



John Peebles,
IBFI Mission Director

Mark and Trisha Haynes have faithfully followed the Lord's calling to be missionaries to the Navajo Nation, and God has richly blessed their faithfulness. As you read their recent prayer letter, remember to pray for God's continued blessings on their ministry, their family, and their health. More information can be found on their website, www.streamsinthedesertaz.com.

Mark and Tricia

MISSIONARIES TO THE NAVAJO NATION

Dear Pastor and Church,

*"Streams in the desert..."
Isaiah 35:6b*

LOOKING BACK AT WHAT GOD DID!



The Lord was certainly at work in 2021! I think that sometimes we get all caught up in the challenges that we faced this past year and forget how God MET those challenges! Despite restrictions and virus fear, we still saw 25 people saved and six baptisms! This Christmas season, we saw more people saved through personal soulwinning than at any other Christmas season I can recall! Here is a great illustration of what God did! We have a dear lady attending our church who is in her mid-90's. She struggles a bit with memory and comprehension. Her daughter was saved this year and her granddaughter is very faithful in serving the Lord. They have been praying desperately for her salvation and planting seeds along with my wife. Bro. Hank Haskie, our Navajo Language Pastor, spoke to this dear old lady after one of our Christmas services. Praise God,



she had that "moment of lucidity" and clearly understood the message! It was precious to watch her call upon the Lord in the Navajo language! Tricia was able to teach a piano seminar and trying to impart some of the things she has learned in playing over 58 years. Several churches brought pianists, and it was well received!

LOOKING BACK AT WHAT GOD DID THROUGH MISSIONARY BOBBY HARJO

The Bobby Harjo Family came to the Rez about 20 years ago. Bro. Bob and I became fast friends and would rejoice together in victories and commiserate in challenges. God took our dear friend home to be with Him on November 27th. He left a legacy of church plants and souls saved. Please pray for his wife, Tracy, as she deals with the loss of her husband. I already miss Bro. Bobby's short phone calls which were NEVER short! I would strongly encourage anyone to be of help to Mrs. Tracy during this time. Her home church is Maranatha Baptist Church in Bethany, OK where Bro. Domelle is the pastor. Pray for the church plants and preachers he left behind, that they will continue to serve the Lord until Jesus returns!



LOOKING BACK AT WHAT GOD DID AT WATCHNIGHT SERVICE!

Several churches came together in Ganado to preach and pray in 2022. We had several young preachers preach 5-minute messages, young men leading music, exciting special music, a hilarious skit, and FOOD (we are Baptists!). The altar was full as our son, Joel, preached in the New Year. The New Year has started with an encouragement to RENEW IN 2022 – quit looking at the difficulties and start looking for opportunities to serve the Lord! I cannot wait to see what the Lord does this year!



LOOKING BEYOND AT WHAT GOD IS DOING AND SHALL DO!

Our website is up and running! It is still being updated, but go to www.streamsinthedesertaz.com and see the new look! You can keep up with future and current happenings. We would also like to announce the birth of grandchild #15 – Nehemiah Christopher Cowan born December 7th. Thanks for standing with us and pray for a great 2022 for our Lord!

Love you folks!
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Haynes

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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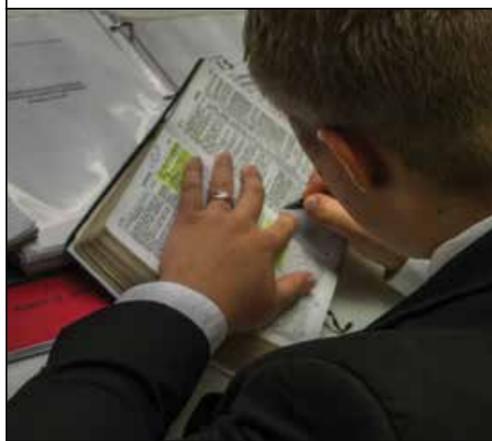
IBFI Mission Agency
Helping independent Baptist churches get their missionaries to the field.

Individual Church Sent Missionaries
– Supported by Many Churches in:

- North America
- Central America
- South America
- Africa

For Specific Nations See
Website: www.ibfi.us
Email: missionoffice@ibfi.us

NBBS – Where the Bible is the Textbook!



