



John Peebles,
IBFI Mission Director

Heath and Caryssa Van Zandt are our newest approved IBFI Church Planters. The Van Zandts have one daughter, Salem. Bro. Heath is finishing his last semester at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, and feels called to plant a church in Rhome, Texas. He will be graduating in May, with a B.A. in Bible Studies. Bro. Heath has been on staff at Santa Fe Drive Baptist Church in Weatherford, TX, since March of 2018.



Heath Van Zandt family

Pastor Tony Thomas writes: "Brother Heath has done a great job teaching our young people and helping them have a greater knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. During his time with us, he has preached on a monthly basis, taught a discipleship class, preached at the nursing home, cleaned the building, maintained the church grounds, has been active on door-to-door visitation, and does anything he has been asked to do."

Property searches for a meeting place for this church plant are currently underway, with plans to begin the church this summer. I encourage you to prayerfully consider your support for this ministry.

NEWS FROM The Yelles

Serving the Lord
in Caxias do Sul,
Southern Brazil



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

2020 was full of uncertainties, but we found blessings from our Creator throughout the year. We both passed 2020 with good health, and God continued to provide all the finances we needed despite the pandemic and economic troubles. The mission work continues without any extreme difficulties, and we have been able to adjust our ways of church activities around pandemic restrictions without compromising Biblical principles.



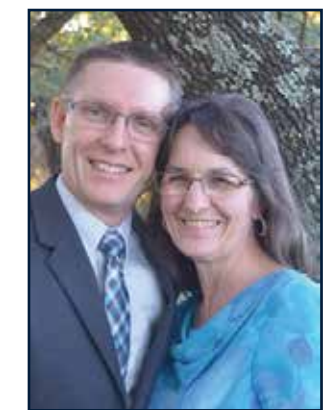
The end of the year came with a great blessing: our daughter and son-in-law Joneia and Jeremy Bennett, arrived for a two month visit, and short missions' trip. They both are such a blessing with projects around the house, as well as helping lighten the load with the church work. Both of them helped with our December youth activity. Jeremy is song leading, and Joneia is playing our Q-Chord in the services and helping teach the children. We have plans to soon get out and do some door-to-door visitation with them.



We were able to make several visits in November to those who have dropped off participating in the church services. Please be in prayer for the brethren here. Though we felt we were able to encourage them, fear of getting sick and lack of commitment to the Lord are hindering many from a faithful return.

The average attendance for church services steadily averaged seventeen. Considering all who faithfully attend and those who were hit-and-miss with the services, the COVID-19 situation basically cut the church participation in half.

On the more positive side, our online services through Facebook have been watched by several of our acquaintances who have never visited the church services. If they have watched to the end, they definitely heard of the need of a Redeemer and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. We also have a web page which has a great Gospel tract presentation. It is all in Portuguese, but if you want to check it out, it is ibvserragaucha.com. We plan soon to have internet links to our preaching and discipleship.



Our prayer requests are:

- Successful evangelistic outreach.
- More laborers in the harvest.
- Spiritual growth and encouragement of the believers.
- God's grace and mercy for the health and finances of the congregation.

Thank you so very much for your faithful prayers in support of our ministry. We need His grace and strength. We have got much work to still be done, but by the signs of the times, it looks as though our time is short. "Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21 :28)

In His service,
John & Neila Yelle

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

724 N. Jim Wright Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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Helping independent Baptist churches get their missionaries to the field

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- Brazil
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Malawi
- Mexico
- USA

Help us expand to reach around the world!
Visit us on the web: www.ibfi.us email: missionoffice@ibfi.us



There is a place for you at NBBS! Fall semester starts August 10th.

CHRIST IS THE ANSWER
JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY,
AND TO DAY, AND FOR EVER

NBBS
A School of Specialization
Since 1984

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY
Declaring Christ to the World by Training Preachers

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 Peebles, 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.,

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INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The Searchlight

MARCH/APRIL 2021 VOLUME 37 ISSUE 5

IBFI SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING MAY 17 - 20, 2021



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. WILLIE WEAVER
TUE. 7:00 PM | WED. 10:00 AM



PASTOR HEATH HOGUE
WED. 9:00 AM



MISSIONARY DANNY JONES
WED. 7:00 PM



DR. RAYMOND BARBER
WED. 7 PM



PASTOR DAVID PUGH
THURS. 9:00 AM



PASTOR CHAD FITTS
THURS. 10:00 AM



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



ANDREW JOHNSON FAMILY
MINISTERING IN SONG
AT THE IBFI SPRING
FELLOWSHIP MEETING.

