

Sharing THE Truth

THE MISSIONS OF CENTRAL MEXICO



Darrain and Mari Coker are faithful veteran independent Baptist missionaries to Mexico presently starting a church in the central state of Guanajuato. Along with their daughter Demaris, they went to the interior of Mexico when many missionaries were leaving, and God has blessed their ministry. They are planning a furlough beginning in August. Please pray for the Darrain Coker family.

John Peeples,
Director, IBFI Mission Agency

Celebrating Our Third Year Anniversary!

On Resurrection Sunday, we had an early service with a good crowd of folks and breakfast following. We ate menudo which is cow stomach. Later, the Lord's Supper was observed. It is always a blessing to lead the congregation in this ordinance.

For Mother's Day (Sunday), we recognized the mothers with a small gift and a meal. Here in Mexico, Mother's Day is always recognized on the 10th of May. We also had Teacher's Day which is recognized throughout the country. We have five teachers in our congregation.

Recently, we celebrated our 3rd Anniversary with this work. We had a visiting pastor preach for us in the morning service and one



of our own fellow members, Brother Saul, preach for us in the evening service. One of the children in our congregation received Christ as Savior. His name is Isai (Jesse) Chavez, and he is eight years old. As my wife was sharing the Gospel message in class, Isai said out loud, "Teacher, I'm in danger and need to be saved!" We thank God for him and his mother who are members of Monte Sinai.

While out making follow-up visits, we came across two young girls. We spoke to them about knowing the way to Heaven. Praise the Lord they both trusted Christ as Savior! What a reminder that Jesus still saves the lost and that we need to continue to share the truth.



Thank you for your faithful support and prayers that allow us to be your Missionaries here in Central Mexico!

Prayer Requests:



Pray for Pastor Juan Pablo Rodriguez and the mission in Nigromante.
Pray for the spiritual growth in the congregation of Mision Bautista Monte Sinai.
Pray for the salvation and discipleship of the lost here in San Miguel de Allende.
Pray for our return to the States for a time of furlough, starting in August 2016 till June 2017.
Pray for God to provide a preacher to oversee the mission while we are on furlough.
Pray for our spiritual and physical strength.

Your Missionaries,
Darrain, Mari, and Damaris

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations." – Psalm 67:1-2

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The Searchlight

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016 VOLUME 33 ISSUE 2

FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 11-13, 2016

Faith Baptist Church
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

DR. BARRY BEDWELL, PASTOR

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
Since 1984

MISSION AGENCY

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

SEARCHLIGHT PUBLICATIONS

Catch the Vision!
REACHING THE WORLD BY TRAINING PREACHERS AND PROMOTING MISSIONS



"SEEING WE HAVE THIS MINISTRY...WE FAINT NOT" II COR. 4:1-6

Tues.	9:00 A.M.	James Pointer	Sioux City Baptist Church	Sioux City, IA
	10:00 A.M.	Lowell Spencer	Eaton Baptist Temple	Eaton, OH
	11:00 A.M.	Eric Crawford	Heritage Baptist Church	Haslet, TX
	2:00 P.M.	<i>Board of Directors Meeting/Ladies' Meeting</i>		
	7:00 P.M.	Willie Weaver, Pastoral Evangelist	Worth Baptist Church	Fort Worth, TX
Wed.	9:00 A.M.	Don Gregory, Pastor Emeritus	Faith Baptist Church	Dearborn Heights, MI
	10:00 A.M.	The President's Hour, Mark Brown	Maranatha Baptist Church	Columbus, GA
	11:00 A.M.	<i>General Assembly/Special Offering/Business Session</i>		
	7:00 P.M.	Missionary Darrain Coker	Worth Baptist Church	Mexico
		Raymond Barber, Pastor Emeritus	Worth Baptist Church	Fort Worth, TX
Thurs.	9:00 A.M.	Terry Terry	Friendship Baptist Church	Boyd, TX
	10:00 A.M.	Don Shipman	Bible Baptist Church	Cleburne, TX
	11:00 A.M.	Paul King	Messiah Baptist Church	Richland Hills, TX

OFFERING GOAL: \$25,000

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT | NEWS AND EVENTS | ALUMNI NEWS

IBFI Mission Agency

Helping Independent Baptist churches get their missionaries to the field

With local church sent missionaries serving in

- Brazil
- Croatia
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- U S A

Help us expand to reach around the world!
Visit us on the web: www.ibfi.us email: missionoffice@ibfi.us

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY
A School of Specialization Since 1984



SAME BIBLE, SAME DOCTRINE, SAME OBJECTIVE as the Old BBS



The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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Pastor Terry Terry, Pastor David Webb and Dr. Charles Wetherbee.

