

# MINISTRY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



The Dominican Republic occupies the Eastern portion of the island of Hispaniola. Christopher Columbus started the first settlement on the island on Christmas day 1492 from the crew and remains of the ship "Santa Maria". That settlement was in present day Haiti. A year later the first settlement was started in what is now the Dominican Republic. This predominately Catholic nation with a literacy rate of less than twenty five percent remains a mission field worthy of your prayers and financial support. Ron and Kathy Valerio have labored there since 1995. Please pray that God will continue to bless their ministry, health, finances, and family as they continue in the work that the Lord has called and prepared them for.

John Peebles, IBFI Mission Director



Dear Faithful Prayer Partners,

## MICHIGAN CHURCH HONORS US WITH A VISIT

Though the rainy season has come upon us, so far it has not greatly hindered the ministry here in the Dominican Republic. And though the rains normally come daily, it was a Sunshiny day when a group of American believer's arrived to help us distribute Gospel literature.

We are so thankful for the group who came to be with us from Faith Baptist Church, Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Over 1000 Gospel tracts were distributed to the folks in our ministry area as we went house to house. And the fellowship along the way was refreshing! The greatest blessing was when Brother Mike, one of the men in the group, led Louis, a Dominican man, to the Lord! The Dominican man had lived in New York City for 20 years, and so could speak English.



## FULL HOUSE FOR MOTHER'S DAY

The Bible instructs us to honor our father and mother. Mother's Day is always a big day in the lives of the Dominican people. It is a special annual event here at Iglesia Bautista Victoria. Many moms who came to our Mother's Day service were first time visitors. We honored each mom with a special gift as a token of our appreciation.

## A WORD OF REJOICING ABOUT OUR MEN

It is common in Latino countries to have mostly women and children in a congregation. However, we are blessed with some great men. Lately, we have had two new men attending services faithfully. Pray for Antonio and Jason for their salvation. Edward is growing in the Lord and showing a true servant's attitude. He is now helping to lead one of our mid-week home Bible studies. This is a big step of faith for Edward. Pray that God would use him greatly. Just recently Kelvin approached me and asked if I could help him study Bible Doctrines. He is praying about the possibility of full time service. Kelvin's decision has opened the door to start a Bible Institute! And Kelvin is the first student! For these things we greatly rejoice!



We need your prayers and appreciate all who pray for us. We thank you for your faithful financial support through the years.

Manifold Blessings,  
Ron and Kathy Valerio  
Missionaries

## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

# The Searchlight

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 VOLUME 33 ISSUE 4

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY  
SINCE 1984

Continuing in the Training of Preachers as was Started in 1939

## 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

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**NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY**

A School of Specialization Since 1984

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



The NBBS was established in 1984 to largely mirror the old Bible Baptist Seminary of Ft. Worth, Texas – a school committed to teaching the whole English Bible and instilling within its students a fervency for evangelism, worldwide church planting, as well as doctrinal and practical preaching in keeping with the historic Baptist faith.

## The Searchlight

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## LET ME SHOW YOU THE WORD OF GOD (PART FIVE)

*(Final article in this series)*



Dr. Raymond W. Barber,  
IBFI President Emeritus

In the previous four articles on the Bible, I have treated various aspects of the scripture: the power, the productivity, the permanence, and the prominence of God's Word.

In this final article, I give you my personal saying and personal tributes to the inspired, infallible, inerrant, indestructible, incontrovertible, impeccable, powerful, precious, pure, perfect, productive, pontifical, preserved Word of 66 books, 1,189 chapters, over 34,000 verses, and more than 700,000 words. What an awesome record of God: what He has done, what He is doing, and what He is going to do!

### MY ALPHABETICAL TRIBUTE TO THE BIBLE

- A- The Bible is **Accurate** in its assessments and **Absolute** in its authority.
- B- The Bible is **Binding** in its precepts and **Beautiful** in its pronouncements.
- C- The Bible is **Confrontational** in its style and **Comforting** in its security.
- D- The Bible is **Direct** in its approach and **Demanding** in its acceptance.
- E- The Bible is **Edifying** in its message and **Educational** in its method.
- F- The Bible is **Faithful** in its resolve and **Fruitful** in its results.
- G- The Bible is **Great** in its power and **Good** in its purpose.
- H- The Bible is **High** in its royalty and **Holy** in its reasoning.
- I- The Bible is **Inspired** in its doctrine and **Infinite** in its duration.
- J- The Bible is **Joyful** in its music and **Just** in its mandates.
- K- The Bible is **Keen** in its calculations and **Kosher** in its content.
- L- The Bible is **Loud** in its accent and **Lovely** in its arrangement.
- M- The Bible is **Magnificent** in its beauty and **Marvelous** in its bounty.
- N- The Bible is **Noble** in its claims and **Numinous** in its character.
- O- The Bible is **Opulent** in its value and **Optimum** in its victory.
- P- The Bible is **Powerful** in its testimony and **Proficient** in its teaching.
- Q- The Bible is without **Question** in its veracity and **Qualitative** in its veneration.
- R- The Bible is **Rational** in its judgment and **Righteous** in its jurisdiction.
- S- The Bible is **Sacred** in its authorship and **Satisfying** in its application.
- T- The Bible is **Transcendent** in its glory and **Timeless** in its government.
- U- The Bible is **Universal** in its scope and **Unique** in its sanctions.
- V- The Bible is **Vibrant** in its animation and **Victorious** in its accomplishments.
- W- The Bible is **Wise** in its alignment and **Worthy** in its appraisal.
- X- The Bible is **"X"act** in its meaning and **"X"pert** in its message.
- Y- The Bible is **Yeomanly** in its acumen and **Youthful** in its actions.
- Z- The Bible is **Zealous** in its vision and **Zestful** in its vibrancy.

