

BRAZIL

THE TRUE HAWKINS FAMILY



Institute Graduation



I am amazed and inspired by the way God has blessed the mission efforts to the various people groups of the upper Amazon region of Brazil, especially the Indigenous people groups of the Rio Negro region. True and Diana Hawkins have been faithfully involved in this work for their entire adult lives. They now occupy a very important strategic role of assisting the national Brazilian leadership to depend solely on their Heavenly Father as they continue in the great work of “going into all the world and preaching the Gospel to every creature.” Please keep True and Diana in your prayers as they face many challenges and experience many blessings from God.

John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR OF PROGRESS!

Dear Co-laborers,

Church Activities – The last pastor’s breakfast was held on December 9th with 23 pastors and missionaries present. The annual calendar for 2018 was set up which includes the conferences, camps, graduations, and youth and adolescent activities for the year.

Diana organized the last Ladies Fellowship for the year and had 33 present from 5 of the churches here in Manaus. They raised an offering to help send kids from needy families to youth camp next year.

Construction Projects – The glass is in the windows at the Purupuru congregation. Only 3 panes did not make the 60-mile trip interior and will be set this month. Missionary Marcílio has advanced on the building at Cumati (850 miles upriver); it will be used for the first Bible institute in that region.

Conferences – The organizational conference of the Missionary Baptist Church went well with 180 in attendance on Saturday night and 124 on Sunday; I challenged the new church to focus on molding their church to the New Testament model in the Scriptures. There were many visitors, and I expect that this church will grow quickly.

The anniversary conference of the 26 of November Baptist Church (23 years organized) went very well with over 140 in attendance on Saturday night. Diana and I built this church from February 1987 through November 1994.

Bela Vista Baptist Church also celebrated their annual conference with almost 200 in attendance. We began this work in 1994 and turned it over to national leadership in 2004.

Bible Institute – We had three graduates from the Bible institute here in Manaus (IBBA) on December 2nd. Elionai is from a town on the lower Amazon River, and Renã and Jackson are from Manaus. We had 17 students this semester and have some very promising young men and women continuing next semester, along with some new prospects for next March. We launched a new program from the IBBA that will take the teaching into the local churches two nights a week. Our first task is to train Sunday School teachers and to equip the church for the children outreach programs.

Missionaries – Missionary Valmir arrived December 5th from the São Gabriel area. He cares for The Baptist Church on the Rock (690 miles upriver) and travels the Rio Negro and tributaries evangelizing, and helps the local churches with their building programs. He is in town to receive a 40 H.P. outboard for his new wooden canoe, which will make his trips much easier and much more efficient. He was using 2 tiny 5.5 H.P. motors and was barely able to “pass” the rapids. Due to a very generous offering from a couple in the U.S., he has a good used motor. He is very happy, needless to say; the last trip that took 24 hours, will only take 7 now; and he will save on fuel (US\$ 6.21 a gallon).

Missionary Marcílio called and told of his trips evangelizing the Warekena people in Brazil and Venezuela; it was very encouraging to hear how God is blessing.

Thank You – We really appreciate each and every one who has prayed faithfully and given generously to our family and ministry here in the Amazon. We count it a privilege to represent you and to be co-laborers with you in this great work. It is a joy this Christmas season to share the good news of our Savior’s birth with the Brazilian people, in the cities, towns, communities, and villages scattered over this great basin; your prayers and finances are proclaiming “glad tidings of great joy to all people.” Thank you for standing with us!

In His Service,
True and Diana Hawkins



The Hawkins have been missionaries to Brazil with the IBFI since 1984



Conference



Ladies Meeting

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The Searchlight

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018 VOLUME 34 ISSUE 4

NBBS – MIDWAY THROUGH OUR 34TH YEAR!
Start of the New Semester with Opening Day Rally – January 16



Dr. Raymond Barber (NBBS Chancellor), as well as Bro. Tyler Gillit (IBFI V/P), and Three of the Students Slated to Graduate in May – Danny Medford, Coley Minnix, and Jacob Luman, all Preached.



Our Theme for the Year
“By His Spirit” Expresses Our Hearts’ Desire!



IBFI Mission Agency

Helping independent Baptist churches get their missionaries to the field

With local church sent missionaries serving in

- Brazil
- 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



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 Peeples, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor Phillip Blackwell, Pastor Raymond Castro, Pastor Eric Crawford, Pastor Fred Ferren, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Dale Harris, Sr., Pastor Frank Hefner, Pastor David Webb and Dr. Charles Wetherbee.

