

Ron and Kathy Valerio are veteran missionaries to the Dominican Republic. Ron has written an insightful article on better praying for our missionaries. We have printed the introduction to this article below. For the complete article, please visit our website [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us) and click on the Searchlight tab to find the article.



John Peeples  
IBFI Mission Director

## HOW TO BETTER PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

*Brethren, pray for us. 1 Thes. 5:25*  
By Ron Valerio

“Brethren, pray for us.” This was the request of the great Apostle Paul. Paul was a missionary sent out from the local church at Antioch. He could have spent the rest of his life teaching the converts at Antioch. He could have refused God’s leading and the Holy Spirit’s pressure on his heart. He could have done so, but he would have been out of the will of God for his life. He surrendered his heart and accepted God’s call on his life. “Brethren, pray for us.” This was the plea from a man in the perfect will of God.

Aside from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Paul the Apostle was the greatest and most influential missionary of all time. “Brethren pray for us.” This was the request of the missionary who brought the Gospel to Europe. This was the request of the great Apostle who penned fourteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. Paul’s request was a plea from a missionary’s heart. And it is the plea from the heart of every blood bought, God-sent missionary today. The plea is that the believers of the local church would engage in the most vital task of the missionary endeavor- intercessory prayer, or praying on behalf of someone else.

Now, if the great Apostle Paul needed and pleaded for the prayers of others, then every God-sent missionary needs the prayers of others. I suppose there are literally hundreds of areas of prayer that the missionary needs. We

could and should pray for the missionary’s relationship with God. We should remember their physical and emotional needs. Praying specifically for the missionary’s family is vitally important as they make their home in a foreign land, often far removed from everyone they have ever known. Let’s not forget their financial needs. Missionaries seem to always have endless needs to do the work of the Lord. A Korean missionary stood up in a mission conference and said in broken English, “GOSPEL FREE—MISSIONARY COSTS MUCH!” A price tag cannot be put on the souls of men. The human soul is of infinite value. The fulfillment of the Great Commission must go forward on the wings of prayer.

So many in our churches with good intentions pray a general prayer like, “Lord, bless all our missionaries around the world, everywhere. Amen.” However, specific prayers get specific answers! The Word of God reveals to us some of missionary Paul’s specific prayer requests:

### PRAY FOR WORDS TO SPEAK.

“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me...” Eph. 6:19a. Every missionary needs prayer for the words to speak. Missionaries deal daily with cultural and language differences. They are declaring the message of eternal life to the lost. Their culture cannot save them. Their government cannot save them. They cannot save themselves. The only hope people have is a clear presentation of the Gospel. My wife Kathy and I attended a family retreat. The guest speaker was a veteran missionary to Africa. He challenged us to commit to memory Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” May the missionary’s words be acceptable to the Lord and spiritually profitable to men.

*Missionaries Kathy & Ron Valerio*



To read this complete article please visit our website: [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us) and click on the Searchlight tab.

## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

724 N. Jim Wright Freeway  
Fort Worth, Texas 76108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

# The Searchlight

JUNE/JULY 2013 VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

### IBFI Spring Fellowship Meeting Highlights



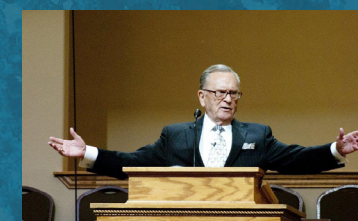
Dr. Jerry Siler, President  
Welcoming guests to meeting



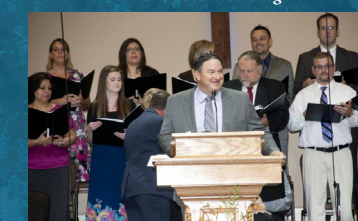
Dr. David Gibbs, Jr.  
Special speaker Mon. evening  
& Tues. morning



Bro. John Peeples,  
IBFI Mission Director  
Special speaker Wed. evening



Dr. Raymond Barber  
President Emeritus  
Special speaker Wed. evening



Pastor Eric Crawford welcomed  
the IBFI to Haslet Baptist Church  
on Wed. evening



Crown Southwest Trio  
Provided music for the meeting

### Crown Southwest Graduation



Jack Brown received the Raymond  
Barber Leadership Award  
from Dr. Barber



Dr. Ray Richey received a Doctor of  
Humanities from Crown College



Jonathan Webb received the  
J. Frank Norris Award  
from Dr. Clarence Sexton



**Class of 2013**

Graduates of Crown Southwest and Fort Worth School of the Bible

## 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

## CROWN SOUTHWEST NORRIS SEMINARY

A Distinctive Baptist School

An education at Crown Southwest Norris Seminary is rooted in the Word of God. Crown Southwest Norris Seminary is an extension of Crown College of the Bible located in Powell, TN. We currently offer the following academic programs.

