



LOOKING AT THE BIBLE

(Excerpt from What the Bible Teaches)

*Dr. Raymond Barber
IBFI President Emeritus*

Look at the Bible for a moment. It is a library of divine truth written by God, interpreted by the Holy Spirit and having as its subject matter the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible contains history, prophecy, law, literature, drama, poetry, music, philosophy, science, theology, biology, ethnology and all other areas of human knowledge.

The Bible was written over a period of 1600 years – from about 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100. It was written by forty different writers. Kings wrote it. Paupers, priests, preachers, prophets and at least one doctor, the physician Luke, had a part in writing it.

There are sixty-six books in the Bible. They came to us originally in two languages. The Old Testament was written (with the exception of two or three passages in Ezra, Daniel, and Jeremiah) in Hebrew. The entire New Testament, without exception, was written in Greek.

The Bible was written from many countries spread over at least two continents. It was written in prisons, in palaces, in caves, on mountains, on the oceans, in the valleys, on the hilltops, on the islands and in other places all over those two continents. God brought forty people together in their writing over 1600 years; yet the Bible is one complete, total library of divine truth. There is not one single error. We believe this Book is inspired!

When they copied the books, the Hebrew scholars were very careful. The first thing they would do was count every Hebrew letter in the Old Testament book, then transcribe it – that is, copy it. Then after copying a book, they would go back and count the letters again. If they missed one letter, they would tear it up and go back and start all over again. How meticulous they were! The Bible is inspired by God through holy men of old as they, being moved upon by the Holy Spirit, wrote.

Beloved, the Bible doesn't need to be rewritten. It needs to be reread.

Has any other book stood the test of time that the Bible has stood? For example, do you suppose you could find sixty-six medical journals, written over a period of 1600 years by forty different doctors, and according to it ever treat a man for his disease? No, you could not. It is almost impossible to get two doctors to agree on treatments for the same patient with the same ailment in the same day. You could never get sixty-six medical journals, composed over 1600 years by forty different doctors, to agree on anything.

Suppose you took sixty-six science journals and did the same. A science book written in 1962 is now obsolete. Put it away and forget it. You would have the same results as with the medical journals – no agreement. Fifty million pages come off the press every year, and one by one they are becoming obsolete. The Bible is the only Book that has stood the test of time, having one central message – salvation through the grace of God through Jesus Christ.



GREAT DAYS AHEAD

*Eric Crawford
IBFI President*

What a blessing it was to attend the Opening Day Rally at the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. The preaching was great, the spirit was great, and the food and fellowship were great! Did I mention it was all great? The word great really does not capture the real spirit of the school. To say that the school emphasis this year on giving “Glory to God” is great is such an understatement. I believe that the spirit in which the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary conducts its program and students is for the Glory of God. All for Him! The student and faculty really convey this attitude. It is not just a cliché, it is Bible. Anything truly done for His Glory will be blessed by the Lord and the school is a testimony to that truth.

I hope you have put the school on your prayer list. Please pray for the faculty, students, and the new building.

The new building is progressing slowly, as we anticipated. We are very close to having our grading permit. Once we have that things will progress much faster. What a great tool the new facilities will be to train preachers and their wives for the ministry and to continue to give all the “Glory to God”.



The Vision of Many to Have a School Like NBBS that Came into Being Over 40 Years Ago, is Still a Reality!

*Jonathan J. Stewart
NBBS President*

As we enter into our 41st year, and 81st semester of classes at the seminary, **we continue to look back, ahead, and around at God's blessings.** We do so with our thoughts first upon the many who were present when the NBBS was founded in May of 1984 in the first annual May fellowship meeting of the IBFI. On the day of that week, when the school was officially launched,

there were 114 preachers present (*cited in the May-June, 2014, Commemorative Edition Searchlight*) – many with their wives, as was my wife, as we were having already underway in the starting of a new church in Arlington, Texas, just in time for me to be in that list also of 114. Others wonderfully would soon join in, but the school was off and running that week, and would officially open its doors in August of that year, to its first student body.