PRACTICAL PRIORITIES FOR PREACHERS



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

During my sixty-seven years in the ministry, I have learned some things about preachers. Let me share some of these things with you.

WHAT IS A PREACHER?

The preacher is a person, a prince, a pattern, a propagator, a provoker, a preserver, a persuader. He is a real live human being, not a creation from another planet, or a super human, or a miracle worker.

He belongs to the **“Ten F Club”**: Fervent, fearless, forceful, flexible, fruitful, friendly, firm, frank, frugal, and faithful. (Why will a preacher tell the congregation, “Well, I am no preacher,” and then spend an hour and a half proving it?)

WHAT KIND OF PREACHER IS GOD LOOKING FOR?

1. A preacher who carries long in the closet and stands tall in the pulpit.
2. A preacher whose faith has been fortified with a new fervor.
3. A preacher who persistently looks for unsaved souls and patiently waits for the Saviour.
4. A preacher who fervently preaches the truth without fear or favor.
5. A preacher who faithfully declares the unsearchable riches of grace and forcefully denounces the sins that nailed Jesus to the cross.
6. A preacher who clearly points multitudes to Jesus and compassionately pleads for men to stay out of hell. (J. Frank Norris said, “I would do anything to keep a man out of hell.”)

MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS FOR PREACHERS TO CONSIDER

• A preacher of the Word does not deal in trends, taboos, fads, fashions, or fairy tales: he deals in the unfiltered, uncompromising, unadulterated *truth* as he proclaims the gospel of redeeming grace.

• Any preacher who casts a shadow of doubt upon the veracity, the historicity, the accuracy, the authority, the authenticity, or the infallibility of the Word of God should leave the ministry and quit masquerading as a messenger of the most-high God.

• Preachers should get back to preaching the Word of God in the *Spirit* of God to glorify the *Son* of God and edify the *people* of God. Quit giving “fireside chats” and get back to “hell-fire preaching,” quoting “Thus saith the Lord.” (This phrase, or its equivalent, concerning God speaking, is used 3,800 times in the Bible.) Find yourself a few phrases!

• Preacher, when the thrill turns to a chill, you are over the hill and ready for a spill!

• Sound *words* plus sound *doctrine* make a sound *preacher*, and sound *preaching* leaves the audience with sound *faith*.

• Some preachers spend more time *analyzing* than agonizing, more time *elevating* self than exalting the Saviour, more time *philosophizing* than preaching, more time *entertaining* than interceding, and more time *exercising* than evangelizing.

PREACHER, TAKE TIME TO TAKE INVENTORY!



Mark Brown, IBFI President

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018!

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone, and we are entering a brand new year! As we look back and reflect on 2017, we can certainly see how God has blessed our fellowship in so many ways!

The **Norris Bible Baptist Seminary** took great strides with continued growth in the student body and the faculty, as well as allowing us to put Dr. Jonathan Stewart on staff as the full-time President of the NBBS - “BY HIS SPIRIT”. The **Missions Agency**, under the leadership of our Missions Director John Peebles, had a great year as well. We praise the Lord for all of our IBFI missionary families who are on the “front lines” taking the gospel to regions beyond. The **Searchlight** continues to be a source of information, as well as encouragement. I am thankful for a publication that highlights what God is doing in our fellowship as well as the churches that are represented - “BY HIS SPIRIT”.

God has provided the Independent Baptist Fellowship International with beautiful facilities and property. The Lord provided the funds to allow us to upgrade the buildings this past year, and we certainly thank Him for that - “BY HIS SPIRIT”.

I am grateful for the men and women of the IBFI. There is certainly a sweet spirit amongst the brethren. It truly has been a great year of fellowship with one another - “BY HIS SPIRIT”.

Although we look back at 2017 and count our blessings, we do not grow complacent! I firmly believe that our greatest days are ahead of us. I am looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us in 2018.

“BY HIS SPIRIT”

LONG-TIME PASTOR AND ALUMNUS CHRIS BOATMAN AVAILABLE FOR PREACHING

Bro. Chris Boatman has recently resigned as a full-time pastor to enter the field of evangelism. He graduated from the Norris Bible Baptist Institute in 1988, and has served the Lord faithfully for the past 30 years, either as a missionary or a pastor. Bro. Boatman previously served 8 years on the field of Belgium, pastored 15 years in Aransas Pass, Texas, and has spent the last seven years pastoring in Clovis, New Mexico. Bro. Chris now feels led to help churches that are struggling. Also, he is available to **preach for missions conferences, revivals, to fill the pulpit as interim pastor, or fill the pulpit for pastors as needed.** *Please feel free to call for any needs that you or your church might have, where you feel he could help: 936-707-5664.*



REV. R.J. BARBER, JR., WITH THE LORD

Rev. R. J. Barber, Jr., brother of Dr. Raymond Barber, died Saturday, February 10, 2018, at his home in Danville, Virginia, after a brief period of declining health. He founded Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1954. Upon the death of Dr. R.J. Baber, Sr., founder and pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle in Danville, Virginia, Rev. R.J. Barber, Jr. became the pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle. Dr. Raymond Barber became the pastor of the Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas in January 1962.

