

The Searchlight

Promoting IBFI Missionaries, Churches, Crown Southwest and Norris Seminary

Vol. 25 Issue 6

"Official Newsletter of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International of Ft. Worth, Texas"

March/April 2010

TRUE TO THE FAITH IN CHANGING TIMES MAY 17 - 20, 2010

	TIME	TUESDAY MAY 18	WEDNESDAY MAY 19	THURSDAY MAY 20
CROWN SOUTHWEST NORRIS SEMINARY CAMPUS	9:00 - 9:40 A.M.	Pastor Eddy Johnson Grayson Bible Baptist Church Sherman, Texas	Dr. Dan Knickerbocker Crown Southwest, Norris Seminary, Ft. Worth School of the Bible, Lake Texoma Baptist Camp	Dr. R. T. Riggsby Worth Baptist Church Fort Worth, Texas
	RAYMOND W. BARBER CONFERENCE CENTER FORT WORTH, TEXAS	9:40- 10:25A.M.	Pastor Glen Anderson Pensacola Baptist Temple Pensacola, Florida	Pastor Jim Pointer Sioux City Baptist Church Sioux City, Iowa
Dr. Willie Weaver <i>President</i> Rev. Jim Pointer <i>Vice-President</i> Dr. Eddy Johnson <i>Secretary</i>	10:25- 11:10A.M.	Dr. Tom Sexton Gulf Coast Baptist Church Cape Coral, Florida	Dr. Willie Weaver IBFI President Worth Baptist Church Fort Worth, Texas GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL OFFERING BUSINESS SESSION ELECTIONS	Pastor Barry Bedwell Faith Baptist Church Dearborn Heights, Michigan
	11:10- 12:00 Noon	Pastor Eric Crawford Heritage Baptist Church Haslet, Texas		Pastor Charles Wetherbee Victory Baptist Church Weatherford, Texas
	Monday • May 17 7:00 P.M.	LUNCH		NOON ALUMNI LUNCHEON Everyone Invited to Attend
J. Frank Norris Memorial Banquet		2:00 P.M. Board of Directors Meeting Ladies' Meeting		
Speaker Dr. A. V. Henderson	7:00 P.M.	Graduation Crown Southwest Norris Seminary Ft. Worth School of the Bible Commencement Speaker Dr. A. V. Henderson	Service to be held at Worth Baptist Church Missionary Harold Priday Honduras Dr. Raymond W. Barber Chancellor CSW & NS President Emeritus IBFI Pastor Emeritus Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas	

Looking Forward to May Meeting



Dr. Willie Weaver
IBFI President
Pastor Worth Baptist
Church, Ft. Worth

I'm eagerly anticipating the 26th annual May meeting of the INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (IBFI). Our theme this year is "TRUE TO THE FAITH IN CHANGING

TIMES." A great meeting is planned. We will kick off the meeting with the J.FRANK NORRIS MEMORIAL BANQUET on Monday night. It will be a good time to renew friendships, catch up on news, laugh and share burdens. DR. A.V. HENDERSON, one of the great pulpiteers of our time, will be the speaker for the banquet.

The GRADUATION for the FORT WORTH SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE,

CROWN SOUTHWEST AND NORRIS SEMINARY will be held at the RAYMOND W. BARBER CONFERENCE CENTER on Tuesday night. We are anticipating, by far, the LARGEST GRADUATION we have had in years.

We have a GREAT LINE UP OF SPEAKERS each day, along with excellent music. Some of God's choicest servants will be challenging us from the blessed old Book of Books. We will be recognizing our IBFI MISSIONARIES and will present some for approval.

Our ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING and the RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING will take place on Wednesday morning. Our offering goal is \$50,000.00. If for some providential reason you cannot make the meeting, may I encourage you to participate by mailing your offering. You will receive a letter and an OF-

FERING ENVELOPE that can be easily returned. Of course, we would rather see you here.

