

The Searchlight

MARCH/APRIL 2020 VOLUME 36 ISSUE 5

IBFI SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING MAY 18 - 21, 2020



DR. FRANK GAGLIANO
MON. 7:00 PM | TUE. 11:00 AM



PASTOR ROY WEBSTER
TUE. 9:00 AM



PASTOR TERRY TERRY
TUE. 10:00 AM



DR. RANDY COTTON
TUE. 7:00 PM



PASTOR HEATH HOGUE
WED. 9:00 AM



DR. WILLIE WEAVER
WED. 10 AM



MISSIONARY DANNY JONES
WED. 7:00 PM



DR. RAYMOND BARBER
WED. 7 PM



PASTOR DAVID PUGH
THURS. 9:00 AM



PASTOR JAMES HOGUE
THURS. 10:00 AM



RET. COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
ARCHIE L. DAVIS, JR.
THURS. 11:00 AM

IBFI - SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY! BEHOLD, I SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR - REVELATION 3:8

THE TRUE HAWKINS FAMILY



John Peeples,
IBFI Mission Director



Valmir at the Rocha Baptist Church

Dec 2019/Jan 2020

The Christmas season always reminds us of how important the birth of our Lord and Savior is to us and all mankind. It is the key to all human history, and the event that began the process that will end in His appearance and world-wide reign from Jerusalem.

Family - December and the first part of January were spent taking care of some needed medical for both Diana and me. Thank you very much for the special Christmas gifts; they made it possible for us to do a little more than we had planned. We enjoyed the time here in Derby, Kansas, with Diana's family, and then a "second" Christmas with Nathaniel and grandkids in Colorado. We are awaiting Philip to fly in from his post to finish off the season with a "third" Christmas in early January.

National Missionaries - I received emails from our indigenous missionaries in north Brazil and they had great news to share with us. Missionary Valmir told of the April through December activities; he made two trips up the Uapés (Walpez) River, which has for the first time in history opened up to the Gospel and told of the meetings and opportunity to plant the seeds. He ended out the year at the anniversary conference at the Baptist Church at Pirayawara (Porpoise in the Inyengatu language), where they are expecting a thousand or more. He also reopened the congregation in the Auxiliadora (Help-meet) community on November 9th; it had been closed due to the prolonged illness of their pastor João Bosco. I visited him in Manaus while he was being treated and saw his condition. It is a miracle he is alive; thanks for praying for him. The Rocha (Baptist Church on the Rock) that Valmir organized recently banded together and helped out João Bosco's family with food and finances; this is the very first time I have seen this in that area, and a very encouraging sign.

Plans for 2020 - We will be returning to Brazil on March 24th, if not earlier. Upon arrival, we will try to help out in the Bible Institute (IBBA- Manaus) by teaching and caring for the needs of our national mission. There are four programs that are already set: in May we finish the Bible Institute semester with graduation; June we will have our pastors' congress; in July we will be in Saint Gabriel (600 miles upriver) for the biannual Indigenous Leadership Congress; September 11-12th we will host the annual Ladies Conference in Manaus. Upon arrival we plan to look for and purchase the first motor for the "Outboard Project" so that our missionaries can take the gospel even further interior.

Prayer - Please continue to hold up our pastors and lay people in the Manaus churches. We are going through some of the most difficult times in the history of our movement in Brazil. Remember especially the new board of directors of the institute in Manaus (IBBA) elected for the next two years.

Thank You for another faithful year of prayer and financial support. Missions is a joint effort, and we depend on you as you depend on us. We "...shall part alike." (1 Samuel 30:24)

In His Service,

True and Diana Hawkins



Missionary Valmir traveling



Pirayawara Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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- 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



Seize the opportunity to train for the ministry at NBBS!

