

## IBFI ADDED A HOME MISSIONS CHURCH PLANTING ASPECT!

At the annual May meeting this year, the IBFI established a home missions church planting aspect to its missions program. It mirrors its longstanding commitment to assist church planting missions on the foreign field or those working with cross-cultural peoples. Accordingly, a NBBS graduate can also go out as 1) a home missions church planter to either start churches to turn over to other preachers, or 2) to establish a church in which he will remain as the pastor. In both scenarios, he is able to go on deputation to raise support as an IBFI recommended missionary (just like the foreign or stateside cross-cultural IBFI missionaries). As a long term stateside church planter the support he raises is indefinite. As a church planting pastor his status as an IBFI missionary is for 3 to 5 years while the church is being established.

We are excited to introduce to you our newest IBFI missionaries, Scott and Darla Griffin and Homeless No More. They are the first IBFI missionaries to be recommended to the brethren as stateside church planters. Scott graduated from Norris Bible Baptist Seminary in May 2000. He and Darla have been actively working with the homeless for four years. They are effectively working to start a church for the homeless in Fort Worth and have a vision to have this same type of work multiplied in other cities.

Their ministry offers tremendous opportunities for those in the Fort Worth area to participate in their soul winning and church planting efforts. You can be a part by direct participation and through giving to provide some of the needs in their ministry.

### How you can help:

- Nonperishable food items
- Backpacks
- Travel size hygiene products
- Volunteer your time on Saturdays, downtown Fort Worth
- Bottle water

You can drop off the items at the IBFI Mission Office or deliver directly to the Griffin's home in Haslet, TX. For more info call Bro. Scott at (940) 594-7261.



They are worthy of your prayers and financial support. I believe they will be a blessing to you and your congregation if offered the opportunity to present their ministry and burden in your church.

*In Christ,  
John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director*

## FROM THE STREETS OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Greetings from the streets of Ft Worth,

It's official; we are IBFI missionaries, church planters to the homeless. We are so excited to be a part of this great mission agency. We were able to lead two souls to the Lord, John and Trinidad, while soul winning. Many churches have helped us in soul winning, Beacon Baptist Church in Haltom City and Calvary Baptist Church in Ft Worth.

Our church services are going very well. This month we have averaged 20 each Sunday. The Lord is working in many lives as they grow in Christ. At the end of June, we will be baptizing 4 converts; please keep them in your prayers.

We are also sad to report that two of our church attenders have gone to be with the Lord. Veronica was hit while crossing the street and Mary was in a car accident.

Please pray that we will be able to raise the money needed for a building.

*Your Missionaries,  
Scott & Darla Griffin*



## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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Keeping the Chain Intact

### The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

# The Searchlight

JUNE/JULY 2018 VOLUME 35 ISSUE 1

## IBFI SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING MAY 21 -24, 2018



## BY HIS SPIRIT! Zechariah 4:6

## J. FRANK NORRIS – A MAN AMONG MEN



Dr. Raymond W. Barber,  
IBFI President Emeritus

### LEST WE FORGET THE ROCK FROM WHICH WE WERE HEWN

As the years come and go, some people are prone to forget the foundation upon which they are built and the rock from which they were hewn. Baptists of every stripe are indebted to J. Frank Norris, the twentieth century's foremost fundamentalist.

I personally have childhood memories of the "man among men" that stem from the days when my dad in the early 1940s engaged the great preacher to conduct Bible conferences in the Baptist Tabernacle in Danville, Virginia, that my dad founded and pastored for more than thirty years.

Upon my graduation from high school, I enrolled in 1950 in the Bible Baptist Seminary in downtown Fort Worth. I was privileged to sit at the feet of Dr. Norris in the classroom as well as chapel services. Then on May 20, 1951, he united Mary Helen and me in marriage in the historic First Baptist Church.

### INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP AND NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

All who were privileged to attend, enjoyed one of the best fellowship meetings in the thirty-four-year history of the fellowship and seminary. The influence of Dr. Norris permeated the meeting, and the seminary graduation reflected upon his memory. Truly, he being dead yet speaketh.

There would be no IBFI and NBBS had it not been for Dr. Norris' unflinching stand in the 1920s to lift high the banner of fundamentalism, and along with Dr. Lewis Entzminger, establish the Bible Baptist Seminary in 1939.

### TWO GREAT CHURCHES 1,300 MILES APART

For fifteen years (1935-1950), Dr. Norris pastored the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, and the Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan, with a combined membership of over twenty-five thousand. During most of those years, he was building a great seminary and editing a weekly publication that reached a circulation of more than seventy thousand. He did these things while he also traveled throughout America and many parts of the world preaching the gospel of redeeming grace. His influence reached the nation's capital and many other capitals of the world.



(To be continued)

## 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL



Dr. Willie Weaver,  
IBFI President

The 34th Annual spring meeting of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International (IBFI) convened on the properties of the IBF in Fort Worth, Texas, on May 21-24, 2018. The morning meetings were held in the Raymond W. Barber Conference Center. The Wednesday night service was held at the Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. The meeting was well attended by Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Christian workers, and many church members.

