

— WELCOME TO THE —  
**YELLE FAMILY**  
 MISSIONAIRES TO BRAZIL



**WELCOME TO THE YELLE FAMILY - MISSIONAIRES TO BRAZIL**

I am happy to introduce our newest Missionary family, John and Neila Yelle. They are veteran missionaries to the southern Brazilian city of Caxias do Sul, located in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. They have three daughters: Joneia, Leila, and Katherine. Joneia is married. Leila and Katherine will be in college here in the states as the Yelle's return to their ministry in Brazil. They are on furlough until September 2017. Please pray for them and their Ministry.

*John Peeples*  
 IBFI Mission Director

Dear friends,

“Oh magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.” Ps 34:3

Since March, our support level has increased by 15%! Praise the Lord! We still have another 10% to raise to reach our goal. This raise in support is needed to expand our ministry to another church plant in the southwest region of the city of Caxias do Sul.

We are excited that a new family, Emerson and Sintia and their son and daughter, are attending the services at the mission work! They had a part in our first church plant, and they are now helping in the second.

The congregation celebrated Easter with fellowship after the morning services. Neura made a profession of faith in November and is going through discipleship with Iva. She brought her husband João to the Easter service.

The preaching and teaching at the Independent Baptist congregation is headed up by Vilson and Maycon, two men who have been with us from the start of the new mission work. Roberto, a deacon from Tabernacle Baptist (the first church plant), is also helping on Sundays. It is a big blessing to see how the Brazilian brethren are uniting together to keep the young mission work advancing.

Our prayer requests are:

- Full summer of meetings, and an increase of another 10% support
- Continued safety in our travels
- Wisdom and understanding for Vilson, Maycon, and Roberto in their teaching and preaching
- Edification and strengthening of the Caixias do Sul congregation

Please note that we have added a phone number on the bottom of the page. It is an internet number that will continue to be valid when we return to Brazil. Thank you all again for your prayers and support of our ministry. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be manifest daily in your lives!

*In His service,*

*Yelles*

*John & Neila Yelle*  
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*“E, chegando-se Jesus, falou-lhes, dizendo: E-me dado todo o poder no céu e na terra. Portanto ide, fazei discípulos de todas as nações, batizando-os em nome do pai, e do Filho, e do Espírito Santo; ensinando-os a guardar todas as coisas que eu vos tenho mandado; e eis que eu estou convosco todos os dias, ate a consumação dos séculos. Amem.” Mateus 28:18 - 20*



**Constance Ann Nixon June 05, 1933 - March 31, 2017**

IBFI missionary to the North American Indians, Constance Ann Nixon, 83, passed away on March 31, 2017, at her home in Baldwin, North Dakota.

Connie married Charles Abram Nixon on September 12, 1951. In December 1973, Charles and Connie, following the leading of the Lord, moved to Mandan to begin their ministry to the Indian tribes of North Dakota. They were sent out of Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. When the IBFI was organized in 1984, they became part of the initial group of IBFI missionaries.

Connie is survived by her seven children; eighteen grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; her sister, Nancy (Holt) Elofson; and her brother, Kent Holt.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 60 years, Charles; and son-in-law, Glenn Sparks.

*- John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director*

**INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**

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



**DR. LOUIS ENTZMINGER**  
 lecturing at the BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY of Fort Worth, Texas with **DR. J. FRANK NORRIS** looking on.

**The Searchlight**

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INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

*The*  
**Searchlight**  
 JUNE/JULY 2017 VOLUME 34 ISSUE 1

**IBFI**  
**SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING**  
 MAY 22 -25, 2017



**1 John 1:3**

**CATCH THE VISION!**

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT | NEWS & EVENTS | SCHOOL, MISSIONS & ALUMNI NEWS



**1 John 1:3**

## JESUS – BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

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

Jesus has many titles in the Bible, but none is more fitting, more inclusive, more glorious, and more descriptive than the appellation in Revelation 22:16 (“Bright and Morning Star”).

### AS BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR:

- Jesus reflects the glory of God—John 1:1, 2.
- Jesus is the express image of God—Hebrews 1:1-4.
- Jesus is co-equal with God—John 10:30.

