

MISSIONARY TO LENA PRIDAY

Missionary to Honduras

BRO. JOHN PEEPLES

In 1984, I sat as a student in the first class of the Norris Bible Baptist Institute. Also in that class was Leslie Priday. My first introduction to Lena Priday was through her son. As time passed, I had the privilege of getting to know Lena and Harold and their fruitful ministry together of 50 years in Honduras. This past May, we sat together around the table and Lena was happy and cheerful enjoying the fellowship of other missionaries. I do not remember ever hearing Lena mention the trials that she faced with her health and doctor's visits. She was always rejoicing in what God had done and was doing in her life. Most of my direct exposure to Lena's ministry and life's work has been the time I have spent with Harold, Leslie, David, and Lena's other children and grandchildren. The fruit of her life and ministry to Christ have made an impact on my life as well as countless other lives around the world. God granted Lena her desire to finish her race and be buried in Honduras where Harold and Leslie continue to serve. Lena discovered God's will for her life, she pursued it with all her heart, God blessed her ministry, and she continued faithful until God called her home. Lena will be missed. Her ministry continues through the lives and works of those she impacted for Christ.

In Revelation 17:14, God uses this description for those whom he uses to overcome those who make war with Jesus Christ. I have the privilege of helping and working with many of God's choice servants. People who have been called to a ministry - who have surrendered their lives to pursue that calling. They were chosen by God for a purpose. God chooses some things and some people. "Many are called, but few are chosen." Created in God's image, we also choose some things and some people. Our choices make a difference to God!

Then we come to faithful. Only some of the called and chosen will be found faithful. It is the faithful that will be at the Lamb's side as He overcomes those that war against Him. There is the longing in the heart of God's servants to hear the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

One of those choice servants, that I have had the privilege to work with is Lena Priday. On October 5, 2023, the Lord called her home while she was faithfully serving Him in Honduras - doing what He had called her to do so many years ago. Sixty-two years as Harold's wife, and 50 years as a missionary to Honduras. She had a long and fruitful marriage and ministry - natural children, adopted children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, souls won to Christ, churches planted, children's ministries

started. Lena gave back to God the one life that God gave her. And God showed us how He can and does use a life given to Him.

BRO. ERIC CRAWFORD

Heritage Baptist Church, the church the Lord sees fit to allow me to pastor, supports over 100 foreign missionary families. I enjoy reading all of their letters and staying somewhat up to speed with their ministries and their lives. I have to say there are a few of our missionaries that I have been privileged to get to know more than just by a few short visits and one of those families is the Priday family.

Over the past seven or eight years, our church has taken several groups down to Honduras to help with the Priday's ministry. What a wonderful experience it has been to witness first hand the many works the Lord has used the Priday's to establish. In working alongside them for weeks at a time, I have observed their hard work and dedication to the Lord's work.

Mrs. Lena Priday especially impressed me by her dedication as she worked tirelessly with the ladies of the church and right beside her husband all week. I know of the physical problems she has had over the years and it amazed me how she worked with vigor and determination. She was a servant and loved to serve her ladies, church, family, and her Savior.

One thing that may not come to many people's minds is how Mrs. Lena and Bro. Priday interacted with one another. They worked hard together building a home, church, and family. Yet, all the while doing it with such a wonderful spirit and lots of laughter. They were a joy to hang out with and so much fun to be around. Mrs. Lena picked on Bro. Harold, and my wife and I loved to watch them. Mrs. Lena was a great example of a servant and a model missionary's wife.

DR. RAYMOND BARBER

I knew Missionary Lena Priday as one of my most diligent students in classes that she was enrolled in that I taught at the Bible Baptist Seminary many years ago. I knew her as a dedicated missionary who served God faithfully as she won scores of Honduran natives to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Lena was a loyal wife and a loving mother. Her service played out on earth; her record is on high. Her soul is resting in the mansion Jesus prepared for her.

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The Searchlight

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NBBS - Now in Our 40th Year & STILL ON TRACK!



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THE FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Article Three in a Series)



Dr. Raymond Barber
President Emeritus

L NUMBER ONE: Concerning the Scriptures:

(continued from Article Two dated: October/November 2023)

The curriculum of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is designed to take the students through the Bible from GENESIS through REVELATION in the order in which each book appears in our beloved King James Version (1611).