NBBS
Seizing the Opportunity!
For a great door and effectual is opened unto me | 1 Cor. 16:9

TO EXCEL IN BIBLE TEACHING & PREACHING

TO EXCEL IN CHURCH MINISTRY

TO EXCEL IN PRAYER

TO EXCEL IN EVANGELISM

The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Willie Weaver, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor Barry Bedwell, Pastor Phillip Blackwell, Pastor Mark Brown, Pastor Eric Crawford, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Dale Harris, Sr., Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor Charles Pugh and Pastor Charles Wetherbee

MORE OF WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS: The BRIGHT and MORNING STAR



Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

No one whoever lived except Jesus has been worthy of the noble title: **Bright and Morning Star**. Jesus Himself testified to His magnificent title when he said, *“I am the Root and Offspring of David, the BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR”* (Revelation 22:16).

The more we know about Him, the more we love Him, *“who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever”* (Revelation 1:5,6).

I challenge you to read and rejoice over my feeble effort to write more of what we want to know about Jesus!

- He reflects the glory of God (John 1:1,2,14).
- He is the Express Image of God (Hebrews 1:1-4).
- He is co-equal with God (John 10:30).
 - He is All-Prevailing, All-Sufficient, Alpha and Omega, and Ancient of Days.
 - He is Sovereign, Supreme, Supernal, and Eternal.
 - He is the Saviour, the Sustainer, and the Satisfier of the Human Heart.
 - He is the Redeemer, the Regulator, and the Ruler of the Human Race.
- He was, He is, and He shall forever be!
- He is the Maker of Heaven and Earth!
- He is the Master of Time and Eternity!
- He is the Lord of Life and the Conqueror of death!
- 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.
- He walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden at the Dawn of Creation.
- He sailed with Noah in the Ark of Safety when the flood waters of God’s judgment covered the earth.
- He communed with Abraham on the Plains of Mamre, and made a covenant with Him that can never be annulled.
- He suffered with Joseph in the Prison of Pharaoh, and brought Him out to become Prime Minister of Egypt.
- He spoke with Moses on the Mount of God and identified Himself as the “Great I Am.”
- He marched with Joshua around the walls of Jericho and caused them to fall down flat.
- He fought with Gideon against the Medianites and proved the strategy of a bedraggled army.
- He wrestled with Samson against the Philistines and brought victory to his people.
- He gleaned with Ruth in the fields of Boaz and gave her handfuls on purpose.
- He counseled with Samuel in the chambers of Israel and guaranteed him security.
- He fought with David against Goliath and demonstrated the bravery of youth.
- He labored with Solomon in the building of the Temple and called it the House of God.
- He rode with Elijah in the whirlwind to Heaven accompanied by twenty thousand chariots of God.
- He breathed with Elijah on the dead son of the widow and brought him back to life again.
- He watched with Daniel in the den of lions and brought him out unscathed and unscratched.
- He strolled with the Hebrew children through the fiery furnace and delivered them without even the smell of smoke.
- He comforted Peter in the prison house of Herod and designated him “the Apostle to the Jews”
- He crossed with Paul over the stormy waters of the Mediterranean Sea and brought him safely to his designated port.
- He consoled John on the lonely Isle of Patmos and gave him the Revelation of things to come.

THE LORD AND CHRIST

By Raymond W. Barber

The Lord and Christ is Jesus to me;
The Lord and Christ who ransomed me;
The Lord and Christ forever will be.
The Lord and Christ born to die;

The Lord and Christ, “It is finished was His cry.”

The Lord and Christ, His battle is done;
The Lord and Christ, the victory is won.
The Lord and Christ, He reigns above;
The Lord and Christ, majestic is His love.

The Lord and Christ is coming soon;

The Lord and Christ: morning, evening, or noon.

THE STRENGTH OF A FELLOWSHIP



Dr. Willie Weaver, IBFI President

Some say that a school (Bible Institute, College or Seminary) cannot stand alone without a fellowship. The truth is that if they have enough students and financial support they don’t have to have a fellowship to back them. Some schools exist without associating with a *particular fellowship* group.

