

THE VALLEY

MISSIONS IN THE
RIO GRAND VALLEY
OF TEXAS



Reaching children with the Gospel of Christ is an important part of the ministry of churches here at home, as well as on the mission field. Melissa Houston has both the desire and gifts to develop and promote children's ministries, and she has been faithfully doing just that over the years. God has moved her from Mexico to Croatia, and now to the Rio Grande Valley. Please pray for her and her ministries. Pray that, God will expand her outreach to help churches reach children for Christ.

John Peebles, IBFI Mission Director

Dear Friends,

In college, I learned the definition of a missionary, "A person who leaves his own home and culture to take the Gospel to a different culture."

That is exactly what I am doing now in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, known as "The Valley" to the locals. I was able to go down to the Valley to help Danny and Michelle Jones with Vacation Bible School. A small group from our home church came down to assist us. We had a blast! My responsibilities included: organizing VBS, writing the lessons (which Michelle translated into Spanish, as I was having trouble with Croatian coming out instead of Spanish - one of the hazards of knowing multiple languages!), writing, recording, and mixing a short puppet skit for three of the days, and coordinating with the group coming from Worth Baptist Church. I am very blessed to have been able to help in these ways. VBS is always my favorite time of year! Iglesia Bautista Betesda (Bethesda Baptist Church) had record attendance of 96 attending one of the days! Six souls were lead to Christ as a result of our efforts. Some of these conversions were at church, and some at the Kid's Bible Club that we held in a community park about 25 minutes from church. We had Kid's Club each morning and VBS each evening. By the end of the week, we were all EXHAUSTED (especially because of being out in the sweltering heat)! If I remember correctly, the heat index was at its highest, at 114 degrees.

After VBS, I made preparations to return to the Valley by looking for a place to live. Praise the Lord, He provided a nice little place in my price range! With the help of my parents, I moved to the Valley. I have been here just under a week, and I am getting settled in. Soon I will be helping with the children's program, as well as training some members of the church on how to work with children. After I get settled in, I will add more responsibilities. I am looking forward to working with Danny and Michelle again. Some of you may remember that I worked with them in Monterrey, Mexico. We are all excited to be working together once more. I appreciate your prayers as I work with new children and overcome new challenges. Also, please pray for me as I learn this new culture. It is not Texan culture, nor is it Mexican culture. Some have said that it is a mix of both, but it is the worst of both. God can do GREAT things in any culture. We are expecting wondrous things from Him, as we ourselves can do nothing great apart from Him.



Thank you for your continued prayers. Also, please pray that I can get some new churches on board to support me here in the Valley. I will leave you with some pictures of VBS (Jungle of Faith), and Kid's Bible Club!

Melissa Houston

*"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
II Timothy 3:15*



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The Searchlight

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017 VOLUME 34 ISSUE 3

OCTOBER SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING RECAP
OCTOBER 10-12, 2017
WALKER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSON, ALABAMA



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The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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THE PASTOR... ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN AT ALL TIMES



Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

The pastor is a “man for all seasons” who, in the course of his ministry, becomes, in Paul’s words, “...all things to all men, that I might by all means save some,” (II Corinthians 9:22). God, in His wise

providence, places a man in a particular place at a given time under specific circumstances to use him in the furtherance of the gospel. The ultimate goal and purpose of every preacher, young or old, experienced or inexperienced, is to magnify the Word of God, glorify the Son of God, and edify the saints of God. Dedicated to this end, the preacher surrenders his life to God to such a degree that he is willing to serve in whatever capacity he is called upon to please Him Who called him into the ministry. The preacher wears several hats and is not locked into one particular area of the ministry by a job description. Where duty calls, he is never wanting. No hour is too early or too late for the dedicated preacher to answer the call to serve God and humanity. No mountain is too high, no valley is too deep, and no desert is too wide to hinder the man of God from risking life and limb to minister to the needs of those whose well-being is his chief concern.