On WEDNESDAY NIGHT, the service will be at WORTH BAPTIST CHURCH once again. The board of directors expressed that many people enjoyed having it at Worth last year. We will be recognizing the churches and their delegates at the service. The Pastor and church that has the highest percentage of their PREVIOUS SUNDAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE will be given special recognition and a special award.

Make plans now to be here for the NATIONAL MAY MEETING. It's good to get away from the pressures of the ministry and routine of things and enjoy the challenges and great time of fellowship. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MAY.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3

Get Involved!



Pastor Robin Webb
Alumni President

The strength of any school is found in the participation of its alumni. Those who understand and appreciate the investment made by others in their training and development will recognize the

need to remain involved in the ministry of their alma matter. There is a debt of gratitude that is owed to those in the past who have made our school possible, but there is also a responsibility to those who are coming after us to make sure that it remains available to them.

It is thrilling to see so many of the Crown Southwest/Norris Seminary Alumni remaining involved in the local and regional meetings of the I.B.F.I. The I.B.F. of Texas and the Great Southwest recently concluded its spring meeting with an alumnus hosting the meeting, an alumnus moderating the meeting, and six alumni preaching in the meeting.

Get involved by attending the annual spring meeting of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International.

The graduation exercises held on Tuesday evening promises to be a tremendous blessing as there will be graduates from Crown Southwest/Norris Seminary, as well as the Fort Worth School of the Bible, receiving their diplomas. Beyond being encouraged by the servants of God who have completed their course of study, there will also be great preaching that will feed the soul.

Get involved by attending the Alumni Luncheon on Tuesday afternoon. It is always thrilling to sit with men and ladies with whom we have studied, who have remained faithful to the calling of God in their lives, and recount what God has done with us over the years. The encouragement that we receive from each other helps us to "stay the course" when we realize that there are many others who, like us, are remaining faithful even though they are fighting battles. You need us and we need you.... **Get Involved!**

Election Information

The following board members have served a three-year term and will not be eligible to serve this next year.

Don Gregory
Robin Webb

Tom Huntress completed the term of a board member who resigned. That term would have been complete this year. Bro. Huntress has served only one year of that member's term; therefore, he is eligible to be elected again this year.

We will be electing three members to the Board of Directors.

In consideration of anyone you would wish to nominate for any office, please ask them ahead of time if they would be willing to serve in that office.

We will have ballots and be voting at the **General Assembly** meeting on **Wednesday morning at 10:00 a. m.**

Please come prepared to vote and to serve. Each office is very important. If you have any questions, please call Bro. Willie Weaver at 817-534-0787.

A COVENANT WITH GOD



Dr. Raymond Barber
Chancellor, NBBS
Pastor Emeritus,
Worth Baptist Church,
Fort Worth, Texas

Once upon a time around the year 2000 B.C., there lived a man by the name of Terah in a place called the Ur of the Chaldees. This was a part of the land area known as Mesopotamia, the "land between two rivers," the Tigris and Euphrates. Designated the cradle of civilization, this land was

prominent in biblical geography as well as in the development of secular history in subsequent years.

Terah fathered a baby boy and called him Abram. Although the name Abram means "high and exalted father," one wonders if Terah ever dreamed of the exalted status to which his son would be elevated in God's economy—just a tiny little baby, but one who would become not only the father of many nations but a friend of God and a prince among men.

After the developmental years of childhood and youth, Abram assumed the responsibility of manhood and took a wife named Sarai. Then came their move from Ur of the Chaldees to the land of Haran, a stopover on the way to Canaan, the "Promised Land" of hope, happiness, and home (Gen. 11).

It was after the death of Terah that the saga of Abram's life begins, the first segment of which is characterized by a visit from the Lord.

The Abrahamic Covenant

In obedience to God's instructions to leave his father's household, his family, and his favored homeland, Abram journeys to Canaan. The record of his journey is found in Genesis 12 where we learn also that God had assured Abram of the following blessings to be included in the Abrahamic Covenant:

Enlightenment: "I will shew thee" (12:1).

