



# THE DANIEL COATES FAMILY

## MISSIONARIES IN GUATEMALA

The Gospel is preached in public schools! There is so much we could tell about the past months but the most exciting thing to me is what you see in these pictures! We had a team of seven who went into the local schools to share the Gospel this July. We are greatly rejoicing about God's blessings as we preached in 8 of the 22 schools in our city, and presented the Gospel to over 1400 souls in a single day! Well over 600 prayed to receive Christ as Savior, and there were at least 10 teachers who were saved as well. I am running into many of these kids while out soul winning each week and am able to meet their families and invite them to church. Hallelujah! Let us pray for fruit that remains. We hold a letter of permission from the Ministry of Education to go into each school in our state throughout this school year, which ends in November. We are planning and preparing materials to reach the other 14 schools in our city before reaching out into other surrounding communities. If you would like to contribute to this exciting ministry opportunity, we need the funds to purchase more John-Romans booklets and treats for thousands of students. We need your prayers! Thank you in advance for helping us take full advantage of this wonderful opportunity while it lasts.

In June, the church in La Esperanza celebrated our eighth anniversary and honored all the fathers present (since it was Father's Day). God has blessed the church with some faithful men who love him and want to serve him. We are privileged to know them and labor alongside them for the kingdom.

We are raising the money needed to purchase land for a new mission in the town of Nueva Alianza, not far from the coast. This is a new community, recently organized from an old coffee plantation. There is a family from our church who will be resettling there when their land purchase is final. They will be a key support for starting the new mission there. The town is located on the other side of the volcano closest to us, Santa Maria. If you or your church would like to contribute to this exciting project, please contact us soon.

In March, the Iglesia Bautista La Esperanza hosted our first annual family conference and invited a national pastor, Adolfo Molina, to preach to us about the spiritual and physical needs of the family. Several visitors came, a total of six were saved, four baptized (including the three brothers pictured, and our own sweet daughter), and we were all challenged to honor the Lord in all of our family relationships. Praise the Lord for a great first family conference!



Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of all that God is doing here in Guatemala!

### DANIEL COATES & FAMILY



**Donald B. McMillan**  
Nov. 2, 1938 - Oct. 22, 2016

Donald Beckton McMillan, 77, went home to be with his Lord on October 22, 2016. He was born on November 2, 1938. Don McMillan was a member of Shenandoah Baptist Church. He was a retired Missionary to Brazil in South America. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Florine McMillan; two sons: Michael D. McMillan and Mark David McMillan; four daughters: Melissa, Michelle, Melody, and Mindy; eleven grandchildren, four great grandchildren and many other loving family members and friends.

Funeral services were held at Shenandoah Baptist Church, Cleveland, TN with Pastor Brent Coley officiating. Interment followed at Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Don and Flo McMillan served as missionaries to Santa Isabel, Para, Brazil since 1976 and have worked with the IBFI since its beginning in 1984. They were sent out of the Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas until retiring and moving to Tennessee. God has richly blessed their church planting ministry for Christ in Brazil.

### INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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### INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

# The Searchlight

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015 VOLUME 33 ISSUE 3

OCTOBER MEETING RECAP  
OCTOBER 11-13, 2016  
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH  
DEARBORN HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN



## 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](http://www.ibfi.us) email: [missionoffice@ibfi.us](mailto:missionoffice@ibfi.us)

### NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

A School of Specialization Since 1984

SAME BIBLE, SAME DOCTRINE, SAME OBJECTIVE as the Old BBS

### The Searchlight

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IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Mark Brown, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peebles, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor Chris Boatman, Pastor Raymond Castro, Pastor Eric Crawford, Pastor Fred Ferren, Pastor Frank Hefner, Dr. Manuel Ortiz, Dr. Don Shipman, Pastor Terry Terry, Pastor David Webb and Dr. Charles Wetherbee.

# LET ME SHOW YOU THE WORD OF GOD (PART FOUR)

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

## PERMANENCE OF GOD’S WORD

Just how permanent is the Bible? The psalmist answered this question in Psalm 119:89 where we read, “*For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.*” The psalmist further supports this premise in Psalm 119:152 where it is written, “*Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever.*” Assyria has lost its army; Babylon has lost its splendor; Rome has lost its empire; Greece has lost its glory; Persia has lost its power, but the Bible lives on undiminished, undefiled, unadulterated, unscathed, and undaunted.