Rev. R.J. Barber, Jr. expanded the daily radio program his father had begun and conducted the last fifty-eight years. This April, the daily radio broadcast would have celebrated its eighty-sixth year of broadcasting, making it the longest daily religious radio broadcast in the world.



4 MONTHS, 17 WEEKS, & 37.5 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION FOR EACH COURSE IS UNDERWAY YET AGAIN!



*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

HERE WE GO AGAIN FOR THE 68TH TIME!

We launched the new semester Tuesday, January 16, with our third annual Opening Day Rally which was combined with the IBF of Metro-area Preachers Fellowship. It was the 68th semester started since the first one in August of 1984.

Three of our potential May graduates preached (Jacob Luman, Danny Medford, Coley Minnix), as well as Bro. Tyler Gillit, the Vice President of the IBFI and pastor of the Worth Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, and our Chancellor, Dr. Raymond Barber. In spite of winter weather issues (which included area schools starting two hours late or being closed for the day) and widespread flu-related sickness, we had an almost full house!



Opening Day Rally luncheon that followed the morning service

TWO NBBS ALUMNI RETURNING TO UPGRADE THEIR DEGREE

Coley Minnix returned in 2016 to take the courses needed to earn a Bachelor's Degree with a Pastoral Minor. Bro. Fred Ferren, a 2002 graduate of the NBBS and pastor of the Central Baptist Church of Chico, Texas, has returned this semester to take four classes in order to complete the work he needed to get his Bachelor's Degree. He is also a potential graduate this May. We anticipate other alumni to soon follow in Bro. Ferren's steps in the pursuit of a Bachelor's degree at NBBS.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS NEW SEMESTER

Annual **Founder's Week** with our Chancellor, Dr. Raymond Barber, will be March 20-23. The students will enjoy a **Mission Conference** week with a theme, a daily mission's preacher and missionaries presenting their field. The dates for this are still being worked out. This semester's **Week of Concentrated Study** will be April 9-12 (Monday through Thursday), and will be a focus related to the first semester's of the Biblical account of creation and Noah's flood.

The students will have hands on teaching by the conducting of an excavation of dinosaur footprints on the Paluxy River under the direction of Dr. Carl Baugh of the Creation Evidence Museum of Glen Rose, Texas. Obviously they are excited about the possibilities of this venture! (The two previous school year's Week of Concentrated Study were on church planting stateside and then on the foreign field. We typically alternate between the practical and the theological each year.)

FOUNDING PASTORS AND FAITHFUL ALUMNI



Bro. James Pointer recently retired from the pastorate of Sioux City Baptist Church, of Sioux City, Iowa. Bro. Pointer graduated from the Bible Baptist Seminary of Ft. Worth, Texas, in 1970. He and his wife moved to Sioux City in 1974 to begin their ministry at Sioux City Baptist Church.

Bro. Pointer pastored the church for 43 years. I had the privilege of preaching for Bro. Pointer through the years on several occasions. He has been a personal friend and encourager for quite some time. Bro. Pointer and the church in Sioux City, have been steady supporters of NBBS. More recently, he stepped up to undergird the endeavors of the seminary, as we sought to refurbish the facilities that house the school.

Bro. Lowell Spencer, a graduate of the Bible Baptist Seminary in 1958, retired in January, from the pastorate of the Eaton Baptist Temple, Eaton, Ohio (pastored from 1966 to 2018!). Here is another very good friend through the years to the seminary, as well as to me personally.



Bro. Spencer and the Eaton Baptist Temple often sent the first check we would get in the mail when we were initiating a fund drive for the enhancement or repair of the school facilities. Oftentimes there would be a check from the church and one from him and his wife. We traveled to the Holy Land together in September of 2001.

