

THE
JONES FAMILY
MISSIONARIES TO RIO GRANDE VALLEY



Very early in the ministry of Jesus, He called twelve men to be with him that he might train them and prepare them to continue and to multiply the work that he was starting. We know these men as the Apostles, or the Disciples. There is still a great need for leaders to carry on the work of Jesus Christ in our generation.

God has greatly blessed the work of Daniel Jones in Monterrey, Mexico, and in the Rio Grande Valley. His work, training leaders through Bible Institutes is a great encouragement to me. I hope his letter found below will be an encouragement and a blessing to you. Please pray for Daniel and Michelle as God continues to bless their labors in evangelism, church planting, and training men and women for the ministry.

John Peeples, IBFI Mission Director

OLDEST AND NEWEST INSTITUTES

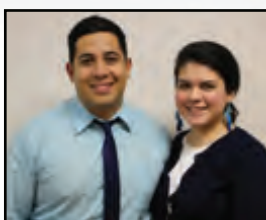
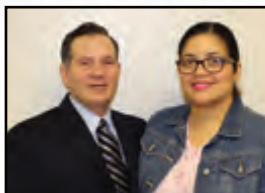
NEW INSTITUTE STARTING IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON!

Alberto Gonzalez (pictured to the left with his wife) was our first institute student here in McAllen. He started classes in 2005, and in May 2016, moved to Tennessee. Later, to be closer to his family, he moved to the state of Washington in 2017. He has gotten involved in a Hispanic church in Moxee, Washington. The pastor there has been impressed with some of his ideas about Christian service. He is now visitation director, and in January, his pastor started classes using our Institute notes. Alberto hopes to be able to graduate from our newest institute in Washington.



UPDATE ON OUR INSTITUTE IN McALLEN

Aparicio and his wife (pictured to the right) started attending the institute here in McAllen. They both wanted me to "train them in the ministry." He is our song director and our youth teacher. Please pray that God will use both he and his wife in a mighty way! In October, 2017, Edwin and his wife Berenice (pictured to the left), also started in the institute. He is from Honduras, and is helping with announcements and ushering. His wife teaches the Sunday night children's church. They are very interested in missions, and who knows, they might be our first missionaries from this church. Below is a picture of a class in January of this year. Keep us in your prayers as we teach the students a love for God's Word and a burden to serve Him in His work.



UPDATE ON OUR MAIN INSTITUTE IN MEXICO

Lizeth Gonzalez graduated from our institute in Mexico, June, 2017. She is the 93rd graduate of our first Bethesda Bible Institute (founded in 1980), and is a member of the Bethesda Baptist Church in Monterrey, Mexico. Her mother is the accountant for the church and her father is a secretary there. She has a great testimony of service (she loves children and works in the children's ministry). Lizeth also has a great testimony for Christ in the university where she is currently studying. One of her teachers was bent on making her an atheist by the time she left his class, but when she passed the course, the teacher, had to admit his failure.



These institutes are a testimony of teaching others to serve the Lord!

UPDATE ON OUR FAMILY'S HEALTH

Danny Jr., our son, is still having vertigo. He is in the army, and is to go on training for six weeks in March and April. Pray that all will go well with his health. Our newest grandson, Mateo Garza, was born with epilepsy, and spent the first three weeks in the hospital. He was out of the hospital for ten days, but had to back in again. He is in intensive care again for several days. In just one day, he had seventeen seizures. After the 31st seizure, he underwent a blood transfusion. He is now home and doing much better. Please pray for him and his family. Michelle and I seem to be doing okay right now, though my right elbow and knee still hurt from the wreck in October.

In Him,

Daniel L. Jones, Sr.

Daniel L. Jones Sr.



Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work." II Thessalonians 2:16-17

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

724 N. Jim Wright Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas 76108

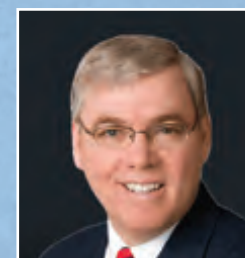
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INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The
Searchlight
MARCH/APRIL 2018 VOLUME 34 ISSUE 5

IBFI - "By His Spirit!" Zechariah 4:6
34RD ANNIVERSARY SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING
MAY 21 - 24, 2018



DR. MIKE NORRIS
MON. 7 PM | TUE. 10 AM



PASTOR BILL HARDIN
TUES. 9 AM



PASTOR DAVID WEBB
TUES. 11 AM



JONATHAN J. STEWART
TUES. 7 PM



DR. BARRY BEDWELL
WED. 9 AM



PASTOR MARK BROWN
WED. 10 AM



MISSIONARY DANNY JONES
WED. 7 PM



DR. RAYMOND BARBER
WED. 7 PM



PASTOR FRED FERREN
THURS. 9 AM



BRO. CHARLES WEBB
THURS. 10 AM



DR. GARY COLEMAN
THURS. 11 AM

Dr. Mike Norris, our special guest preacher, will kick off the meeting on Monday night and speak again Tuesday morning. Dr Gary Coleman will close out the meeting on Thursday morning with a final challenge. In between these two will be nine of our own preachers encouraging all in the Word of God - Titus 1:3.

IBFI Mission Agency
Helping independent Baptist churches get their missionaries to the field

With local church sent missionaries serving in

- Brazil
- 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

From Christ, to the Apostles, Timothy's, Faithful Men, and Others Also

II TIMOTHY 2:2

N·B·B·S
Keeping the Chain Intact

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 | Website: www.IBFI.us
IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Mark Brown, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson, Pastor Phillip Blackwell, Pastor Raymond Castro, Pastor Eric Crawford, Pastor Fred Ferren, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Dale Harris, Sr., Pastor Frank Hefner, Pastor David Webb and Dr. Charles Wetherbee.

PRIORITIES FOR EVERY PASTOR



*Dr. Raymond W. Barber,
IBFI President Emeritus*

There is no higher calling than that of the pastor. God entrusts him to “feed the flock” (1 Peter 5:2) as he “rightly divides the Word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). He who takes his calling seriously is always on the lookout for elements that will enhance his ministry.

Perhaps the following will do just that for the man who wants to “sharpen his sword”:

ONE: TEN WAYS TO ENRICH YOUR MINISTRY

1. Expand your prayer list to include the forgotten members of your congregation.
2. Frequently read the qualifications of a pastor (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).
3. Periodically review your call to the ministry and your commitment to God when you answered the call.
4. Discover new horizons as you involve yourself in a ministry outside the confines of your local church.
5. Take a trip to a mission field, and pioneer a work among an unevangelized tribe or people group.
6. Make peace with someone who is at odds with you.
7. Try a different approach in your method of dealing with the fears, faults and frustration of others.
8. Seek out a discouraged preacher, and encourage him by offering financial assistance or moral support.
9. Restructure your order of services **without** diminishing the effectiveness of what you are now accomplishing.
10. Establish a “think tank” with your staff including prayer and meditation among the key elements.

TWO: TWELVE SATANIC PITTFALLS YOU SHOULD AVOID

1. Professional Jealousy
2. Improper Behavior
3. Fleshly Temptation
4. Idle Time
5. Sustained Complacency
6. Mental Laziness
7. Chronic Depression
8. Emotional Extremes
9. Unprofessional Tactics
10. Questional Methodology
11. Financial Greed
12. Ecclesiastical Ambitions

THREE: SEVEN THINGS TO CHARACTERIZE YOUR PREACHING

1. Make your preaching **priority one**.
2. Make your preaching **profound**.
3. Make your preaching **paramount**.
4. Make your preaching **profitable**.
5. Make your preaching **powerful**.
6. Make your preaching **productive**.
7. Make your preaching **prominent**.

