



MISSIONS NEWS

Bro. John Peebles
Psalm 16:11

Missions is a team effort -- we can go, we can give, and we can pray. When returning from victory over the Amalekites, David made "a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day....as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike." (1 Samuel 30:24-25). The rewards are the same for those that go, those that give, and those that pray. Our missionaries are on the front lines of the battle, but we are all on the same team and each work in the mission is important. Start with prayer, go if God calls you, and give as God leads you. Lay up treasures in Heaven.

LESLIE PRIDAY MISSIONARY TO HONDURAS

Hope for Honduras!

That they might set
their hope in God.
Psalm 78:7

April 28, 2025

Dear Co-laborers:

Thank you so much for your prayers and faithful support. It is encouraging to know that people are praying for me and the ministry here.

We praise the Lord for a wonderful Youth Camp. We had a total of 50 campers and counselors attend plus four preachers and one missionary's wife. We had people from five churches attend. The mornings were dedicated to Bible study and classes from 2 Timothy taught by my Dad Missionary Harold Priday and Honduran Pastor friend Daniel Flores who has helped in every one of our camps, and Missionary Samuel Conover. The theme was A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST. I preached the first night. The last night we had a testimony time bonfire after the service. In the afternoons, we had a special team of six former campers now leaders that organized the activities and led them. They were a huge help. Each night a different pastor/missionary preached, except one night we had a Christian movie that was a great blessing to them. The greatest blessing of the week was that six accepted Christ as their Savior and at least 4 rededicated their lives to the Lord.

We praise the Lord for your special offerings that allowed us to help all of the campers and counselors from every church with their expenses. Thank you so much for your prayers also. May God bless you and as Paul said in Philippians 4, this is "fruit that abounds to your account". Resurrection Sunday we had a sunrise service at our house followed by a pancake breakfast like we used to do before COVID.

On a personal level, I am proud to tell you know that Halbert received his college diploma in Business Leadership in January. He has worked hard to achieve this goal. We had a family dinner with about 50 of Alba's family including her father and my Dad. Alba would be very excited and proud of him. Thank you for praying for our family.



Please see Camp pictures throughout the article.

Yours with Hope for Honduras,

Leslie Priday

Email: lesliepriday@gmail.com Web Page: www.lesliepriday.com
Field Address: APDO, 99 – SIGUAPEQUE, COM. – HONDURAS, CENTRAL AMERICA
Sent By: Victory Baptist Church, 1311 E. Bankhead Drive, Weatherford, TX 76086, Rev Rob Catuto



Figure 1. THE WHOLE
ARMOR OF GOD,
EPHESIANS 6



INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

PO Box 151259
Ft. Worth, TX 76108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FT. WORTH, TX
PERMIT # 2182

IBFI Mission Agency
Helping Independent Baptist Churches
Get Their Missionaries to the Field

Individual Church
Sent Missionaries
Supported by
Many Churches

N. America
C. America
S. America
Europe
Africa

For Specific Nations: www.ibfi.us • EMAIL: missionoffice@ibfi.us



The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International
PO Box 151259 | Ft. Worth, TX 76108 | Phone: 817.367.3422 | Email: ibfi@ibfi.us | Website: ibfi.us

IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Raymond Barber, Missions Director John Peebles, Evangelist Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Barry Bedwell, Pastor Matthew Gage, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor Tony Roa, Pastor Paul Shearin, Pastor Jerry Siler, Pastor Caleb Shipman, Pastor David Webb, and Pastor Michael Wiggins.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The Searchlight

JUNE/JULY 2025 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 1

A Great 41st Annual May Fellowship!



ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD - ROMANS 11:36

Take Note! NBBS Opening Day Rally will be Tuesday, August 12, 2025

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

ALUMNI NEWS



Heath Hogue
Alumni President

The May meeting and graduation were such a great time of fellowship. What a sweet spirit with the fabulous music from the Johnson family to the powerful and helpful preaching.

It was exciting to hear from some of the alumni during the preaching time. Bro. Eric Crawford (1995), Bro. Jared Blair (2017), Bro. David Grice (2002), and Bro. Cody Jones (2017) all represented the school in a great way. It was great seeing old friends and meeting and getting reacquainted with others. It is always an encouragement to be around men of God that continue faithfully following His calling. I am glad to know that we are labourers together with Christ, and that the graduates of 2025 will join in the work. To the graduates, stay faithful, stay focused, and stay fervent.