CHRIST IS THE ANSWER

"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" - JOHN 8:12

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



ALUMNI NEWS

Kenneth Ralph,
Alumni President

There is no doubt COVID-19 has affected your church as it did ours. There are people who are too afraid to return to church. There are those who are placing more faith in the vaccine than they are trusting in God. People are distant. Hearts are cold and indifferent. These are some of the attitudes that have come as a result of this virus.

In the midst of many opinions there are some truths we can cling to:

Jesus is still on the throne. (Colossians 1:16-17)
Souls still need to be saved. (Romans 3:23)

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 reception to honor our graduates and their families.

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

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

Thursday morning we will have a 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 three years and WILL NOT be eligible for re-election:		
WILLIE WEAVER, President	TYLER GILLIT, Vice President	ERIC CRAWFORD, Secretary
The following board members have each served for three years and WILL NOT be eligible to serve this 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

In view of the COVID-19 situation, the monthly meetings have been randomly held with scheduled meetings to start in the near future.

IBFI 2021 FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday-Thursday,
October 12-14, 2021
Location to be determined

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

MISSION STORE 2021



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 Peebles at the Mission Office at 817-367-3422.

PRAYER: POWER, PROMINENCE, AND PRODUCTIVITY



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

(Series of Articles on Prayer)
NUMBER THREE

PRAYER, PRAYERS, PRAYING

Are you aware of the possibilities wrought by prayer? The Word of God comforts us with admonitions to pray and with examples of sincere prayers.

The Bible offers the following references on prayer:

1. Prayer and forgiveness: Matthew 5:22-26
2. Prayer associated with hypocrisy: Matthew 6:5-7
3. Prayer when in peril: Matthew 8:23-27
4. Prayer for the harvest: Matthew 9:37,38
5. Prayer born of distress: Matthew 14:28-30
6. Prayer in the life of Christ: Mark 1:35
7. Prayer together with fasting: Mark 2:15
8. Prayer at the ascension: Luke 24:49-53
9. Prayer in Jesus' name: John 14:13-15
10. Prayer and the Word: Acts 6:4-7
11. Prayer for safety in travel: Romans 1:8-15
12. Prayer for unity: Romans 15:5
13. Prayer and the Christian's status: Ephesians 1:1-11
14. Prayer accessing God's throne: Ephesians 2:18
15. Prayer in the spiritual warfare: Ephesians 6:18,19
16. Prayer and peace: Philippians 4:6,7
17. Prayer associated with God's will: Hebrews 12:9
18. Prayer for wisdom from above: James 5:1-7
19. Prayer associated with praise: Revelation 5:9

The list above does not by any means exhaust the scope of prayers and praying, but it gives us some pertinent references to guide and inspire any Christian's prayer life.

GUARANTEED FORMULA FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

Life has few guarantees that are backed up by reliable sources, but there is a formula for answered prayer that has the backing of Heaven and all its resources:

1. Abide in Jesus—John 15:7.
2. Ask in Jesus' name—John 14:13,14.
3. Ask in faith believing—Mark 11:24.

When we work, *we work*: when we pray, *God works*. Why settle for less when God wants to give you His best. Christian, it is yours for the asking! Jesus meant it when He said in Matthew 7:7-10:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?"

- When the sky is dark, prayer brings the light of glory.
- When the heart is drooping, prayer brings the joy of the Lord.
- When the burden is heavy, prayer lightens the load.
- When the way is uncertain, prayer discovers a new path.
- When the mind is cluttered, prayer clears the cobwebs.
- When hope is gone, prayer brings a new lease on life.
- When the body is weak, prayer brings recovery.

PRAY AND KEEP ON PRAYING "TIL THE ANSWER COMES!"

THE STRENGTH OF A FELLOWSHIP



*Dr. Willie Weaver,
IBFI President*

I am thankful to be president of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International (IBFI). The IBFI has emphasized, from our very beginning, the "back to the basics" of fundamentalism philosophy. This year will be the 37th year of the existence of the IBFI, and we are still unchanged in our philosophy and fundamental position. In our bylaws, the purpose of the fellowship is stated in the following way: "The purpose of this Fellowship shall be: to obey the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, by united effort through missions, school, and publications; however, the churches of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International are independent, autonomous bodies which voluntarily cooperate for this purpose." Our purpose has not changed.