The meeting began with our annual J. Frank Norris Memorial Banquet. This year we enjoyed another delicious fish fry with all the trimmings, followed by a powerful and challenging message by our special guest speaker Dr. Mike Norris, pastor of the thriving and exciting Franklin Road Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Dr. Norris also spoke on Monday morning.

Tuesday through Thursday, we had the privilege of hearing nine Pastors who are associated with the IBF. The speakers were, Bill Hardin, David Webb, Jonathan Stewart (President of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary), Dr. Barry Bedwell, Mark Brown, Missionary Danny Jones, Dr. Raymond Barber (Founder and President Emeritus of the IBF), Fred Ferrin, and Charles Webb. Dr. Gary Coleman, Pastor Emeritus of the Lavon Drive Baptist Church, Garland, Texas, closed out the meeting with a powerful and soul stirring message. The preaching was solid, good, old fashioned Bible preaching.

The theme of the meeting was "By His Spirit." We were challenged with the necessity and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries. The power and presence of the Holy Spirit was definitely realized during the meeting. The preaching was blessed by God and the response and altar calls evidenced that the Holy Spirit was working in our midst in a powerful way.

The business meeting and election of officers went well. I was once again elected as President and Pastor Tyler Gillit was re-elected for his second year as Vice-President. Pastor Eric Crawford was elected as Secretary, while the following three men were added to the Board of Directors: Glen Anderson, Heath Hogue, and Charles Pugh. The offering goal of \$50,000 was met and exceeded.

Bro. John Peoples introduced some of our own IBFI missionaries throughout the fellowship meeting, and there was a good number of missionaries in attendance. They were all introduced and gave testimonials about their ministries. Bro. and Mrs. Scott Griffin were approved as new missionaries of the IBF.

The ladies enjoyed a beautiful tea which was planned and coordinated by Mrs. Elvina Shipman. Mrs. Helen Barber and Mrs. Barbara Law spoke. It was an elegant, delightful and encouraging event.

One of the highlights was the graduation ceremony of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. There were nine graduates this year. How exciting to see and hear from these graduates. We know God is going to use them for His glory. The Seminary is experiencing a very healthy growth pattern under the able leadership of our President, Dr. Jonathan Stewart.

It was a great meeting, with amazing fellowship, and the music was inspirational as we sang the great hymns of the faith and enjoyed excellent special music. The music was under the direction of Bro. Andrew Johnson. Musicians who assisted were Madeline Guerrea, Lonnie Shipman and Elvina Shipman. The preaching was great and in keeping with our theme, the Holy Spirit's presence was experienced in a tremendous way.

The next national meeting will be held at the Cornerstone Baptist Temple in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Jerry Siler is the Pastor. Dr. Siler, the staff and members of Cornerstone are always great hosts, and I know they have some tremendous and exciting plans in store. I encourage you to make plans now to come. We need you and we all need good, encouraging and challenging preaching, and fellowship. Until He comes may you be found "rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer" (Rom.12:12)

## GOD HAS DONE IT AGAIN!



Jonathan J. Stewart,  
NBBS President

### COMBINED EFFORTS OF SO MANY EXEMPLIFY GOD'S GRACE

Our 34th year is in the books! It is another investment in eternity by those who prayed, administrated, taught, attended as students, and those who undergirded it financially. The positive effects of this school year will unfold until the rapture, and be in full display in the hereafter. What a difference those who are supporting NBBS are making both now and forever!

Great endeavors require the investment of our time, energy, and resources to achieve. There are only a few things in life that compare to, or exceed the sense of accomplishment that comes with graduating as a student. This is true also for the teachers who taught them, especially when they are training preachers and their wives.

### STUDENTS, FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION TESTIFY OF GOD'S GREATNESS

I can say that the class of 2018, and their instructors, finished strong, as did the student body at-large. As Coley Minnix, one of the graduates expressed in his sermon to the student body a few weeks ago, "Getting through school is more like running through an obstacle course rather than running a marathon, as so many have stated."

I commend the students this year, and the graduates especially, who over many months, overcame personal distractions and sorted through demands made upon them, by keeping their priorities right. Our school is characterized by students who are fascinated with God and His Word!

The emphasis behind our theme for the year, "By His Spirit," cited in view of Zechariah 4:6, is the ultimate reason for another successful year! The Spirit, who is grace personified, enlightened, enabled and enriched student, faculty and preacher both in the classroom and in daily chapel.

We saw our highest enrollment since 1999; new students quickly assimilated into the fellowship of the student body; marriages took place among the students; church positions opened up to recent graduates and current students – even one taking a pastorate, and another starting deputation as a missionary. Additionally, the school facilities continued to be enhanced by new furnishings and improvements galore!