- In his *teaching*, he “rightly divides the word of truth.”
- In his *preaching*, he “cries aloud and spares not.”
- In his *praying*, he is “effectual and fervent.”
- In his *counseling*, he is prudent and discrete.
- In his *soul winning*, he is diligent and discerning.
- In his *administration*, he is wise and exacting.
- In his *exhortation*, he is longsuffering and patient.
- In his *decision-making*, he is firm and resolute.
- In his *social life*, he is overt and outgoing.
- In his *reprimanding*, he is fair and just.
- In his *finances*, he is frugal and economical.
- In his *deeds*, he is good and gracious.
- In his *character*, he is decent and pure.
- In his *behavior*, he is sparkling and scrupulous.
- In his *convictions*, he is courageous and conscientious.
- In his *spirit*, he is contrite and beneficent.
- In his *theology*, he is conservative and fundamental.
- In his *disposition*, he is sweet and kind.
- In his *communication*, he is clear and concise.
- In his *morals*, he is pure and puritanical.
- In his *attire*, he is neat and proper.
- In his *mannerisms*, he is courteous and polite.
- In his *education*, he is well rounded and balanced.
- In his *lifestyle*, he is simple and saintly.
- In his *ambition*, he is resourceful and enterprising.
- In his *personality*, he is radiant and pleasing.
- In his *steadfastness*, he does not waver, or waffle, or wiggle, or worm.
- In his *vexation*, he does not splinter or spoil.
- In his *competition*, he does not deceive.

A FINAL WORD

The sum of anything is the total of its parts. Do not be overwhelmed at the total: Take each individual part, and concentrate on it. Each bulleted item should be considered just one at a time. You can do it in the light of Paul’s admonition in Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Allow the Holy Spirit to help you accomplish what seems impossible!



Mark Brown, IBFI President

IT’S A BOY!

Tracy and I are rejoicing in the birth of our fourth grandchild. Eli Michael Newman, was born on October 12th. We thank you all for your prayers. Mother and child are well.

The week of the Fall Fellowship at **Walker Springs Road Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama**, reminded us that things do not always go as planned. While I had been planning and preparing to attend the fellowship meeting, circumstances did not allow me to be there. I had to attend a funeral as well as be present at the birth of my grandson. With all of that being said, I missed being at the fellowship meeting! I missed the preaching that is always an encouragement to me. I missed the music that is always uplifting. I also missed the fellowship with the brethren. I am thankful for the friendships that I have made through the years with the men and women of the IBFI - “**IRON SHARPENETH IRON**”!



Although I was not in attendance, I did hear great things about the meeting. There is a great spirit in the fellowship, school (NBBS), and among our missionaries that has been overflowing in our recent fellowship meetings! I want to thank our fellowship **Vice President, Tyler Gillit**, for filling in for me in my absence. He did a wonderful job moderating the meetings on short notice. I also want to thank **Pastor Webb, his wife D’Ann, and the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church** for being outstanding hosts of the meeting. God has blessed this church with great people, and they went “above and beyond” to make the IBFI feel welcome.



We are excited about what the Lord is doing in and through our fellowship, and are looking forward to many exciting days to come!

“BY HIS SPIRIT”

Isaiah 60:1-7



UPCOMING EVENTS

IBF Metroplex Meetings

Thurs. Dec. 21, 2017
Worth Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas
Host Pastor Tyler Gillit

IBF of Texas and the Great Southwest

Mon.-Tues., Mar. 5-6, 2018
Bible Baptist Church
Rendon, Texas
Host Pastor Chris Winkle
Contact Bro. Winkle for more information, 817-478-4878, or Bro. David Grice, 214-315-5422.
A GREAT lineup of preachers, food and fellowship.

