

The God of Our Service

Jerry Siler
IBFI President



Who do we serve? Which God do we serve? Buddha? Mohammed? Ashtoreth? Mary? Who is our God? **Who is the God of our service?**

The Creator of **Genesis**. The I Am of **Exodus**. The Law Giver of **Leviticus**. The Serpent on the Pole in **Numbers**. The Lord's Prophet in **Deuteronomy**. The Captain of the Lord's Host in **Joshua**. The Angel of the Lord in **Judges**. Israel's Kinsman Redeemer in **Ruth**. Hannah's Petition Giver in **I Samuel**. The One Who anointed David to be King of Israel in **II Samuel**. The Object of Solomon's prayer at the temple dedication in **I Kings**. The God of Elijah and Elisha in **II Kings**. The God of King Solomon in **I Chronicles**. The God of Solomon's temple in **II Chronicles**. The God of the returning exiles from Babylon in **Ezra**. The God of wall building in **Nehemiah**. The Queen's God in **Esther**. The Living Redeemer in **Job**. The Shepherd of David in **Psalms**. Solomon's Giver of wisdom in **Proverbs**. The preacher's God in **Ecclesiastes**. The Beloved in **Song of Solomon**. The Lamb brought to the slaughter in **Isaiah**. The Answer to prophetic prayer in **Jeremiah**. The God of new mercies each morning in **Lamentations**. The God of a vision of glory in **Ezekiel**. The Stone that crushed the image of Nebuchadnezzar in **Daniel**. The Forgiving Savior of Israel in **Hosea**. The Doer of great things in **Joel**. The Fair Justice in **Amos**. The Destroyer of Edom in **Obadiah**. The Fisherman Who caused a great fish to swallow His backslidden prophet in **Jonah**. The God Who required Israel to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him in **Micah**. The God Who is jealous, slow to anger and of great power in **Nahum**. The God Who calls His followers to live by faith in **Habakkuk**. The God Who called Israel to turn from her wicked ways in **Zephaniah**. The God Who called Israel to serve Him as the true and living God in **Haggai**. The Keeper of His promises to all generations in **Zechariah**. The Promise of a Messiah through a messenger in **Malachi**.

Who is God? What is His name? What is His purpose? **Who is the God of our service?**

In **Matthew**, He is Jesus, the Messiah. In **Mark**, He is the Servant. In **Luke**, He is the compassionate Son of God. In the gospel of **John**, He is the Son of God and Savior of the world. In **Acts**, He is the God of the church. In **Romans**, He is the God that declares the believing sinner righteous based upon the work of Christ on the cross. In **I & II Corinthians**, He is the God of purity and unity.

Which God should we serve? Which God should we follow? In **Galatians**, He is the One Who presents salvation by grace through faith. The God of **Ephesians** accepts us by grace through faith with no merit of our own. Our God in **Philippians** has

highly exalted His Son and given Him a name above every name. The God of creation and preeminence is the God of Paul's letter to the **Colossians**. Jesus is the God Who is coming back in **Thessalonians**. He's the Mediator between God and men in **I Timothy**, and the Righteous Judge in **II Timothy**.

He is the Great God of the blessed hope in **Titus**, and the God Who brought grace to a runaway slave in **Philemon**. He is the God above the angels in **Hebrews**, and a God to draw nigh to in **James**. The One Who shed His precious blood and became the Chief Cornerstone is God in the epistles of **Peter**. He is the God Who came to us in the flesh, forgives our sin when confessed to Him, and leads us to do good according to **John's** three epistles.

He is the only wise God concluded by Jesus' half brother, **Jude**. And John, the revelator, tells us that He is the One Who loved us enough to wash us from our iniquity and secure us a place in His Book of Life in **Revelation**.

What a mighty God we serve!