## SURVIVAL OF THE SCRIPTURES

No book has been attacked, mocked, and maligned as viciously as the Bible has, but it still survives.

- It has survived the pen of its critics.
- It has endured the attacks of the atheists.
- It has outlived all of its enemies.
- It has outsold all of its competitors.

The Bible is as old as time and as new as tomorrow. It is authentic, authoritative, and accurate. It contains no mistakes, no misgivings, and no misunderstandings. It is God’s “*divine no spin zone.*”

## GOD AND THE BIBLE

God wrote it, and He puts all the resources of heaven behind it to prevent its distortion or destruction.

The Bible is the only book on planet earth that God has

- Unreservedly,
- Unhesitatingly,
- Unequivocally, and
- Unqualifiedly committed Himself to. . .

- Honor,
- Uphold,
- Defend,
- Purify, and
- Preserve FOREVER!

The psalmist wrote in Psalm 12:6,7: “*The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*”

The world’s greatest authority, Jesus Christ, said in John 10:35: “*The scripture cannot be broken,*” and in Luke 21:23: “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.*”

The words of the sages and the most renowned philosophers of history have long since lost their appeal and faded into oblivion, but the Word of God is still loved, honored, read, believed, revered, and received by millions of people around the world. No book has such perfection, persistence, or permanence.

“*Holy Bible, Book Divine, Precious Treasure, Thou art mine!*”  
(To be continued next issue)



*Mark Brown, IBFI President*

“*Catch the Vision*” is the theme for the IBFI and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary this year. On October 11-13, 2016, the Independent Baptist Fellowship International met at the historic Faith Baptist Church in Dearborn Heights Michigan for the Fall Fellowship meeting. Pastor Barry Bedwell and his dear people did an outstanding job hosting the meeting. As we arrived at the meeting there was a sense that we were in store for a great time of encouragement and recharging. We would like to extend our gratitude to Pastor Bedwell and the Faith Baptist Church for hosting this meeting. Through the preaching, singing, and fellowship, it was evident that we were amongst people who have indeed “caught the vision” of what God is doing throughout the IBFI!

Jonathan Stewart gave an encouraging report on the NBBS! They are experiencing a great fall semester with 40+ students and a great spirit amongst the student body, faculty, and staff. Please keep our school in your prayers.

John Peoples and Leslie Friday reported on what God is doing through our missions agency, and our great missionaries. It is exciting to hear that God is still working around the globe, and that we get to have a small part in His great work!

God has proven Himself faithful through the years, and there is no limit to what He can and will do in the days ahead with a group of people when we “*Catch the Vision*”!

CATCH THE VISION OF HIS PERSON.....

CATCH THE VISION OF THE POTENTIAL.....

CATCH THE VISION IN PRAYER....

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IBF Metroplex Meetings

**Thurs. Dec. 8, 2016**  
Worth Baptist Church  
Fort Worth, Texas  
Host Pastor Tyler Gillit

### IBF of Texas and the Great Southwest

**Mon.-Tues., Mar. 27-28, 2017**  
Victory Baptist Church  
Sanger, Texas  
Host Pastor Robert Graf  
Contact Bro. Graf for more information, 940-300-1147  
A great lineup of preachers, food and fellowship

### Opening Day for NBBS Spring Semester in Conjunction with IBF Metroplex Meeting

**Tues., Jan. 10, 2017**  
Hosted by Norris Bible Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas  
Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. with preaching starting at 9:30 a.m.

TWO big events combined into ONE!  
Alumni, seniors from among the NBBS student body, and our Chancellor Dr. Barber will be preaching! Special music will also be presented with a GREAT lunch to follow, come “*Catch the Vision!*”

### IBFI National Spring Meeting

**Mon.-Thurs., May 15-18, 2017**  
Raymond W. Barber Conference Center – Fort Worth, Texas  
Full details will be at the IBFI website [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us)

# KEEP PRAYING!

*Jonathan J. Stewart, NBBS President*



## GREAT SPIRIT IN THE OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The semi-annual IBFI fellowship meeting in Dearborn Heights, Michigan this past October was refreshing from start to finish. The host church, Faith Baptist Church, and its pastor, Barry Bedwell, were great hosts. Those who preached set off our theme for this year, “*Catch the Vision.*” In so doing, they showed they had indeed caught the vision afresh for the cause of Christ through the ministries of the IBFI, with the NBBS being in the midst of it all. In so many ways, as goes the school, so goes the fellowship, and the mission program. They are all so interrelated.

