes in Brazil. Years later, one of our students told me how that class changed his life. He used those valuable life principles every day at work, where he successfully administrated the office for the county judge. Terry Riggsby will be greatly missed by all of those fortunate enough to sit under his influence.

#### DR. RAYMOND BARBER

Dr. Terry Riggsby made an immeasurable contribution to the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary during his many years of service to the school.

No one contributed to NBBS academically and spiritually more than our beloved brother and companion in the faith. God rest his tireless soul.



## **ALUMNUS** Heath Hogue,

Alumni President

We use the word exciting quite a bit with all that is going on at the Norris Bible

Looking over the 200 plus names on the alumni list, I see names of folks I know, of folks I do not know, names of those that have passed on to heaven, and of those that are just getting started in the ministry. What I really see is the hand of God at work all over the world through men and women who have passed through the doors of NBBS. Exciting is the word. It is exciting to know that for the past 40 years, God has used the seminary as a gateway of training men and women for the ministry

Baptist Seminary. We use that word, because it is EXCITING!

It is exciting to see new churches being planted by alumni in much needed areas:

- Alumnus Lee Davis working and starting a church in
- Alumnus Heath Van Zandt and the work in Rhome,



opportunity being opened to the church in the community Alumnus Scott Griffin and his tremendous work in

A great ministry and work

*First Sunday in the New Building* are being done there.

If you are a pastor, and are not currently supporting these works, let me encourage you to consider taking them on for support, as it will be a blessing to them, as well as your church being involved in church planting.

While there certainly is excitement over all the new church planting taking place, as an old guy, I am also excited to see faithful alumni who have stayed by the stuff over the years. Two men that come to mind, recently celebrated milestone anniversaries at the churches they pastor.

First is Bro. Jeremy Ogdie (1999), who pastors Trinity Baptist Church in Wills Point, Texas. The congregation just celebrated 40 years in Wills Point. The church was founded by Dr Karl Ogdie, and he pastored for 17 years, Bro. Jeremy has pastored the last 23 years. Trinity Baptist has not wavered or moved from God's Word over its 40 years of existence. They still believe in soul winning, they still run buses, and they still preach God's Word. TBC currently supports over 90 missionaries as they fulfill the Great Commission.

The second to celebrate a milestone anniversary, is Bro. David Grice (2002). Bro. Grice is the founding and current pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, and in June, celebrated 20 years. Lighthouse Baptist is a beacon to the local community, as well as around the world. Their church supports 90 missionaries, as well, as having three missionary families sent out from their church to Guatemala, Chile, and Spain. Bro. Grice is a faithful supporter of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. He and his wife Angela teach many classes throughout the school year. Bro. Grice is also the vice president of the IBFI and the president of the IBF of Texas and Great Southwest. Bro. and Mrs. Grice annually host the Revival at Seas (Revival Cruise), and in January it will be the 15th year

As I look at the names on the alumni list, I am reminded of John 17. As Christ looked forward and prayed for us, He said "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Many names of men and women, called of God into the ministry, are all over the world, and I can simply say we are excited to see what happens next!

Alumni, it is an exciting time. I may not know all of you but I would like to get to know more of you. If you are currently in the ministry, send me an email at norrisalumni@gmail. com and let me know what you are doing, and where God is