#### Ye Shall Receive Power and Be Witnesses

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8



Psalm 16:11

If the name of the Great Commission was taken from Acts 1, it would probably bear the designation Commandment. We are commanded to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, In this passage God emphasized four people groups and an order in the commands.

The first two groups represent "our people" - our home town and our home country. It only seems natural to reach our home town and to extend that outreach to those beyond our home town until we reach our entire nation. The third group gets much more complicated. While Samaria is near in proximity, it could not be further away in our affection. Samaria not only represents those people we know of and have had contact with, but those we do not like, in the strongest sense of the feeling. These are the people that we least desire to have contact with. Some quickly come to mind, this is your Samaria. We are to be witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth. In the uttermost part, we will find people similar to us as Americans along with a host of differing cultures. While we may begin in our Jerusalem, a mature Christian and a mature Church will be endeavoring to witness to all of these at once. A large portion of our witness will be through prayer, support, and involvement in Missions and Missionary Ministries.

In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." In Acts 1:4, He commanded his disciples that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father. The commandment to go has the prerequisite of having the power of the Holy Ghost. There is a time to wait and a time to go, a time to receive and a time to give what you have received, a time to prepare and a time to do what you are prepared to do.

While we may be tempted to witness only to our Jerusalem in our own power, the truth is, we cannot be effective witnesses anywhere in the world without the power of the Holy Spirit, In our own power, the simplest task for God is beyond our ability. When God is with us, even the impossible task will become possible. Waiting on God will give us His direction, His timing, and His power. It is worth the wait!





#### Remembering Tom Huntress May 6, 1936 - April 9, 2024

Lima, OH. His parents were George J. and Katherine Rechin

Tom married Vera Ward on June 13, 1957, in Wellington, TX.



Baptist Church, W. L. Bryant, pastor, of Franklin, TN; 14 grandchildren; 29 great

He graduated from the Bible Baptist A word from Bro. Stewart: Tom was a leading

Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, TX, Pensacola Baptist Temple preachers.



Baptist Tabernacle both in Pensacola, FL, and the Calvary Baptist Church in Palestine, TX. He retired and returned to Wellington, TX, in 2005. From 2011 to 2015 he pastored his 6th church, the

Calvary Baptist Church in Wellington, TX, where he was a member. He designed and oversaw the building of the Pensacola Baptist Temple and Calvary Baptist Church facilities. Tom was also a valued staff member of Adams Funeral Home where he helped with funerals when needed.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, and a great grandson. His survivors include his wife, Vera; 2 sons Mark Huntress and wife Debbie of Wellington, TX, and Andy Huntress and wife Tita of Amarillo, TX; his daughter Tanya Ard Tom was on staff at Trentman Avenue and husband Lamar of Missouri City, TX: a brother Jim Elliott

while he was a student at Bible Baptist grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. Seminary. He was youth director and The family requests memorials be made to had many other duties, especially going Beam's Bibles through the Calvary Baptist

Seminary in Arlington, TX, in 1959. man in the founding and sustaining of the IBFI and NBBS. He Rev. Huntress pastored 5 churches from and his gracious wife Vera attended many IBFI meetings, and 1959 to 2005 including First Baptist hosted several. He was a great presence in our midst, a solid Church in Fort Myers, FL, Mt, Pleasant preacher of the Word, and a dear friend to me and many other

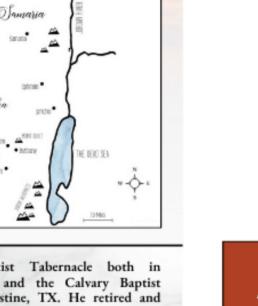
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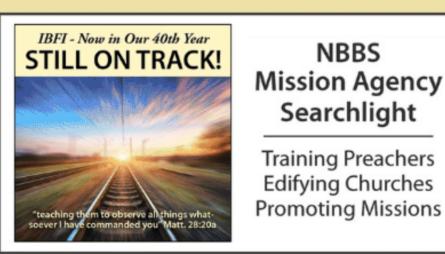
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NBBS abou Mission Agency Him Searchlight

