

Facing Challenges in BRAZIL

Bill and Sharon Smith are missionaries to Brazil, with over forty-three years of faithful service. They are currently planting a church in Boa Vista, Roraima, Brazil, in the far northern portion of the Brazilian Amazon area. To get there, they first fly to the city of Manaus, Amazonas. Manaus is not the end of the Earth, but as it is often said, "you go through Manaus to get there." There are no roads from Manaus to Boa Vista, so the options are to take another plane or a boat. MapQuest.com gives one option, a 480 mile bike ride through the jungle; now that would be an adventure! I asked Bill and Sharon to send us an update on their ministry and we are printing a portion of their response below. The entire article is available at www.IBFI.us. Click the mission agency link on the front page to locate Bill and Sharon's page.

Please take time to pray for Bill and Sharon, for their continued health, and for their fruitful ministry in Brazil.



John Peeples
IBFI Mission Director

Facing the Challenges

We left Brazil in July, 2014, to go to the United States, so that Sharon could have a check-up and spend at least two months there. We bought our return passage for September, 2014, but as it ended up, we had to stay until, December 18. Sharon had to have thirty-nine radiation treatments, then we had to wait to talk to the doctor about going back to Brazil.

It was good to be in the States and to see our family and friends, but we missed being in the church works in Brazil, and doing what God has called us to do. Of course, we could do church work in the States, which we did, but when the Lord has called someone to an area of service, that is where he or she desires to be working. We waited another three months while trying to be patient. That was a hard lesson to learn. We tried to encourage others while we waited.

We read articles and came across an article which we thought fit us, as well as most other missionaries.

When at "home," the missionary dreams about their host country. When in their host country, the missionary dreams about their home country.

People will ask "Isn't it great to be home!" After you have had a few of your favorite foods, and visited with a few old friends, there are fewer reasons to stay "home." You start to miss those things about your host country that you have come to love. Certain foods, friends, and the ministry you are involved in.

Home is no longer home. Sadly, that other place on the mission field will never truly be home either. Home is both places, and neither place, at the same time. Home is everywhere. Home is nowhere.

Missionaries are forever caught between two worlds. They can no longer completely identify with the people whom they left behind in the home country, nor with the people in their host country.

While here on earth, we will always feel a bit unsettled and out of place. Missionaries living away from the place where they grew up, may experience that more than others. But someday, all those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will finally be home again.

We are back in our "host" country, Brazil. We have had several challenges since our return.

What is a challenge? It is to arouse or stimulate, especially when presented with difficulties; A task or situation that tests one's abilities.

Challenge One - We had to get our house and yard back in living condition. After being closed for six months, and the yard not taken care of, our property definitely looked abandoned. We could not do a lot of the work by ourselves due to our health.

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

There are many other challenges ahead of us, but we know the Lord is able to take care of these things, as well as of us. We enjoy living in Brazil and working with the Brazilian people. We trust the Lord will give us a few more years in which to serve Him.



Written by Bill and Sharon Smith
Missionaries to Brazil since July, 1971

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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IBFI MAY FELLOWSHIP MEETING MAY 18-21, 2015



CARL BAUGH
Mon. 7PM



JIM POINTER
Tues. 9AM



J.D. WEIDO
Tues. 10AM



BARRY BEDWELL
Tues. 11AM



MICHAEL WIGGINS
Tues. 7PM



DAVID WEBB
Tues. 7PM



WILLIE WEAVER
Wed. 9AM



JERRY SILER
Wed. 10AM



JOHN PEEPLES
Wed. 7PM



RAYMOND BARBER
Wed. 7PM



TERRY RIGGSBY
Thurs. 9AM



LONNIE SHIPMAN
Thurs. 10AM



ERIC CRAWFORD
Thurs. 11AM

IBFI Mission Agency

Helping independent Baptist churches get their missionaries to the field

With local church sent missionaries serving in

- Brazil
- Croatia
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- U S A

Help us expand to reach around the world!