- o He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent.
- o He is all-prevailing and all-sufficient.
- o He is the Alpha and Omega and the Ancient of Days.
- o He is sovereign, supreme, supernal, and eternal.
- o He is the saviour, the sustainer, and the satisfier of the human heart.
- o He is the redeemer, the regulator, and the ruler of the human race.
- o He was, is, and forever shall be the Son of God.
- o He is the maker of heaven and earth.
- o He is the master of time and manager of eternity.
- o He is Lord of life and the conqueror of death.
- o He is the keeper of our hearts and the caretaker of our souls.

- ✓ He saves us when we are lost.
- ✓ He cheers us when we are sad.
- ✓ He strengthens us when we are weak.

### LET’S GO WITH HIM THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

- o He walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden at the dawn of creation.
- o He sailed with Noah in the ark when the floodwaters of God’s judgment covered the earth.
- o He communed with Abraham on the Plains of Mamre and made a covenant with him that can never be annulled.
- o He suffered with Joseph in the prison of Pharaoh and brought him out to become the Prime Minister of Egypt.
- o He spoke with Moses on the Mount of God and identified Himself as the “Great I Am.”
- o He marched with Joshua around the walls of Jericho and caused them to fall down flat.
- o He fought with Gideon against the Medianites and proved the strategy of a bedraggled army.
- o He wrestled with Samson against the Philistines and brought victory to His people.
- o He gleaned with Ruth in the field of Boaz and gave her handfuls on purpose.
- o He counseled with Samuel in the chambers of Israel and guaranteed him victory.
- o He fought with David against Goliath and demonstrated the victory of youth against a giant.
- o He labored with Solomon in the building of the temple and called it the House of God.
- o He rode with Elijah to heaven in a whirlwind.
- o He watched with Daniel in the den of lions and brought him out unscathed and unscratched.
- o He strolled with the three Hebrew children through the fiery furnace and delivered them without the smell of smoke on their clothing.
- o He stayed with John the Baptist while the Roman axe severed his head from his body and gave him a “short-cut to glory” (Pardon the pun).
- o He comforted Peter in the prison house of Herod and designated him “the Apostle to the Jews.”
- o He crossed with Paul over the stormy waters of the Mediterranean Sea and brought him safely to his designated port.
- o He consoled the Apostle John on the lonely, wind-swept Isle of Patmos and gave him the revelation of things to come.

### THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR SHINES BRIGHTER THAN EVER!

**LOOK! Mark Brown, IBFI President**

From the opening hymn to the last Amen, what a great spirit prevailed during the Spring Fellowship of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International! The music was inspiring, the preaching was encouraging, and the fellowship of God’s people was sweet. I would like to extend a special “thank you” to all who went out of their way to make these few days together a special time. Our greatest expression of gratitude, however, goes to the Lord. He certainly blessed the meeting in more ways than we can include in this article. To Him be the glory!

We are encouraged as well as excited to see what the Lord is doing in every ministry of the IBFI. It is evident that many have “caught the vision”... but what do we do now?... what’s next? It has been said, “*Vision without action soon fades.*” Let us remain faithful to what He wants us to do. We believe the best days are ahead for our mission agency, our school, and our fellowship as a whole, as we continue in the vision He has given us.

“Catch the Vision”..... Look Behind You - what God has done TO us,  
FOR us, THROUGH us!

“Catch the Vision”..... Look Above You - what God can and will do!

“Catch the Vision”..... Look Around You - see the need!

“Catch the Vision”..... Look Ahead of You - see the potential!

“Catch the Vision”..... Look Within You - what can I do?

## VISION CAUGHT!

*Jonathan J. Stewart,  
NBBS President*

### NO HYPE NECESSARY

We have the best leadership possible over the NBBS, the Spirit of God. As we follow His leading we can be assured of His ministry in our midst. It is evident He is blessing greatly.

There was a coalescing of everything said and done from start to finish in this year’s annual national IBFI meeting. The vision has been caught by the students, faculty, preachers and churches, the ranks of which were added to yet again in the past few days. Several individuals committed to getting involved afresh. Anyone present at the 33rd annual gathering of IBFI preachers will tell you that it is not necessary to hype the report of the true nature of the events from Monday night through Thursday morning.