Many people come to mind that have departed this life, who played a significant role in the founding and early ongoing of the seminary. They are too numerous to name in this short article, but their record is on high (Malachi 3:16, Hebrews 6:10, Revelation 14:13). **Investing in the lives of preachers being trained, their wives, and single ladies for church ministry in general, is like no other investment one can make in the cause of Christ. It is missions indeed!** Every faithful alumnus will touch hundreds, if not thousands of lives for the glory of God as pastors, evangelists, or missionaries. Many have, or will, start churches stateside or on the foreign field. They also will have preachers surrender under their ministry (II Timothy 2:2).

Churches that were connected with the seminary through the years, also come into view. **The active members who made up these churches, by way of their church's involvement, also share in the heavenly benefit of such.** Worth Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, our home the first ten years of the school's existence, and for the past year, as the construction of our new facility gets underway, is exemplary of the many churches God is using to undergird NBBS.

Several retired pastors, who are still prayer warriors for NBBS, come to mind who were “much” with us through the years. Men like James Pointer, Randy Cotton, Delmas Knight, Lowell Spencer, Gene Stokes, Troy Todd, and so forth. These men's wives, and the widows of many of the preachers who are no longer with us, have had a great part in this work. They are all as the many Paul cited in Romans 16, fellow laborers. **Many have come along since those very early days, and have served many**



years – men like Jerry Siler, Paul King, Bill Hardin, and so forth. **Add to this the dozens of churches** who send in regular monthly support to the seminary, and others who give special offerings in May, October, or intermittently. One can see that the school is the recipient of longstanding and ever new financial and prayerful support. **We can add many missionaries to the list,** that through the years, have not only been prayerful for the school, but have also sent in regular monthly support, as well as special offerings. Some of these missionaries were with us from the beginning. Leslie Priday in Honduras, was part of the first graduating class. He is still on the field and a regular monthly supporter of the school, as is his father Harold. Danny Jones, Bill Smith, and John Peebles (in Brazil for many years, and IBFI Missions Director since 2007), are regular monthly supporters of the school, as are other IBFI missionaries. **We know that all our IBFI missionaries are prayer warriors for us.** By the way, let it be known afresh, that **in every chapel service at the seminary, we pray for our IBFI missionaries, supporting churches and their pastors, and IBFI Board members.** We do so by breaking the list down into groups. Each on the list that day – whether singular or in a small number – are called out before God publicly as we pray.

Having said all of the above, **Dr. Charles Wetherbee and Dr. Willie Weaver, who have been with us since May of 1984 as pastors and now evangelists, continue to be active at NBBS in teaching and in promotional roles.** They both "preach out a lot" doing revivals, mission conferences, stewardship conferences, filling pulpits in various roles, while also promoting the school. We had both of them join with our Chancellor, Dr. Raymond Barber, in the preaching of our Opening Day Rally at NBBS. They represent so many of the above cited persons, and the great many who have joined the heavenly throng ahead of us – ones we will also reference in a near future article. **All of this, above all, was and is for the glory of God** (Romans 11:36)!



ALUMNI NEWS

*Heath Hogue
Alumni President*

Every year about this time, pictures start showing up of the first day of school for students going back to class. Summer break is over, and the focus shifts back to the classroom.

I was pondering the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year at the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, and the thought occurred to me that this year will be like none other. There will be students who have graduated and will not be back in the classrooms. There will be brand new students starting their very first day. Those who can remember, it can be as intimidating as it is exciting. There will be instructors who have taken some time off or moved away, and some new instructors who have stepped in to fill their place. This year, will be like none other. Well, every year is like none other since 1984, and the beginning of NBBS. Each year brings its own differences and its challenges, but also brings its excitement and blessings. This year will be a fantastic year, as were the previous years have been before it. If we as pastors, missionaries, students, instructors, and churches will stand together and support the school with our prayers, with our finances, with our time in a chapel service, or at the fellowship meetings in October and May, this will let the students know there are those who stand with them. Paul told the Colossian church, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;" (Colossians 1:9-11)

The new school year has started, so let us not cease to pray for all those at the school each day. Pray for the students, pray for the instructors, pray for the secretaries, and pray for Bro. & Mrs. Stewart.