Opening Day for NBBS Spring Semester in Conjunction with IBF Metroplex Meeting

Tues., Jan. 16, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.
TWO big events combined into **ONE!**
Alumni, seniors from among the NBBS student body, and our Chancellor Dr. Barber will be preaching! Special music will also be presented with a GREAT lunch to follow, come and be lead “*By His Spirit!*”

IBFI National Spring Meeting

Mon.-Thurs., May 21-24, 2018
Raymond W. Barber
Conference Center
Fort Worth, Texas
Full details will be at the IBFI website www.ibfi.us

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEMESTER NEARING COMPLETION



Jonathan J. Stewart, NBBS President

A FRESH NEW SCHOOL YEAR, CARPET AND SPIRIT!

We are so grateful for the new carpet on the school side of the Ray Richey Building. Funding came in from over thirty different sources! It was completed just before school started in mid-August. The spirit remains great among administration, faculty and students. Our theme for this year, “By His Spirit” (based upon Zechariah 4:6) is a noble endeavor and a significant reality in our daily operation. May it be even more so in 2018!



SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING IN CHURCH PASTORED BY ALUMNUS



We had a great semi-annual national IBFI fellowship meeting in Jackson, Alabama (October 10-12), at the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church, where alumnus David Webb is pastor, and 2015 NBBS graduate, Daniel Mairet, is youth pastor and song leader. The church was a great host, and the Christian school choir and singing groups were a great blessing throughout the meeting. The preaching was especially pertinent and powerful, and the spirit was great from start to finish.

WEEK OF CONCENTRATED STUDY

Our Week of Concentrated Study, which is conducted every semester, went very well. Regular classes are suspended for a week, and a class is conducted in the chapel area from 8:00-12 NOON, Tuesday through Friday, October 24-27. Dr. Carl Baugh was the teacher, and the attendance was very good. Not only did several students attend in addition to the days they are required to be here for their classes, but we had several guests present. The theme of the study was the Creation Model Versus the Evolutionary Model. The students were greatly encouraged in their witnessing and were strengthened in the faith.



SEVEN STATES AND NEARLY FORTY CHURCHES

While directing the seminary, teaching classes, and reaching out to churches on behalf of NBBS, I have been in over forty churches since June 1. We have been conducting **Bible conferences, preaching in services and presenting the ministry of the seminary or at the least expressing our appreciation for financial and prayerful support to pastors and congregations.**

I do these things in conjunction to being sent out of Victory Baptist Church of Weatherford, Texas, as an evangelist, as well as still serving there as the missions director. I want to remain vitally connected to, and serving under, the auspices of a church as I steward the seminary. This is in keeping with our school’s philosophy of ministry and the Scriptures.

HOLIDAY TIMES AT THE SEMINARY

We especially love the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas at the seminary. We have much to be thankful for, not only in the eternal things of Christ that are ours as Christians, but also in all God has done for us as a school. My how He has used churches, pastors, missionaries, students, and friends to under gird this work!

We all owe so much to the generations before! Going back far beyond J. Frank Norris and Louis Entzminger, and those who served alongside of them, even past America’s founding fathers, to the Pilgrims, we see the example they set for America, and we especially think of them this time of the year. Those amazing souls who crossed a daunting Atlantic Ocean to get away from a very antagonistic government, that they might worship God according to the dictates of their conscience, are an example to us of Christian devotion!

Although often confused as Puritans, the Pilgrims were in actuality Separatists—not wanting anything to do with the State Church, but rather as an independent body, and an extension of a local visible church in Holland, they came over with the blessing of their pastor John Robinson. They were, once they got oriented to their new setting, a role model in the manner in which they conducted themselves with the tribal groups who had migrated to the continent long before them. Not only was there the great Mayflower Compact (preview of the democracy to come), but there was a treaty made between Massasoit, the leader of the Wampanoag Nation, and the leaders of Plymouth Colony. This treaty was kept by both sides for fifty years (the time the signers remained alive).

The birth date of Christ has been addressed by numerous serious students of the Word of God. December 25, may or may not be the date (I do fondly remember Bro. Pat Powell’s study and presentation through the years on the matter), it is still a very special time of the year. It is a time to focus on the eternally pre-existing Son of God becoming one of us forever, not only to save us from our sins, but to make the way for us to be with Him forever in Heaven and beyond (Ephesians 2:1-10).