Some say that a fellowship has no reason to exist without a school. The truth is there are a number of fellowships that are not connected with a particular school. Their emphasis is on *church planting* and this can be accomplished without a school. A fellowship can raise funds to help start new church plants and restore churches that are struggling and need help both in funds and personnel.

A fellowship can also have a *mission’s agency* to help the missionaries of that fellowship. They do not have to have a school in order to accomplish this. A fellowship can also have an *official publication* that represents and informs the constituents about current events and other information.

To be sure it seems to work better if a fellowship has *a school* they support and recognize it as the school of choice for the majority of churches in that fellowship because men and women need to be trained and prepared for ministry after they surrender for full time service.

Both those *younger* and *older* students who have surrendered their lives for full time ministry need training in the Bible and all areas of ministry.

We, as a fellowship believe that the best scenario for us is to have a *fellowship*, a *school*, a *mission’s agency* and an *official publication*. This requires *“teamwork”* to make the *“dream work”* (our goals). This requires commitment and involvement. A fellowship needs to have churches and pastors that participate.

We need churches and we need Pastors who will lead their churches to support the fellowship *financially*. (The fellowship has many costs including: a home office, equipment, staff, mission’s office, publication and other costs).

The NBBS needs to be *supported by the fellowship* to supplement the educational costs so students can afford to attend. (There are salaries, maintenance, materials and miscellaneous costs as well). We need students from the churches in our fellowship as well as students from other churches to *“feed”* our school with students. A team working together. This is the strength of a fellowship.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT MORE PEOPLE COME TO CHRIST BECAUSE OF OUR WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM FOR HIS GLORY!

This brings me to reminding you that our next national meeting will be May 18-21, 2020. Our special guest speaker this year will be *Dr. Frank Gagliano*, pastor of the South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, Tennessee. South Haven has a membership of over 2,000. You will be challenged by his preaching as well as the preaching of our other lineup of speakers. We are looking forward to a great fellowship meeting and trust you are now *making plans* to be with us.

NBBS – OUR 36TH GRADUATION



Jonathan J. Stewart, NBBS President

IT HAS BEEN A ONE-OF-A-KIND SEMESTER FOR ALL CONCERNED

In these challenging times, an excitement for teaching the Bible and being taught it, coupled with innovation, perseverance, and the prayerful support of many churches and individuals, has brought us to this time. All this, by the grace of God, is behind the efforts of both the faculty and the student body this last half of our 36th year of schooling. Accordingly, we are “live-streaming” our way to the finish line.

Training for the ministry in the midst of the situation in which our communities, nation, and the world are because of the COVID-19 outbreak, is an additional field of experience in which our students can put what they are learning into practice. Christianity was built by God for times, such as these, as well as days of smooth sailing. The death of Christ on the cross verifies there are unfathomable physical, moral, and spiritual dimensions to the fall of man in Adam. One in which only an infinite God, through the God-Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, could remedy. A remedy which now results in freely-given enablement (grace), being imparted to us, in order to serve our Maker and fellow man, in the midst of a fallen world, and which also enables us to ultimately enter heaven free from sin forever.

THREE GRADUATES THIS MAY

In the midst of several who are getting close to graduation, we have three lining up to finish in May. **These three men readily exemplify the overall spirit of the student body.** They spontaneously apply what they are learning in class. They seek the lost in their every day life as well as in church outreach efforts, and they incorporate key Biblical truths served up to them in useable formats in their preaching and teaching. Having deeply personalized what they have learned, and therefore benefitted from doing so, they eagerly desire to see others experience the same.



James Chambers, who is 50 years of age, is securing a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. He is a very active member of Lakeland Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, where Jeff York is the pastor. He is married to Diane Chambers, and they have one son, Jakob. Bro. Chambers, first attended NBBS from Fall of 2005, through the Spring of 2009. He returned in 2014, and was part of the original thirteen members of the student body in the fall of 2014, when NBBS was being reestablished as a singular school of operation again. Extended family needs necessitated that he relocate to Oklahoma, in late 2015. This resulted in him putting his schooling on hold. What a blessing his return in 2018, to finish has been!