There is a great emphasis on **missions** in the IBFI. Bro. John Peebles is our **Missions Director**. He and his wife Shirley (who works in the IBFI missions office) are former missionaries to Brazil. They have a heart for missions and missionaries, and they are doing a great job as they serve. We have recently added new missionaries and home missions projects. In the Fall meeting last October, three of our Norris Bible Baptist Seminary graduates, **Zack Doty**, **Tony Roa**, and **Jacob Luman** were approved by the general assembly as an IBFI church planting- revitalization ministry. They are working together as a team and have formed the Antioch Baptist Church Planters. **Heath Van Zandt**, another one of our students, who is scheduled to graduate this May, was approved in January of this year as an IBFI Home Missionary. He is in the process of finalizing plans in the north Texas area, where he plans to plant a church. Our graduating students of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary have a burning desire to launch out and do something for the Lord. This excites my soul as I am sure it does yours.

Another of our united efforts to carry out the Great Commission is the **Norris Bible Baptist Seminary (NBBS)**. Dr. Jonathan Stewart, President, is providing great leadership and vision. The year 2020 was very challenging, but the Seminary continued and our students are back on campus this semester now with an excited and unified student body. Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is unique by design, and teaches the whole English Bible along with practical teaching in other areas. All of the instructors are preachers and their wives who are presently ministering churches. Your investment is paying great dividends in souls being saved, churches being planted, and in some cases students becoming pastors of established churches, and surrendering to become missionaries. How wonderful and exciting to be a part of this kind of fundamental, back to basics seminary. The support of Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is one of the main reasons for the IBFI.

Of course, our publication, the **SEARCHLIGHT** is also an important division of the IBFI. The Searchlight keeps us informed as to what is happening in the fellowship. There are articles of inspiration by Dr. Raymond Barber, our President Emeritus, as well as others. We are able to keep up with missionaries, alumni, and upcoming events. Thank you for your investment in the IBFI and its ministries. The **Independent Baptist Fellowship International** is strong and has a great future.

Speaking of **upcoming events**, the Lord willing, we are planning to have the annual IBFI meeting, May 17-20, 2021, here in Fort Worth, Texas, at the IBFI campus. **OUR OFFERING GOAL FOR THIS YEAR IS \$60,000.** We were able to meet that goal last year, even though we were not able to meet because of the pandemic, so I truly believe we can meet it again this year!

With our theme as **CHRIST IS THE ANSWER**, we have a wonderful program planned with an exciting line up of preachers. More information with details will be coming. You do not want to miss it. God bless you as you reach precious, eternal souls for Jesus!

OUR 37TH GRADUATING CLASS!



*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

**"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT..."
II CORINTHIANS 12:9**

Last year's NBBS graduates **persevered through the sudden onslaught of the COVID-19 epidemic** from the middle of March, to the middle of May, only to have to wait until the evening of the Opening Day Rally for the new school year (August 11), for their commencement service and diploma.

This year's NBBS graduates have had to deal with the same virus throughout the fall and spring semesters. They have had to wear masks, social distance, and refrain from shaking hands with their fellow students and faculty. They have also had to live-stream classes during times of quarantining. Some of these periods of quarantine were schoolwide and some were individual. The virus affected them in various ways throughout the school year, even if it did not directly infect them. **However they are "finishing the course" with great devotion.**

In spite of all the health-related distractions, the recent severe cold snap, and the issues that accompanied it, the fall and spring semester has been **characterized by a very spiritual tone**. The new students that joined us in the fall and in the spring, brought with them a hunger for the Word of God and a thirst for spiritual growth that was "right up there" with the upper class men. **The dedication also of administrative staff, and our faculty – who showed great flexibility and love for the students, as well as our supporting churches and individuals contributed to the success of our 37th year. The financially firm establishment of the Raymond Wesley Barber and Mary Helen Barber Scholarship Fund, assisting full-time students with 1/8 of their tuition costs each semester, and the strong fellowship offerings of 2020, clearly demonstrate how much God has been at work at NBBS!**



In honor of Dr. Barber's 70 years in ministry a check was given to NBBS by Worth Baptist Church for the Barber Scholarship Fund

We see this May, as a time of great victory for our school and for our 2021 graduates!