FINAL WORD

Keep the baptismal waters stirred, the revival fires burning, and the altar of prayer open!



Mark Brown, IBFI President

The lives of so many of the heroes of the faith serve as examples to us.

*“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition...”
-I Corinthians 10:11*

“BY HIS SPIRIT” has been our theme this past year. Throughout Scripture we see examples of what can be done by His Spirit! Samson certainly shows by his life the contrast of operating in our own strengths, abilities, and resources. His life also shows what happens when we yield to the Holy Spirit. The accomplishments in Samson’s life were only “by His Spirit”, and the accomplishments we have seen and been a part of in our fellowship are also “by His Spirit.” We certainly owe all the glory to the Lord!

As we continue through a brand new calendar year, we rejoice in a fresh opportunity to serve Him, and see what He might do “by His Spirit.” Norris Bible Baptist Seminary has gotten off to a great start for this spring semester, our missionaries are reporting many blessings from their various fields of service, and the many churches that are involved in the IBFI are gearing up for a busy summer.

We hope you are making plans to attend the 2018 May Fellowship of the IBFI. Many are busy preparing and planning for a wonderful time of preaching, music, and fellowship. The dates and lodging information are located in this edition of the Searchlight. We hope to see you there.

Let us continue to keep each ministry, church, and family that are a part of the Independent Baptist Fellowship in prayer. There is no telling what the Lord can and will do in the days ahead if we will be found faithful to pray for one another and, do what we can to support our fellowship!

Hope to see you in May!

“BY HIS SPIRIT”

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MEXICAN FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO, TX

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your prayers throughout the years. I am so thankful to be part of your fellowship. My health is doing better, although I am having a bit of trouble with my eye sight. My Lord has sustained us and kept us doing His work.

This is an important milestone of 75 years for our church, my family, and humbly for myself. I am so grateful to see this day come. There is only a few of us left from the start of the ministry that my father, Manuel G. Ortiz, Sr., began back in 1943. Please keep praying for us.

Sincerely,
Dr. Manuel G. Ortiz, Jr.
210 363-7555

I CORINTHIANS 15:58



OUR 34TH GRADUATION



*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

GOD CONTINUES TO UNDERGIRD

Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, by the enabling grace of God, has “stayed the course” of being a preacher training center. It has also continued its resurgence as it completes its 34th year of operation. Our reemphasis since the fall of 2014, has been singularly the training of preachers and their wives.

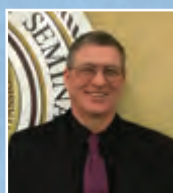
NBBS has been blessed by the quality of students that have largely characterized its student body. This certainly bears witness to the working of God in our midst. Furthermore, **from May 2015 to May 2018, we will have graduated 16 students.** All of whom are very active in the ministry.

SEVEN GRADUATES THIS MAY

We have four candidates for a bachelor’s degree, two for an associate’s degree and one for a one-year Bible certificate.

The bachelor’s degree is a Bible major, with either a pastoral, missions, or church ministry minor. The associate’s degree has a Bible major with a church ministry minor.

The Bible certificate is characterized by twelve courses primarily in Bible and doctrine. It allows a student who is open to a call to the ministry to further seek God’s leading. It is also a worthy endeavor for a church member who wants to better learn their Bible. Besides the benefit received from the classes, the student has a certificate to show for it. In general, this certificate can equip someone to be more effective in their church work. The presence of a few church members every year, enhances the education experience of the preachers who are in training, as they see church members whom are also hungry to learn the Word of God. The interaction is beneficial to both.

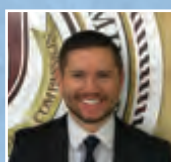


Fred Ferren, graduated from Norris Bible Baptist Institute in 2002 with a three-year Bible diploma. He has been the pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Chico, Texas, since 2008. In January, he finished serving for two-years as the secretary of the IBF Metro Area Preachers Fellowship. He has been on faculty at NBBS since the spring of 2017. He returned as a student at

NBBS this semester, in order to secure a four-year Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and Pastoral Minor.