#### 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@IBFl.us Website: IBFl.us

IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, Evangelist Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Raymond Castro Pastor Matthew Gage, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor Paul Shearin, Pastor Caleb Shipman, Pastor Claude Sutton Pastor Heath Van Zandt, Pastor David Webb, and Pastor Michael Wiggins.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

# earchlight ght

## 40th Annual May Fellowship Meeting!

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. Psalm 115:1

\$75,000 Offering Goal Greatly Surpassed! - \$96,000+









Heads Up! NBBS Opening Day Rally will be Tuesday, August 13, 2024 - First Day of the New School Yea

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

will see you there.

### ALUMNI NEWS

Heath Hogue, Alumni President

#### 40 Years and Still on Track!

What a great fellowship meeting and graduation we just had. With soul stir-

ring preaching, God honoring music, and friendly fellowship, it seems each meeting gets a little better each time. I am already July 18, 2024 excited and making plans to be with Pastor David Webb (1997 alumnus) and Walker Springs Road Baptist Church October 14-16, Hillsboro, Texas 2024, for the semi-annual IBFI Fall Fellowship Meeting. I hope I

It was a blessing to see so many of our alumni at the May meeting, from those around the DFW area and around the state, as well as those we do not get to see as often from out of state and those out of

It is encouraging to know that the IBFI and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary are still on track 40 years later, which was evident in the preaching and singing. It felt a little different with Dr. and Mrs. Barber unable to attend this year. Please keep the Barber family in your prayers. Even with their absence, everything was still on track. I am reminded of II Timothy 1:13-14 "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That the good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

A huge thank you to pastor Tyler Gillit, the staff, and congregation of Worth Baptist Church for housing the NBBS this past school year and hosting the May fellowship. A lot of hard work and many hours were put in to make the school year and fellowship a great

Finally, be in prayer for several of our alumni who are starting or settling into new works or new ministry opportunities. Bro. Tyler Yates (2021) just left for Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula and is currently on the field. Pastor, if you have thought about supporting Bro. Yates, now is a great time. Bro. Jared (2017) and Elizabeth Blair (2024) are currently on deputation and raising support to go to Norway, Bro Michael (2021) and Mrs. Donya Wiggins are now serving the Lord in Alabama. It was sure good to have him at the meeting and to hear him preach and sing. Bro. Tony (2020) and Melissa Roa (2021) are settling in at Rockwall Baptist Church, Pray for them as they travel back and forth. Bro. Zack (2021) and Charish Doty are working with Worth Baptist Church to start a church in Benbrook, TX. Pray for a building to be opened for them. Bro. Lee (2021) and Laura Davis are planting New Life Baptist Church in Highland Village, TX.

If you are an alumnus and have some exciting news, please email me

#### ALUMNUS AWARD

David Webb, pastor of Walker Springs Road Baptist Church of Jackson, Alabama, received the Alumnus of the Year Award this May, for his longstanding dedication to the cause of Christ. He graduated from NBBI in 1997, and has been past



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS

Bible Baptist Church Host Pastor - Paul Shearin

August 13, 2024 Combined with Opening Day Rally

at Worth Baptist Church A lite breakfast will be served from 8:30am - 9:15am.

The Opening Day Rally will start at 9:30am and will include a message by NBBS Chancellor, Dr. Raymond Barber. Lunch will be provided.

> September 19, 2024 Springtown Baptist Temple Springtown, Texas Host Pastor - Luther White

#### MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Monday-Wednesday, October 14-16, 2024 Walker Springs Road Baptist Church Jackson, Alabama

> Full details will be in the August/ September issue of the Searchlight and at the IBFI website: www.ibfi.us

Host Pastor - David Webb

#### OPENING DAY RALLY FOR NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

August 13, 2024

Student Orientation begins at 8:00am. The Opening Day Rally will begin at 9:30am. A lunch will be provided afterwards.