The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peebles, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor Barry Bedwell, Pastor Mark Brown, Pastor Chad Fitts, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor Charles Pugh, Pastor David Pugh, Pastor Kenneth Ralph, and Pastor Charles Wetherbee

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The Searchlight

MARCH/APRIL 2022 VOLUME 38 ISSUE 5

IBFI SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING

MAY 16 – 19, 2022



DR. KEVIN FOLGER
MON. 7:00 PM | TUE. 11:00 AM



DR. JERRY SILER
TUE. 9:00 AM



BRO. MICHAEL WIGGINS
TUE. 10:00 AM



DR. JONATHAN STEWART
TUE. 7:00 PM



PASTOR MARK BROWN
WED. 9:00 AM



PASTOR ERIC CRAWFORD
WED. 10:00 AM



MISSIONARY LARRY MCKINNEY
WED. 7:00 PM



DR. RAYMOND BARBER
WED. 7:00 PM



DR. BARRY BEDWELL
THURS. 9:00 AM



PASTOR ROB CATUTO
THURS. 10:00 AM



DR. CHARLES WETHERBEE
THURS. 11:00 AM

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

ESTHER 4:14

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



CALLING ALL ALUMNI

Kenneth Ralph,
Alumni President

As we prepare for the IBFI May Fellowship Meeting, I want to encourage each of you to make plans to attend. Since my first year at Norris, I have never regretted making these meetings a priority. Last year, we watched God move mightily in our services, as I am sure He will do this year. We also watched as God led men during our Alumni Luncheon to give (over and above their regular offering to the fellowship), toward the Alumni Scholarship and toward a specific special project. If you remember, we passed Bro. Peebles' hat around as men and women gave sacrificially.

Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is doing the work of God - preachers training preachers, from Genesis to Revelation, and exhorting them

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 Victory Baptist Church in Weatherford, TX.

Thursday morning will be final charge for "Such a Time as This."

Nursery will be provided for all services.

HOTEL INFORMATION

CANDLEWOOD SUITES
402 N. Jim Wright Fwy.
Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-246-6800

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES
LAKE WORTH NW LOOP 820
3541 NW Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76106
817-744-7755

STAYBRIDGE SUITES FORT WORTH
229 Clifford Center Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-312-9987

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 one year and **WILL BE** eligible for re-election:

ERIC CRAWFORD – Secretary DAVID GRICE – Vice President TYLER GILLIT – Secretary

The following board members have each served for three years
and **WILL NOT** be eligible to serve this year:

HEATH HOGUE CHARLES PUGH GLEN ANDERSON

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.

MISSION STORE 2022



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 questions, please feel free to call Shirley Peebles at the Mission Office at 817-367-3422.

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 2022 FALL

FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday–Thursday,
October 11–13, 2022
Faith Baptist Church
Canton, Michigan

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

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND NOTABLE EVENTS



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

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH, WEATHERFORD, TEXAS

On January 23, 2022, DR. CHARLES WETHERBEE retired from the pastorate of Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, after twenty-nine years of successfully serving his people and his community. Under his ministry, buildings were built, and hundreds of people were saved and baptized. He and his wife Shelley were, and are loved, honored, and respected by the membership of the Victory Baptist Church and the constituency of the Independent Baptist Fellowship and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary.

We wish them well in their retirement ministry. To know them is to love them.

Succeeding Dr. Wetherbee as senior pastor of Victory Baptist Church is Rev. Rob Catuto who served on the staff of the church for twenty-eight years. We can expect great things ahead under his capable leadership.

FIRST MEXICAN FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On February 27, 2022, the First Mexican Fundamental Baptist Church celebrated their seventy-ninth anniversary. The church was founded by Dr. Emmanuel Ortiz, Sr., and after his death, his son Rev. Emmanuel Ortiz, Jr., pastored it for forty-six years. Dr. Ortiz, Jr., and his wife, Diamantina, served God together in the ministry. The Lord used them to build the largest Mexican church in the area. Many souls were saved and added to the church during their ministry. Dr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Ortiz, Jr., along with their children, Rachel Ortiz Miranda, Manuel Ortiz II, Elizabeth Ortiz Guyon, and Deborah Ortiz Ferguson, are loved, admired, and respected by the church family.

Succeeding Dr. Ortiz as pastor of First Mexican Fundamental Baptist Church is Rev. Daniel Casares, who is successfully serving the Lord and the church membership. The future is bright for the First Mexican Fundamental Baptist Church as they serve God in San Antonio, Texas.

