



John Peeples,  
IBFI Mission Director  
Psalm 16:11

Have you considered the impact of the ministry of a life dedicated to church planting? Missionaries are the first to tell you that by supporting their ministries with your prayers and financial support, you share in their labors. Only time will tell of the fruit that God reaps from these churches that are planted around the world. God has richly blessed the long ministry of Bill and Sharon Smith. God is still calling men and women to follow in their steps to take the Gospel to the nations. Have you heard the call?

## THE SMITHS – MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL

Dear Friends,

Bill celebrated his 73rd Birthday. We had a breakfast at church that morning. They included a cake and decorated for his birthday along with the breakfast. The Alvorada church is in the final process of getting the title to the church property. It has taken almost a year after starting the process. We have two church parsonages which need to be legalized but they tell us it won't take as long.

Pastor Francisco Eloia now pastors the church in Caracarai. The church asked him to take the leadership and then at the elections in December voted him in as pastor. The pastor's wife Geclita grew up in the church when we started there. They both graduated from the Bible Institute in Caracarai and have been serving there. Geclita remembers the activities and things we did with the children and teens during her youth, and she is using some of those ideas once again at the church. Both are teachers in the public school. Pray for the church and that they can increase in attendance after Covid and death of several members.

When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes; when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

Thank you so much for your prayers during 2021 and now for the prayers and faithful giving during this new year of 2022. The Lord is blessing and without you we wouldn't be able to continue our work here in Brazil.

Sharon celebrated her 71st Birthday on April 1st. She received a lot of phone calls, emails and had several visitors during the day. Bill gave her a chocolate cake and picked some fresh flowers from the yard and made a very nice bouquet for her. Pastor Rogerio and Zipora brought a cake that afternoon. We ate and played a game. That evening Pastor Paulo and family gave her an Air Fryer and brought French fries to cook and show her how to do the Fryer.

## GETHSEMANE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ANNIVERSARY – 15 YEARS

We had 62 people for the Saturday evening service. The children presented a song and Pastor Rogerio, Zipora, Bill, and Sharon sang a special. Bill preached on the theme "The Message of the Cross." He said at the end of his message that we have been married 51 years and 50 years as missionaries in Brazil. We have taught and preached the Message of the Cross all these years and have seen the change in people's lives when they accept Christ and follow Him.

Sunday morning, we had breakfast at the church and then Pastor Francisco preached. (He had helped us at the Bible Baptist Church in another neighborhood and helped in all the church constructions. He lives in Manaus, Amazonas.) Sunday night some of the church people read verses presenting the message that Christ died for you and for me. Pastor Sebastião, member of the church in Caracarai, preached and we had a good attendance. From the 5 churches that we started over these years someone was present from each of these churches. Praise God!



March – "Fishers of Men" campaign – Bible Baptist Church Caracarai – Over 30 visitors came. They all enjoyed receiving and putting the "fish" in the net to represent their presence in the church service.

April 16 – Wedding in Caracarai – We traveled 2 hours by car Caracarai to attend the wedding of a young lady that we have known since she was a little girl. She grew up in the church and still helps teach a Sunday School class. She is studying to be a nurse and loves working with children. Both her and her husband are musical and play instruments for the church services.

June 13, 2022 to November 9, 2022 we will be in the States for a short furlough. We will be attending the Mission Conference at Worth Baptist Church, September 7-11. We are looking forward to being with our sending church. They invited us last year, but we were not able to make the trip. We plan to be at the IBFI Fall Fellowship meeting in October in Canton, Michigan. We are looking forward to seeing Pastors, Missionaries and Friends at this meeting. Please pray for the churches and Pastors here in Brazil. God bless each of you as you serve the Lord in your area.



Your missionaries in Northern Brazil,  
Bill and Sharon  
Bill and Sharon Smith

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you" II Thess. 3:1

## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

# The Searchlight

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022 VOLUME 39 ISSUE 2

## IBFI Semi-Annual Fall Meeting Tuesday Morning-Thursday Noon • October 11-13, 2022 Faith Baptist Church, Canton, MI • Barry Bedwell, Pastor