#### THE FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Excerpt from What the Bible Teaches)



Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Take all the Bible that you can by reason and the rest by faith, and you will live and die a better man.

There is in the world an appalling ignorance of the Word of God, even among so-called fundamental Christians. A teacher once asked a group of children, "What's in the Bible?" After a moment or two of silence, a little girl raised her hand and said, "I know what's in the Bible. Now let me see. There are a lot of dates, marriages, deaths, clippings from the paper, two valentines, a birthday card, a Christmas card, and that's about all." She knew what was kept in her Bible at home.

The reason people are ignorant of the Word of God is that they do follow were right on target. There was such a sweet spirit not read it. It would be interesting to take a survey of the average throughout the week. congregation and find out how much time is spent in the Word of God from week to week.

special messages in the community. On the first evening he was there, before they retired, he said, "I would like to read from your Bible a few verses of Scripture and have a prayer before we retire.' When the preacher opened it, out popped a pair of glasses. The keep her and Dr. Barber in your prayers as she continues her road mother and wife of the home said before she thought, "Why, I do to recovery. declare! There are my specs! They've been lost for four years, and I haven't been able to find them anywhere."

not reading. We are not studying. We are not giving ourselves to meditation in the Word of God. Around the world, men and women \$96,000.00! What a blessing! It has been amazing to see the Lord are hungering for the truth and for righteousness. We have it in continue to provide not only students for the seminary but to between the lids of this Book, but the greatest tragedy I know anything meet its financial needs as well. about is, we are keeping to ourselves this priceless treasure God has

perplexing problems and questions of life. Every area of human some have given towards this, which is a great blessing. Recently, knowledge is touched in this Book. Not one single field of learning has some more expenses have arisen, and I cannot encourage you been left out. The Bible is as up-to-date as tomorrow morning's

> "Holy Bible book divine, precious treasure thou art mine: Mine to tell me whence I came: mine to teach me what I am.

severe brain bleed. She is home now and continuing here healing with physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

Please continue to pray for a complete recovery. It has been an progress. Praise the Lord!

incredible work of God to see her improvement. The hospital did not give much hope at all for her condition, but your prayers have made all the difference in her healing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Huntress family in the recent homegoing of Bro. Tom Huntress. He was a dear brother to us all. Peggy Riggsby and her family also remain in our hearts. She was a devoted servant of the Lord, beloved by all.

#### OVER AND ABOVE BLESSINGS!



#### Eric Crawford, IBFI President

What a great graduation week we had for the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary! The preaching during the May Fellowship Meeting was wonderful. Dr. Johnny Pope

did an amazing job starting the meetings off, and the messages to

I want to thank the Worth Baptist Church and Pastor Tyler Gillit for hosting the meeting. It was fitting that the 40th graduation A preacher was with a family on one occasion while delivering some service took place where it all began forty years ago. We did miss Dr. and Mrs. Barber not being able to attend because of Mrs. Barber's recent health issues. Although she is improving, please

On Wednesday, we had our annual offering for NBBS and the fellowship. Our goal of \$75,000.00 was surpassed, and on That is why we are appallingly ignorant of the Word of God. We are

Thursday another church reached out to help get us to over

The IBFI Mission Agency, a clearinghouse, is in need of The Bible is such a wonderful treasure. It presents the only key we have additional monthly support. We do not charge our missionaries that opens the door to the revelation of God. It portrays the only for using our clearinghouse, although some give voluntarily. We Saviour who opens the way to Heaven. It provides the answer to the have asked often throughout the years for additional support, and newspaper headlines. Old as time and as new as tomorrow is the Book of God. mission office to help offset these costs. Bro. and Mrs. Peeples do a great job of stewarding the agency, and it is a worthy, eternal investment, as it aids our missionaries in their service to the Lord.