WORTH BAPTIST CHURCH, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, CELEBRATES ITS SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, March 6, 2022, Worth Baptist Church celebrated its sixty-eighth anniversary. The church had its beginning in a storefront building on Wichita Street in south Fort Worth, Texas, led by Rev. R. J. (Bob) Barber, Jr., who pastored the church for seven years. When our father, Dr. R. J. Barber, died, Bob was called to pastor the Baptist Tabernacle, the church our dad founded in Danville, Virginia. Upon Bob's resignation in 1961, Worth Baptist Church called me as pastor. God gave me thirty-five years to serve as senior pastor until my retirement in 1997.

When I retired, the church called Dr. Willie Weaver to

become the third pastor, and he pastored successfully for almost nineteen years. The men on the official board of Worth Baptist Church asked me to recommend three men as candidates for the church to consider as pastor. The church voted overwhelmingly to elect Dr. Weaver to be the third pastor of WBC. God used him greatly to institute several ministries including an addictions recovery program and Spanish church. He enhanced the mission program with faith promise giving and effective yearly mission conferences. During his tenure, a more than one-million-dollar renovation program was completed.

When Dr. Weaver retired, the church called Rev. Tyler Gillit, who has now served as pastor for six years. He has led the church to reach many people for Christ and membership. He is widely known for his Bible preaching, and God has blessed his ministry in a most remarkable way. One of the most outstanding areas of the church's ministry is missions. During 2021, the church gave over \$800,000.00 to missions at home and abroad. The best is yet to come.

It is a blessing that the membership of the church loves and honors Dr. Weaver and his wife Carolyn and my wife Helen and me in our retirement. This love now includes Pastor Gillit and his wife Tori, as well as their children Will and Anna.

INVESTING

*Eric Crawford,
IBFI President*

What a blessing it is to be involved in the work of the IBFI! All pastors, and the churches they serve, make decisions on a monthly and yearly basis as to what ministries they will support with their mission monies that God has entrusted to them. Many times, our support of a missionary, church planter, or school is based off the word and recommendation of someone we know and trust. As a pastor, I understand that I need to be a good steward of the mission dollars that our church has been given. Those mission dollars represent the hard work of church members, and we should do our best to see that they are used in the best possible way to accomplish the most for the cause of Jesus Christ, which is spreading the gospel, seeing folks baptized, and disciples.

One of the greatest investments as a pastor that I have made is investing in the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. I graduated from NBBS in 1995, and supported the seminary even while in school as I pastored the Bible Baptist Church of Nocona, TX, the last two years that I attended Norris. There is no doubt in my mind that this school is a great investment! I tell our church family, that supporting Norris is like getting in on the ground level by investing in men and women's lives as they begin their ministries, therefore reaping the fruit (reward), of all their future work for the Lord. An investment in eternity! Amen!!!

The need for more space at the seminary continues to be very evident. We do have a good offer by a company to purchase the school property, but we are having a difficult time finding property

to relocate our school. Please be in prayer as we continue to seek God's will as to what to do. Again, there are three choices at which we are looking:

1. Sell our property, then relocate and build a new campus that is more conducive to our needs and do so debt free.
2. Sell just our empty land, about 6 acres, and use the proceeds to renovate and expand the current conference center and do so debt free.
3. Do nothing. We do not really consider this a real option. Lol

God is so good! To have the problem of needing more space is a great problem to have but to go forward and meet the need, we must have the Lord's guidance, so please pray!

WRAPPING UP OUR 38TH YEAR!



*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

The end to another successful school year is a time of rejoicing. It is always a time of mixed emotions though. In some ways, we hate to see the students move on because they have been such a part of our lives in school and church settings. Yet, they came to school to in order to further prepare, and then to go and serve. They will continue to bless our lives as they pursue their next level of ministry and stay faithful.

Congratulations to pastors, church members, and family members who have also had a major part in their growing "in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." II Peter 3:18

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022

Jared Allen Blair is graduating with a Master of Divinity degree, which is a three-year degree at NBBS. He is married to Elizabeth Blair, who is also a student at NBBS. Jared graduated with a Bachelor's degree from NBBS in 2017. He is the son of Bro. Roy Blair, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Meadowview, in Mesquite, Texas, where they are both members and serve. Jared and his wife are prayerfully contemplating the call mission field to the field of Norway. Gracious rigidity is apparent in this man. By the grace of God, he has what it takes to press on with a steadiness that will result in the fruit of his labors increasingly emerging in days ahead.