<b>TUESDAY</b> 9AM-Noon • 7PM	<b>Bro. David Grice</b> Lighthouse Baptist Church Grand Prairie, TX	<b>Bro. John Lund</b> Faith Baptist Church Canton, MI	<b>Bro. Jacob Luman</b> Faith Baptist Church Decatur, TX	<b>Dr. Jonathan J. Stewart</b> Norris Bible Baptist Seminary - President Fort Worth, TX
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9AM-Noon • 7PM	<b>Bro. Kenneth Ralph</b> Pensacola Baptist Temple Pensacola, FL	<b>President's Hour</b> <b>Bro. Eric Crawford</b> Heritage Baptist Church Haslet, TX	<b>General Assembly</b> • NBBS Update • Special Offering • Business Session	<b>Bro. Bill Smith</b> IBFI Missionary to Brazil <b>Dr. Raymond W. Barber</b> IBFI President Emeritus
<b>THURSDAY</b> 9AM-Noon	<b>Bro. Paul Gayman</b> Faith Baptist Church Brown City, MI	<b>Bro. P. J. Hackathorn</b> Salem Baptist Church Cincinnati, OH	<b>Dr. Jerry Siler</b> Cornerstone Baptist Temple Dayton, OH	<b>OFFERING GOAL</b> <b>\$40,000.00</b>

**IBFI**  
**NBBS**  
Missions  
Searchlight  
Since 1984

**PRAY YE  
THEREFORE!**

The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few:  
pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would  
send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2

**IT IS VITAL THAT MORE MEN & WOMEN FROM OUR CHURCHES  
ANSWER THE CALL TO BE TRAINED, AND TO BE SENT FORTH!**


Far More  
Church  
Planters  
Church  
Revitalizers  
&  
Church  
Builders  
Are  
Needed!

**IBFI Mission Agency**  
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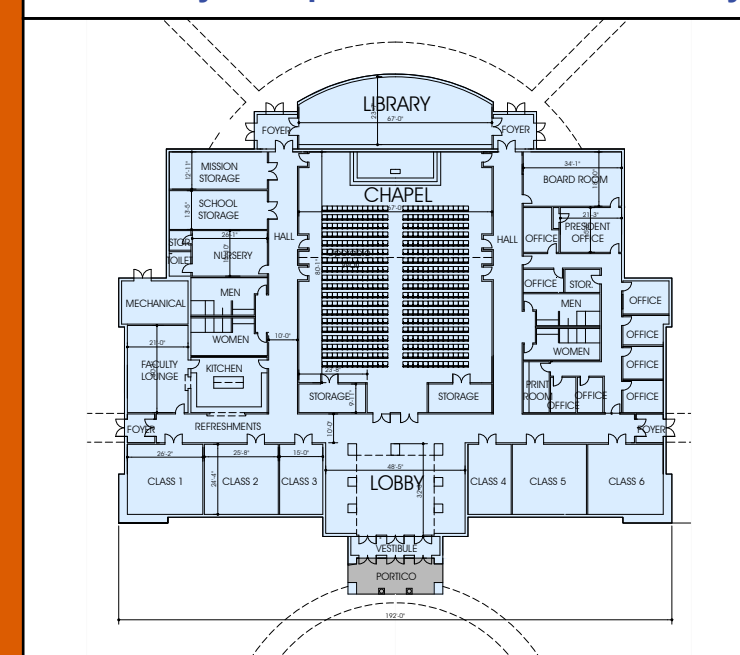
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### Preliminary Floorplan of a New NBBS Facility



### The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Barry Bedwell, Pastor Mark Brown, Pastor Chad Fitts, Pastor Matthew Gage, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor David Pugh, Pastor Kenneth Ralph, Pastor Claude Sutton, Pastor Heath Van Zandt, and Pastor Charles Wetherbee



## KNOWING WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE GOING, AND HOW WE PLAN TO GET THERE



*Dr. Raymond W. Barber,  
IBFI President Emeritus*

Wrap your brain around these three words: Who, Where, How.

### I. Who Are We?

We are Baptists: Not one-half Baptists or Baptists and a half. To take it a step further, we are Independent, Fundamental Baptists. Our founder, the man who did more for the Baptist world in the twentieth century than any other man, **Dr. J. Frank Norris**, gave us the following definition of a fundamental Baptist:

“A fundamental Baptist is one who believes in a supernatural Bible, that tells of a supernatural Christ, Who had a supernatural birth, Who spoke supernatural words, Who performed supernatural miracles, Who lived a supernatural life, Who died a supernatural death, Who rose in supernatural power, Who ascended in supernatural splendor, Who intercedes as a supernatural priest, and Who will one day return in supernatural glory to establish a supernatural kingdom on earth.”

### Color IBFI Constituents Fundamental Baptists!

### II. Where Are We Going?

In order to know where we are going, we must remember from where we came. He who forgets from where he came will not know where he is when he gets where he is going.

It is reported that Henry Ford forgot to put a reverse gear in his first automobile. Such a flawed mistake had many negatives, but it could possibly have a positive plus: he could never “back up” to his non-productive action.