The building project continues to move forward. We should have a complete set of building plans to begin the building process very soon. We did receive great news about getting water to the Thank you for all your prayers for Mrs. Barber as she recovers from a building. It looks like it is going to cost half the price that we were originally told. The wheels are turning slowly, but they are still turning, and soon we will move dirt and begin to see real

#### HE DID IT AGAIN! Psalm 118:23



#### Ionathan I. Stewart, NBBS President

meeting was everything we hoped it would be. A great spirit, inspiring preaching, warm fellowship, and a commencement

service with much to rejoice over. Out newest graduates, with their great potential for service to the Lord and their fellow man, join the many likeminded who came before them. They truly embody what NBBS is about!

Worth Baptist Church at-large, and their staff, were yet again especially helpful in every which way. As can be seen in the pictures, their beautiful facilities served us well from start to finish. The Lord capped everything off by enabling us to exceed our \$75,000.00 offering goal the Wednesday morning it was taken up. As always, more continues to come in, and over \$96,000.00 has been reached!

Being "Still On Track" in what we set out to do 40 years ago is reflected in the lives of our graduates yet again. While in school they were heavily involved in church ministry, and upon graduation they will continue to do so. They are an example of the words of Paul to the church in Philippi: "Those things, which we have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Philippians 4:9. The "me" from this passage, in a collective sense, would be in respect to the teaching and training they received from the preachers and churches in which they served, loving homemaker helping to raise their four and the instruction and training they received at NBBS.

We are in this together! - preachers training preachers as Mark 16:20c states, "the Lord working with them"





We pondered much at Dr. Terry Riggsby's home going not too long ago, and about the investment he made in the cause of Christ through NBBS as well in the churches in which he The 40th anniversary May fellowship served. He also invested in the lives of this year's graduates. We pause yet again and think the same of his dear wife Peggy, who a few weeks ago joined the heavenly hosts on high. What a rejoicing she and Terry must be having in the presence of the Lord, as they now see together, the difference they made in ways not possible to be seen here below. As you read the words below about Peggy, I know your heart will be blessed.



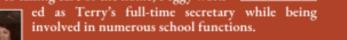
#### Fondly Remembering Psalm 116:15

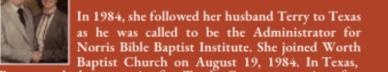
Peggy Riggsby was born in Greeneville Tennessee, to Lawrence and Eva Carter on December 21, 1944. She moved to Ohio at a young age and graduated from Vandalia Butler

High School where she met her future husband, Terry Riggsby After graduation she worked as an administration assistant at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. Peggy was saved at the age of 21 while watching a Billy Graham crusade. She began to witness to Terry, and he surrendered his life to Christ shortly

Peggy married Robert Terry Riggsby on April 17, 1965, in Dayton, Ohio. As Terry began his career in education, Peggy was a devoted and children. In 1978, Terry started a private school, Calvary Baptist School, in Holland, Michigan. In addition to taking care of the home, Peggy work-







Peggy worked as a typist for Tandy Corp., a caregiver for Punkin Patch Daycare, and as the Nursery Coordinator at Worth Baptist Church.

Her devoted service to Worth Baptist Church included serving as the Jr. High unit head, the Homebuilders class unit head, 29er's assistant director.

Peggy Riggsby is preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Eva Carter, husband Terry Riggsby, and her son, Mark Riggsby. Peggy Riggsby will be remembered by her children Amy (David) Bryant, Becky (Doug) Sonsel, and Josh (Kristen) Riggsby as well as her grandchildren Blake (Shelby) Bryant, Meagan (David) Whitehead, David Bryant, Jr., Dakota Sonsel, Nathan (Paiton) Riggsby, Mason Riggsby, Jacob Riggsby, Beau Sonsel, Keathley Riggsby, and Carter Riggsby. She also leaves a great-grandson, Hayden; three great granddaughters, Rose, Addy, Brynlee; and her brother Larry (Linda) Carter.

The family of Peggy Riggsby wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to the loving community of Worth Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Widows and Widowers of Worth Baptist Church.