Phillip Raymond Dobbs is graduating with a Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree, with a major in Bible, and a minor in Missions. He is married to Sydney Dobbs, who is also a current student at NBBS. Phillip is a member of the Worth Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, where Bro. Tyler Gillit is pastor. Bro. Dobbs and his wife are prayerfully considering the Lord's leading in the area of missions. Both Phillip and Sydney have been able to go on several short term mission trips to various places while members of Worth Baptist Church. He has been a cheerful, upbeat student – a disposition that he carries with him into the pulpit, conveying a warmth and a sincerity, that is undergirded by Biblical substance, when he preaches.



Holly Rene Foster is graduating with a Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree, with a major in Bible and a minor in Church Ministry. She is a member of Worth Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas. Bro. Tyler Gillit is pastor. Holly has served alongside her husband in ministry at Worth Baptist Church.

John Franklin Foster is graduating with a Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree, with a major in Bible and a minor in Church Ministry. He is a member of Worth Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas, where Bro. Tyler Gillit is pastor. John has served as a custodian at Worth for many years. He has been very active in a discipleship role in the Bridge To Recovery (B2R) ministry conducted by his church all during his time of schooling at NBBS. The purpose of it is to see men and women delivered from addictions by way of the Gospel and subsequent growth in Christ.

The Fosters are a particular example of the benefit of having older married couples as part of the student body. Their presence, assistance in various areas of the school's operation, and their testimony greatly enriches the training of all the student body. Many of us at NBBS expect to be reading the "writings of" Bro. Foster in days ahead. We feel he's got "a book or two in him." He is not only a soul winner and steadfast discipler, he is a great student of the Word of God. Both he and Holly come to my mind when I refer to Galatians 4:19, in light of the ministry they have at Worth.

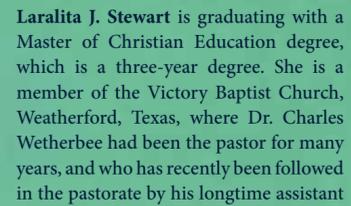
Anthony K. Mosley is graduating with a One-Year Bible Certificate. He is a member of the Heritage Baptist Church of Haslet, Texas, where Bro. Eric Crawford is pastor. He is



married to Mary Mosley, and they have a son named Hunter. Anthony has been involved, for the past several months, helping IBFI missionary Bro. Scott Griffin with his Homeless No More ministry, in Ft. Worth, Texas. He has been a powerful voice to the younger students, as well as to all the student body in general, to "stay by the stuff" once they have surrendered to serve to the Lord.



Timothy C. Rhodes is graduating with a two-year Associate Degree in Church Ministry. He is a member of the Fundamental Baptist Church, Palmer, Texas, where Bro. Gary Miller is pastor. He is more commonly referred to as T.C., by his classmates. In many ways and at different times, he has stepped up to be a source of timely help to his fellow students, the school in general, and myself, by way of his practical skillset and readiness to serve. In so doing, he joins the ranks of other students of the recent past of like mind. T.C. plans to move back to the Palmer area, and play a renewed active role in his home church's ongoing ministry. He may return in the near future to NBBS to further his studies.



Laralita J. Stewart is graduating with a Master of Christian Education degree, which is a three-year degree. She is a member of the Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, where Dr. Charles Wetherbee had been the pastor for many years, and who has recently been followed in the pastorate by his longtime assistant pastor, Bro. Rob Catuto. She is the wife of NBBS president, Jonathan J. Stewart, and has been teaching at NBBS since 1984.

Mrs. Stewart and Dr. Terry Riggsby are the two faculty members still active in the school since its onset in 1984. From 1984 until 2007, she taught the Teaching Children I & II courses (previously known as Pedagogy I & II), and eventually also various women's courses. During the Crown Southwest-Norris Seminary period (fall 2007-spring 2014), she taught at the Victory Baptist Academy in Weatherford, Texas because the courses she taught at NBBS were not being offered. She has been teaching the English Grammar and the English Composition & Literature courses at NBBS since the fall of 2013 (one year with CSW-NBBS), as well as part, or all, of the other specialized courses offered to women by NBBS. This is a lady who has a great devotion to, and love for, NBBS.

