

NAVAJO NATION

Mark Haynes, IBFI Missionary

The business of starting churches and training leaders is going well on the Navajo Nation. God has allowed us to see the philosophy of "multiplication by division" bear fruit. We praise the Lord for this and for the first two graduates of Ganado Baptist Bible College.

On this past Easter Sunday, there were a total of 300 people attending services divided among the four works directly associated with the ministry here in Ganado. It has been our goal to see 10 churches started over the next 15 years in Navajoland. Looking at the potential of this dream, there could easily be 750 - 1,000 people in Bible believing churches once this is accomplished. What a blessing! Chambers Baptist Church in Chambers, Arizona, started last year with a core group of 15 - 20 people. Solid Rock Baptist Church in Nazlini, Arizona, will transfer its leadership from our son Joel to Bro. Fernando Jones, an excellent Navajo preacher, this August. Mountain View Baptist Church in Lukachukai continues to prosper under the leadership of Pastor Raymond Hobbs. This summer, Indian Wells Baptist Church will be planted! The land site process is being worked on at this time. The VBS this July will kick off this new church plant under Bro. Justin Barnett and his wife Tiffany, a Navajo young lady saved under our ministry. Brethren, church planting and old-fashioned soulwinning still works!

Ganado Baptist Bible College just finished its third year of operation with its first two graduates, Bro. Ryan Nez and Bro. Aaron Nelson. The college began with five students and grew to 19 this past year. We anticipate that we may have more than 20 students this next year receiving specialized training in Native ministries. Bro. Nez has started deputation as a missionary church planter to his own people. He will be planting Old Paths Baptist Church in Window Rock, Arizona, the Tribal Capital of the Navajo Nation. Bro. Nelson will be staying with us in Ganado for at least the next year for more practical hands-on training. He will also be a missionary church planter beginning in the Crownpoint, New Mexico, area. Other areas being considered for new church plants include Pinon and Jeddito. The training of Native leadership is absolutely essential for the continual propagation of the gospel in this vast land! It seems that what was once a dream is becoming a reality! No doubt, challenges remain, but God is able to meet and exceed all challenges and expectations. Pray for us!

When the Lord led us to the Reservation ministry, we were told about all the things that we could not do. Oh, you can't trust Navajo leadership. You can't teach tithing and Faith Promise Missions. You can't start a college on the Reservation. You can't teach Navajos to start churches." Some of our plans and dreams were even ridiculed or told that they were "cute" ideas. In our 19 years among the Navajo people, I have learned the truth of these statements. We can't do any of it. BUT GOD CAN! AND HE IS! Sometimes I believe we have given too much place to the naysayers about what won't work. Dream big and let God be the Author of your dreams! Many of the missionaries that have been working on the Reservation for longer than I, have commented that God is doing a work that has never

been seen before in Native land. Folks, I don't want to hinder it; I just want to get in on it! Pastors, dream big and continue to let God do something mighty through you! For regular updates on the Navajoland ministry, see our website at www.streamsinthedesertaz.com and our son's site at www.navajolandbaptistmissions.com.

Please read the complete article, which can be found on our website, www.ibfi.us.



INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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The Searchlight

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IBFI SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING
MAY 18-21, 2015



IBFI Mission Agency

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REJOICE, AND REJOICE AGAIN!

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



Words seem inadequate to describe the joy and rejoicing in the hearts of the constituency of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. We are debt free, we are happy, we are resolute, and we praise God from whom all blessings flow!

SPRING FELLOWSHIP: A GREAT SUCCESS

The May Fellowship exceeded all expectations. As reported in NBBS president Jonathan Stewart's article in this issue, we not only reached our offering goal of \$50,000.00, we over doubled it to go beyond the \$100,000.00 mark. The spirit of unity, oneness, togetherness, and harmony prevailed from the first session to the final benediction.

J. FRANK NORRIS-LOUIS ENTZMINGER PHILOSOPHY STILL EFFECTIVE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Although many years separate us from these two great icons of the faith, their philosophy of training preachers and building churches continues today to influence our fellowship and school.