LET ME SHOW YOU THE WORD OF GOD (PART THREE)

Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

INDESTRUCTIBILITY OF GOD’S WORD

Not only is the Bible inspired, infallible, inerrant, incomparable, impeccable, irrevocable, and irrefutable—it is INDESTRUCTIBLE! Men down through the ages have burned it, botched it, buried it, belittled it, banished it, and blasphemed it. They have demeaned it, diluted it, defamed it, dissected it, despised it and denied it. They have renounced it, rejected it and repudiated it. They have perverted it, purloined it and prostituted it—but THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DESTROY IT!

Queen Mary of England (Mary I, 1516-1558), known as “bloody Mary,” during her reign of terror, confiscated all the Bibles in her domain and burned them. (By the way, I have 101 Bibles in my home. Some people have 101 Dalmatians.)

“I love the Bible; I really do.
I love the Bible; how about you?
I love the Bible; I read it each day.
I love the Bible; it guides my way.
I love the Bible hidden in my heart;
I love the Bible, and we shall never part.”

PROMINENCE OF GOD’S WORD

Psalms 138:2 speaks volumes about the prominence of God’s Word in only one sentence of just nine words:
“Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

What a marvelous, majestic, meaningful proclamation this is about the Book of Books! In our culture much emphasis is being placed upon education, but education without revelation (scripture) is sheer folly, and no education is complete minus knowledge of the inspired Word of the living God.

–George Washington: “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

–Patrick Henry: “Here is a Book that is worth more than all other books ever printed.”

–Daniel Webster: “The Bible fits a man for life and prepares him for death.”

–Andrew Johnson: “The Bible is the Rock on which our republic stands.”

–Thomas Jefferson: “The Bible is the cornerstone of our liberty.”

–Wm. Lyon Phelps (Yale University): “I believe in a university education, but a knowledge of the Bible without a university education is more valuable than a university education without a knowledge of the Bible.”

When I was a student in the Bible Baptist Seminary more than sixty-five years ago, I heard J. Frank Norris say:

“I have a Book, the only Book, God’s Book. Stand on it, young men, and challenge the world.”

I took the admonition and have been trying to challenge the world for more than six decades.

The Bible’s goldmine of nuggets outshines, out glitters, and out glows all the bright, brilliant, bedazzling gems of all the educated, regulated, sophisticated philosophers of all the ages from Socrates to Seneca, from Plato to Pythagoras, from Aristotle to Anaxagoras, and from Augustine to Aquinas. The classics of Greece, the lyrics of Rome, the tales of Scotland, the sonnets of England, and the poetry of America all fade into oblivion in the light of the Bible’s divine inspiration.

NO PRICE, NO PURSE, NO PREMIUM

CAN BE PUT ON THE VALUE OF THIS AMPLE VOLUME!

(To be continued next Issue)

“JOSEPH IS A FRUITFUL BOUGH...” GENESIS 49:22

Mark Brown, IBFI President

As Jacob lay on his “deathbed,” he gathered his sons to his side to say a few words to them, and about them. When it came time for Joseph to come to his father’s side, Jacob had much to say, beginning with these words: “Joseph is a fruitful bough.” What a great testimony! What a great commentary on one’s life! Joseph’s life was described by his father as “fruitful.” Joseph had to deal with many difficulties throughout his life. In the PIT he faced a TRIAL, in POTIPHAR’S HOUSE he faced TEMPTATION, in the PRISON he faced great TESTING, but in the PALACE he was TRIUMPHANT! God used Joseph in a great way....Joseph is indeed a “fruitful bough!”

As I consider my life and my ministry, what a blessing it would be to be considered “fruitful”! We face many of the same battles and burdens that Joseph experienced, but we can also know the same blessings, because we serve the same God that Joseph served!

As I look around at the IBFI ministries I can see that since the beginning our fellowship is a “fruitful bough.” God certainly has blessed the IBFI with much fruit. Our missionaries have taken the gospel to “regions beyond,” and we continue to see the fruit of their labors. The NBBS has trained men and women for the ministry and continues to do so. The fruit of our school abounds in the lives and ministries of our alumni, faculty, and current students. God has also blessed our fellowship materially by providing our needs through the years and giving us beautiful facilities and properties. *Catch the vision* of what He might yet do!

Joseph was indeed a “fruitful bough...whose branches run over the wall.” Joseph was blessed by God so that he (Joseph) could be a blessing to others. Let us be thankful for God’s blessings on our fellowship, but let us also continue to be a blessing to those who are “over the wall.”

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall.” – Genesis 49:22

“... truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ.” I John 1:3

CATCH THE VISION

*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

WE ARE GRATEFUL

Many have caught the vision afresh. This is evidenced by the many ways support has come in for the school. Support, which is of such a nature, it is obviously from the heart.