Someone said: *"The Bible has been pronounced dead many times, but the corpse never stays put."* Let it be known that God wrote the Bible in permanent ink and stamped it non-negotiable. God forbid that anyone should tamper with, twist, tarnish, or taint the Holy Scriptures. When God's Book is tampered with, God is interrupted because the Bible is "God preaching."

My roots go deeply into the KJV: I was born in a King James home into a King James family, saved and baptized in a King James church, attended a King James seminary (The Bible Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas), pastored a King James church in Fort Worth, Texas, for thirty-five years (Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth), and as of this Sunday, January 14, 2024, have been preaching from a King James Bible for seventy-three years.

Fundamental Baptists are branded with II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21, and I Peter 1:23-25. We believe that inspiration without preservation is meaningless. We rest our case on Psalm 119:89; Psalm 12:6,7; John 10:35; and Mark 13:31.

POPULARITY OF THE BIBLE

Since the Gutenberg Bible was printed in AD 1465, billions of Bibles have been printed and sold. In a recent year (2005), Americans purchased twenty-five million copies of Bibles, twice the number of Harry Potter books that were sold in that same year.

Not only is the Bible the world's best seller, it is your best buy. If you are looking for a good commentary on the Bible, look no further: the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible. Dr. J. Frank Norris famously drilled into our heads as students in the Bible Baptist Seminary:

*"Outline Scripture by Scripture;
Our words mean nothing;
God's words mean everything.
I have been a Book,
the only Book, God's Book.
Stand on it, young men,
and challenge the world."*

I leave you with my take on the popularity of the Word:

*"More precious than Gold,
More valuable than Platinum,
More to be desired than Diamonds,
Sweeter than Honey out of the Comb,
And Old as Time and New as Tomorrow."*

(continued in next issue)

STILL ON TRACK!



Eric Crawford,
IBFI President

Work on the new campus continues at a pace that is consistent with most building projects in this day and age, and of course that pace is slow.

There are forestry studies, traffic impact studies, and the list goes on and on. If we are not careful, it can become very discouraging. I have faced the mountain of red tape it takes (and so have many of you), and I decided a couple of building projects ago to not let it get to me. I know God has His hand on the throttle and His timing is perfect. It looks like we might start to see some dirt movement at our new location toward the end of the semester. Please pray that the Lord opens doors for us as the building program progresses. We look forward to what He is going to do.

The new school semester started out a little rough with some very cold temperatures, ice, and even a little snow, but the classes at Norris are yet again in full swing. I would like to thank Worth Baptist Church and their pastor, Tyler Gillie, for their willingness to open their doors to the seminary for a place to conduct the school while the new building is being built. I cannot express enough what it means to the students, faculty, and the administration to be guests of such a wonderful church. Thank you all for your faithful prayers.

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."
Psalm 127:1*

ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR UNFOLDING!



Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President

Our 40th year is moving right along in our temporary home at Worth Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas! Even though we were not able to have our traditional Opening Day Rally on Tuesday, January 16, due to a brief icy cold snap Monday and Tuesday, we did start classes that Wednesday. New students have joined us for the spring semester! We are excited about the 2024 graduating class (May 21, 2024)! Our new facility will be under construction soon!

In a somewhat extended chapel time arrangement on Wednesday and Thursday of our first week in the semester, the students were able to attend the Mount Abarim Baptist Mission International conference which Worth Baptist Church hosts every year. It was a great additional feature to the opening days of a new semester.

This new year (2024) will increasingly be exciting, as our

new facility emerges before eyes as a backdrop to all that will be going on at the school. Much preparatory work is being done by our architect, engineer, and the Independent Baptist Builders. Actual physical work is about to get underway on our new property. Soon, we will have the final plans for the building in our hands, and by the time of our 40th annual IBFI May fellowship meeting takes place (May 20-23, 2024), a visit to our soon future home on the west side of Ft. Worth will be on our schedule of events!

Graduation!

Our upcoming May graduates will characterize what NBBS is all about. Several men and women who have great potential to do a great work for God will be presented diplomas earned by their diligent study, faithful attendance, and "can do" attitude - via the grace of God. Our 40th graduation is Tuesday night, May 21 at 7:00 PM.