When we open the Bible,  
The Bible opens the mind of God:  
Open it now  
And see what God is thinking!



Mark Brown, IBFI President

As hard as it is to believe...A NEW YEAR IS UPON US! It has been said that "time flies when you're having fun." I suppose I am having fun because it doesn't seem possible that another year has passed! With the onset of a new year, it is always a good time to REFLECT and REJOICE in what God has done for us, and "catch the vision" for what He has in store for this year. The year 2016 certainly had its share of victories and valleys, but through it all God remained faithful.

In Philippians 3:12-16, Paul instructs us to keep the right PERSPECTIVE and PRIORITIES!  
"...but this one thing I do..." (v13)  
Paul also reminds us that although we look back in gratitude, and for instruction, we must not dwell on the past. We have not arrived yet!  
"...forgetting those things which are behind..." (v13)  
Finally we see the encouragement to keep pressing forward!  
"...reaching forth unto those things which are before..." (v13)

This past year was a great year for the Independent Baptist Fellowship International! The Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, the Missions Agency and missionary families, as well as the Searchlight have had their best years in recent history. God has certainly been faithful, and we give Him all the glory!

- Let's maintain the right FOCUS - "...but this one thing I do..."
  - Let us not get sidetracked or distracted.
  - Let us "keep the main thing- the main thing"
- Let's FORGET some things - "...forgetting those things which are behind..."
- We rejoice in God's blessings, but we must never become complacent
- Let's FOLLOW Him - "...reaching forth unto those things which are before..."
  - As we enter 2017, let us stay on the right path!

### "CATCH THE VISION!"



Terry Riggsby,  
NBBS Field Representative

**GOOD SEMESTER JUST COMPLETED!**  
We have just completed a good semester at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. The students have completed their final exams and finished well in preparation for the 2017 Spring Semester!

### GOOD MEMORY

Elsewhere in the Searchlight we honor Brother Marvin Weido who recently went home to be with the Lord. Brother Weido was one of the first pastors who made me feel welcomed when I first came to Texas in 1984 to help begin the NBBI. His son J.D. is a graduate of NBBI and pastors in El Dorado, Arkansas along with his brother, Bob, who heads up the Christian school there and other ministries.

I am still available for pulpit supply and/or to come and present the ministry of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. Please contact me at 817-648-1859 or the school office at 817-367-3422.

## OFF AND RUNNING AGAIN!

Jonathan J. Stewart, NBBS President

### GREAT ENDING TO THE FALL SEMESTER!

Early December found us in chapel with a special focus on John Newton and then transitioning to singing Christmas carols and meditating afresh upon the significance of the incarnation of Christ. A large and a very detailed nativity set was displayed in front of the pulpit, as was the case last year. The set was given to me by evangelist Fred Vaughn's widow, Joan Vaughn. Bro. Vaughn preached often at IBFI meetings and in IBFI churches.

In the NBBS chapel services we went from focusing on *Amazing Grace*, and another of Newton's impactful songs, *I Saw One Hanging On a Tree (aka as He Died For Me)* to *Silent Night* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. In the latter song, we called attention to the powerful lyrics of two verses often left out in most hymnals. On the last day of classes, *Down From His Glory*, was sung by a student and accompanied by another on the piano (Stephanie Webb and Caroline Miller). It was one of the best renditions of the song. About two-thirds of the student body and their children and spouses, as well as faculty were able to gather that Friday and enjoy an ending of the year in a seasonal time of fellowship, food, and the gifting of study Bibles and reference books for the students by a drawing of names. It was amazing how the right ones seemed to go to the right persons according to their needs and interests!

### GREAT BEGINNING TO THE SPRING SEMESTER!

Every January, the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary hosts the monthly meeting of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of Metro Area Preachers. We typically do it according to their scheduled third Thursday of the month. This year we requested they coordinate it with the first day of school, which was Tuesday, January 10.