From the Pen of the PRESIDENT EMERITUS



Dr. Raymond W. Barber

Maintaining the Proper Balance in the Pastoral Ministry

The call to the ministry is the greatest and highest of all callings. No man "puts" himself into the ministry. The true minister of the gospel is called and placed in the ministry by God Himself. Reference the testimony of the Apostle Paul in **I Timothy 1:12**: "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." Notice who did the "putting": Not Paul, but Jesus. When Jesus puts a man in the ministry, He puts him in to stay. At the same time, He gives him a message, a mandate, and a mission.

How to Maintain Your Balance

After being in the ministry more than sixty-three years, I feel somewhat qualified to offer the following things that will help any pastor to maintain the proper balance in his God-called ministry:

1. Be sure your calling is God, rather than an emotional impulse – **I Timothy 1:11, 12**.
2. Be sure you meet the God-given, divinely inspired qualifications of a pastor – **I Timothy 3:1-7**.
3. Be sure you establish the proper relationship with your

people – **Galatians 4:15**.

4. Be sure you understand the primary purpose of your ministry – **II Timothy 4:1-8**.

5. Be sure you budget your time – **Ephesians 5:16**.

6. Be sure you devote ample time to the study of the Bible and to the reading of the good books – **II Timothy 2:25**.

(I have found that reading the biographies of great men of faith to be most profitable in my ministry. Men such as J. Frank Norris, D. L. Moody, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Sam Jones, Billy Sunday, M. F. Ham – to name a few)

7. Be sure you stay on track in your preaching program – **II Corinthians 4:5**

8. Be sure you maintain proper pastoral conduct – **I Timothy 3:2, 3**.

9. Be sure you keep your eyes on the goal – **Philippians 3:13**.

10. Be sure you are crucified with Christ – **Galatians 2:20**,

11. Be sure you glory only in the cross – **Galatians 6:14**.

12. Be sure you maintain a burden for the lost – **Romans 10:1**.

Self-examination (based on Psalm 39)

An effective way to assist you in maintaining the proper balance is to practice "self-examination":

- Examine your MOUTH – **Psalm 39:1**.
- Examine your HEART – **Psalm 39:3**.
- Examine your LIFE – **Psalm 39:5**.
- Examine your HOPE – **Psalm 39:7**.
- Examine your PRAYER – **Psalm 39:12, 13**.

Someone wrote:

*Sorrows keep you human,
Failures keep you humble,
Success keeps you glowing,
But only God can keep you going.*

Preacher, just how balanced are you? On a scale of 1-10, how would you grade yourself?

From the Desk of the Administrator



Terry Riggsby

At this writing, plans are well underway in preparation for the Norris Bible Baptist's Seminary 31st year of operation:

OPENING DAY RALLY

The 2014 Fall Semester will begin with an OPENING DAY RALLY scheduled for Tuesday, August 19. Dr. Raymond W. Barber, NBBS Chancellor, will be preaching as we kick off the year. A letter will be sent to all pastors, alumni, and full-time Christian workers with more detail concerning this special day!

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

Tuesday, August 19 - Opening Day Rally

Wednesday, August 20 - First Day of Instruction

Tuesday - Friday, October 7 - 14 - Mid-Term Exams

Tuesday - Friday, October 14 - 17 - Week of Special Instruction

Wednesday - Friday, November 26 - 28 - Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 12 - Last Day of Instruction

Tuesday - Friday, December 16 - 19 - Week of Final Exams

CHAPEL SERVICES

Chapel services will be held at the NBBS on a daily basis i.e. Tuesday - Fridays from 9:40 to 10:30. Once each week the students will have the opportunity to preach in chapel. In addition, one chapel service each week will have one of our alumni challenge the students. The two remaining chapel services each week will be filled with local pastors, missionaries, and full-time workers.

FACULTY AND STUDENT SCHEDULING

Currently, we are in process of scheduling our students and selecting our faculty. One of the strengths of the NBBS is that our faculty will be selected from local pastors who are already on "the firing line," and who can give our students not only a body of knowledge in a particular course, but practical teaching from their experiences in the ministry; in other words, no "ivory tower" approach!