Visit us on the web: www.ibfi.us email: missionoffice@ibfi.us

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The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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IBFI Board of Directors: Dr. Jerry Siler, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, Dr. Robin Webb, Pastor Mark Brown, Bro. Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Paul King, Pastor Jim Pointer, Dr. Willie Weaver, Dr. J. D. Weido, Pastor Manuel Ortiz, Dr. Don Shipman and Pastor Terry Terry.

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY SALUTES ITS GRADUATES

Dr. Raymond W. Barber

May 10, 1984, was a momentous day in the history of independent Baptists. It was on this day that the Independent Baptist Fellowship International was organized and gave birth to the Norris Bible Baptist Institute (now the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary).



NBBS is a unique school. The word “unique,” which means “one of a kind,” is the right word inasmuch as Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is the only school in America that was founded in memory of Dr. J. Frank Norris and bears his name.

In the second year of our operation, Dr. Lee Roberson said to me:

“Brother Barber, it was a stroke of genius for you men to name your school in honor of J. Frank Norris. If you men will continue to do what you have begun to do, you will impact America, because not many schools are doing it any more.”

True to form, Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is continuing to do what it began to do—**train preachers!**

We thank God for all the graduates who have gone out to plant churches, evangelize various areas of the world, and win souls to Jesus Christ. All the present and former faculty members, board members, and students are to be congratulated for the things God has done through them and for them over these past thirty-plus years. We are likewise thankful for men like Ray Richey who has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the NBBS because of his dedication and commitment to training preachers.

As we look forward to the IBFI MAY FELLOWSHIP MEETING (May 18-21, 2015), I will review some of the blessings of God upon the churches whose pastors are NBBI/NBBS graduates where I have been privileged to preach within the last several months.

**Rev. John Brown—1998 NBBI Graduate
Ramseur Baptist Church, Paris, Texas**

For several years, Brother Brown has invited me to preach for him and his dear folks at Ramseur Baptist Church, Paris, Texas. This church has a long and illustrious history. The church has experienced growth numerically and spiritually under Pastor Brown's leadership. Last year, they remodeled their fellowship hall. It is not only beautiful, but also adequate for their special occasions. My most recent date with them was Sunday, March 30, 2014.

**Rev. Mark Brown—1995 NBBI Graduate
Maranatha Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia**

On Sunday, October 12, 2014, I preached for Pastor Brown and his good people. God has blessed him with a congregation of dedicated Christians. The church has great facilities and is located in a fast-growing area of the city of Columbus. The IBFI Fall Meeting convened

on Tuesday through Thursday. The church did a fantastic job serving as hosts. Brother Brown is a member of the IBFI/NBBS Board of Directors and serves as fellowship secretary.

**Rev. Chris Boatman—1988 NBBI Graduate
High Plains Baptist Church, Clovis, New Mexico**

Sunday, November 16, 2014, was a day of joy and rejoicing at High Plains Baptist Church. In spite of cold temperatures and falling snow, good crowds came to worship God in both the morning and evening services.

The Lord has used Pastor Boatman to bring the church in a short while from only a few people to a growing congregation. It is evident that God's blessings are upon the pastor and the people.

**Rev. Terry Terry—2000 NBBS Graduate
Friendship Baptist Church, Boyd, Texas**

Sunday, January 4, 2015, marked the fourth consecutive first Sunday of the year that I have preached for Pastor Terry. He has a wonderful church and is being used of God in a most unusual way to serve the rural community where God has placed him. His people are steadfast in the faith and supportive of their pastor. Brother Terry is a member of the IBFI/NBBS Board of Directors.

**Rev. J. D. Weido—1991 NBBI Graduate
Bible Baptist Church, El Dorado, Arkansas**

The Bible Baptist Church celebrated its twenty-third anniversary on Sunday, February 1, 2015, under the capable leadership of its founding pastor, Brother J. D. Weido, assisted by his brother, Bob Weido. It was my honor to be guest preacher for this momentous occasion. The church was begun in Brother Weido's home with fourteen people present. They now have several hundred with spacious facilities located on a main thoroughfare.