The result of combining the two events was a great blessing to the school. The place was packed! We have six new students added to our returning student body, which keeps us in the forties. Remember, just over two years ago, in July of 2014, we had three students as a basis to build toward the fall semester. We ended up with fourteen by school time in mid-August. God is doing a great work in our midst! Two of these original three students are graduating in May and preached in the combined service on opening day (cited in **bold** below). The other, John Lund, graduated last May. He is working with Bro. James Pointer in Sioux City Baptist Church, Sioux City, IA.

Four students who are candidates for graduation from NBBS in May, **Cody Jones, Nathan Howard, Jared Blair, and Jarod Tunnell**, preached first. Then alumnus pastor, Chris Boatman of the High Plains Baptist Church of Clovis, New Mexico, preached. He and his church are faithful supporters of the seminary and have in the recent past given special offerings over and above their monthly commitment. Bro. Boatman also preached in chapel the next day. Dr. Barber, Chancellor of NBBS, gave the closing sermon for the morning. He was especially spot on! Lunch and fellowship followed. It was a special day and great start to the new semester.



Four student preachers, Dr. Barber, Andrew Johnson who lead music and sang a special in song, Chris Boatman, Vice President of the IBFI

### FLOOR COVERING FUNDRAISING IS WELL UNDERWAY!

I mentioned in a letter mailed out in early December, that we were going to officially start our floor covering fundraising drive in January, but thought some might want to include us in their Christmas offering this year, in order that we could get off to a running start! How surprised and blessed we were to receive a \$2,000.00 check from an alumnus, as well as another \$200.00 from a pastor and his wife, as well as his church. Other funds came in as Christmas offerings. An additional blessing to the first day of school was an additional \$900.00 being given to the floor covering fund. We are now around \$4,000.00 in total monies given.

The existing carpet is original and it has held up well for over thirty years, but it is puckering and soiled, and worn beyond what can be cleaned. We can do the flooring in three phases: the foyer area during Spring Break in March, the school side before May Fellowship, and the office side during the summer before school starts again in the fall.

### A SHOUT OUT TO BRO. LOWELL SPENCER AND HIS WIFE CAROL!

As referenced in another place in this issue of the *Searchlight*, a long time supporter and always a "ready special offering source" for Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, just celebrated fifty years at Eaton Baptist Temple, Eaton, Ohio. He and his wife also have been married for over sixty years! What a blessing they have been to so many, as well as my wife and me. **"Ye also helping together by prayer for us..." II Corinthians 1:11a**



Glen Anderson, Alumni President

Happy New Year! Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." God is truly working out His purpose in His time concerning Norris Seminary. We saw many blessings in 2016. Student enrollment was up and so was the spirit and excitement. Many improvements were made to the facilities and dorm. Alumni involvement has never been greater than it is right now. It is such a great joy to see so many of our alumni actively involved in our school and fellowship. I know of no other seminary like Norris Seminary. I am ever so thankful for the training and instruction I received at the NBBS, and I am thrilled there is still a school where preachers that have stood by the stuff are training preachers to stand by the stuff. NBBS is a preacher training school where preachers of today are training the preachers of tomorrow.

### NOW MORE THAN EVER – WE NEED TO CATCH THE VISION!

The spring fellowship meeting of the IBFI is set for May 22 - 25. I want to encourage all alumni to put forth a special effort to attend the meeting this year. Fellowship is vital to all of us and it is something we all need. We need to stop making excuses and fellowship with one another. Fellowship is biblical, practical, and profitable. So let us fellowship together. See you in May!!

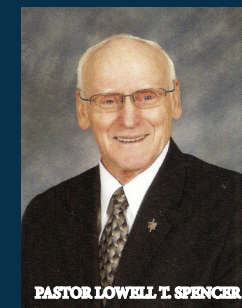
If any of our alumni have any news to share, please let me know so that we can get it in the next issue of the Searchlight. My email is pastor@pbtinfo.org.

## A TIME OF REJOICING IN THE BLESSINGS OF GOD! BRO. LOWELL SPENCER AND HIS WIFE CAROL CELEBRATED 55 YEARS WITH THE EATON BAPTIST TEMPLE, EATON, OHIO

The first service of Eaton Baptist Temple was held at the Fort St. Clair Park on September 5, 1961. There were 26 people in attendance.

The church was organized October 29, 1961, with 29 charter members. Rev. John (Jack) Frost was elected as the first pastor. As cold weather approached services were moved to the Fairgrounds. The first phase of our church building was started in April 1963. The first formal service was held at our present location, 416 East Decatur Street, Eaton, OH on Thanksgiving Day in November of 1963.