The Independent Baptist Fellowship International has no “reverse gear.” We are not going backward. The IBFI’s determined goal and primary task is to go **forward**. With us, it is “**Onward Christian Soldiers, marching as to war, with the Cross of Jesus going on before.**”

Reviewing the records of the Fellowship’s outstanding victories, along with the progress of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, it is easy to see which direction we are going and which road we are traveling. Although the road may at times seem rough and the way seem tough, we keep in mind the saying, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” Keep your eyes on the Captain of our salvation, and keep on keeping on. The best is yet to come.

### III. How Do We Plan to Get Where We Are Going?

I offer the following guideposts for the road we travel:

1. UTILIZE—Make good use of what we have.
2. ANALYZE—Take inventory and decide what else we need.
3. VISUALIZE—Look ahead and measure our possibilities.

4. PRIORITIZE—Decide what is important and tackle the task closest at hand.
5. EXERCISE—Exercise faith in Him with Whom nothing is impossible.
6. AGONIZE—Until we have agonized in prayer to Him Who said, “*Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not,*” don’t even undertake the venture. With God, we cannot lose; without Him, we cannot win!

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN  
THAT WE FUNDAMENTAL BAPTISTS ARE  
KEEPING AN OPEN MIND, A BENDED KNEE,  
AND AN EYE ON THE SKY!

***Happy 90th Birthday Dr. Barber!  
Friday, August 12 - We Love You!***



### PROGRESS!

*Eric Crawford,  
IBFI President*

Progress is steadily being made on the sale of our school property and the purchase of a new location on which to build our school campus. Contracts for the sale and purchase are done, and we are still in the phase of determining if the land on which we have a contract on is financially feasible for building. So far, the news about the land’s feasibility has been good, and it seems that the prospect of building on the new property might happen! I trust that you will continue to pray with us, that God would open and shut doors, and that He would give us wisdom and clear direction in this matter. As we have said from the beginning, we are in a win-win situation. To move and build would be great, but to stay on our current property and renovate and expand the conference center would be wonderful as well.

Our seventy-ninth opening day for the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary was another exciting time! It has been encouraging the last several years, to see such good crowds attend the Opening Day Rally, and it is certainly encouraging to the students to see all of the pastors come and support the school. Let us be sure to get behind these men and women who have surrendered to serve the Lord and are taking the next steps in becoming better equipped to serve Him with their lives.

Time is flying by and soon summer will come to an end. Let us remember to keep the main thing the main thing - sharing the good news, spreading the seed of the gospel to a lost and dying world. Our world is lost in darkness, and desperately needs the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us be faithful to the cause, keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ!

## OUR 39th SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEEN LAUNCHED!



*Jonathan J. Stewart,  
NBBS President*

A great gathering of preachers, and their wives and children, alumni and prospective students, met in the Raymond W. Barber Conference Center, Tuesday morning, August 9th, for the 79th Opening Day Rally of a new semester at NBBS! The spirit was great. There was much excitement in the air. The food was very good. The fellowship was encouraging. Dr. Barber, three days away from his 90th birthday, and as the Chancellor of NBBS, preached a great challenge to the student body. There is a great group of new students joining the returning students for the new school year. The enrollment is almost back to where it was before COVID hit in 2020. Please pray that God would call more laborers to the ministry! Also, that those who have been called, will answer that call in the affirmative!



### RECENT ALUMNI ARE INCREASINGLY JOINING THE RANKS OF FAITHFUL ALUMNI

NBBS alumnus **Cody Samford**, pastor of the Victory Baptist Church, Kerrville, Texas, recently sent **Chad Fitts** (2016), to start the Arise Baptist Church in Northlake, Texas. In the process, Bro. Fitts was approved this May, as an IBFI Church Planting Home Missionary. **Jacob Luman** (2018), of Antioch Baptist Church Planters, accompanied by his family, are now assisting Bro. Fitts.

**James Chambers** (2020), also recently become the Associate Pastor of the aforementioned Victory Baptist Church. Bro. Chambers and his wife Diane, have assisted several churches through the years in various capacities. Fairly recently, they were the dorm parents of the NBBS Entzminger House of NBBS. While serving in that capacity, they also did much remodeling on the dormitory house. Their son Jakob, has been getting quite the training in church ministry!



**Hunter Whiddon** (2020), a few weeks ago accepted the pastorate of Beacon Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas. He and his wife **Stephanie** (2019) have a one-year-old daughter.

**Tyler Yates**, who graduated in May, 2021, was approved this May, as an IBFI missionary to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. He is sent by the New Horizons Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, (Iglesia Bautista Nuevos Horizontes), where Javier Garza is pastor. He is in the early stages of his deputation.