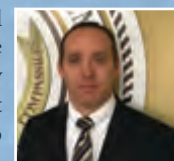
Bro. Ferren has been married to his wife Sandra for 33 years. They have four grown children (April, Joseph, Jared, and Brienna), and nine grandchildren. Fred served in the USMC for four years (1984-1988), and the US Army for ten years (1988-1998), and the Texas Army National Guard nine years (1998-2007). His military service took him to various places stateside (Virginia, Kansas, Texas and New Mexico), as well as overseas to Germany, Korea, and the Sinai Peninsula. He retired as Sergeant First Class E-7. He is 52 years of age and his life verse is John 3:16.

Jacob Luman is graduating with a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. He is the youth director at the Friendship Baptist Church, Boyd, Texas, where alumnus Terry Terry is the pastor. He is married to Lindy. Jacob and his wife have two daughters, one son, (Kylie, Lana, and Micah) and a baby girl on the way. Bro. Luman plans to pastor a church, or plant one soon after graduation. He is 37 years of age and his life verse is Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

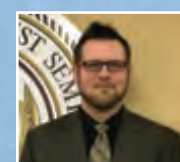


Bro. Luman was exemplary as a student. He went out of his way to reach out to new students and to encourage his classmates. He is thought of very highly by the student body and the faculty.

Danny Medford is graduating with a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. In the past, he has pastored two churches, and is presently assisting pastor Matt Wilkerson at the Galilean Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, Texas. Bro. Medford is married to Tracy Beth, and they have three children (Annaleah, Josiah and Jacob). He plans to pastor a church, or to plant one soon after graduation. He is 37 years of age and his life verse is Galatians 2:20.

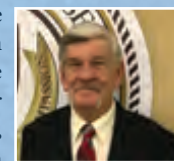


Bro. Medford has displayed an upbeat cheerful disposition before his fellow students. He has at times, added much to class lectures by the nature of his questions and comments. Although he has a good grasp on the Scriptures, his teachable spirit and interest in the Bible have been an inspiration to his classmates. He has used his carpentry skills in many ways to assist the school in its maintenance needs. He is well thought of by both the student body and faculty. When present at many school functions, his children have been a special blessing in their demeanor and conduct.



Coley Minnix returned as a part time student two years ago, and became full-time this year, in order to finish his pursuit of a Bachelor’s Degree of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. He earned a bachelor’s degree with a youth ministry minor from Crown Southwest/Norris Seminary in 2010. Since that time, he has served as a youth director, but more recently, he has been assisting pastor Matt Wilkerson at the Galilean Baptist Church in Cedar Hill, Texas, in various outreach ministry efforts. He is married to Sarah, and they have two children (Ryleigh and Rhett). He is 33 years of age and his life verse is Philippians 4:13.

James Golden is graduating with an Associates Degree in Biblical Studies. Bro. Golden set an example in steadfastness and fortitude in his pursuit of a Bible education. He came to school in order to become better equipped in church ministry. During his days at NBBS, he has been doing nursing home ministry in association with Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, where he is a member, and Dr. Charles Wetherbee is the pastor. He is married to Connie. He is 65 years of age, and his life verse is II Timothy 2:15.



Dayton Colbert is graduating with a two-year Associates Degree in Biblical Studies. He is a member of the Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas, where alumnus Eric Crawford is the pastor. Dayton came to NBBS because he desired to better learn the Bible in order that he might be a more capable witness for Christ. He saw it as a great foundation to whatever the Lord has for him in the future. He is 21 years of age and his life verse is Colossians 1:11.

Dana Bellah, a wife and mother, as well as a lawyer, is married to Ken and they have a teenage son named T. J. She has been a source of encouragement to many and an excellent student. She is receiving a One-Year Certificate in Biblical Studies. Dana has done much to promote the cause of the seminary through the years. She is a member of the Worth Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas, where Tyler Gillit is pastor.

