

# GREATER RICHES

*than the Treasures of Egypt*

Have you ever thought about the mindset of a missionary? When many Christians hear the call to missions, they respond, "Must I go?" The missionary responds, "Can I go?" Some may ask, "Why go?" while the missionary asks, "Why stay?" At last some conclude "How can I go?" while the missionary concludes "How can I not go?" God is still calling missionaries to preach the Gospel of Christ and start Local Independent Baptist Churches around the world. Have you heard?

well as, here in San Miguel de Allende. Wherever we go we see the crosses, the idols, the prayer cards with pictures of the saints, and the shrines. Upon our arrival this past summer, we visited with a small Baptist congregation on the outside of town. We were able to assist in their Vacation Bible School, and we rejoice for the four souls that were saved. Our desire is to begin a new work among the people to reach them for Christ and to establish them in the faith.



Darrain and Mari Coker are faithful veteran missionaries to Mexico. They are starting a new work in the state of Guanajuato. As you read their update below please remember to pray for them and their ministry.

John Peeples  
IBFI Mission Director

We have started three Bible study groups meeting with different families during the week. The Lord continues to bless as they are learning God's Word. We continue to make other contact with people in stores, parking lots, hospital waiting areas, and just wherever we can meet people to share Christ. Please be in prayer for us as we seek the Lord's direction in locating a place to fellowship and hold church services, Bible clubs, and prayer meetings. Also pray for us as we seek the Lord for guidance, wisdom, spiritual and physical strength.

We want to say "Thank You" to all the local churches that support and pray for us and for allowing us to be part of your mission program.



Darrain, Mari, and Damaris  
The Coker Family

The land of Mexico is the largest Spanish speaking country in the world. Within the country of Mexico, there are thirty-one states and one Federal District, Mexico City. Each Mexican state is diverse, having customs, foods, and historical traditions of their own. My family and I are sent out by Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, to Guanajuato, Mexico. The state of Guanajuato is located in the north-central part of the country and is known as the heart of Mexico.

The Lord has directed us to the town of San Miguel de Allende with a population of 160,000 people. We are in the process of getting to know the town along with working on the permit that I need to live and work here in Mexico. There are many denominations and religions here. Roman Catholicism is the major religion in Mexico, as

## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

# The Searchlight

MARCH/APRIL 2013 VOLUME 29 ISSUE 4

IBFI Spring Fellowship Meeting  
May 20-23, 2013

Raymond W. Barber Conference Center



Dr. Jerry Siler  
Wednesday 10-10:50 AM



Dr. Raymond Barber  
Wednesday 7 PM



Dr. Clarence Sexton  
Tuesday 7 PM



John Peeples  
Wednesday 7 PM



David Webb  
Thursday 11-11:50 AM



Robert J. Kurtz  
Thursday 9-9:50 AM



David Gibbs, Jr.  
Monday 7 PM  
Tuesday 11-11:50 AM



Tim Carte  
Tuesday 10-10:50 AM



Jonathan Stewart  
Thursday 10-10:50 AM



David Gibbs, III  
Tuesday 9-9:50 AM



Kirk Kirkland  
Wednesday 9-9:50 AM

## IBFI Mission Agency

Assisting Local Church-Sent Missionaries

### Assisting Churches

Sending missionaries with accountability

### Assisting Local Church-Sent Missionaries

Preparing for the field, support on the field

For more information call 817-367-3422

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## The Searchlight

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IBFI Board of Directors: Dr. Jerry Siler, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, Pastor Robin Webb, Pastor Mark Brown, Bro. Ray Richey, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Bill Hardin, Pastor Paul King, Pastor Jim Pointer, Pastor Charles Pugh, Dr. Willie Weaver, Dr. J. D. Weido, Dr. Charles Wetherbee.



# Are You Ready?

Jerry Siler  
IBFI President



The church at Jerusalem was not ready to take the Gospel to the Jews, and Jonah was not ready to preach to Nineveh. Demas was not ready to continue with Paul, and Ananias and his wife were not ready to deal honestly with their stewardship.

The real challenge in this fast-paced world is to remain ready to meet the needs of others that God leads into our path.

Thankfully, Andrew was ready at his conversion to find his brother and bring him to Jesus. We are indebted to Paul who was ready to answer the Macedonian call that ultimately brought the Gospel to us. Paul was truly a pioneer, a “first responder” in taking the Gospel to the world.

Jesus was a “first responder” to our needs when He left Heaven to come and die the awful death at Calvary. He was ready to die, willing to die, and suitable to die for our sins and the sins of the world.

Let’s keep ourselves battle ready, awaiting the next opportunity to be a “first responder” for the Lord as He dispatches us to someone’s aid in the battlefield.



This is an important question that we have to consider many times each week in our lives. Are we ready...for work, ready...to eat, ready...to preach, ready...to pray, ready...to (you fill in the blank.)

Paul declared that he was ready to preach the Gospel in Romans 1:15 and that he was ready to be offered to the Lord in death in II Timothy 4:6. The Lord warns us to be ready for His coming in Matthew 24:44. Peter declared that we are to be ready to give an answer to every man, and Paul wrote to Titus to be ready to every good work.

The people in our society that must be ready at all times are referred to as “first responders.” Among these servants, we would include medical personnel, policemen, military, and air traffic controllers. In the spiritual realm, I hope we realize our “first responder” responsibilities as preachers, teachers, soul winners, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, and bus workers.

As “first responders” in the ministry, we are not only to be ready ourselves, but we are to train others to be battle ready too!