Pray that the students may be filled with knowledge as Paul says. Each and every day at the seminary is a day closer to those in the classroom to being in the ministry and being fruitful in good works. Let us do all we can to help prepare them, to help strengthen them, to encourage them, and to make this school year an exceptional year. In the end, not of just this school year, but in the end, God will receive all the glory for the things that will be done through His name.



YOU'RE INVITED!

Bro. David Webb

We are excited to be hosting the IBFI Fall Fellowship at Walker Springs Road Baptist Church in Jackson, AL.

The dates of the meeting are October 14-16, 2024. We will begin Monday evening at 6pm with a nice meal and Dr. Larry Brown from Washington, Iowa will be kicking things off Monday night. We have a great line up of preachers and music for Tuesday and Wednesday. Each evening our church will provide supper before the services. The theme is “All for the Glory of God.” Come join us for a great three days! We will do everything we can to be used of God to help you get encouraged and recharged to go do a Great work for The Glory of our God! We have a couple of different hotel options in our city. However, we have an unusually high number of Airbnb houses as well. I would encourage you to check these out. Some of them are really nice, and are often less expensive than the hotels.

HOTEL INFO:

Hampton Inn
4150 North College Ave.
Jackson, AL 36545
251-246-7300

Room block under (Walker Springs Road Baptist)

Several AirBnB options available in our area:
www.airbnb.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Monday - Wednesday
October 14-16, 2024
Walker Springs Road Baptist Church
Jackson, Alabama
Host Pastor - David Webb

METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS

September 19, 2024
Springtown Baptist Temple

November 21, 2024
Worth Baptist Church

December 12, 2024
Rockwall Baptist Church

OPENING DAY RALLY FOR NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

January 14, 2025
Student Orientation begins at 8:00 am

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

MISSIONS



Bro. John Peeples
Psalm 16:11

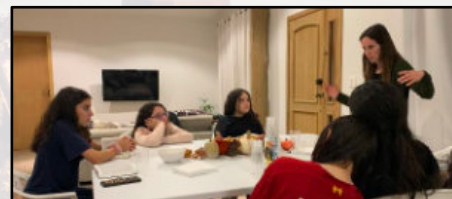
FAITH'S JOURNEY

Just a few years ago, Jeremy and Joneia Bennett stepped out by faith and answered God's call to preach the Gospel in Brazil. They have come a long way in their journey of faith, and God is richly blessing. I remember the days in 1990, when I was at a similar stage as Jeremy in learning the Portuguese language (writing a sermon in English, and then translating it to Portuguese, and then studying it in the foreign language). I also remember a time when I began to think in Portuguese - what a time of refreshing that was. Pray for God's continued protection, direction, and supply. This is a time of increasing faith for them. It is a most necessary and important time; "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith..." (Romans 1:17)

JEREMY & JONEIA BENNETT MISSIONARIES TO BRAZIL

Autumn's Events

IBFI Approved
Missionaries
2021



Well, most of our events were postponed because of rain. In April, we had record storms that lasted for over two weeks! There was so much rain, we were actually trapped on our property for a small time! We usually have three exits, but one exit was flooded, another had a tree fallen over the road, and the third had such deep trenches it would wreck the car just to try and drive over it! Our State, Rio Grande do Sul, has been in crisis. We live in the mountains, so our damage was minimal, but all of that water made its way down the mountain and made a mess of our capital city. Whole neighborhoods were wiped out, buildings were flooded to about 16 feet, and the International Airport is shut down until around December. Be praying for our State!

Such tragedies give opportunity for outreach and revival. We pray that our people here will turn to God.

When the rain cleared up, things started moving again. Our church got to marry a young couple, Felipe and Luana! John Yelle got to lead both of them to the Lord, and the next step they wanted to take was to get married. It was a beautiful wedding, and the first wedding in Brazil I've gotten to see. After this we had overnight events at our house with the teen girls, and then the teen boys. It was a great opportunity for the girls to connect with Joneia, and for the boys to bond with me. We played games, had a devotional, and got a whole hour of sleep. Now that I am intermediate with Portuguese, it has become a lot easier for me to connect with our teens and our members. In the beginning of June we had our Mother's Day Tea, planned and performed by Joneia, and at the end of June we had our Valentines Day Dinner (Jantar dos Namorados). Both events were fun and engaging.