Pastor John Frost resigned in 1962 and Rev. Lynn Randall became pastor. Rev. Randall pastored Eaton Baptist Temple until 1966 when he accepted a call to the Temple Baptist Church, New Castle, IN.



PASTOR LOWELL T. SPENCER

Pastor Lowell T. Spencer accepted this pastorate in December 1966 and he has remained pastor until the present time. With additional growth more space was needed and the 305 Aukerman Street property was purchased in 1974.

Our pastor had a burden for a Christian School and Preble Christian Academy was born in 1975, serving our community for 20 years with Christian Education. Eaton Baptist Temple has also been a "Mission Minded Church" and we presently support 87 Mission projects at home and abroad, "The Sun Never Sets on the Ministry of the Eaton Baptist Temple". God has blessed us with four additional lots (to the west of us) on the corner of Lincoln and Decatur Streets, which is used for additional parking.

Through these "55 years" many people have been reached with the Gospel, (saved and baptized). God has called a number of folks into full-time service of the Lord. Pastor Spencer and Eaton Baptist Temple have been an active part of IBFI since its very beginning, financially and through attendance. Pastor Spencer has served as a board member.

On November 20, 2016 Eaton Baptist Temple celebrated her 55th Anniversary and Pastor Spencer celebrated his 50th year as pastor of Eaton Baptist Temple. Bro. Spencer and Carol say, in view of it all, "We look forward to the blessings of the Lord in the future here at Eaton Baptist Temple. Our motive is the same and the message is the same. To God Be the glory! Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever!"

Through the years, Bro. Spencer has been a very steady supporter of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary! He was one of the founding pastors and is always quick to respond personally and through his church to needs of the school when an appeal goes out. Most recently, he was among the first to get on board with the fund raising effort for new floor covering at the Ray Richey Building that houses the seminary and the IBFI mission office.



Home with the Lord  
Bro. Marvin Weido

*"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."* Revelation 14:13

Bro. Marvin Weido, after 48 years as a pastor and evangelist, went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday, November 23, 2016. He was 82 years of age.

He was among the many preachers in 1984 that were a part of the founding of the IBFI and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. At the time he was the pastor of the Southside Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas. It was a church he had founded in 1970. He remained, for many years, a strong supporter of Norris Bible Baptist Seminary and IBFI missionaries.

Marvin was born September 23, 1934 in Cameron, Texas. He graduated from Sharp High School in 1953, and joined the Army in 1955. From 1957-1964 he served as a Texas State Trooper. He, along with his wife Jean, accepted Christ as his savior the last Sunday of August, 1966 under the preaching of Dr. Claud Bonam Sr., pastor of the Huisache Avenue Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas. He surrendered to preach under the ministry of Dr. John Duckett at Helmers Street Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. He moved his family to the Fort Worth area to attend the Bible Baptist seminary. Both he and his wife graduated from the school in 1972.

Bro. Weido was well-beloved by many preachers and befriended many not just in word but in deed. He was self-sacrificing and a mentor of many young preachers. He lived to see children and grandchildren, for many years, busy serving the Lord. His wife passed away several years ago, and at the time of his death he was married to Allie Weido, who was also a devoted wife. His two sons, Pastor J.D. Weido and Bob Weido have for many years worked alongside each other in the Bible Baptist Church of El Dorado, AR; a church J.D. started in 1992. J.D. is an alumnus of NBBS.

*"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."* Psalm 116:15



EATON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
1961-2017



THE SPENCER HOUSE  
MISSION HOUSE #1

THE EBT ANNEX  
MISSION HOUSE #2

## UPCOMING EVENTS

| IBF METROPLEX MEETINGS  | IBF OF TEXAS AND THE GREAT SOUTHWEST  | IBFI NATIONAL SPRING MEETING 33 <sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY   | NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY GRADUATION                             |
|---|---|---|--|
| Thursday, February 16<br>Mountain Home Baptist Church<br>Jacksboro, Texas<br>Host Pastor Frank Hefner | Monday and Tuesday,<br>March 27-28<br>Victory Baptist Church<br>Sanger, Texas 76266<br>Host Pastor Robert Graf<br>Contact Bro. Graf for more information,<br>940-300-1147<br>A great lineup of preachers, food and fellowship | Monday–Thursday, May 22-25, 2017<br>Raymond W. Barber Conference Center<br>Fort Worth, Texas<br><br>Full details will be at the IBFI website<br>www.ibfi.us | Tuesday Evening, May 23, 2017<br>Raymond W. Barber Conference Center |
| Thursday, March 16<br>Santa Fe Baptist Church<br>Weatherford, Texas<br>Host Pastor H.L. Jayne         |   |   |  |
| Thursday, April 20<br>Central Baptist Church<br>Gainesville, TX<br>Host Pastor Dr. Eddy Johnson       |   |   |  |