Plan now to attend the graduation service in May to encourage these graduates! They are fruit of your labors!

NBBS SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH

Thank you to all who were a part of the NBBS Sunday! The result was that our supporting churches were reminded of the significance of their investment in the school. Prospective students were exposed to the school, prayers were offered up for the seminary by churches, and offerings were received (nearly \$7,200.00 at the time of this writing).

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

ALUMNI NEWS

Glen Anderson, Alumni President



As Alumni President, it is always great to hear from our alumni. Bro. David Grice, a 2002 graduate, and pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, sent me the following article.

As we at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, prepare to celebrate our 15th Anniversary on the first Sunday of June, we are still rejoicing in the great time had by all during our most recent Revival At Sea.

Pastor Grice along with his wife Angela, have organized these cruises for many years, with preachers and friends coming from all over the United States and mission fields around the world to attend. Instead of converging at a certain church each year, they meet on different ships headed to different countries.

The most recent Revival At Sea had IBFI Board members, Norris faculty, students, alumni, and missionaries, who were preaching, singing, and fellowshiping as they traveled to Cozumel, Jamaica, and Grand Cayman. Eleven preachers preached 16 sermons, and over two thousand Gospel tracts were given out on and off the ship. The preaching was attended by other guests on the ship, as well as crew members - some of whom gave moving testimonies about their experience with the group. The group also had a private excursion to handle stingrays in Grand Cayman. When possible, the groups meet with missionaries in the ports, to tour their churches, to fellowship, and to pass out tracts. They have seen souls saved, Christians encouraged, and life-long friendships made. They are already looking forward to seeing what God will do on the next Revival At Sea in January of 2019.

Bro David Grice	Independent Baptists of Texas & Great Southwest - President
Lighthouse Baptist Church - Pastor	Norris Bible Baptist Seminary - Faculty
Texas Lighthouse Christian Academy- CEO	(Life of Christ / The Family)



MAY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Monday evening will be the J. Frank Norris Fellowship Service. Our annual FISH FRY, beginning at 5:30 PM, will be held before the services which will begin at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 PM, the Ladies Tea will be held. Ladies please make plans to attend this elegant and relaxing event.

Graduation services are on **Tuesday** evening, afterwards we will have a reception to honor our graduates and their families.

Wednesday at noon we will have our Annual Alumni Luncheon. Everyone is invited, so please make plans to attend.

The Wednesday evening services will be held at the Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX.

Thursday morning we wrap the meeting with some wonderful preaching, if you attend you will not be disappointed!

Nursery will be provided for all services.

MISSION STORE 2018

Please do not forget our annual Mission Store. Please consider giving gift cards which are always greatly appreciated by the missionaries. If you have any question please feel free to call the Mission Office at 817-367-3422.

ELECTION INFORMATION

The following officers have each served three years and **WILL NOT** be eligible for re-election:

MARK BROWN, President | **GLEN ANDERSON, Secretary**

The following officer has served for 1 year and **WILL** be eligible for re-election:

TYLER GILLIT, Vice President

The following board members have served three years and **WILL NOT** be eligible to serve this next year:

ERIC CRAWFORD | **DAVID WEBB** | **CHARLES WETHERBEE**

We will be voting at the General Assembly meeting on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. Please come prepared to vote and to serve because each office is important. If you have any questions, please call President Mark Brown at 706-323-9538.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Best Western Fort Worth Inn & Suites
201 West Loop, I-820, Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-246-8777
\$70 + tax

Be sure to mention you are with IBFI. **Book early!**

For other local hotels, please call or check their websites for cost and availability.

Candlewood Suites
402 N. Jim Wright Fwy.
Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-246-6800

Staybridge Suites Fort Worth
229 Clifford Center Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-312-9987

Scottish Inns White Settlement
500 N. Jim Wright Fwy.
White Settlement, TX 76108
877-537-2062