### PICTURES BEAR WITNESS TO GOD'S GOODNESS

The picture collage to the right summarizes the past nine months at school and goes hand in hand with the pictures from the week of fellowship. The meeting was a great finale to it all! Dr. Mike Norris started it off Monday night with an impacting message on Elijah and Elisha. Dr. Gary Coleman closed it out on Thursday morning with a striking sermon on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The sermons in between were uplifting, insightful, and top shelf as well. More than once, a call to prayer was made after a sermon! The offering goal of \$50,000.00 was readily reached and then surpassed! Some churches even committed to raising their monthly support to Norris Bible Baptist Seminary!

### A FOUNDING PASTOR OF THE IBFI/NBBS IN HEAVEN!

In closing, I salute the memory of retired pastor Don Gregory, the founder and longtime pastor of the Faith Baptist Church of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, who played such an integral role down through the years in the ongoing of the NBBS in various ways and positions. He passed into Heaven, Sunday, May 27, and is now experiencing a reunion with loved ones in the presence of God which we cannot adequately imagine. I am thankful he lived long enough after retirement to see not only his beloved church continue forward under the pastoral leadership of the man he wanted to follow him, pastor Barry Bedwell, but that he also saw and helped the seminary to go forward afresh these past four years. He was a source of help when I was establishing and pastoring the Regency Baptist Church in the 1980s and 1990s, and a warm source of personal encouragement even in recent times.

### Thank you again for your prayers!



Dr. Terry Riggsby,  
NBBS Field Representative

### SUCCESSFUL MAY FELLOWSHIP MEETING

I just finished attending and participating in the Independent Baptist Fellowship's 34th annual spring meeting and am happy to report it was a great meeting from start to finish. From the Bible preaching, graduation services, and business meeting, there was a wonderful Spirit of cooperation among the brethren!

I personally want to thank those who "worked behind the scenes" to make the meeting a success. I especially want to thank Danny and Candy Frizzell for all their hard work before, during, and after the meeting. As I often say, many hands make light work!

### PASTOR DON GREGORY

As you probably know by now, Pastor Don Gregory has gone on to be with the Lord. I first met Bro. Gregory in 1984 at the first meeting of the IBF. He has always been a Christian brother and friend to me. He was a "charter member" of the Fellowship, and always gave of his time and money to the fellowship and school! In his preaching, he always preached Christ and Him crucified. Please continue to pray for his wife, Joyce, during these difficult times.

As a reminder, I am available to come and represent the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary to your congregation. I can be reached at 817-648-1859.

## IN MEMORIUM – DR. DONALD GREGORY, 1929–2018

By Dr. Raymond W. Barber



On the evening of Sunday, May 27, the angels came and bore away the soul of Dr. Donald Gregory, who leaves behind his wife Joyce, of more than sixty years, and three children: Mark, Carla, and Curtis and their families and a host of friends who loved, respected, and honored this great man of God. Don, Helen, and I went through the Bible Baptist Seminary together in the early 1950s. Upon graduation, he went to Dearborn Heights (Detroit), Michigan, and founded the Faith Baptist Church. Don pastored this church for fifty-three years, building one of the great churches in our fundamental Baptist circles.

Brother Gregory served the Independent Baptist Fellowship as president, member of the Board of Directors of the I.B.F.I. and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. He became a pillar of the fellowship and the school. He never wavered in his loyalty. Many young preachers looked to him as an example of what a man of God should become.

He led Faith Baptist Church to support all ministries of the fellowship. After he retired, he personally contributed large sums of money to all phases of the IBF.

Helen and I will personally miss him after sixty-eight years of love, friendship, and companionship in the work of Christ. He could say with the Apostle Paul, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

## UPCOMING EVENTS MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND

### IBF METROPLEX MEETINGS

August 16 - Thursday -  
McPherson Road Baptist Church  
Fort Worth, Texas – Host Pastor Bill Hardin

### IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Tuesday - Thursday, October 9 - 11, 2018  
Cornerstone Baptist Temple  
Dayton, Ohio - Host Dr. Jerry Siler

### OPENING DAY RALLY for NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY – AUGUST 14 – TUESDAY

There will be a special charge from Dr. Barber, the NBBS Chancellor at 11:00 AM.

A luncheon will follow. (Student orientation will begin at 8:00 AM)

Full details will be in the August/September issue of the Searchlight and on the IBF website – www.ibfi.us.



Glen Anderson,  
Alumni President

That great psalmist of Israel penned the words found in Psalm 133:1. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" That was the thought that entered my mind as we left the annual May fellowship meeting of the IBF.

My wife and I left feeling refreshed, revived, and ready to return to the work the Lord has called us to. Every message was challenging, convicting, and well communicated! Dr. Mike Norris kicked us off on Monday night, and Dr. Gary Coleman closed us out on Thursday morning. WOW!

We saw nine students receive their diplomas on Tuesday night; some of those received special recognition and awards. I had the privilege of presenting Bro. Fred Ferren with the Alumnus of the Year Award for his faithful service to the NBBS. It was a great joy to see our new graduates get involved in the fellowship immediately after their graduation by giving to the offering. The spirit of the entire meeting was wonderful!

Yes, it is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity! Praise the LORD! I am already looking forward to our October meeting with great anticipation.