### DEGREES OFFERED:

- Bachelor of Biblical Studies in Pastoral Ministry
- Bachelor of Biblical Studies in Missions
- Bachelor of Biblical Studies in Youth Ministry
- Bachelor of Biblical Studies in Music Ministry
- Foundation for Christian Life Bible Certificate (One Year)
- Master of Ministry

Other degree programs are available through Crown College of the Bible and Crown Seminary. For more information visit [thecrowncollege.com](http://thecrowncollege.com).

CrownSouthwest.org • 817-367-0455

### The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

724 N. Jim Wright Freeway | Ft. Worth, TX 76108 | Phone: 817.367.3422 | Fax: 817.246.4884 | Email: [info@ibfi.us](mailto:info@ibfi.us) | Website: [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us)

IBFI Board of Directors: Dr. Jerry Siler, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, Dr. Robin Webb, Pastor Mark Brown, Bro. Ray Richey, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Paul King, Pastor Jim Pointer, Dr. Willie Weaver, Dr. J. D. Weido, Pastor Manuel Ortiz, Dr. Don Shipman and Pastor Terry Terry.



# For We Be Brethren

*Jerry Siler  
IBFI President*



Genesis 13:8 - "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee...for we be brethren."

Psalms 133:1 - "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Hebrews 13:1 - "Let brotherly love continue."

Romans 12:10 - "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

I Thessalonians 5:25 - "Brethren, pray for us."

II Thessalonians 3:1 - "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you."



These are powerful verses that really describe our May fellowship meeting in Texas. What a blessing to come together with the brethren for fellowship. Why do we enjoy this...and need this...so much?

We be brethren! We were born spiritually into the same family; we all spiritually have the same Father, and we all spiritually have the same blood type.

One day, we will all eat at the same table and live in the same house...we be brethren! We were all saved by the same grace, by the same Lord, by the same blood and have received the same Spirit! We be brethren!

We also have the same enemies: the world, the flesh, the devil. We deal with the same problems - "the daily care of the churches" (II Corinthians 11:28). We have a common

purpose - to obey the first and second commandments (Mark 12:28-31). We have a common mission (Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20). We be brethren!

We have a common position - preachers. We serve in a common place - the church. We are held to a common standard (I Timothy 3:1-7). We have common duties - study, pray, preach, visit, comfort, oversee, counsel, confront, plan, mediate, repair, answer the phone, be involved in the community, weddings, funerals, graduate parties, birthday parties, cut the grass, etc, etc, etc. (And all this in the two days a week that we work!?)



We be brethren! We are husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, uncles, and cousins. We have in-laws, and God help us, sometimes out-laws too! We all have the same boss (including the people in the church too!), preach from the same book, proclaim the same blood and blessed hope. We all serve the same God and serve under the same banner...independent Baptists. We be brethren!

We are all equal. We deserve hell but have obtained mercy. We are all born sinners and are born again to be saints. We are not as great as some people think we are, but we are not as bad as some people say we are! We be brethren!



We need fellowship! Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly:"

We live and serve in different places. We each have our own strengths and weaknesses. We look differently, think differently, and act differently...frankly, we are all different, but I am thankful that "we be brethren."

## From the Pen of the President Emeritus



*Dr. Raymond Barber*

### ONCE UPON A TIME A MAN GOT A HAIRCUT IN THE DEVIL'S BARBERSHOP

Early in his life Samson had special encounters with God. At times the Spirit of the Lord moved him (Judges 13:25). Having received a divine appraisal of the kind of boy he would be, Samson's parents should not have been surprised when unusual things began to happen in his life.

What if he came face-to-face with a lion? Did not the Spirit of God come upon him to imbue him with physical strength to rend the lion in two, as one would rend a kid (14:5,6)?

What if he confronted thirty men of Ashkelon (vs. 19)? Was not the same Spirit upon him that enabled him to destroy the lion barehanded?

What if a thousand Philistines were arrayed against him? Did not the same Spirit come mightily upon him with supernatural strength to kill them with the jawbone of a donkey (15:14-16)?

What if, after a lapse of faith, at which time he got a haircut in the Devil's barbershop, he found himself in a weakened condition? Did he not, though blind and bent, kill more in his death than he did in his life (chapter 16)?

#### The Barbershop Experience

Recorded in Judges 16:4-30 is the sad saga of a man who lost his strength when his hair was cut in defiance of the edict that had been issued by God that no razor would come upon his head (Judges 13:5-7). Disregard of God's imperatives or disobedience to God's commandments results in defeat in the life of the most ardent soldier of the cross.

Samson had a great deal going for him, but, in a moment of weakness, much was taken from him. Allowing his head to be shaved by Delilah rendered him weak and helpless to defend himself against the enemy (16:16-21).