**John Lund**, (2016), has accepted the position of Associate Pastor at Faith Baptist Church, Canton, Michigan, where Barry Bedwell is pastor. Bro. Lund served under James Pointer, and more recently Quentin Vaughn, at the Sioux City Baptist Church, Sioux City, Iowa.

**Jarrod Tunnell**, (2017), has not only finished his deputation, but also language school, which he and his wife diligently attended and graduated from during the COVID-19 shutdown period. The Tunnell Family will very soon be departing for Argentina.

**Melissa Roa**, (2021), became a part-time secretary for IBFI this past March. She, along with her husband **Tony** (2020), and their children, are one of the three families that make up the Antioch Baptist Church Planters. **Zack Doty** (2021), his wife Charish, and their children, (along with the Lumans), are the other of the three household units that make up ABCP. ABCP is still assisting **Heath** and **Caryssa Van Zandt** (2021/2022), with the church plant in Rhome, Texas. The Van Zandts have two young children.

**Lee Davis** (2021), has been increasingly his ministry as an evangelist since his graduation. He is conducting conferences, revival services, filling pulpits here and there, and will be adding a new dimension to his ministry of 12 years. Details soon to come. While in school at NBBS, the past couple of years, he has been assisting alumnus Fred Ferren, pastor of the Central Baptist Church of Chico, Texas.

**Breze Serugamba** (2019) has been helping out in a mission work in the Brighton, England area with missionary Zachary Gillit, while the COVID situation in England settles down, but he is readying to soon pursue ministry in Malawi.



**Cody Jones** (2017) just accepted the pastorate of the Washington Street Baptist Church, Stephenville, Texas. He is married to Jamie, and they have four young children. Jamie, in the past, took some courses at NBBS. Most recently, they have been serving in the Heritage Baptist Church, Haslet, Texas.

The “time would fail me to tell of” current students who are for the most part very involved in ministries in their churches (youth directors, etc.), and experiencing a mentoring by their pastor and pastoral staff that attending a school like NBBS easily affords and even fosters.



## ALUMNI NEWS



*Kenneth Ralph,  
Alumni President*

Philippians 1:3-4 “*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy*”

When you make the decision to enroll in the NBBS, you are not only choosing to receive a premier education, studying the Bible as the Holy Ghost has given it from Genesis to Revelation, but you are becoming part of a family of like-minded believers who are in the trenches alongside of you. It is this band of brothers and sisters that makes up our alumni family.

Recently, while conversing with a pastor friend about the school which he had attended, and the treatment of their alumni, I was told the alumni were only seen as a fundraising strategy. I am so glad this is not the case at the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. Once or twice a year, we may have a financial push for things needed, but only to make you aware of the need. We only ask you to do what God is leading you to do.

Alumni, you are more than a dollar sign to us; you are a fellow-laborer, and we are thankful for every bit of involvement you show from year to year. As our alumni continue to go out to start new works, take over existing works, and come alongside seasoned pastors, the need to continue in prayer for one another becomes increasingly more needed. This is a very important and historic season for our school and we want you to be a part of what God is doing. If you have not already made plans to attend the IBFI Fall Meeting in Canton, Michigan, please consider making the trip. I know it would be a blessing to you!



Chris Boatman, a 1988 NBBS alumnus, accepted the pastorate of the Faith Baptist Church, Kaufman, TX, several weeks ago. Bro. Boatman previously was a missionary to Belgium, then pastor of the Faith Baptist Church, Aransas Pass, TX, and more recently, pastor of the High Plains Baptist Church, Clovis, NM. Thereafter he did pulpit supply for churches who were in between pastors. Accordingly, he was the interim pastor at the Victory Baptist Church, Kerrville, TX, before going to the

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Make your plans **NOW** to attend

### IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday-Thursday,  
October 11-13, 2022  
Faith Baptist Church  
Canton, MI  
Host Pastor – Barry Bedwell

### METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS

September 15, 2022  
Open Door Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas  
Host Pastor – Heath Hogue

November 17, 2022  
Central Baptist Church  
Chico, Texas  
Host Pastor- Fred Ferren

December 8, 2022  
Worth Baptist Church  
Fort Worth, TX  
Host Pastor – Tyler Gillit

church in Kaufman. Bro. Boatman, among several positives, has led the churches he pastored to greater heights in their missions programs. He has stayed involved with NBBS through the years. About five years ago, myself, and our Business Manager and his wife, who is the NBBS secretary, prayed very specifically about a four-digit dollar figure we needed to finish getting various school supplies in place for the start of the school year. Some thirty minutes later, Bro. Boatman called “out of the blue” saying he was sending the school a love offering from the Clovis church in relation to their recent mission conference. When he told me the amount, it was exactly the figure for which we had prayed!