Enlargement: "I will make of thee a great nation (12:2).

Endowment: "I will bless thee" (12:2).

Enhancement: "I will ... make thy name great" (12:2)

Encouragement: "I will bless them that bless thee" (12:3).

Entitlement: "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (12:3)

Enrichment: "Unto thy seed will I give this land" (12:7).

In essence, the Abrahamic Covenant is summed up in two planks of the platform God built for Abraham (Abram at that point, until his name is changed to Abraham, the "father of the faithful") and his posterity.

The two planks in the platform are as follows:

1. SOIL: The covenant guaranteed Abraham all the land from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates, the great Fertile Crescent (Gen. 15:18).

2. SEED: Even more important was the promise that Abraham's seed would be preserved, which in the end would produce the Messiah, Jesus Christ (Gen. 15:1-5). Observe that the true Seed of Abraham is Jesus, as seen in Matthew's genealogy (Matt. 1:1) where the Saviour's lineage traces Him back to Abraham through David in the tribe of Judah. Supportive verses concerning who the Seed is and from whom He will descend are Genesis 17:19 and Genesis 21:12.

The New Testament commentary is found in Galatians 3:16: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed which is Christ." Also in the New Testament are the two genealogical records found in Matthew 1 and Luke 3, both of which connect Jesus with Abraham.

What Kind of Man Was Abraham?

One of the most unique characters in the history of the Bible, Abraham is the only man in the Holy Writ who is called "the Friend of God" (II Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; Jas. 2:23).

Such a man not only made an impact on his own generation, but he also influenced the lives and thinking of men in every generation following his sojourn on earth. On every continent the story of Abraham and his adventurous life has been told. People north,

south, east, and west on both sides of the equator have called him blessed of God. The man of faith has become a model for many who wish, as he did, to please God.

The most admirable characteristic of this man was his ardent faith in God. This faith was gallantly demonstrated when he was childless. The Lord came and promised him a son in his old age when both he and Sarai were beyond the age of childbearing. But when God assured him that his heir (Isaac) would come out of his loins, the Scripture says, "And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness" (Gen. 15:6).

What faith, what stamina, what courage Abraham displayed at this very trying time in his life! Little wonder the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write a commentary in the New Testament extolling the faith of this great hero: "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Rom. 4:3).

Abraham's unshakable faith should inspire each of us to exercise an unflinching faith in God, whose promises never fail!



We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to Dr. and Mrs. Barber in the home-going of Mrs. Barber's mother.

Mrs. Lee Belle Johnson, of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 4, 2010. Mrs. Johnson was 98.



INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL Speakers



Dr. Willie Weaver
President IBFI
Pastor Worth Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas



Dr. Clarence Sexton
Pastor Temple Baptist Church
President Crown College
Powell, Tennessee



Dr. Raymond W. Barber
Chancellor NBBS
President Emeritus IBFI
Pastor Emeritus
Worth Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas



Dr. A. V. Henderson
Evangelist
Fort Worth, Texas



Glen Anderson



Barry Bedwell



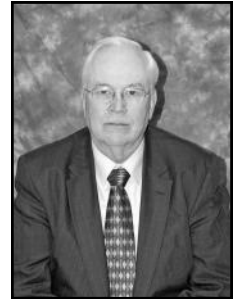
Eric Crawford



Eddy Johnson



Dan Knickerbocker



Jim Pointer



Harold Friday



R. T. Riggsby



Charles Wetherbee

*"...and exhort you that ye should earnestly content
for the faith..." Jude 3*



TRUE TO THE FAITH IN CHANGING TIMES

May 17 - 20, 2010

J. Frank Norris Memorial Banquet

Raymond W. Barber Conference Center
Fort Worth, Texas
Monday, May 17, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.