It would be hard to overstate the blessing that James and Diane Chambers have been to the NBBS. As a staff member and student, he has repeatedly stepped up in most every way one could. As dorm parents, he and his wife have gone far beyond what could be expected. Not only has Diane made the men’s dormitory a home, she has been key in the fine-tuning of a *modus operandi* for it. This was largely done while James made many repairs on the downstairs area, and remodeled the second story of the dorm house. He has been a ready-made, “hands-on” help in various ways with the upkeep of the main school facility, campus, and in the “setting up and taking down” for special events. In keeping with his church ministry experience through the years at Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, then Harvest Hills Baptist Church in Duncan, Oklahoma, and Victory Baptist Church, Del Rio, Texas, James has also been an asset to NBBS in the classroom, from substitute teaching to setting an example in attendance and conduct. There is just no area of the school where he has not been a significant help. He has been a **great investment of your time, money, and prayers.** Diane, is

a graduate of a Bible college, has taken classes at NBBS, and presently is a Christian school teacher.



Tony Roa, who is 38 years of age, is securing a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. He is a very active member of the Countryside Baptist Church, Mansfield, Texas, where NBBS faculty member Claude Sutton is the pastor. Bro. Roa serves as both the youth and music director at his church. He is married to Melissa and they have two children, Audrey and Caleb.

Tony has a record of perfect attendance throughout all his years at NBBS. He did this while working a “split shift” at his place of employment. He has come from work to go to school, and then returned back to work after school. He has been a solid student academically consistently earning *A’s*, and turning in required papers and assignments on time. His wife Melissa is also a very good student at NBBS, in the same manner as her husband. She has done much type-setting of Louis Entzminger’s writings (the co-founder with J. Frank Norris of the old Bible Baptist Seminary), so that his writings can be incorporated into the school’s curriculum. She has done type-setting for Dr. Barber, as well as many of the current President’s notes as it relates to curriculum. She too plans to graduate from NBBS in the near future.

Bro. Roa has been a continual source of reinforcement to the approach NBBS takes in its efforts to help train preachers and their wives. His pronounced embracing of the principles that characterize the school, have gone a long way in making the educational experiences for all the students better. In so doing, He has been a natural leader of the student body with his cheerful spirit and compassionate heart. **He also has been a great investment of your time, money, and prayers.**

Hunter Whiddon, who is 24 years of age, is receiving a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. He and his wife Stephanie, are members of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, where NBBS alumnus, Dr. Robin Webb is pastor. Bro. Whiddon is the Associate Pastor at Tabernacle, and his wife not only is involved in the music program of the church, and the children’s ministries, but she also teaches in the church’s Christian school. Stephanie is a 2018 graduate of NBBS, and was a fine student and added much to the school, through her singing, and through her zeal to further learn the Word of God, as well as in sharing the ways she and Hunter were incorporating what they were learning into what they were teaching children and young people at their church.



Bro. Whiddon has also been an eager student of the Word of God all during his years of schooling. He has maintained an alertness in the classroom and a readiness to learn. His upbeat manner, positive outlook, and warmth to his fellow students, has added much to the spirit of the school. His intensity is tempered by his teachability and caring heart. He carries himself beyond his years in the right sense of the word. **He is yet another great investment of your time, money, and prayers.**

Hunter will be quick to tell you how he “received what he came for at NBBS”, with a great bonus – his wife, whom he met while attending the seminary. Having married while they were both in school, they intuitively have been a team for the cause of Christ in the ministry, and a support to each other in their pursuit of furthering their education.