Dr. Norris made his mark as one of the foremost fundamentalists of the twentieth century. He was pastor of two of the largest churches on the North American continent: First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, and Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan. At the same time, he exerted worldwide influence as traveler, educator, preacher, and statesman. Baptists of all persuasions are indebted to him.

Dr. Entzminger was the greatest authority on Sunday school building during the same period that Norris lived and ministered. He organized and/or re-organized twenty-three of the twenty-five largest Sunday schools in America and Canada during his productive and God-blessed ministry.

Combining the wisdom of these two servants of God, we have what it takes to move forward in our ministries as we progress through the twenty-first century.

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY: TRAINING PREACHERS

From our beginning in 1984, the purpose of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary has been and is presently the training of preachers. We are resolved that this will always be our reason to exist.

The future is bright, and the days ahead promise great things as we move forward to the glory of God. Let us join hearts and hands presenting a united front to a lost and decaying world.

*Mark Brown,
IBFI President*



WOW! What a great time we experienced as we convened at the facilities of the IBFI in Fort Worth, Texas, for the May Fellowship! The theme for this year's fellowship meeting was "The Best is Yet to Come" (John 14:3). If our theme is true (and I believe it is), then we as a fellowship have much to look forward to! There was a great spirit throughout the week, and God's Hand was evident in every session and meeting. The preaching was encouraging, the music uplifting, and the fellowship was sweet. We want to thank all of those who worked "behind the scenes" to make this year's fellowship meeting one of the best in recent memory.

Some of the highlights of the week include a fish fry on Monday evening (thank you Bro. Terry, Bro. Crawford, and Bro. King). Also, during Monday evening's service there was a time of special recognition given to Bro. and Mrs. Ray Richey for their sacrificial support of IBFI/NBBS through the years (thanks to the Shipman family for putting this special presentation together). Tuesday evening's commencement services were encouraging as well as Daniel Mairet graduated from NBBS, and we heard challenging messages from two alumni, Bro. Michael Wiggins and Bro. David Webb. Dr. Charles Wetherbee was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree from NBBS during the commencement services.

God blessed greatly on Wednesday as the offering goal was exceeded during the general assembly business meeting (thanks to everyone who sacrificially gave toward the offering). During the alumni luncheon many responded to some special needs that were presented and an additional \$35,000 was committed to provide for these needs! Praise the Lord!

Pastor Eric Crawford and the Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas, did an outstanding job as they hosted the Wednesday evening services. God has blessed this great church, and they have been generous supporters of the fellowship for many years. As you can see from these few "highlights," this year's May Fellowship was truly a great blessing, and if "the best is yet to come"...WOW!

I would like to convey a special thank you to Bro. Jerry Siler for serving as president of our fellowship over the last several years. God has blessed our fellowship under his leadership in a great way. Please continue to pray for every ministry of our fellowship (our missionaries, and our school) as we move forward for the glory of God, and remember to keep your fork...the best is yet to come!

"THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US; WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD." –PSALM 126:3

*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*



The brethren, and their wives, left this year's fellowship meeting with million dollar smiles on their faces! Still rejoicing over the \$850,000 donation to the Fellowship in December to pay off the Conference Center, they heard from several NBBS alumni and present students, and they saw over \$100,000 more given in their midst by sister churches!

The excitement over the report heard about the past school year, more monthly support of the NBBS, and the May Fellowship offering goal being so readily surpassed Wednesday morning, was "capped off" with numerous commitments to pay for much needed items in relation to the Seminary. This "finishing touch" was done at the urging of a couple of pastors who wanted me to make a request at the alumni luncheon that was to follow the Wednesday morning session. This request was for churches to join together to meet the needs itemized on the brochure, which I had previously highlighted that morning. The appeal was made at lunch, and then I handed it off to one of those pastors to get the ball rolling, and did he ever! In about fifteen minutes, more than \$35,000 of pledges came in – some writing checks on the spot! In looking over the tally, churches from Michigan, Florida, Ohio, New Mexico, Iowa, Georgia, and Texas all participated.

