

## A Life Decision

(Continued from Cover)

we discovered that you couldn't get a permanent visa in Mexico at that time. While there, we went to Guatemala to see the Whaleys and stayed with them and visited their work for a few days. Some suggested that we could live and start a work there, and we did.

We started three churches in the Quetzaltenango area. First, the Temple Baptist Church in Quetzaltenango, where we worked for 14 years. Then we started the Temple Baptist Church in San Juan Ostuncalco. After finishing there, God led us to go with Thomas Sop to start a work in Cantel, where we helped to get a location and get started. While in the States on furlough, Bro. Frank got sick and was diagnosed with cirrhosis. The only hope the doctors gave us was a liver transplant. He chose not to have the transplant. He was really sick, but said to me, "Lets go back to the field." After a long battle, God took him home on February 6, 2003 and he was buried in the municipal cemetery in Quetzaltenango. It was very lonely for me at first, but the Word of God and the love of the people kept me strong, knowing that one day we will be together again. I have adjusted and continue in the work. In Cantel, I play the piano and teach in the Bible Baptist Seminary started by missionary Larry Boggs.

What will you do with Jesus? This is what God did for Frank and me. He changed our lives and used us to go to other countries. I dare you to make a decision that will change your life forever.



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37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SPRING FELLOWSHIP

May 16-19, 2011

### EVENTS

**J. Frank Norris Memorial Banquet** Monday, May 16 at 7 PM Cost \$12  
Raymond W. Barber Conference Center, Fort Worth, Texas

**Ladies' Meeting** All ladies are invited. Tuesday, May 17 at 2 PM  
IBFI Office Building, Fort Worth, Texas (Coffee and tea served)

**Alumni Luncheon** All are invited. Tuesday, May 17 at Noon  
Spring Creek Barbeque

**Missionary Seminar** Thursday & Friday, May 19-20 If you'd like to send an offering to help cover expenses for lunches for this seminar, it would be greatly appreciated.

### LODGING

**Best Western Fort Worth Inn & Suites** (5 minutes from Conference Center)  
201 West Loop 820 North, Fort Worth Phone 817-246-8777 \$74.99 plus tax  
Mention that you are with the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

**Staybridge Suites Fort Worth** (5 minutes from Conference Center)  
229 Clifford Center Drive, Fort Worth Phone 817-935-6500 \$85 plus tax  
Mention that you are with Crown College

### ELECTIONS

- The following have served three years and are ineligible to hold the same office:  
**Officers:** President, Dr. Willie Weaver; Vice President, Jim Pointer
- The following have served three years and are ineligible to serve this year:  
**Board Members:** Mark Brown, Jerry Siler, Claude Sutton

For nominations, please ask them beforehand if they would be willing to serve. Please come prepared to vote. For questions, call Dr. Weaver at 817-534-0787

### CROWN SOUTHWEST GRADUATES



Kyley Hampton Kyle Morgan Joshua Childress Ashley Hall

### I Have Finished My Course. Finish Yours!



Bro. John Peebles  
IBFI  
Mission Director

The past few weeks, I had the privilege of spending a few precious moments with missionary Joe Hawkins. After a lifetime of service in the Amazon region, Joe had a burden to start one more Bible institute for the indigenous people of northwestern Brazil. Planting churches and training pastors is what I think of when I think of Joe and Elaine Hawkins. So much has been done, yet the next generation

must be reached. There is still much left to do. On my last visit to the hospital, Joe was ready to enter eternity. He was waiting for the last of his children to arrive and bid him leave. His last words to me that day were, "Pray that the Lord will take me home tomorrow. I want to go." He closed his eyes, exhausted from those few words. As I held Elaine's hand to pray, Joe reached out his hand... So close to Glory. I can only imagine the reception he received. There is no greater work in this world than serving Christ. Joe and Elaine have left us a legacy of faithful service and fruit bearing. Joe has finished his course. Let us finish our own.



## A Word From The President

Dr. Willie Weaver

### DOES THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL HAVE A PURPOSE FOR EXISTING?

Since the changes in the last few years (especially with our schools) I am often asked about the future of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International (IBFI). Now that we no longer have the Norris Bible Baptist Institute, do we still have a purpose? The answer is yes!

FIRST, We still have fellowship meetings. Its a time when friends can gather together and hear great Bible preaching and edifying, doctrinally correct singing. We can share our burdens and blessings with each other and leave challenged and encouraged to do a better job of reaching a lost and dying world in our Jerusalem and around the World. Also, we hear from our missionaries that are home on furlough and those that

are on deputation. What a blessing our missionaries are. Attending the fellowship meetings give us some new scenery, interesting places to visit, the opportunity to see other ministries and in general, a refreshing break. The idea of "come apart before you come apart" is good advice. In essence, Jesus told his disciples to do this in Mark 6:31, *And he said unto them, come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.*

SECONDLY, we still have a Mission Agency (clearing house). Our missionaries are sent by a LOCAL CHURCH and are under their authority. The IBFI Missions Agency is in place to assist and service missionaries that agree with how we do missions and choose to identify with the IBFI. This enables the churches and missionaries to NETWORK together for identification and support. It is open to missionaries who have graduated from other schools and from sending churches that may not be associated specifically with the IBFI. We, of course, require that they agree with the guidelines of our Missions Agency.