NEW WEBSITE

To check our new website, please go to ibfi.us and click on the link for NBBS. It will give you information about NBBS - curriculum, registration, etc.

In closing, continue to pray for our needs: new students, finances, and faculty.

OBITUARIES

Missionary to Mexico C. L. Jones, Jr., father of missionary Danny Jones, died on March 21, 2014, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Elaine Folger, wife of Pastor Richard Folger, died April 2, 2014, in Mansfield, Ohio.

Pastor and Missionary to Romania Paul Ague, one of the founding pastors of the IBFI, died May 13, 2014, in McDonald, Ohio.

Pastor Richard Folger, faithful supporter of the IBFI, died June 2, 2014, in Mansfield, Ohio, two months after his wife's death.

Mrs. Barbara Graham, wife of Edgar Graham, and mother of missionary Tammy Coates and Pastor Randy Graham passed away May 27th, 2014.

ALUMNI NEWS



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 a while and catch up on what the Lord is doing in their ministries. It thrills me, and I know that it must also thrill the hearts of those who invested their lives in the lives of Norris Bible Baptist alumni.

As I listened to those men who were instrumental in founding the IBFI share their hearts with us, it was a reminder of the price they all paid to take a stand. May we as alumni, who have benefited from their sacrifices, always be thankful and mindful of what has been done by these great men of God on our behalf!

Dear Brethren,

We are looking forward with "Great Expectations" to the fall fellowship meeting of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International scheduled for October 14-16, 2014. Our people are honored to host this meeting, and have a desire to be a blessing to all who will be in attendance. We have been planning, preparing, and praying for this meeting. It is our wish to display true "southern hospitality."

We look forward to seeing you this fall at Maranatha Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, for this great time of fellowship and encouragement. If we can be of any assistance to you for anything, please do not hesitate to call our church office (706-323-9538). "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him." - **Psalm 62:5**



In His Service,
Mark Brown

IBFI OF TEXAS AND THE GREAT SOUTHWEST MEETING

Monday, September 15, 7:00 p.m. – Tuesday, September 16, ending with lunch

Pastor Charles Wetherbee and Victory Baptist Church in Weatherford, Texas will be hosting the meeting.

For more information or questions, please call David Grice – 214-315-5422

It is wonderful to see our alumni taking an active part in serving in the IBFI as officers and board members. It is exciting to listen to them as they share their hearts and thoughts concerning our fellowship and what they would like to see in the future.

I want to commend and thank Bro. Terry Terry and Bro. Eric Crawford, two of our alumni, for the excellent job they did in organizing, hosting, and preparing the fish fry on Tuesday evening. That was an excellent meal and the fish was some of the best tasting fish I have ever eaten. Well done, Guys!! I want to also thank Bro. Paul King and his church for the excellent side dishes they prepared. It was all good!

I am excitedly looking forward to our October meeting which will be hosted by alumnus Bro. Mark Brown and the good people of Maranatha Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. Bro Mark 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!

FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING HOTEL INFORMATION

Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham
(706) 653-7004 (Recommended)
2.6 miles or 4 minutes
1728 Fountain Court Columbus, GA 31904
Mention Maranatha Baptist Church before
September 22nd for a discounted
rate of 62.99 plus tax.

Wingate by Windham (706) 225-1000
2.95 Miles or 5 minutes
1711 Rollins Way Columbus, GA 31904
\$75 plus tax

Country Inn and Suites (706) 660-1880
2.6 Miles or 4 minutes
1720 Fountain Court Columbus, GA 31904
\$99 plus tax

Holiday Inn Express (706) 507-7200
3.08 Miles or 5 Minutes
7336 Bear Lane, Columbus, Georgia, 31909
\$119 plus tax

Please check our website ibfi.us for complete information about the Fall Fellowship Meeting.

Offering Goal: \$40,000