The grounds and facilities were wonderfully readied again by the Spanish church (under the direction of Bro. Antonio Aguilar), and through the efforts of Bro. and Mrs. Frizzell (our business manager and secretary) and Dr. Terry Riggsby, as well as others who lent a hand here and there.

We readily reached and passed our offering goal of \$50,000.00. Since the meeting additional funds have come in from churches of pastors who were unable to be present. Some more pastors committed to begin monthly support of NBBS during the offering time. Prospective students for the seminary were waiting in the wings throughout the week. I enjoyed visiting with them and the many preachers who expressed great enthusiasm for the school.

### PREACHING WAS CENTRAL

The Monday night fish fry dinner would have been well received by the sons of Zebedee! Bro. Terry “fished all night” on more than one occasion, and apparently fished on the “other side of the boat,” having caught hundreds of fish. There was an abundance, and it took discipline to hold one’s self to no more than three helpings! The same triad of churches made it happen as they have in the past -- Friendship, Heritage and Messiah Baptist. Afterwards, Dr. Roger Green greatly enriched us with his Monday night message, and we were off and running!

Tuesday’s morning sermons from Bro. Bob Wallace and Bro. Claude Sutton, and then Bro. Roger Green were all “spot on.” The graduation service Tuesday night was capped off with a challenge by Bro. Charles Wetherbee to the graduates and to all present on the hands of God. Congratulations to our five graduates: Jared Blair, Floyd Cabler, Nathan Howard, Cody Jones, and Jarrod Tunnell. May the hand of God be upon each of you for years to come as you influence the lives of thousands with the grace of God through church-based ministry and the preaching and teaching of God’s Word.



Although Bro. Gene Stokes was not able to be with us in Texas this year, his influence on Wednesday morning was again seen, heard and felt as Bro. Robert Barrow opened in prayer, then Bro. Michael Wiggins and his daughter Shelby sang, then Bro. Jeremy Blackwell and Bro. Mark Brown preached. These are some of the men who were called to preach and went out from Faith Bible Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. Why we have NBBS was clearly exemplified in it all. Beyond the lasting effects of a pastor’s ministry, the impact of Bro. Gene and his wife shows how it is greatly multiplied by the men and women who have entered the ministry under his pastorate and were trained in Norris or another Bible college of like faith. Bro. Brown, who is married to Bro. Stoke’s daughter Tracy, now has children in the ministry too.

Wednesday night in the sanctuary of Victory Baptist Church in Weatherford, Texas, a great crowd gathered to hear Bro. John Yelle missionary to Brazil, and Dr. Raymond Barber. An exposition through a portion of Colossians from the

missionary showed us his heart and that of the Apostle Paul. The sermon from our Chancellor was uplifting, reinforcing and as solid as ever.



Bro. Heath Hogue, Randy Cotton, and retired Colonel Tray Ardes wrapped up the week of fellowship on Thursday morning with three sermons; accordingly, we heard from an alumnus pastor, a pillar in our fellowship, and a US Marine. It all served to further fine-tune our vision and put us in the mode of praying for each other, our ministries, our military, and the USA at the close of the meeting.

The music throughout the sessions, the missionary reports, and the testimonies of NBBS students, including those of the graduates, greatly enhanced the meeting throughout the week. Thank you to Bro. Andrew Johnson who led the singing, to Madeline Guereca who played the piano, and to Elvena Shipman who played the organ, also to those who provided special music.

### WHAT A LEGACY CONNIE NIXON LEAVES BEHIND!

When I assumed the role nearly three years ago to lead the school again, I readily noticed the regular monthly support of \$100.00 that Connie Nixon (the wife of late Charles Nixon missionary to the North American Indians), was investing in the NBBS. She passed to her reward on March 31, 2017, at the age of 83 years. It especially stood out to me because of the twilight stage of ministry she was in and because of her and Charles being fellow Kansans with my wife and me and our past association with them. We had served together at Worth Baptist Church while in school in the late 1970s and early 1980s. We worked together with the Nixon’s on his bus route, made visits together, fellowshiped at church and school recalling, the land where “the buffalo roam... and the skies are not cloudy all day.” Connie is experiencing the truth of Revelation 14:13, and it includes her eternal investment in NBBS; hence, the students and their future ministry. Several of our missionaries like Connie, regularly contribute to the school, and another one committed to start to do so during the week of fellowship, for which we are very thankful.