OFFERING GOAL WAS SURPASSED!

Yes, our offering goal of \$50,000 was far exceeded. A total of \$54,392 in cash/checks came in, while another \$9,975 plus was promised. The offering went quickly, no pleading was needed. The Wednesday night offering for the Fellowship was \$700. Adding the \$35,000 pledged at the alumni dinner, this put us at a \$100,067.00 total! This does not include additional indefinite funds and labor committed by pastors for other projects.

MORE MONTHLY SUPPORT FOR NBBS PLEDGED!

Yes, in conjunction with the offering, eight churches pledged to either join the ranks of those supporting the NBBS monthly, or to increase the amount they had been giving. They made this known by filling out a blank on the offering envelope. That blank was added this year at the suggestion of our secretary Charlotte Wyler. Thank you, Charlotte! Funding for Big Items!

Yes, funding came "rolling in" at the follow-up alumni dinner for 100 new chapel chairs, additional new furniture for the foyer, new furniture for the library-reception area, new office furniture, new lecterns for the classrooms, a new platform for the Conference Center, and a new Kubota lawn tractor! Additionally, another

pastor committed his church to pay for the paint and to do painting where needed. A pastor from a distant state pledged to bring a group of men from his church to do specifically needed repair work. Yet another pastor committed his church to fix and to paint the handrails on the east and west side of the building! These manifold investments in the ministries of the IBFI exemplify the nature and the spirit of the meeting throughout the week, from start to finish!

UPGRADING HAS BEEN GOING ON ALL SCHOOL YEAR. Funds have been coming in to the Seminary in one form or another since this past fall in order to help it reemerge as the singular educational ministry of the IBFI. By way of this assistance, as well as the steady flow of support that was already in place, we were enabled to accomplish many things for the ongoing of the Seminary throughout the school year.

The Seminary grounds and facilities have been increasingly spruced up all school year. The library has been further organized, the sprinkler system has been restored to working order, sheetrock has been repaired and painting has been done. New furniture has been paid for and put in place, the chapel platform has been carpeted anew, and a William Knabe baby grand piano was secured through the help of three churches, and was in place just in time for the May Fellowship meeting. Promotional materials have been prepared and distributed, as well as standing banners designed and ready for use by the Seminary staff. The website launched last fall continues to be developed.



SEVERAL SMALLER ITEMS STILL NEEDED

For those who want to "get in on a good thing," the school still needs funds for these nine different items: Eight Standing Vertical Fans – save on air conditioning (\$600 at \$75 each); Twenty-six 2' x 6' Space Saving Classroom Tables (\$2,444 at \$94 each); Two Audio-Visual Stands (\$260 at \$130 each); Six Office Guest Chairs (\$810 at \$135 each); Five Wall Maps for the classrooms (\$750 at \$150 each); Six Bookcases (\$954 at \$159 each); One Sofa Table (\$329) for the library-reception area; Lateral Filing Cabinets for offices – these are space saving because they combine as a stacked unit with the aforementioned bookcases (\$1,790 at \$358 each); Two Large Flat Screens for viewing of educational videos (\$1,000 at \$500 each). TOTAL: \$8,862. The presentation of many of these items during the alumni luncheon was simply crowded out in the excitement of the pursuit of the larger ones. All the above items have already been researched and located, and we are simply awaiting funding to purchase these specific items.

BACK TO WHERE I STARTED

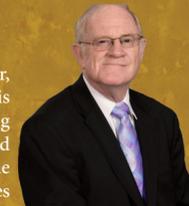
*Michael Wiggins,
NBBS Administrator*



In 1997, the Lord placed in my heart to move to Fort Worth, Texas, and be trained for the ministry at NBBI. After graduating, the Lord took me on a journey that no one except He could have planned. After spending eight years as an associate pastor, janitor, youth pastor, and music director; nine and a half years in the pastorate; and over a year in evangelism, God has brought me back "home" again. For the last three years I have served at Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas, as associate pastor; and I will continue to do so while being a faculty member and the NBBS Administrator. I would never have planned a journey for my life like this one, but God is all knowing.