Cost: \$12.00

Alumni Luncheon
Tuesday, May 18

All alumni, pastors,
ladies, and friends
of the school are in-
vited to the alumni
luncheon at Spring
Creek
Barbeque.

We will leave from
the Conference
Center as soon as
the Tuesday
morning
services are over.

Ladies' Meeting

*All ladies of the IBFI are
Invited to a
Meeting on Tuesday,
May 18, 2009
2:00 P.M.
At the IBFI office building*

*We will have a time of fellowship,
sharing, and
a special speaker.*

*Light refreshments, coffee, and
tea will be served.*

Mission Store 2010

Please do not forget our annual Mission Store. Throughout the years God has used it to be a blessing and an encouragement to our missionaries. Now, once again we have an opportunity to be a blessing to them in this way. If you would like to be a part, you may send your items and gift cards to the IBFI Mission Office or bring it with you to the May Fellowship meeting.

SOME THINGS THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN



Bro. John Peeples
IBFI
Mission Director

We live in a time of overwhelming needs. We are privileged to have a part in making a difference through our prayers and financial support for faithful missionaries around the world. When great trials come, they are already on the job and ready to meet these seemingly overwhelming needs with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I trust you will be encouraged to do more by faith as we face the coming days.

-- John Peeples, Mission Director

By Missionary Ron Valerio

The entire world has heard about the catastrophic earthquake that shook Port au Prince, Haiti, claiming more than 200,000 victims and leaving the nation's capitol in rubble. "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4.) The fact that knowledge is being rapidly increased gives us abundant evidence of accuracy and fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

The **Jacques Alexandres**, veteran missionaries to Haiti, lost their house in the earthquake. We had the privilege of having the Alexandres stay in our home for a couple of weeks while they regrouped. Jacques would say, "I can still feel the ground shaking under my feet." Although they were shaken, their faith remained steady.

Jacques' old SUV got smashed in the earthquake by falling concrete. They were able to drive it from Haiti to our house in the Dominican Republic, and we were able to get it repaired. While in an auto parts store, we took the opportunity to witness to five Dominican muchachos working behind the counter. One of them seemed pretty "shaken-up" over the recent earthquake. They all began to ask questions. One of them shook his head and asked, "Why did God allow this to happen?" After talking to them we discovered that they

were all new believers in the Lord. We explained to them that it is not wrong to have honest questions. In fact the Bible teaches us that "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." (Hosea 4:6a.) Then we all read Matthew 24, where Jesus was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, listening to the questions of the disciples. The disciples were shaken up and wanted to know the signs of His second coming. Jesus said, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: *see that ye be not troubled*: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet... and there shall be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes." The boys were all encouraged, and even want to start a church in their area. Jacques and I went on our way rejoicing.

"...Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, that those things which cannot be shaken remain." (Hebrews 12:26.) There are certain things that cannot be shaken.

There is God. Our omnipotent Lord cannot be shaken under any circumstance. When everything is shaking around us and under us and our foundations are crumbling, there is the Lord, who cannot be shaken. He is our refuge and strength in times of trouble. God's Word says that every mountain and every island shall be moved one day. But God Himself is unshakable.

His holiness is unshakable. Holiness is the crown jewel of all His attributes. It is His holiness that reveals to us to us our sinfulness. He is holy in all His works. Revelation presents God as three times holy, "...Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." (Revelation 4:8.) He is holy in His Fatherhood, His Sonship, and the Holy Spirit. His holiness never changes.

Another thing that cannot be shaken is God's Word. "Forever, O lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Men have tried to change it, improve it, and even destroy it. Eternal life itself is dependent upon this indestructible and incor-

ruptible Book, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." (I Peter 1:22.) Someone said that men don't reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them.