**PHASE II OF THE FLOOR COVERING PROJECT IS UNDERWAY**  
As I write, one church sent word they are sending a check for \$1,500.00 to be used in any way needed at the school. Accordingly, we will bump our total for Phase II of our floor covering fund from \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 with it, and we will use the remaining \$500.00 for any one of the other smaller but needed special projects under way at the seminary to further enhance the school’s program. Phase I was a very high quality commercial grade vinyl laminate “woodgrain” flooring for the foyer. It looks great. Phase II is 4,000 square feet of new carpet on the school side. We are securing bids for the carpet installation as I write and will be communicating soon by letter how much more funding we need to get the job done before school starts.

### CLOSING WORDS OF GRATITUDE

The expressions of appreciation toward each other abounded throughout the week, and we sought to again give God the glory as attention was drawn toward us in various ways. I am very grateful for the thoughtful demonstrations of respect and gratitude which were given to me by the Fellowship and graduating class. Be assured that my response is the same as yours has been and would be in the same circumstance. Your kindnesses mean a lot to me, that all the glory goes to Him who “reigns above in majesty supreme,” and that we deeply covet your prayers as we continue to serve Him and you. In closing, I add these words, “Take two aspirin tonight for whatever ails you; when you wake up have your devotions, and call me in morning if you are not doing better.” If these closing words do not make sense to you, let me just say, “You had to have been there.” Don’t miss the next fellowship meeting October 10-12 in Jackson, Mississippi, at the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church, where David Webb, an NBBS alumnus, is Pastor. His wife D’Ann also attended two years at NBBS.

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

## GREAT FELLOWSHIP MEETING

*Dr. Terry Riggsby, NBBS Field Representative*

Having attended all thirty-three of the IBFI May Fellowships, I personally feel that the most recent meeting ranks as one of the best. From the challenging preaching, graduation ceremony, Wednesday evening service, and the surpassing of the offering goal – all exceeded expectations. We thank the Lord for the great spirit and for each pastor, church, and individual who had a part in the meeting!

### SPECIAL THANKS

A Special thanks to the following churches for allowing me to present the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary ministry:

**Pastor Irby Graves, Bethel Baptist Church, Godley, Texas.** Bro. Graves was getting ready to celebrate his tenth year as pastor. Pray for him as he continues to preach the gospel and reach his area for Christ.

**Pastor John Moore, Steiner Baptist Church, Whitney, Texas.** Bro. Steiner has recently taken over this work and is already in a building program.

Please feel free to call me at 817-648-1859, if you are interested in having me come and present the NBBS ministry.



## KITCHEN COMPLETE! Glen Anderson, Alumni President

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

The dear folks at Pensacola Baptist Temple had the privilege of taking on the special project of new cabinets for the NBBS dormitory. The new cabinets were built and then carried from Pensacola, Florida, to Fort Worth, Texas, where they were installed in three days. Some other needed repairs were made at that time and a new dishwasher, a microwave oven, a kitchen sink and a new faucet installed.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IBF METROPLEX MEETINGS

July 20 - Thursday - McPherson Road Baptist Church

Fort Worth, Texas - Host Pastor Bill Hardin

August 17 - Thursday - Central Baptist Church

Chico, Texas - Host Pastor Fred Ferrer

September 21 - Thursday - Victory Baptist Church

Weatherford, Texas - Host Pastor Charles Wetherbee

### IBF OF TEXAS AND THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

Monday and Tuesday, September 11 - September 12, 2017

Berean Baptist Church

Fort Worth, Texas - Host Pastor Jason Pugh

Contact Bro. Pugh for more information, 940-393-9196,

or Bro. David Grice, 214-315-5422

A great lineup of preachers, food and fellowship

## MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND

### IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday - Thursday, October 10 - 12, 2017

Walker Springs Road Baptist Church

Jackson, Alabama - Host Pastor David Webb

### OPENING DAY RALLY

for NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

August 15, 2017

Student Orientation begins at 8:00 AM

There will be a special charge from Dr. Barber, the NBBS Chancellor

at 11:00 AM. A luncheon will follow.

Full details will be in the August/September issue of the Searchlight and

at the IBFI website [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us).



## 1 John 1:3



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