What a joy it is to be back at NBBS as Administrator! I believe that a wonderful foundation has been laid by Bro. Riggsby and the previous staff. We have a great opportunity at this present moment to see the greatest year of our school in the training of God's people for the ministry. I am privileged to be a part of this exciting time, and with great pleasure will I give my all to the Lord, so that we may see Him work in marvelous ways. The road to pleasing Christ is giving Him our all!

*Terry Riggsby,
NBBS Field Representative*



Although classes are out for the summer, much is being accomplished at the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. Grass is being mowed, offices are being painted, and new furniture is arriving thanks to the generous donations of fellowship churches and individuals!

Currently, I am scheduling churches that will allow me to present the NBBS Program. On June 14, I will be with Pastor Dale Harris (NBBS alumnus) and Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Jacksonville, Texas. On Sunday, June 28, I will be at Regency Baptist Church with Pastor Bob Wallace as part of their 31st anniversary services. In the near future, I will be scheduling to be with Pastor Robin Webb (NBBS alumnus) at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas; Pastor David Webb (NBBS alumnus) at Walker Springs Road Baptist Church, Jackson, Alabama; and Pastor Dale Strawn at Bible Baptist Church, Llano, Texas.

If you would be willing to have me come and present the Seminary, you may reach me on my cell phone at 817-648-1859 or the Fellowship Office at 817-367-3422!

ALUMNI NEWS

*Glen Anderson
NBBS Alumni President*



If you missed the May fellowship meeting you missed a tremendous blessing! The spirit was the sweetest I can ever remember in my 25 years of being part of the IBFI. We met and exceeded our \$50,000.00 offering goal. Wednesday we gathered at the Spring Creek BBQ for our Alumni Luncheon and there over \$35,000.00 was raised for much needed improvements and equipment for the Fellowship properties and the NBBS. To God be the glory!

We had a good attendance of our alumni at the meeting, and it was good to see some that I had not seen in a while. Many alumni participated in the offerings in a greater way than ever before. It was exciting to see God move and work in the hearts of His men involving them in His great work.

For the first time in the history of the IBFI all elected officers are alumni of the NBBS. Bro. Mark Brown, a 1995 graduate, was elected President. Bro. Chris Boatman, a 1988 graduate, was elected Vice President. Bro. Glen Anderson, a 1994 graduate, was elected Secretary. Other graduates are serving on the Board of Directors.

God has given us a wonderful spirit of unity, and we are thankful. I encourage all of our alumni to get involved and support the NBBS and the IBFI. The NBBS has not changed. We are still a school where preachers are training future preachers in the whole KJV English Bible. I believe there are some very exciting days ahead for the IBFI and the NBBS.

Alumni let me encourage you to come to the IBFI National Fall Meeting hosted by Pensacola Baptist Temple, October 13-15 in Pensacola, Florida.

If any of our alumni have any news to share please let me know so that we can get it in the next issue of the Searchlight. My email is pastor@pbinfo.org.



GRADUATION NIGHT



IBFI Southeast Meeting

August 10 - 11, 2015

Faith Baptist Church
Century, FL

Host Pastor Robert Barrow

Make your plans now to attend

IBFI Fall Fellowship Meeting

October 13 - 15, 2015

Pensacola Baptist Temple
Pensacola, Florida

Host Pastor, Glen Anderson

School Information Opening Day Rally

August 18, 2015

GREAT NEWS

The tuition of all full-time students (those taking at least four courses - 12 total credit hours) will be PAID IN FULL for both semesters in the 2015-16 school year by a long-time supporter of the school.

Check the school website norrisseminary.org
or call the office for more details.