GRADUATES TYPIFY NBBS

These three, as men either in their 20s, 30s, or 40s, typify the bulk of student body of NBBS as it relates to age. Additionally, though there are men and women in their 50s through 70s, who are pursuing degrees, or some further teaching and training. **This creates a real life schooling experience for all involved, for in church ministry, and in everyday life situations, a preacher must relate to all walks of life.** This is one of the many very significant aspects to the effectiveness of the NBBS. You, as our supporting churches, are another! Thank you for it.

PLANS TO ATTEND



Kenneth Ralph, Alumni President

The Spring Fellowship Meeting was and still is one of the highlights of my year. The opportunity to see old friends, make new ones and to hear fellow alumni preachers preach, is worth any amount money you would pay to come. It is important to keep up with those who have invested in you and those in whom you have invested. Gleaning from the lives/ministries of seasoned pastors, investing in the lives of preachers and

their preparation for the ministry is the best way to make our dividends pay throughout eternity.

The Alumni Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, immediately following the morning session, at the Mexican Inn in Lake Worth. It is a new venue but comes recommended and has the space to hold everyone who wishes to come. This is always such an enjoyable time for the Alumni and their families to connect with each other over a delicious meal. Visit www.mexicaninncafe.com for more information.

The May meeting is a time to be with men of like faith and practice, to come together with the purpose of encouraging one another. The spirit of the NBBS has never been better and we know your presence will only make it that much sweeter. We hope you’ve already made plans to attend, but if not please consider doing so. Hope to see you soon.

MAY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Monday evening will be the J. Frank Norris Fellowship Service. Our annual FISH FRY, beginning at 5:30 PM, will be held before the services which will begin at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 PM, the Ladies Tea will be held. Ladies please make plans to attend this elegant, fun and relaxing event.

Graduation services on Tuesday evening, afterwards we will have a dessert reception to honor our graduates and their families.

Wednesday at noon we will have our Annual Alumni Luncheon. Everyone is invited to attend so make plans to attend.

The Wednesday evening services will be held at the Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX.

Thursday morning we special “patriotic and prayer” emphasis scheduled. Please plan to attend and you will not be disappointed!

Nursery will be provided for all services.

HOTEL INFORMATION	
BEST WESTERN FORT WORTH INN & SUITES 201 West Loop, I-820 Fort Worth, TX 76108 817-246-8777	CANDLEWOOD SUITES 402 N. Jim Wright Fwy. Fort Worth, TX 76108 817-246-6800
STAYBRIDGE SUITES FORT WORTH 229 Clifford Center Drive Fort Worth, TX 76108 817-312-9987	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES LAKE WORTH NW LOOP 820 3541 NW Loop 820 Fort Worth, TX 76106 817-744-7755
COMFORT SUITES AT LAKE WORTH 5825 Quebec St. Fort Worth, TX 76135 480-568-4526	SCOTTISH INNS WHITE SETTLEMENT 500 North Jim Wright Freeway White Settlement, TX 76108 877-537-2062

ELECTION INFORMATION		
The following officers have each served two years and WILL BE eligible for re-election:		
WILLIE WEAVER, President	ERIC CRAWFORD, Secretary	
The following officer has served for three years and WILL NOT be eligible for re-election:		
TYLER GILLIT, Vice President		
The following board members have served three years and WILL NOT be eligible to serve this next year:		
PHILLIP BLACKWELL	DAVID GRICE	DALE HARRIS, SR.
We 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 Dr. Willie Weaver at 817-480-8573.		

UPCOMING EVENTS

IBF METROPLEX MEETINGS

Thursday, April 16, 2020
 Countryside Baptist Church
 Mansfield, TX
 Host Pastor Claude Sutton
 Contact Bro. Sutton for more information,
 817-223-2582

IBFI 2020 FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday–Thursday,
 October 13–15, 2020
 Location to be determined

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

MISSION STORE 2020



Please do not forget our annual Mission Store. Please consider giving gift cards which are always greatly appreciated by the missionaries. If you have any question please feel free to call Shirley Peoples at the Mission Office at 817-367-3422.