To all preachers and layman reading this, now is the time to make plans to attend the Fall Fellowship, held October 13-15, at Grace Tabernacle Independent Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Grace Tabernacle Baptist is pastored by Alumnus Michael Wiggins. Bro Wiggins and his family have been a tremendous blessing to the IBFI and NBBS, from leading music, singing specials, teaching classes, and being a stable steward with all that God has blessed them to do. It would be an encouragement to them if you could be at the meeting to see all the work that has been done at Grace Tabernacle Baptist.

If you are an alumnus of the NBBS and have something going on at your church, please let me know. Email me at norrisalumni@gmail.com.

Pensacola Baptist Temple, Pensacola, Florida,
Celebrates 90 Years!

We congratulate the historic Pensacola Baptist Temple, Pensacola, Florida, and NBBS alumnus pastor Kenneth Ralph and his wife Kristy, for the church's 90th anniversary! It was celebrated Saturday evening, and much of the day Sunday, May 3-4, 2025. The attendance was great, the spirit was warm, and the Lord was greatly magnified! Former pastors Dennis Klett, Jody Davis, Bob Ellis, and Glen Anderson were present and honored, along with their wives, by the church. Bro. Anderson pastored from 2000-2021, and is an NBBS alumnus.

NBBS President Jonathan Stewart preached in the morning and afternoon services. Living Proof, members of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas, presented special music at the Saturday evening fellowship, and in both of the services Sunday. The theme for the celebration was "Standing On



the Word of God." Bro. Ralph chose a theme that well represents the church's history, and clearly characterizes his pastorate. He is highly thought of among Norris alumni and faculty, as well as by fellow IBFI pastors. He served, in the recent past, as the NBBS alumni president for several years.



A permanent timeline of the church's history has become part of the decor on a hallway wall, and it portrays a wonderful legacy! A more detailed digital history of church will soon be completed so church members and guests can further see what God has been doing at and through the Pensacola Baptist Temple for 90 years. The founding pastor (1935-1940), Earle L. Guillotine was followed by Herman U. Mullins who pastored the church from 1940-1972. Bro. Tom Huntress pastored the church from 1972-1984, during which time he designed and oversaw the building of the church facilities. Bro. Huntress went home to be with the Lord in April of last year. He along with Bro. Anderson personally did much to undergird the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary at key times throughout its history. The church at-large has been a great missions minded church for many years. In keeping with this, it continues to be a steady supporter of NBBS and IBFI missionaries.

We look forward in days ahead and to future blessings of God upon the Pensacola Baptist Temple! To the church, we want to personally express our gratitude for all the IBFI fellowship meetings you have hosted, the hands-on involvement of your church on the remodeling of the school's dormitory house and enhancements of the school facility by way of furnishings, and the financial investments you have made in the lives of so many students and IBFI associated missionaries! We have done and have been more for the Lord because of churches like yours.

UPCOMING EVENTS

METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS

July 17, 2025
TBA

August 12, 2025

Will be combined with
Opening Day Rally.

September 18, 2025

Rockwall Baptist Church
520 E Washington Street
Rockwall, TX 75087
Pastor Tony Roa

THE NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY IS UNIQUE



Dr. Raymond Barber
IBFI President Emeritus

(Celebrating seventy-four years of marriage and ministry of Raymond W. Barber and Mary Helen Johnson Barber who were united in marriage by Dr. J. Frank Norris in the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, on May 20, 1951.)

I name a few ways that the **Norris Bible Baptist Seminary** is unique:

Dr. Lee Roberson, a man considered America's Pastor, said to me, "It was a stroke of genius to name your school in memory of Dr. J. Frank Norris."

Dr. Norris was the most renowned Fundamentalist of the twentieth century. During his ministry, he built and pastored the two greatest churches on the American continent: First Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan. At the same time, he was organizing and building the Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

At least two names were associated with him: Dr. Louis Entzminger and Dr. R. J. Barber, Sr., my father, who for many years served as a seminary director.

The name BARBER is no stranger to the Bible Baptist Seminary:

In the late 40's, Bob Barber, Jr. became a student and a part-time professor.