Faith Baptist Church was always a steadfast supporter of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary and other IBFI ministries under the leadership of her founding pastor Don Gregory. They are still strongly supporting under Pastor Bedwell. There

has been no let up. What a timely blessing, in numerous ways, these past two years, the church has been to the seminary! They have done so in a way that has inspired others to follow their lead. Recently, a very generous donation was given to the NBBS from a member of the church to help fund the travel expenses of Dr. Terry Riggsby, our Field Representative, in his promotion of the school.

## TESTIMONY OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Faith Baptist Church embodies what NBBS idealizes. The church has been a showcase of God’s enabling grace for over sixty years! Bro. Gregory is rich in stories of ways God moved in order to make the church a reality. From the church’s website we have this brief overview:

“*Faith Baptist Church was established on February 12, 1956, when 57 people met at a building on the corner of Warren and Drexel Road in Dearborn Heights. Three and a half years later they built and moved into their first building on Ford Road in 1959, with attendance over 200. The building that God had provided by faith soon became too small for the growing congregation, and a new building was built in 1964, with attendance over 400.* From the beginning the church



*began supporting missions and attributes this to their wonderful growth. Today they support over 173 missionaries and projects. The latest auditorium was dedicated in 1996 and seats 1,100 people. At a cost of almost \$2 million dollars, it was constructed and finished debt free. Donald Gregory was the founder and pastor for almost 53 years. Upon his retirement in July 2008, Barry Bedwell assumed the pastorate and continues to lead Faith into new phases of ministry and growth.” They are soon to begin construction on amazing new facilities!*

## AN EMPHASIS ON CHURCH PLANTING IN A WEEK OF CONCENTRATED STUDY

As has been the practice since the days of the seminary’s founding in 1984, during the week of the IBFI semi-annual meeting in the fall,

regular classes are suspended and a topic of special relevance to the training of preachers is addressed. This semester, the first part of a two-part program entitled, “*Following in the Footsteps of Paul in the Starting and Stabilizing of Churches*” was the theme. It was done in the spirit of the Scriptures relating to the Apostle which state: “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” (1 Corinthians 3:6); “...they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith” (Acts 14:21-22); “Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the Word of the Lord, and see how they do....he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.” (Acts 15:36, 41)

On Tuesday, Dr. Terry Riggsby conducted three sessions on the subject “*Fortifying a Church in Transition.*” He addressed various aspects to leading a church while it is going through a change in pastors. Many of the seminary’s graduates will assume the pastorate of a church in which the previous pastor’s tenure was substantial in duration and, therefore, especially accustom to his way of doing things.

On Wednesday and Thursday, two alumni, taught on “*Founding a Church in Truth.*” Both speakers, Bro. James Hamilton and James Stone, spoke in keeping with their experience in church planting. Bro. Stone is in the process of a church plant in Corpus Christi, Texas, and has started and pastored three other churches, two of which were in the state of Washington. Bro. Hamilton started and pastored a church in Ohio for sixteen years.

On Friday, Dr. Eddy Johnson’s theme was “*Fixing a Church in Trouble.*” Bro. Johnson, as a pastor, has led several struggling churches into becoming well-functioning and growing churches. He is presently heading up the resurgence of the Central Baptist Church in Gainesville, Texas. His wife Patsy met with the lady students, of which some were wives of students, during the third session. She shared from the perspective of a pastor’s wife, namely, what wives can do to assist their husbands as he works to revitalize a church.

Through the years, the pastors of the men who graduate from NBBS will generally fit into one of the three scenarios that were addressed. We heard nothing but very positive responses from students, speakers, and staff throughout the week and afterwards the next week.

The nature of the faculty and the course program of study means church planting will always be “in the air” at the seminary! Take note that not only is a class on church planting being conducted for a semester every year at the school as part of the required courses, but several of the faculty members are men who have planted churches. Many of the alumni who preach in chapel have started churches and speak to such in their preaching.

In the spring, part two of the Week of Concentrated Study program for this school year, will be along the same lines but will be in the context of foreign missions. Alumnus John O’Malley will be the speaker.