Samson did not fall out of favor with God in a single act; he gradually lost out degree by degree. Nor does a believer in today's environment lose his religion in a "blowout"; he loses it by a "slow leak!"

Let us be on guard against the wiles of the Devil lest he get a toehold that leads to a foothold and ultimately to a stronghold that reduces us to spiritual weaklings who are unable to cope with satanic allurements or quench the fiery darts of the wicked.

#### Practical Applications and Lessons

Something can be learned from the life of anyone to whom one is exposed, whether it be in a personal involvement or from a biographical account, as in the case of Samson. What an experience it would have been to know this mighty man in person! Who among us would not like to have been on the scene of the killing of the lion or the slaying of a thousand men with the jawbone of the ass. What a mind-boggling thing it would have been to witness the collapse of the Philistine theater!

Although we cannot boast of having seen any of these miraculous feats, we can, by the eye of faith, see them clearly unfold as they leap from the pages of the inspired record. Let us learn from the Holy Spirit, the Teacher whom Jesus promised would "guide us into all truth" (John 16:13).

I. Samson, in the midst of adversity, proved himself to be an effective warrior. We too can be victorious in the fight of faith if we are attired in the divine armor suit (Eph. 6:11-18).

2. Samson, though succumbing to the temptations of the Evil One, came through the experience refined for God's glory. We too can survive the trials, troubles and tribulations and exit the furnace remade and remolded (I Peter 5:10).

3. Samson, after rising to fame and losing it, regained his strength through prayer to enhance his rating once again (Judges 16:28-30).

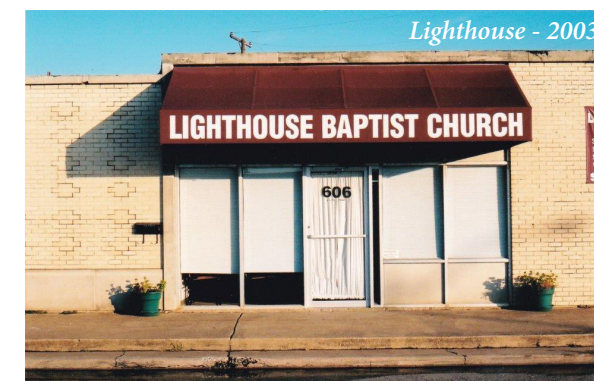
Reexamining the life of Samson is an experience replete with examples of weakness and strength. We see him rise to the highest and sink to the lowest. In the end he is restored to favor with God, who grants him strength to destroy those who tried in vain to destroy him.

Though unstable, unpredictable and, at times, undependable, Samson proved to be unflinching, unflappable and undefeatable!

#### Outline

- I. Samson's Birth (Judges: 13:24)
- II. Samson's Boldness (14:5,6,19; 15:14-16)
- III. Samson's Backsliding (16:1-21)
- IV. Samson's Belittling (16:23-25)
- V. Samson's Belligerence (16:28-30)

## LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



On the first weekend of June, Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Pastor David Grice (2002 Norris graduate) started the church in 2003, and continues to pastor a great group of people in Grand Prairie. The two-day celebration featured music by the Hinkle Family and preaching by Dr. Bob Smith. Friends in attendance included former church members, (some who flew in from as far as Florida), preachers, missionaries, local business owners, family members, former co-workers, and even Bro Grice's 2nd grade teacher. What a blessing!! Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie has purchased

and remodeled a large church building, acquired two missions houses adjacent to the church building, and several lots for future expansion. Lighthouse started old-fashioned...and is staying old-fashioned. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged Bro Grice and the church over the last ten years...and thank you, in advance, for continuing to pray as the church begins the next ten years.

*Bro. David Grice  
Lighthouse Baptist Church  
Preaching the TRUTH, in LOVE, on FIRE!*

## ALUMNI NEWS



**Glen Anderson**  
*Alumni President*

WOW! What a fellowship meeting! Every message spoke to my heart and encouraged me.

Having been elected President of the Alumni Association, I want to thank our Alumni for giving me the opportunity to serve and to ask that you please pray that the Lord would give me wisdom and grace. My heart's desire is to see our Alumni more involved in the IBFI. Let me encourage you to let us know of anything of interest happening in your ministry, so that we can include it in future articles of the Searchlight. We would love to share in your excitement of what the Lord is doing in your ministry.

Let us all rejoice in what God is doing through the ministry of Bro. David Grice, Pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Fall Fellowship Meeting

October 15-17, 2013

Trinity Baptist Church  
Big Spring, Texas, Pastor Randy Cotton

Full details will be in the August/  
September issue of the Searchlight and  
on the website [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us)

### 30th Anniversary Meeting of the IBFI

May 19-22, 2014