In the early 60's, I became a student and full-time professor.

For thirty-five years, I served as professor while, at the same time, I was pastor of Worth Baptist Church until my retirement from both positions in 1997.

During my active years, I was named:

Founder and President of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary.

Upon my retirement, I became Founder Emeritus of both, and chancellor of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE:

Under the capable leadership of our President, Dr. Jonathan Stewart, and the qualified faculty members, I predict that the best years of our Seminary are ahead.



ONWARD AND UPWARD

Eric Crawford
IBFI President

We had a great Norris Seminary graduation week. The preaching was right on target and the music was Christ honoring. Thank you, Bro. Andrew Johnson, for leading the music and to your family as well for all the special songs. Please pray for their ministry, Go – Preach – Sing, **Worth Baptist and Pastor Tyler Gillit are to be commended** for being such gracious hosts for Norris and the Fellowship meeting. They have such a selfless pastor and church family.

The Seminary building is progressing. The dirt work is just a few weeks away from being completed. Once finished we will begin pouring the parking lots and sidewalks.

It's exciting to see the eight acres taking shape. Please continue to pray for this project that it would go smoothly.

Our annual Seminary offering was taken on Wednesday of the Fellowship meeting **with close to \$50,000 given or committed.** More offerings are still coming in, and I would like to encourage those who haven't given yet to invest in this great work.

It has been amazing to see the turn around the last eleven years. Our graduates are pastoring, serving on staff, or going to the foreign mission field. Please pray about getting involved in helping train the next generation.



ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!



Jonathan J. Stewart
NBBS President

An Uplifting May Fellowship Meeting!

Many commented to me about the very spiritual nature of the annual May fellowship meeting this year. Our guest preacher, Dean Miller, certainly started everything off right Monday night with his sermon, as well as the preachers that followed, kept it so. The special music by the Andrew Johnson family added much to the spirit of the services.

An Impacting Theme!

Our theme, for the year, "All for the Glory of God," was in the forefront throughout the meeting. The alternative of living for our own glory or someone else's instead of God's, results in the living out of a lesser quality life. God made the earth for mankind, as well as for marriage, family, and parenting, and strengthens these and corollary relationships by and for His glory, therefore **the good of all concerned.** This year's student body was challenged throughout the year (as they have been since the fall semester of 2014), that it is to be "All about Him" and "All for Him." The commencement sermon challenged the graduates with five reasons, among others that could have been cited, as to why their ministry needs to be "All for the Glory of God". This theme not only undergirded the aforementioned eleven-year dual emphasis at the school, but also carries with it several positive points.

One of the main reasons is that when God **rightly** gets the credit (glory), His glory (who and what He is) is good for our fellowman to see and hear who are outside of the fellowship of the gospel. Paul tells us in II Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness (*that first day of creation - Genesis 1:2*), hath shined in our hearts (*that resultant center of our being wherein our intellect, emotions and will come together*), to give the light (*understanding*) of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." There is no better expression of God to man than the God-man - "the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person..." Hebrews 1:3. Christ said, "...if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. Ever more the reason to preach Christ – His life, death, burial and resurrection; and His office of prophet, priest and king! May our graduates, reaching all the way back to May of 1985, be challenged afresh to do so!

Our 42nd School Year Starts Tuesday, August 12, 2025

We again will continue to train preachers, their wives and ladies further preparing for church ministry, in view of the emphasis of Romans 11:36 - "For **of** him, and **through** him, and **to** him, are



all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." As we do train them, we anticipate the possibility of being in our new facility a year from now - if not the graduation of 2026, at least for the fall semester of that year! The excavation process has already outlined the entryway, driveway, and parking lot, and the placement of the actual 26,000+ facility is being carved out. The timing however, is in God's hands "...who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: that we should be to the praise of his glory..." Ephesians 1:11-12. **We are grateful for all Worth Baptist Church did yet again this past school year for housing the seminary and for hosting of the NBBS commencement.**

OPENING DAY RALLY

Hosted by Worth Baptist Church
Fort Worth, TX, **August 12, 2025.**
Student Orientation begins at 8:00 am.

A lite breakfast will be served
from 8:30 am - 9:15 am.

The Opening Day Rally will begin at 9:30 am
with a lunch provided afterwards.