LASTLY, we still have our schools. We as a fellowship, have adopted Crown Southwest, Norris Seminary, and the Fort

Worth School of the Bible as our schools. We encourage the IBFI associated Churches and Pastors to be supportive of these schools by SENDING STUDENTS and by SUPPORTING the schools financially. Although they are under the authority of Temple Baptist Church in Powell, Tennessee (the Knoxville area) and Dr. Clarence Sexton they are the schools the leadership and IBFI have chosen as OUR schools. (Of course, we understand any Pastor and Church has the right to choose the school(s) they want to support because of the autonomy of the Local Church.) That being said, we as a fellowship are doing all we can to get the IBFI Pastors and Churches to get ON BOARD and support these schools.

I hope this information answers the question, "Does the Independent Baptist Fellowship International have a purpose?" I believe we do and I believe we have a wonderful future ahead of us as we fellowship, assist and support missionaries and support our schools.

I want to encourage you to make plans now to attend our ANNUAL MAY MEETING. We'll have a great time of FELLOWSHIP and an exciting time as we see our STUDENTS GRADUATE. Hope to see you in May.

## NEWS & EVENTS

Crown SW Norris Seminary Graduation Fort Worth, TX May 17, 2011

IBFI Spring Fellowship Fort Worth, TX May 16-19 2011

Lake Texoma Baptist Camp Call Now 865-661-7302

Master's Degree (Extended Studies) Norris Seminary

### Missions Store 2011

Be a blessing and encouragement to missionaries by sending items and gift cards to the IBFI Mission Office or bring them with you to the Spring Fellowship Meeting.

## Excited About the Great Potential

*Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.*  
Ecclesiastes 4:9



Dr. Daniel D. Knickerbocker  
Director of CSW/NS

It will be four years ago this May since God led Pastor Clarence Sexton to establish an extension of Crown College in Fort Worth, Texas. We have seen the Lord do some amazing things.

Pastors have come together to invest in the next generation. We have a great staff and are offering Bachelor Degrees in Pastoral, Youth and Missions. We are planning to offer Music and Office Management Degrees soon.

The Lake Texoma Baptist Camp is preparing for a great summer. Last year we had 1089 campers and we expect to have 1300 this summer. There are some pressing needs before we can open this summer. If the Lord would lead you to help it would really be appreciated!

### List of Opportunities

Repair walk-in freezer & cooler \$1200  
Replace water supply to kitchen \$1500  
Replace A/C unit in ladies dorm \$2100  
PR valve on main water supply \$200  
Replace deteriorating sinks 20 @ \$125  
Replace fans in Tabernacle 12 @ \$150  
New thresholds for ext. doors 35 @ \$25  
New A/C units for dining hall 2 @ \$2950  
Exterior paint for all buildings \$3200  
Paint for interior of recreation room  
New 2 gal. water heater for snack shop  
Plumbing repair supplies  
Repair lighting in Tabernacle  
Service A/C units

Upgrade Human Foosball Arena \$1200

Call Mark Fowler for more details at  
865-661-7302

*Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*  
Matthew 18:19

*But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*  
John 5:17

Please add us to your prayer list!  
Ask God to work on our behalf.



## Hope to See You There!



Pastor Mark Brown  
Maranatha Baptist Church  
(Alumni President)

Well, it is almost that time of year again! There has been much planning, preparation, and prayer for the Annual Spring Fellowship of the IBFI. The dates for the meeting are May 16-19, 2011 at the Raymond W. Barber Conference Center in Fort Worth, Texas. The "May Fellowship" is always an exciting time, a time when old acquaintances are renewed and new friendships can be made. The spring fellowship in particular has been a great source of encouragement to so many people through the years. The challenging

preaching, Christ-honoring music, meals, laughter, and "catching up" with the lives, families, and ministries of the brethren have always been a tremendous blessing to me.

Let me encourage all of the alumni of Crown Southwest and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary to make every effort to be at this year's fellowship meeting, whether you attend every year or if you have not been back for some time. It is a great time, not only to be blessed, but to be a blessing! You never know how your presence can be an encouragement to fellow alumni, supporting Pastors, or missionaries. The Alumni luncheon will be held at Spring Creek Barbeque on Tuesday, May 17 at 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. We would like to see a great number of former students at the luncheon. If you have any questions about the luncheon, please let us know.

It was my privilege to preach a revival meeting for one of our former students, Bro. Michael Wiggins, Victory Baptist Church in Burnet, Texas last month. We had a wonderful time with Bro. Michael and his wonderful people. It was exciting to see first hand how God is working through the lives and ministries of our graduates. Please continue to pray for them, as well as all of the alumni of our school.

Again, let's make every effort to be at this year's Spring Fellowship. How exciting and encouraging it would be to have a record number of alumni at the meeting! If you have any questions or need any further information about the meeting, contact the fellowship office and they will be glad to assist you. Hope to see you in May!