Brother Weido is a member of the IBFI/NBBS Board of Directors.

Founder's Week—March 3-6, 2015

For thirty-one years, I have had the honor of preaching Founder's Week at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. I sincerely appreciate this opportunity.

I am extremely grateful for all the men who stood with me three decades ago when we joined heads and hearts to establish the Independent Baptist Fellowship International and to found a Bible college to train preachers, the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary.

To God Be the Glory—Great Things He Hath Done!



THE BEST IS YET TO COME

*Jerry Siler
IBFI President*



“Keep the fork” are welcomed words at the end of a meal as the table is being cleared, especially for those of us who love dessert! These words create in us an anticipation that the best part of the meal is yet to come.

With this thought in mind, let us keep our “spiritual fork” in anticipation and our conviction that the best is yet to come. Jesus Himself gives us a great promise (not a prediction) that He is gone to prepare a marvelous place for us to spend our eternal future.

In relation to our Independent Baptist Fellowship International, let us “keep the fork.” We have experienced great victories and humbling disappointments in our thirty-plus years of existence. We are currently in a rebuilding of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary and a revival of the IBFI. We were recently blessed with a gift to pay off the Raymond Barber Conference Center and are delighted to have Dr. Terry Riggsby and Bro. Jonathan Stewart heading up the NBBS renewal.

As we move closer to the 2015 May fellowship meeting, I would like to encourage pastors and friends of the IBFI to plan to be at this historical meeting. We will have great preaching, inspirational singing, sweet fellowship, and Pastor Terry Terry and his crew treating us to a fish fry on Monday night! So, keep your fork!

HOTEL INFORMATION

We have special rates at three local hotels.
Be sure to mention you are with IBFI. Book early!

Best Western, Fort Worth Inn & Suites

201 West Loop, I-820 North, Fort Worth, TX 76108

817-246-8777

\$70.00 + tax

Candlewood Suites

402 North Jim Wright Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76108

817-246-6800

\$94.99 + tax, single; \$104.00 + tax, Double

Staybridge Suites Fort Worth

229 Clifford Center Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76108

Contact: Laquintha Rininson - 817-312-9987

\$109.00 + tax, includes breakfast and evening meal

MAY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Monday evening, will be the J. Frank Norris Fellowship Service. There will be a fish fry before the service.

Ladies' Tea

Tuesday, at 2:00 p.m.

Ladies, please make plans to attend a special time just for you.

Men

While the ladies are having their tea, the men will be having a time of discussion.

After the graduation service on Tuesday evening, we will have a dessert fellowship.

After the morning service on Wednesday, we will be having our annual alumni luncheon.

The Wednesday evening service will be held at Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas.

Mission Store 2015

Please do not forget our annual Mission Store. Throughout the years, God has used it to be a blessing and an encouragement to our missionaries. Now, we have an opportunity to be a blessing once again.

If you would like to have a part, you may send your items and gift cards to the IBFI Mission Office, or bring them with you to the May Fellowship meeting.

Complete information will be on our website, ibfi.us

Make your plans now to attend

Fall Fellowship Meeting

October 13 - 15, 2015

Pensacola Baptist Temple

Pensacola, Florida

Host Pastor, Glen Anderson

ELECTION INFORMATION

The following officers have served three years and will not be eligible to serve this next year:

Jerry Siler - President

Robin Webb - Vice President

The following board members have served three years and will not be eligible to serve this next year:

Glen Anderson

Willie Weaver

J.D. Weido

In consideration of anyone you would wish to nominate for any office, please ask them ahead of time if they would be willing to serve in that office.

We will have ballots and will be voting at the General Assembly meeting on Wednesday morning, at 10:00 a.m. Please come prepared to vote and to serve, because each office is important. If you have any questions, please call President Jerry Siler at 937-253-6151.