CLASS OF 2021 - A STELLAR CLASS BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY



Lee Davis is 49 years of age. He is married to Laura Davis. Lee has been a plumber by trade since 1990, and an RMP Master Plumber since 2010. He has been an evangelist since 2010, and he was ordained to the ministry in 2017. He is sent out of the Central Baptist Church in Chico, Texas, where

NBBS alumnus Fred Ferren is the pastor. Lee serves in various capacities in his home church, such as overseeing the youth ministry, while also conducting revival services in other churches, or filling the pulpit for pastors as requested. Bro. Davis began attending NBBS in the Spring of 2017, and he is graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies with a Major in Bible and a Minor in Church Ministry. **He has been a top-notch student, as well as a very positive influence and mentor to the student body in general and a joy to the faculty.** He is a musician, singer, a Christian song writer, and has ministered to the student body through his music in various ways. A hymn he wrote, "Oh What A Hope", will soon be available to churches. One song he sings, "Thank You Lord For Loving Me," embodies so much of what we know about Lee's love for the Lord. He has also been a timely source of practical help to the seminary via his skill as a plumber. **He has much appreciated his education, and approached every class he has taken with a great zeal to learn.**



Zack Doty is 36 years of age. He is married to Charish, and they have four children. The children are home schooled by their mother. Zack has run his own IT (Information Technology) business for thirteen years, and has been **exemplary in so many ways as a student.** He has been a consultant and hands on help to the seminary on a regular basis in all things related to computers and the internet. When the seminary went to live-streaming classes during the COVID-19 lockdown starting in mid May of 2020, and thereafter when quarantining was necessary, during the fall semester, Zack was key to making it all work. He surrendered to the ministry under the pastorate of Roy Webster, pastor of the Grayson Bible Baptist Church, Sherman, Texas. Prior to Bro. Webster's ministry, Zack and Charish had been under the pastorate of Eddy Johnson, at Grayson Bible Baptist Church. Until just recently, he served as the youth director in the Central Baptist Church, Gainesville, Texas, where Tyler Bittner is pastor. The Dotys assisted in the youth department when Bro. Bittner was the youth director at Grayson, who played a key role in their surrendering to the ministry. Zack and Charish were approved as IBFI home missionaries in October of 2020. **He and his wife are founding members of the Antioch Baptist Church Planting ministry** along with Tony and Melissa Roa, and Jacob and Lindy Luman. The Dotys are sent out by the Central Baptist Church of Gainesville, Texas. **Zack drove over 100 miles one way to NBBS from Bells, Texas, for the majority of his time of schooling. He relocated to Gainesville, Texas, toward the last third of his time of schooling with the seminary, which was still a drive of some 70 miles one way. He very rarely missed class, and has an excellent academic record.** Bro. Doty will be receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies with a Major in Bible, and a Minor in Pastoral Ministry.

Caroline Miller initially encountered NBBS when accompanying her granddaughter who was enrolling in the seminary. In the course of my conversation with her and her granddaughter about the school, Caroline inquired into the possibility of pursuing a one-year Bible certificate. Soon though, she was considering the two-year associate's degree. Before the session was over, she had decided to pursue a four-year bachelor's degree. Caroline had wanted



to attend Bible school for many years, but running a business with her late husband, had for many years precluded it. She not only secured a bachelor's degree from Texas Women's University, Denton, Texas, in 2001 with a major in music, but she has been a church pianist for many years, as well as a Sunday School teacher, and the leader of a women's Bible study. Mrs. Miller also teaches private piano lessons not only to individuals of all ages, but has done so for NBBS students. **She has been an excellent student, is a wonderful pianist and has shared the piano playing role in chapel. She is loved and much appreciated by the student body,** She has done much research, in keeping with her studies at NBBS, on women hymn writers and their songs, a group of writers that numbers well over 100. This academic pursuit will result in it becoming an additional part of our curriculum for one of our courses, especially for women, entitled Great Women of Church History. Caroline is a member of Central Baptist Church of Denton, Texas, where Paul Shelton is pastor. Caroline will be receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies with a Major in Bible, and a Minor in Church Ministry.