## GREAT SPIRIT, DEDICATED STUDENT BODY, PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

The spirit and commitment of the student body this semester continues to be especially good. Almost without exception, their attendance and attitude has been a great blessing to the faculty and to each other. We are beginning to enroll new students for the spring semester. Typically, they come to visit the school, attend classes and chapel, meet the student body, and then are ready to enroll because they catch the vision.

As we say so often, a significant number of people must be praying for the school for us to be experiencing what we are experiencing. **May God give us even more prayer supporters!**

“Ye also helping together by prayer for us” (II Corinthians 1:11a)



# SPECIAL THANKS *Terry Riggsby, NBBS Field Representative*

I would like to extend a special thanks to Pastor Jerry Siler and the members of the Cornerstone Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio, for allowing me to come and present the ministry of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary and teach in their combined teen and adult Sunday school class on Sunday, October 16.

As of February 2017, I will have been saved 52 years at the church which at that time was the Dayton Baptist Temple, under the leadership of Dr. Gerald O. Fleming, who was trained at the old Bible Baptist Seminary under the leadership of Dr. J. Frank Norris.

I am happy to report that the church is still winning souls, baptizing converts, and sending the Gospel around the world under the leadership of Pastor Siler, who has carried on the philosophy he learned under Bro. Fleming. Praise the Lord, the church has not changed and has stayed true to its purpose!

I am still available for pulpit supply and/or to come and present the ministry of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. Please contact me at 817-648-1859 or at the school office.



# ALUMNI NEWS *Glen Anderson, Alumni President*

I Corinthians 10:31 says: “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*”

Faith Baptist Church certainly did all to the glory of God! If you missed the October Fellowship meeting, you missed a great one. Pastor Barry Bedwell and the saints at Faith Baptist Church in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, did an outstanding job hosting the meeting. My, what beautiful facilities the Lord has blessed them with! It was obvious they had prayed, planned, and prepared and then presented everything well. The singing and special music was outstanding and so uplifting and encouraging. Every preacher brought a message that was encouraging and from the heart. The fellowship was sweet and the spirit of the entire meeting was one of unity. The meals were wonderful, and there was plenty to eat as we enjoyed some great fellowshiping around the table. Thank you, Faith Baptist Church, for a job well done.

It is thrilling to see what God is doing with fellow alumni in the ministries He has given them. I believe about half of those in attendance were alumni and that thrills my heart. I am sure those who invested themselves in our training feel the same. 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. Our God is still great, and I believe we will see some great things happen through the influence and ministries of the IBFI!

NOW MORE THAN EVER – WE NEED TO CATCH THE VISION! Have you caught it? What are you waiting for? CATCH THE VISION! Get involved!

Alumni let me encourage you to mark your calendar and come to the IBFI National Spring Meeting, May 22-25, at the IBFI offices in Fort Worth, Texas.



## Rbie Threatt

Nov. 2, 1953 - Oct. 13, 2016

Rbie Threatt, 62, a 1987 graduate of the NBBS went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, morning, October 13, 2016. Rbie was born November 2, 1953 in Albuquerque, NM to Lomax and Faye Threatt. He was the Pastor at Liberty Baptist Church in Mineral Wells, Texas, and could be described as a true servant of God. He had a servant’s heart among preachers and was always ready to help the seminary in any way he could. He was also a faculty member of the NBBS off and on through the years and most recently had just spoken in chapel on Thursday, September 22. He brought an especially good message that morning.

All who knew Rbie Threatt well felt he was their friend and they were better for it. He was always very supportive and encouraging. He will be missed but his works will continue to follow him (Revelation 14:13) and fruit will accrue to his account on high as the ministries he supported stay active for the Lord. Rbie is survived by his wife, Sharon of Brock, TX, daughter Melinda Spikes and husband Brennon of Weatherford, sons Brian Threatt and wife Deanna of Ft. Lewis, WA, Jeff Threatt and wife Cassie of Brock, sister Connie Mitchell of Weatherford, brother Eugene Threatt and wife Paula of Weatherford, and 13 grandchildren. To his wife and children we express our sincere condolences and our deepest appreciation for his Christ like walk before us all these years.

Funeral services were held at Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, TX, with Pastor Randy Cotton officiating. Interment followed at Brock, TX.