ALUMNI NEWS

*Glen Anderson
Alumni President*



I often think of the words of Dr. J. Frank Norris who said, “What is needed is a school that teaches the whole English Bible. What is needed is a school that will take men from the engine cab, from between the plowshares and teach them the Bible. What is needed is a school that is free from modernism. What is needed is a school that will teach a man how to go out with the Bible under his arms, faith in his heart, and in the power of the Holy Spirit begin in a vacant lot and build a church to the glory of God.”

My friends, if that were true in Dr. Norris' day, it is most assuredly true today. What Dr. J. Frank Norris believed then, is still true today! A school is needed that will take men from every walk of life, teach them the whole English Bible, and equip them to begin in a vacant lot and build a church to the glory of God!

I believe that the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary of today, is what the Bible Baptist Seminary was in its day. NBBS is a preacher training school, where preachers of today are training the preachers of tomorrow. I am thankful for the training and instruction I received at the NBBS, and I am thrilled there is still a school where preachers who have stood by the stuff, are training preachers to stand by the stuff.

Alumni, let me encourage you to come to the IBFI National Spring Meeting, May 18-22, in Fort Worth, Texas. See you in May!

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

WORTH BAPTIST CHURCH FORT WORTH, TEXAS

We are praising the Lord here at Worth Baptist Church for God's blessings. We began phase one of a renovation project in 2006, with remodeling our sanctuary, classrooms, restrooms, roof, air conditioning units, and carpets. We began phase two in June, 2008, by rebuilding our parking lot, installing new exterior doors, restoring our pews, and putting a new LED sign in front of our building.



A total of \$1,063,215.00 was borrowed with a total of \$1,667,551.00 spent on all the renovations. It took us seven years to complete these renovations. We praise the Lord that it only took us eight and one-half years to pay off our loans. We had a note burning ceremony on Sunday, January 4, to celebrate. All the praise and glory goes to the Lord.

FROM THE DESK OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Terry Riggsby



FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

I will be stepping down as Administrator this May. Bro. Jonathan Stewart, as NBBS President, asked me to continue on as an instructor at the Seminary and to serve as a Field Representative. This request also met with the approval of the IBFI Board of Directors. In this capacity, I will be visiting churches and presenting the ministry of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary.

If anyone is interested in having me come to your church to present the Seminary, please call the IBFI office at 817-367-3422, or my cell phone at 817-648-1859.

A special thanks to Pastor Terry Terry, Friendship Baptist Church of Boyd, Texas, and Pastor George White, Springtown Baptist Temple, Springtown, Texas, for having me in their churches (both on Sunday, February 15) to preach and present the NBBS ministry!

NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Michael Wiggins, who will be assuming the position of Administrator this June, has been assisting Bro. Stewart and me in various ways, and is getting oriented to this position. He has been teaching both semesters this school year at the Seminary. He is an NBBS alumnus, having graduated in 2001. He will continue his position as the Associate Pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas, splitting his time between the two. As the student body grows, Bro. Wiggins will increasingly devote more time to NBBS.

NBBS ALUMNI ACTIVITY

I want to thank many of the NBBS alumni for their involvement in the Fellowship and the Seminary. Several are serving on the Independent Baptist Fellowship Board of Directors, teaching in the Seminary, preaching in chapel services, and hosting national and regional meetings.

2015 GRADUATE DANIEL MAIRET

Daniel Mairet was saved at the age of ten, while attending Pot O' Gold Youth Camp in Comfort, Texas. When he was sixteen years old, he moved to Alabama and began attending Walker Springs Road Baptist Church. It was here, at age sixteen, that he surrendered his life to preach the gospel. Daniel is married to Emily Smith Mairet, who he met in the church youth group. They have been married for five years, and they have one daughter Alanna, who is three years old, as well as a baby boy who is on the way. Daniel has served as youth pastor and song leader at Walker Springs Road Baptist Church for the last five years.