*Construction
Soon to Start!*



UPCOMING EVENTS

METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS

March 21, 2024
Central Park Baptist Church
Carrallton, TX
Pastor Delbert White

April 18, 2024
Antioch Baptist Church
Rhome, TX
Pastor Heath Van Zandt

IBFI ANNUAL SPRING FELLOWSHIP

Monday-Thursday
May 20-23, 2024
Worth Baptist Church
Fort Worth, TX

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

ALUMNI NEWS



Heath Hogue,
Alumni President

Forty years and still on track! Amen. As Norris Bible Baptist Seminary prepares for the 40th graduation, I reached out to one of the graduates from that first class of students, Bro. Leslie Priddy (missionary to Honduras) and Mrs. Alba since 1988 have had the blessing of starting eight churches, hosted multitudes of youth camps, medical teams, ladies' conferences, men's conferences, prophecy conferences with Bro. Philip Sawilovsky, radio ministries, and have taught in seminars and Bible institutions.

Mrs. Alba went home to be with the Lord in 2022, after 34 years, as Bro. Priddy said, "My right hand and companion."

TRIBUTE TO LENA PRIDAY (cont.)

BRO. JONATHAN STEWART

Our dear sister Lena Priddy, on the morning of October 5th, 2023, left the confines of this earthly existence and passed "into the glorious liberty of the children of God" as Paul spoke of Romans 8:21.

She was soon to turn 81 years of age. She and her husband Harold were married for 62 years. For 50 years they served as missionaries to Honduras. Lena was buried in Honduras - the place of the people she loved so dearly for so many years.

The most recent letterhead of their prayer letter cites that Harold started twenty-six missions, established eighty churches, founded two Bible Institutes, invested forty years as an institute instructor, and for many years has been a Christian book distributor. Lena of course was involved in all of this as a helpmeet extraordinaire! She also had a role in teaching women and children in many different settings through the years.

From the late 1970s, Harold and Lena have been a long-standing presence in the lives of my wife and I while we were in school and serving in Worth Baptist Church, and then while I led the way in starting and then pastoring the Regency Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas for 12 years. Harold and Lena were among the first missionaries we took on for regular monthly support. I then went on staff as the associate pastor, and later the missions director at the Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, the church from which the Priddy's were sent out of to the field of Honduras many years before. Accordingly, for 45 years they have been a fixture in our lives.

Harold and Lena have been long-time faithful regular monthly supporters of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, and I know they have been among the many prayer warriors we have interceding for the school. Their son, Leslie, was a member of the first graduating class of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, almost 40 years ago. A second generation missionary to Honduras, such as Leslie Priddy, is a great thing

Bro. Leslie continues to follow the Lord's call in Honduras just as he has since he was 14 years old and moved to Honduras with his parents.

Bro. Leslie Priddy wanted to share this with you, "It is exciting when people who have been saved follow the Lord in baptism, because many don't get baptized since they were sprinkled as children. It is a blessing to see them grow and become leaders in their churches and have concern for others. I would like to thank Dr. Raymond Barber and those along with him who founded the NBBS and the IBFI. I want to thank each pastor and church member for your prayers and financial support over the years that we have been missionaries. I continue in the work to which God called me, preaching the Gospel and establishing churches. Thank you for your notes of encouragement and prayers for Alba in her sickness especially, and for our family and I the past year. May God bless you."

to have happen! I cannot think of a greater blessing to his parents than this - that of following them into the ministry, and serving so steadily as a missionary to Honduras for some four decades. Alba, Leslie's wife, was a very faithful missionary as well and preceded Lena in death late in 2022.

I know that Alba and Lena have an appreciation for Leslie and Harold, even more so now, because they see it all from the heavenly perspective in ways we cannot, far down here. The host of believers who are already in heaven, who were reached through his family's ministry, are rejoicing with them. Of course the same can be said of Lena, for Harold. The four of them have been benchmark missionaries. To these two men I say, the loves of your life, are enjoying a more glorious eternity because of their service alongside of you through the years, and their love for you has never been greater.



Bornal Priday and Family