## From the Pen of the President Emeritus



Dr. Raymond Barber

### SCRIPTURAL FORMULA for HANDLING TROUBLE

- I. David’s Discouragement—Psalm 3:1,2  
Three reasons the Psalmist was discouraged:  
A. Increased enemies—verse 1  
B. Multiplied troubles—verse 1  
C. Abundant criticism—verse 2

Discouragement is a common denominator of life. No one escaped the heaviness of a discouraged spirit. A ten-point proven formula for overcoming discouragement is “Go out and win a soul to Christ.” Now, repeat it nine times. This is certain to cure anyone of the blues. (Try it for yourself.)  
11. David’s Encouragement—Psalm 3:3

- A. He was encouraged when he remembered God’s help in the past. (STOP! Take a moment to review God’s blessings in your own life and be encouraged.) Count your blessings; name them one by one. Count your many blessings; see what God hath done.  
B. He was encouraged when he remembered God’s special love. Consider God’s love for you (John 3:16), along with the special love that Christ has for you: (John 15:9.) “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.”  
C. He was encouraged when he remembered God’s power and blessings manifest toward him. Any man will overcome his discouragement when he counts his blessings. (Psalm 103:1-14.)  
111. David’s Prayer—Psalm 3:4  
A. He prayed fervently (James 5:16).  
B. He prayed wholeheartedly (Psalm 119:145).  
C. He prayed continually (Psalm 55:17).

William Cooper was on target when he wrote this poem:

Prayer makes the darkest clouds withdraw.  
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw,

Gives exercise to faith and love,  
Brings every blessing from above.  
Restraining prayer we cease to fight;  
Prayer makes the Christian’s armor bright,  
And Satan trembles when he sees  
The weakest saint upon his knees.

We do well to remember that whatever the posture of the body, the soul can be on its knees. The only time God is deaf is when we are dumb. The only time He doesn’t answer is when we don’t ask. (By the way, even the weakest prayer can be heard if you do not live too far from the throne.) His promise is “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jeremiah 33:3).

- IV. David’s Provision—Psalm 3: 5-8  
A. Provided rest—verse 5 (Hebrews 4:9)  
B. Provided strength—verse 5 (Psalm 27:1)  
C. Provided courage—verse 6 (Joshua 1:6,7)  
D. Provided victory—verse 7 (I John 5:4)  
E. Provided salvation—verse 8 (Isaiah 33:2)  
Rest is assured when one comes to Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30). Strength is found in the God of our refuge (Psalm 46:1). Courage is coupled with strength (Deuteronomy 31:6). Victory is of the Lord (I Chronicles 29:11). Salvation is in a Person, and only in a Person, and only in one Person, and that Person is Jesus Christ, our Lord (Acts 4:12).

Summary:  
No one can deny that the psalmist was lifted up from the depths of despondency, despair and discouragement when he turned by faith to God. So it is that you can be delivered from the pit of depression when you cry from a sincere heart to the same God (Psalm 40:1-3). His ears are ever open, and you can get His attention at once. A

Concluding Thought:  
The prayer of faith brings God into the drama of a man’s life, and when God comes on the stage, all is changed.

## ALUMNI NEWS

Mark Brown  
Alumni President



We have entered another new year and are excited about the opportunities this year brings to our churches, missionary works, and ministries that each of our alumni are involved in! As we think about the fruit of our school through the years we are amazed at how God has blessed, and we continue with great expectation for how He is working through the ministries of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International. We are especially thankful for the works that our alumni are involved in all over the world. Our alumni are serving as pastors, missionaries, in youth ministry, and music ministry, as well as other areas of the Lord’s work. Please continue to keep each alumnus in your prayers.

Please make plans to attend the Spring (May) Fellowship of the IBFI again this year. As always, we would love to have strong representation of our graduates in attendance. The dates of the fellowship

## NEWS & EVENTS

IBFI Annual Spring Fellowship Meeting  
May 20-23, 2013

**Monday evening after the service** Heritage Baptist Church from Haslet, Texas, will be hosting a dessert buffet. **Tuesday afternoon** we will have the traditional **Ladies’ Tea**. This is a very special time of inspiration and fellowship for all ladies. We are also having a **Men’s Fellowship** to exchange ideas and encourage each other. **Wednesday** we will have the **Alumni Luncheon**. Everyone is invited to join the Alumni for lunch at Spring Creek Barbeque.

### ELECTIONS

All current officers are eligible to serve another term. The following Board Members have served three years and are ineligible to serve this year: Bill Hardin, Charles Pugh, and Charles Wetherbee. Please come prepared to vote. For questions, call Jerry Siler at 937-253-6151.

meeting are May 20-23. The meeting will be held at the facilities of the IBFI in Fort Worth, Texas. We are especially excited that Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas, will be hosting the Wednesday evening service. Heritage Baptist Church’s pastor is Eric Crawford, a 1995 graduate of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. I am looking forward to seeing how God is blessing this great church!

We would also like to invite you to attend our Alumni Luncheon to be held again this year at the Spring Creek Barbeque. This year the luncheon will be held on Wednesday afternoon (May 22nd) instead of Tuesday as it has been in the past. Meeting on Wednesday will allow more time for our alumni and their families to fellowship than in the past since there is a board meeting, ladies’ fellowship and men’s fellowship scheduled for Tuesday afternoon. As always, everyone is welcome to attend the luncheon. It is a great time to fellowship with old friends, as well as a good opportunity to meet new friends.

Please keep all of our alumni, as well as current students, in your prayers! If you have anything of interest that we can include in future articles of the Searchlight please let us know. We would love to hear how the Lord is working in your life and ministry.

2013 IBFI Fall Fellowship Meeting  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Big Spring, Texas  
October 15 - 17

### WELCOME NEW ALUMNI



Stacy Bullock Amanda Strange Rebekah Platt



Jack Brown Amanda Howard Jonathan Webb