We hope both Bro. Pointer and Bro. Spencer will be able to come our way next fall during the school year, and personally invest some “hands on time” preaching and/or teaching with the seminary for a few days. These two men, their wives, and their churches **will be having fruit credited to their account** until the Lord returns by way of all the students who were trained at NBBS these thirty-four years and who have “stayed by the stuff.” They will also have a part in the future students God sends to the seminary. In the past three and a half years, many have stepped up to dramatically help the school resurge.

BIBLE COURSES ARE FRONT AND CENTER WITH DOCTRINAL AND PRACTICAL CLASSES FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND

Envision a preacher training center wherein 24 of the 48 classes are Bible exposition courses. The books of the Bible are taught in the order in which they are found in the Bible. Also, there are 10 doctrinal courses and 14 practical ones either on church-based ministry, or about how to live the Christian life. Additionally, consider that it has a faculty made up of preachers and their wives, who inherently bring “real life” experience into everything they teach. Consider that a semester goes a full 17 weeks, **so that a student by way of the four year program, receives up to 24 more weeks of instruction than they would in most Bible colleges. That, in effect, is nearly a whole year more of teaching!** All this, and so much more, at a cost below most other schools, is what NBBS is about.



A tranquil picture of the NBBS Chapel area wherein one of the most important aspects of the school's program takes place – the preaching of God's Word.

INVESTING IN ETERNITY THROUGH NBBS

A special thank you to the churches who sent a Christmas offering to NBBS. It greatly helped us with the expenses it takes to launch the new semester. Have you seriously considered what a great investment it would be for your church to contribute monthly to NBBS as a mission project? When you do so, you are investing for eternity in future missionaries and church planters, as well as pastors.

Pray for us and send us your students!

IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON

ALUMNI NEWS

Glen Anderson, Alumni President



The Apostle Paul said to Timothy, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴And they shall turn away *their ears* from the truth, and shall be turned into fables.” II Timothy 4:1-4

We are living in such a time today. We are faced with people who do not want to hear sound doctrine, and so they seek out those who will tickle their ears and tell them lies to make them feel good about their sin. A friend recently shared with me an experience he had concerning his pastor. He lives in an area where there are several casinos and had noticed several church members coming and going from the casinos. He had never heard the pastor preach on gambling, dress standards, or drinking alcohol. He sat down with his pastor and asked him a few questions. One of the things he asked was, “**What is your position on gambling?**” The pastor leaned into him and said, “**Brother there are several other churches in the area you can attend.**”

I thank God that He led me to Norris Bible Baptist Seminary where I was taught to, “**Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**” I was instructed to tell people “**Thus saith the Lord**” with a broken and compassionate heart, instead of telling them what they want to hear.

We are still training preachers today! I highly recommend the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary to anyone who feels the call of God to “**PREACH THE WORD.**”

I hope to see you in May at the IBFI National Spring Meeting in Ft Worth, Texas.

SEMESTER COMPLETED!



*Terry Riggsby,
NBBS Field Representative*

We have recently completed a successful fall semester at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary! We are looking forward to the spring semester that began on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 with a combined Opening Day Rally and IBF Metroplex meeting. Dr. Raymond Barber, our Chancellor, Bro. Tyler Gillit, the IBFI Vice-President, and three of the NBBS students brought very challenging and up-lifting messages.

Thanks to the following churches and pastors for allowing me to speak for their special services:

• Dr. Don Shipman, Bible Baptist Church, Cleburne, Texas, as part of their anniversary services.

• Pastor Brian Fisher, former NBBS student and pastor of Longvue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, at their annual Stewardship Conference.

I am still available to come and present the ministry of NBBS. Please feel free to contact me at 817-648-1859 if I can be of help.

Please note that former NBBS student, Craig Kearby, is going into Evangelism with the Fellow Soldier Ministries. For speaking engagements or for the presentation of this ministry, you may reach him at (903) 253-3180. He and his family would be a blessing to your church!



UPCOMING EVENTS

IBFI National Spring Meeting

Monday – Thursday
May 21-24, 2018
Raymond W. Barber Conference Center
Fort Worth, Texas

Full details will be at the IBFI website www.ibfi.us

IBF of Texas and the Great Southwest

Monday and Tuesday
March 5-6, 2018
Bible Baptist Church of Rendon
Fort Worth, Texas
Host Pastor – Chris Winkle

Contact Bro. Winkle for more information, 817-478-4878 or Bro. David Grice, 214-315-5422
A great lineup of preachers, food and fellowship

Metroplex Area IBF

March 15, 2018
Beacon Baptist Church
Haltom City, Texas
Host Pastor – Chad Pitts

Contact Bro. Pitts for more information, 940-368-8900