Caryssa D. Van Zandt is graduating with a Bachelor of Biblical Studies, with a major in Bible and a minor in Church Ministry. She is the wife of Bro. Heath Van Zandt, a 2021 NBBS graduate. The Van Zandts have two young children. During much of their time as students at Norris, Caryssa served alongside her husband, Heath,

who was the assistant pastor at the Santa Fe Baptist Church of Weatherford, Texas, and oversaw the youth ministry. They are now IBFI missionaries sent out of the Santa Fe Baptist Church, where Bro. Tony Thomas is pastor. They are planting the Antioch Baptist Church of Rhome, Texas. Throughout their time of schooling at NBBS, they both have been a great source of inspiration, and an example of perseverance to their fellow students. Of late, they have garnered wide support from among the NBBS student body in their church planting endeavor.



Lauren May Williams is graduating with a two-year Associate Degree in Church Ministry. She is married to Noah Williams, a NBBS student who plans to graduate in 2023. She serves alongside him at the church where they are both members, the Lighthouse Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas, and where Noah is the youth director. NBBS alumnus Bro. David Grice is the founder and pastor of this church. Lauren actually will have completed her junior year at Norris this May, and is following through with her original plan to finish getting her Bachelor's degree at another school, which offers the additional necessary courses to further equip her to be an elementary school teacher. Before doing so, she wanted the Biblical content and doctrinal basis that NBBS would provide her. She loves her Lord, the Word of God, and teaching children about Him and the Bible. She has been a very devoted teacher of such, to children at her church, during her days of schooling at NBBS.

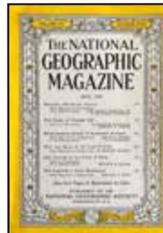
WE ARE SEEING THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS TOGETHER

The many churches' faithful financial and prayerful support of the seminary keeps paying off both now and in eternity, as our graduates continue to steadily come along and enter the ministry. Our IBFI missions family is growing as it never has before, and churches are being started, and existing ones revitalized and strengthened, by NBBS graduates. Our churches, and we as a school, are coming out of the suppressive effects of the COVID situation, and the fall semester is looking very promising for us. Before the worldwide health crisis we reached the highest number of students in attendance in our near 40-year history, a level we hope to surpass soon. In spite of it all though, our financial support level grew, our school spirit stayed strong, and we maintained a student body size from 2016 on, that matched what it had been in 1990s, and higher than it had been since the early 2000s. Through it all, God has been greatly at work at NBBS!

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not. Gal. 6:9

A Return to the Paluxy River Yields a Great Discovery! NBBS - Bi-Annual Week of Concentrated Study - March 22-25, 2022

During Each of Our 17-Week Semesters, We Suspend Regular Classes and Conduct a Four-Day Study on Topics of Special Relevance to Training Preachers, and Women in General for Ministry. This Semester, in Conjunction with the Creation Evidence Museum, Glen Rose, Texas, Students Excavated Four Days with Special Lectures Interspersed by Dr. Carl Baugh, CEM Director. *This is the fourth excavation of the NBBS student body, under the tutelage of Dr. Baugh. The first was in 2018. Dr. Baugh, as a young teenager, attended summer sessions of the old Bible Baptist Seminary, of Ft. Worth, Texas, under Louis Entzminger and J. Frank Norris. Norris spoke out against the theories of evolution as early as the 1920s. When the effects of Noah's flood are recognized, they are very disruptive to the viability of the evolutionary views of the origins of life.*



From the Days of Noah to the Days of NBBS, there is quite a history to the town of Glen Rose, Texas, as it relates to dinosaur tracks along the Paluxy River. In 1940, Roland T. Bird, a well-known paleontologist did a major excavation along the Paluxy River, near to Glen Rose. The May, 1954 edition of the National Geographic Magazine contained an article written by Mr. Bird about his work on the River. In 1940 WPA workers carried on an excavation along the River, extracting dinosaur tracks for distribution to various museums. Since the early 1980s, CEM has been excavating along the River with many varied and significant finds.



How the site appeared before a team of six students largely cleared debris from the site Monday, in preparation for the three day "dig." Thank you Jeff, Kevin, Brian, Derek, Phillip and Damian! See picture of them to the right.



Two groups excavating. Wednesday morning.

The "classroom of creation," and the effects of the flood catastrophe, set off the Biblical record of Gen. 6-9.



How the site looked toward the end of the excavation.

Pictures of the tracks freshly uncovered will be provided in the next edition of the Searchlight.



Students gathered to the site where the bone had just been found.



The last day, an apparent dinosaur bone was uncovered in situ - embedded in the rock! A long slab containing it, was cut out and taken to the CEM for further analysis in the near future.

Likely a part of a rib cage bone from an Acrocanthosaurus, one of the two primary sources of dinosaur tracks in the area.