Accordingly, pastors, missionaries, churches, and church members, though greatly committed to their particular ministries, the past two years have increasingly been investing in the ongoing of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. Time, energy, and funds they could have used in their churches have been given to the school. The students are grateful. I am grateful. All who are involved with the school are grateful.

THE VISION IS THE SAME

The vision of the NBBS is the same as it was for Louis Entzminger, when, in 1939 he conveyed his desire to J. Frank Norris of starting a preacher-training center that taught the “whole English Bible” to personal workers who had a vision to reach the world with the Word. The objective of the seminary is the same as it was in 1984, when numerous pastors cast a vision by the founding of it. Two years ago this May, this vision was reaffirmed.

GET ON BOARD

As definition to the founding vision begin to reemerge, a stirring within the hearts of many soon gathered momentum. It has coalesced to the point it is now almost as a train going down the track. One that has been taking on new passengers and crew along the way. She is upgraded almost every week in one way or another and is gaining force as she goes. She is on track—the same track she started upon. The one upon which she was always designed to run—the track of training preachers and their wives for church ministry.

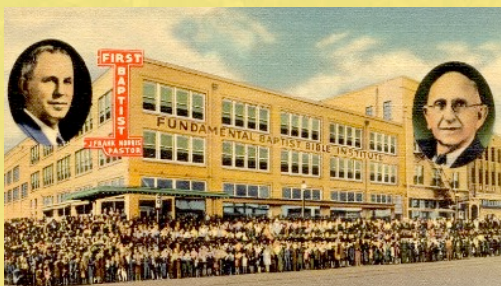
If you are on board, you see it. You feel it. I do not need to tell you to stay on board. If you want to get on board, you are welcome. You can make a major difference in eternity through a school like NBBS.

WHY THEY DID WHAT THEY DID

What made Lindbergh, in 1927, fly solo across the Atlantic in a single-engine airplane? What made those men, in 1944, “charge the beach” on D-Day? What made Armstrong, in 1969, set foot on the moon? What made Reagan, in 1987, tell Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin wall? What made New Yorkers rebuild after 9/11? They caught a vision.

Christ cast a vision some 2,000 years ago (Matthew 28:18-20), and it has been kept alive by the Spirit through the labors of the apostles and generations of Timothy’s; inspirational examples of early post-reformation martyrs (like Tyndale, Rogers, and Lattimer); influential preachers from the early days of American history (like Holmes, Backus, and Clarke); and of course a host of faithful women and men who could be cited (such as the Pilgrims). From them, more recent fathers of the faith, like Spurgeon, J.R. Graves, and B.H.

Carroll, and of late, apologists like the creation scientist Henry M. Morris, have brought us to this hour. In the midst of these, many of the founders of the NBBS were those who had caught the



vision of Entzminger and Norris, either directly or indirectly, and started the NBBS in keeping with it. So some 77 years later, we are greatly benefiting from why those two men did what they did in 1939 by starting, and then operating the Bible Baptist Seminary for several years.

OUR THEME FOR THE YEAR

Our theme for this year is “Catch the Vision.” In application of it to the seminary, the students will again be challenged through the Scriptures, to catch a Spirit-wrought vision of God in their hearts like Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Job, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Peter, James, John and Paul, received!

Students will also be challenged about having a Spirit-caused vision, as never before, of a lost and dying world that needs the gospel and the God of that gospel. They will be challenged to get a Spirit-directed vision of the work that God is calling them to do. Our student bodies, in days ahead, will be the recipients of our vision as a fellowship of preachers.

Although, as New Testament saints, we are not looking for the spontaneous experience of the saints in previous dispensations, but rather we are looking at the collective greater vision given in the whole Word of God (I Corinthians 13:8-12; Hebrews 1:1-4; II Peter 1:19), therefore, the God of the Word. Being continually awestruck by this vision, we are compelled to train preachers to carry it to the far reaches of world as missionaries, or as pastors reaching their communities for Christ.

BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US, AS WE PRAY FOR YOU

We are anticipating yet again another great school year and an increase in the student body.

Several new students, along with the returning students from last semester, are being enrolled for the fall school year. Additional faculty members have come on board.

Once a vision is cast, and it is caught, there is a cost to keep it going. We so need your continued support. May we all catch the vision afresh, until it catches us afresh!

Now more than ever, we strongly desire your prayers—yours and your church’s. All needs will be met if the prayer need is met.



*Terry Riggsby,
NBBS Field Representative*

Special thanks to the following churches and pastors who have allowed me to present the ministry of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary:

Pastor Bill Hardin, McPherson Road Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas

Pastor Kevin Hymer, Fair Park Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas

Pastor Jesse Johnson, Bible Baptist Church in Woodward, Oklahoma

It was a true blessing and pleasure to fellowship with each and every one of you.