Then there is the unshakable mercy of God. "O give thanks unto the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever." Why can't His mercy be shaken? Because mercy is an enduring attribute of God, and God Himself cannot be shaken. All of His attributes for that matter, His love, grace, mercy, righteousness, holiness are multifaceted moral attributes of God that cannot be shaken. When we were unlovable, His unshakable love loved us, and He poured His love in our hearts. "... because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." (Romans 5:5b.) When we get shaken up, He provides more grace. "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 4:15.) When Paul and Silas were in prison, it was an earthquake that released them. "And suddenly, there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed." (Acts 16:26.) When we deserved Hell, His enduring mercy came to the rescue. When we did not deserve Heaven, His unshakable grace made the difference.

We still feel the island shaking from time to time, and though the islands shall be moved, there are still some things that cannot be shaken.



Dominican believers with Bro. Valerio. They were encouraged by the Word.

Will Texas Invest in the Next Generation?



Evangelist & Mrs.
Dan Knickerbocker

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 10:27

Christ calls them. As we come to the end of a school year our hearts are overjoyed by the students that have heard God's voice and are about to be launched into God's vineyard of service. The students have worked hard and have followed the requirements to receive a Bachelors or Master of Ministries degree. *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.* I Thess 5:24

Crown Southwest/Norris Seminary enables them. Following leadership is one thing being a leader is the reward of following. We trust the Lord to keep them in the palm of His hand and faithful to their calling. We as leaders need

to do everything in our power to assist students to faithfully finish the call to prepare. It is heart-breaking when there are students that want to come but can not afford it.

Churches and pastors must assist the next generation. As Jesus said, "I must needs go through Samaria" to win the Samaritan woman; so we see the joy of having a part in their lives, and we want you to have a part as well. We would encourage you to adopt a student that you could invest in. If you don't have a student in your church that is training, adopt one. You can pay their tuition and/or books, or pay their room and board. Every church can help a student through college by taking up an offering once a month on Wednesday night, and then letting the student come and report how God is blessing. Speak to me about assisting in the training of the next generation.

Texas is investing in the next generation!

CROWN SOUTHWEST
NORRIS SEMINARY
Ft. Worth

School of the Bible

Graduation

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Congratulations
Class of 2010



Daniel Ledford
Fredricksburg, Virginia
Norris Seminary

CROWN SOUTHWEST GRADUATES



Kara Bradshaw
New Bremen, Ohio



Brodie Bushman
Weatherford, Texas



Alysha Cunning
Airway Heights, Washington



Jonathan Langman
Elmvale, Ontario, Canada



Coley Minnix
Weatherford, Texas



Marcus Richey
Weatherford, Texas



Jordan Rodgers
Roscommon, Michigan



David Rouse
Camden, North Carolina



Mia Stanley
Newnan, Georgia

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***CROWN SOUTHWEST
NORRIS SEMINARY***
A Distinctive Baptist School

IBFI MISSION AGENCY
*A clearing house for local church sent
missionaries.*

Things You Should Know

May Fellowship Motel Information

The Best Western Fort Worth Inn & Suites

201 West Loop I-820 North, Ft. Worth; Phone - 817-246-8777

\$70.39 + tax - Double, extra person \$15.00

Be sure to mention you are with the Independent Baptist Fellowship

Located less than 5 minutes from the Conference Center

LaQuinta Inn

5800 Quebec St., Ft. Worth; Phone - 817-237-9300

\$79.52 + tax - 2 queen beds

Please mention you are with Crown Southwest

Located about 8 minutes from the Conference Center

The Searchlight

A Publication and Ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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IBFI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Dr. Willie Weaver, Dr. Raymond Barber, Pastor Jim Pointer, Dr. Eddy Johnson, Mission Director John Peeples, Bro. Ray Richey, Pastor Barry Bedwell, Pastor Mark Brown, Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Don Gregory, Pastor Tom Huntress, Dr. Don Shipman, Dr. Jerry Siler, Pastor Claude Sutton, Pastor Robin Webb

**Fall
Fellowship
Meeting**

**October
12 - 14, 2010**

**Pensacola
Baptist
Temple**

Pensacola, Florida

**Host Pastor
Glen Anderson**