Michael Wiggins is 44 years old. He graduated from the Norris Bible Baptist Institute in 2000. He is now graduating from NBBS with a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies with a Major in Bible and a Pastoral Minor. He has taught several courses at the school throughout the years. He has pastored two churches, been an evangelist, and has been the assistant pastor of the Heritage Baptist Church of Haslet, Texas for many years, which is pastored by alumnus Eric Crawford. In his ministry at Heritage Baptist Church, Bro. Wiggins directs the music program, has assisted in many ways at their Christian school, teaches a Sunday school class, and often fills the pulpit, and preaches out from time to time in revival services. Bro. Wiggins served as the Administrator of NBBS for one-year (2015-2016), to assist me in the reestablishing of the school into again being singularly a preacher training institution of men, and their wives. An emphasis that also includes preparing women who have surrendered their lives in service to the Lord. He is married to Donya Wiggins, who is also a NBBS alumnus. **Not only was Bro. Wiggins a great help that year in getting so much of the facilities and furnishings greatly upgraded, and the program of the school running smoothly, but he has continued to be a steady source of help as a faculty member.** He is warmly received by the student body. The Wiggins have three adult children. All three are active members at Heritage Baptist Church.



Tyler Yates is 23 years of age and is single. Throughout Tyler's schooling he has been a very active member of the Iglesia Bautista Nuevos Horizontes of Fort Worth, Texas, (New Horizons Baptist Church), where Javier Garza is the pastor. Bro. Garza's wife Darla, is the daughter of veteran IBFI missionaries Danny and Michelle Jones. Tyler grew up on the mission field as his parents, Earl and Yolanda Yates served as missionaries to Mexico. Tyler entered NBBS with a desire to learn more of the Bible and with a burden to help missionaries in their deputation. He primarily desired to assist them with their video presentations so they could more effectively introduce themselves and their vision for their field of ministry to churches. Before too long, he began to sense a burden to preach, and soon settled into preparing himself for the preaching ministry. At his church, he has been under the mentorship of Bro. Garza. Tyler has headed up the youth ministry for two and a half years, and often preaches in the church. **He has been an enthusiastic student, and a very positive presence to his fellow students at Norris. His warmth and zeal for God's Word, telling others about Christ, and discipling believers, have characterized him throughout his time of schooling at the seminary.** He has been another solid student of the Word of God like his fellow graduates. Tyler is graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies with a Major in Bible and a Pastoral Minor.



All the above students have not only been superb students academically and in department, but they have been very actively serving the Lord in their churches. They are an addition to many students who have gone before them who have been good stewards of the education afforded them by churches and individuals who have through the years supported the seminary financially and prayerfully. **Perseverance, character, and Christlikeness in general have characterized them all. They have inspired the faculty and fellow students with their devotion.**

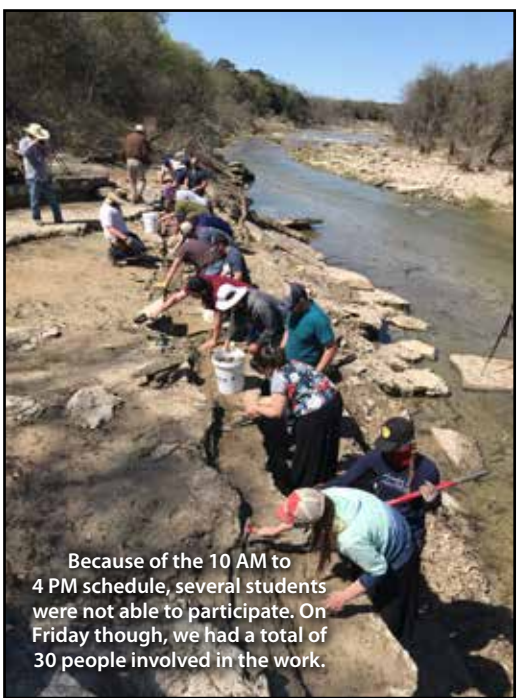
Dr. Baugh observing excavation.



The site as it appeared just before the students began to prepare it for excavation.



The site after brush & debris were removed.



Because of the 10 AM to 4 PM schedule, several students were not able to participate. On Friday though, we had a total of 30 people involved in the work.



Some students were able to come for one day, some two or three, many all four days.



Dr. Baugh observing excavation.



It was not until Friday that excavation got under way. In one short day, we left a promising site to return to soon, ready for immediate excavation.



*Having such a significant location within an hour's drive of the seminary, as well as the ICR Discovery Center in Dallas, Texas, also easily within driving distance, is a great asset to the school. Many of our students have visited the Answers in Genesis Creation Museum and its Noah's Ark Museum in Kentucky. **Dr. J. Frank Norris was strong in his denunciation of evolution throughout his years of ministry as a pastor and a professor at the old Bible Baptist Seminary, Ft. Worth, after which NBBS is patterned.***

"Ye also helping together by prayer for us"

II Corinthians 1:11