This last month, we started Discipleship with another young couple, Robson and Sabrina. Both show a lot of hunger for God's Word, and we look forward to this process with them. Please be praying for them to learn and to grow in the coming weeks. Also, at the end of July, John and Neila Yelle are heading to The States for their furlough! This means Joneia and I will be on our own for the next year! We come to this time with excitement, and a lot of trepidation. There's a lot of work to be done, and with my intermediate level of Portuguese fluency, there's a lot of time needed for translating my lessons. I am very grateful Joneia is already fluent so that my sermons are significantly more intelligible. The amount of time to write one sermon is not that long, but the time for us to effectively TRANSLATE one sermon takes a lot more time. Please be praying that we will find the balance of time, and that God will keep us strong in the upcoming year! We are grateful to be here to continue the work, but we cannot do it without your prayers. Thank you so much, and God bless you.

Praises

- Successful Church Events
- We have all of the furniture and appliances we need in our house to survive (we still need cabinetry and other appliances)
- Jeremy's Portuguese continues to improve

Prayer Requests

- Jeremy's Portuguese
- Discipleship with Robson & Sabrina
- Funds for our next project
- Flooding in Rio Grande do Sul (our state)
- Jeremy's new weekly preaching schedule
- Continued church growth

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Sending Church - Worth Baptist Church- Ft Worth, TX • IBFI Missions Agency - ibfi.us - 817-367-3422

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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The Searchlight

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 2

41st IBFI Annual Fall Fellowship Meeting Monday Evening-Wednesday Evening • Oct. 14-16, 2024

"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." 1 John 1:3

MONDAY 7:00 PM	Dinner Will be Provided Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 6:00 PM			\$45,000 OFFERING GOAL	Dr. Larry Brown Marion Ave Baptist Washington, IA
TUESDAY 9 AM - NOON 7:00 PM	Pastor Philip Blackwell Bible Baptist Ch. Tuscaloosa, AL	Pastor Heath Hogue Open Door BC Grand Prairie, TX	Pastor Kenneth Ralph Pensacola Baptist Temple Pensacola, FL	Pastor Ty McIntyre Freedom Baptist Ch. Carbon Hill, AL	Pastor Jeremy Ogdie Trinity Baptist Ch. Wills Point, TX
WEDNESDAY 9 AM - NOON 7:00 PM	Pastor David Grice Lighthouse BC Grand Prairie, TX	Pastor Nick Anthony Independent Baptist Ch. Wayne, NE	PRESIDENT'S HOUR Pastor Eric Crawford Heritage Baptist Church, Haslet, TX	GENERAL ASSEMBLY NBBS Update Special Offering Business Session	Dr. Raymond W. Barber IBFI President Emeritus NBBS Chancellor

1200 Walker Springs Road
Jackson, AL 36545



ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

"For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are
all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen."
Romans 11:36

IBFI

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY • MISSION AGENCY • SEARCHLIGHT

TRAINING
PREACHERS
PROMOTING
MISSIONARIES

EDIFYING
CHURCHES

IBFI Mission Agency

Helping Independent Baptist Churches
Get Their Missionaries to the Field

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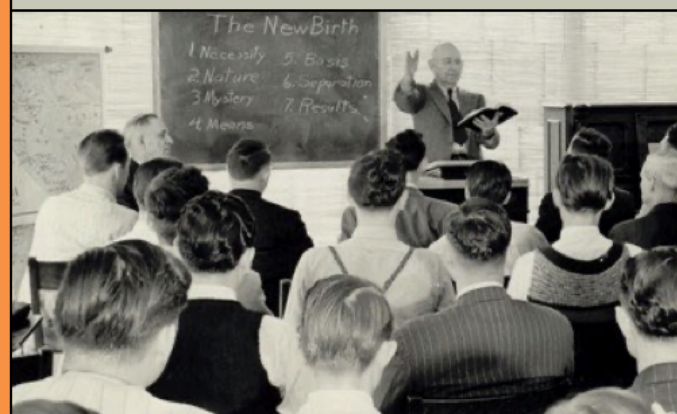
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• 85 Years Later, NBBS is Still Doing What BBS Did! •



The Searchlight

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