You can be assured at NBBS, December is “**incarnation emphasis time**” in **song, sermon, and decor.** We have several nativity sets that go on display right after Thanksgiving. We seek to further set off the truths embellished by the true colors of Christmas, the colors of the Tabernacle: gold, purple, blue, red, brown, and white (colors in the issue of the Searchlight)! The sinless humanity of Christ and the efficacy of His blood, as both God and man, are fervently emphasized to the students for three weeks into the middle of December until the semester ends. Come visit us in chapel as we meditate on the first coming of Christ:

Without reluctance, Flesh and blood His substance
He took the form of man, Revealed the hidden plan.
O glorious myst’ry, Sacrifice of Calv’ry,
And now I know Thou art the great “I AM.”

CELEBRATING WITH A SUPPORTING CHURCH AND PASTOR

My wife and I, along with numerous other preachers, were especially happy to celebrate with the McPherson Road Baptist Church of Ft. Worth, Texas, the 35th anniversary of Bill Hardin as their pastor. Bro. Hardin and his wife Brenda received many expressions of love and appreciation from the church. Both pastor and church are longtime supporters of NBBS.



CLOSING WORDS OF GRATITUDE

If you are not supporting NBBS on a monthly basis financially, please do something of even greater significance, pray for us! Above all, the training of preachers is a spiritual endeavor.

“Ye also helping together by prayer for us” II Corinthians 1:11a

Isaiah 9:6-7

SEMESTER UPDATE Terry Riggsby, NBBS Field Representative



We have almost completed the fall semester at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. The semester has gone well and students have a great attitude towards learning the Bible and serving the Lord. Faculty and student body looked forward to the Week Of Concentrated Study, featuring Dr. Carl Baugh. He taught on the theme of, “Creation Model versus the Evolution Model.”

SPECIAL PRAYER SUNDAY FOR THE NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

I had the privilege of presenting the NBBS ministry to my home church, Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, on Sunday, July 30. Worth Baptist has been the “mother” church since the inception of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International, and the Seminary, in 1984. Under the leadership of Dr. Raymond W. Barber, Dr. Willie W. Weaver, and our current pastor, Tyler Gillit, Worth Baptist Church has led the way in praying, giving, and supporting the IBFI and NBBS for over 33 years. Recently, Bro. Stewart, president of NBBS, updated Worth Baptist Church on the programs and philosophy of the seminary. A love offering was taken up for the seminary. A special thanks to Worth Baptist Church!



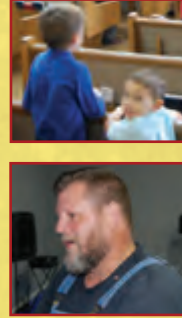
Students celebrated Dr. Riggsby’s 75th birthday (Nov. 13) with him.

I am still available to come and present the ministry of NBBS. Please feel free to contact me at 817-648-1859 if I can be of help.



CEMETERY OR SEMINARY? Glen Anderson, Alumni President

Several years ago my wife and I were on vacation and visited a small church in Texas. The people were friendly, and the Pastor and his wife welcomed us, and the music was good. The Pastor stood in the pulpit, announced his text, and read it. For the next hour, he ranted and raved saying the same things over and over. He made one statement though that stuck with me. He said, “God calls some men to preach and the Holy Spirit equips them. The rest he sends to cemetery (Seminary). As I sat there and listened to him, I realized he had absolutely no instruction or training at all. It also made me think of Paul’s letters to Timothy, and what he told him in II Timothy 2:2. “**And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**” Paul told Timothy to take the things he had learned from him, and teach them to others. Thank God there are still faithful men who take what they have learned, and pass it on to others who are training for the ministry. There are many good colleges and seminaries to choose from, but I know of no other seminary where, among many other good things, the whole English Bible is taught from Genesis to Revelation by pastors who have all pastored churches. I believe we are on the right course, and “By His Spirit” we shall remain steadfast for his glory!



Galatians 4:4-5

I Timothy 3:16