Plans are under way in preparation for the opening of the fall semester. Additional information will be sent out for our Opening Day Rally planned for Tuesday, August 16. Please continue to pray for new students and the returning students! Now is the time to catch the vision!

If you are interested in having me come and present the ministry of the NBBS, please contact me at 817-648-1859.

“When you touch a preacher in training today,
you are touching thousands of lives in the future.”



ALUMNI NEWS *Glen Anderson, Alumni President*

I first met John Lund at the Pot ’O Gold Youth Ranch in Comfort, Texas, in 1991. It has been my privilege to see the Lord work in his life from then till now. Four years ago John once again attended the Pot ’O Gold as an adult with his family. While there, on Thursday night, God confirmed the call He had placed on John’s life as a teen at that very same camp.

John confided in me that God had called him to preach and that night he surrendered to preach. I recommended that he attend the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. He checked it out along with some other schools and felt that is where God wanted him to study for the ministry. After four years of study, this past May, John walked across the platform and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Biblical Studies with a Pastoral Minor.

John was ordained June 5th by the Pleasantview Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, where Bro. Jimmy McNeil is pastor. God gave me the privilege of sitting on his Ordination Council.

He has accepted a position on staff at the Sioux City Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, where Bro. Jim Pointer is pastor. The Lund family will be moving to Iowa to begin working at the church August 1st. Congratulations John, Melanie, and family! Praise God for His calling and work in the lives of His people.

NOW MORE THAN EVER – WE NEED TO CATCH THE VISION! John Lund caught it!

Alumni let me encourage you to mark your calendar and come to the IBFI National Fall Meeting, October 11-13, in Dearborn Heights, MI. If any of our alumni have any news to share please let me know, so that we can get it in the next issue of the Searchlight. My email is pastor@pbinfo.org.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH – CLYDE, TEXAS, DEDICATES NEW MISSION HOUSE

One of the real needs among our missionaries who are on deputation or veteran missionaries as they travel is a comfortable place to stay. The problem is that not many churches have mission apartments. For many years Bible Baptist Church has had mission apartments - one within the church building and one an older mobile home - but not a permanent building. On July 17th Bible Baptist Church dedicated a new addition to its property, a two suite mission house. With this addition, the church will be able to accommodate up to two missionary families at the same time. Each suite has a bedroom area, nice bathroom, and comfortable living area. There is a fully equipped kitchen with washer and dryer, television, and a play ground for the children. The desire is for this to be a place where missionaries can stay and rest at no cost to them. The prayer of Pastor Larry Hooper and the Bible Baptist Church family is that this new building can be a help and blessing to many missionary families. For information on staying in one of the suites, call (325) 893-5851.



UPCOMING EVENTS

IBF METROPLEX MEETINGS

Thurs., Aug. 18 - Central Baptist Church
Chico, TX - Host Pastor Fred Frerren

Thurs., Sept. 15 - Galilean Baptist Church; Cedar Hill, TX
Host Pastor Matt Wilkerson

IBF OF TEXAS AND THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

Mon. and Tues. Sept. 12 - Sept. 13, 2016
Conutryside Baptist Church
Mansfield, TX - Host Pastor Claude Sutton
Contact Bro. Sutton for more information, 817-477-3789
A great lineup of preachers, food and fellowship

HOTEL INFORMATION

Comfort Suites
5730 N. Haggerty
Canton, MI 48187
855-808-3508

Holiday Inn Express Hotel
3950 S. Lotz Road
Canton, MI 48188
855-799-6891

LaQuinta
41211 Ford Road
Canton, MI 48188
800-501-2393

Country Inn & Suites
24555 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn, MI 48124
866-264-5744

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND

IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tues. - Thurs., Oct. 11 - 13, 2016
Faith Baptist Church; Dearborn Heights, MI
Host Pastor Barry Bedwell

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

NBBS OPENING DAY RALLY

Aug.16, 2016 - Student Orientation begins at 8:00 AM
Rally begins at 11:00 AM, Dr. Barber, the NBBS Chancellor,
will be speaking. A luncheon will follow.



Dear pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and friends,
It’s a privilege once again to be hosting this year’s Fall Fellowship Meeting of the IBFI on Oct.11-13 at the Faith Baptist Church in Dearborn Heights, MI.

We are already praying and planning for a great time together as we listen to some great preaching and spend time reflecting on what God is doing at NBBS. Our theme this year will be “Catch the Vision!”

Services will begin on Tuesday morning at 9:00 am and will finish up on Thursday at 12 noon. We will feed you well and let you experience a little bit of our northern hospitality. If you have never been to Michigan to see the changing of the colors or to enjoy the taste of fresh apple cider and donuts, you will want to come our way! If you have any questions at all, please call me at 313-274-3777.

Looking forward to seeing you...

Pastor Barry Bedwell

