

# THE SMITH FAMILY

MINISTRY IN  
RORAIMA, BRAZIL



*John Peebles,  
IBFI Mission Director*

God continues to bless Bill and Sharon Smith and their ministry in Roraima, Brazil. If you look them up on the map, you can see just how remote the area is where they have faithfully ministered all these years. They are actually much closer to the countries of Venezuela and Guyana than they are to Manaus, Brazil - the closest major Brazilian city that has served as the entry point to this hard-to-reach area of Brazil. As you read their recent update, please continue to pray for their continued protection, health, effectiveness in preaching the Gospel, church planting, and training national leadership.



Dear Friends,

**Rachel Pritchard**, a young lady from Michigan that graduated from Massillon Baptist College, Massillon, Ohio, asked if she could come visit us on the mission field. We met her at the airport and were able to make the trip all the way to our home in Boa Vista. She was a big help to us and was excited to talk with people, even though, she didn't know a lot of Portuguese. She was able to visit four churches, give her testimony in Portuguese and even help in Sunday School. We visited the country of Guyana and she enjoyed speaking English. Please pray for Rachel as she seeks the Lord's Will for her life in the area of Missions.



November 16th, we traveled to Caracarai for the Ordination of 4 men to the Gospel Ministry. Rogerio was one of those men. Other Pastors came and questioned these men, and then, all were ordained. Rogerio is pastoring one of our churches in Boa Vista. The Lord is blessing him and his wife Zipora. Please pray for all our pastors; they are having some hard times. The government is behind in paying salaries, so many are struggling financially. Some of the pastors must work, as well as, pastor their churches. Brazil has a new President. We pray there will be some good changes, and that God will bless this country.

Pastor Werleson and the Manacial Baptist Church had a Mission Conference on the 24th of November and invited other churches to attend. This is the church plant that had been closed in 2015 and then re-opened in 2016. The church also had a baptismal service on December 2nd with 4 being baptized. The Pastor's daughter was one of the young ladies baptized. They are averaging around 20-25 in their services.



**"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:19-20**



**THANK YOU for your prayers and support for us and the works here in Northern Brazil!**

*Bill and Sharon Smith*



## 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 2019 VOLUME 35 ISSUE 5

## IBFI SPRING FELLOWSHIP MEETING MAY 20 - 23, 2019



DR. ROGER GREEN  
MON. 7 PM | TUE. 11 AM



PASTOR  
RAYMOND CASTRO  
TUES. 9 AM



PASTOR  
PHILLIP BLACKWELL  
TUES. 10 AM



DR. TERRY RIGGSBY  
TUES. 7 PM



PASTOR TYLER GILLIT  
WED. 9 AM



DR. WILLIE WEAVER  
WED. 10 AM



MISSIONARY  
SCOTT GRIFFIN  
WED. 7 PM



DR. RAYMOND BARBER  
WED. 7 PM



PASTOR  
CLAUDE SUTTON  
THURS. 9 AM



PASTOR  
ERIC CRAWFORD  
THURS. 10 AM



PASTOR DAVID GRICE  
THURS. 11 AM

# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**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](http://www.ibfi.us) email: [missionoffice@ibfi.us](mailto:missionoffice@ibfi.us)

*Apostle Paul to Timothy*  
**"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." II Timothy 2:2**

Now in Our 35th Year of Training Preachers and Their Wives!

**35 YEARS**  
**NBBS - ON A MISSION!**  
to **INFORM, INSTRUCT** and **INSPIRE PREACHERS**  
**2 TIMOTHY 2:2**

### The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

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**IBFI Board of Directors:** Dr. Willie Weaver, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peebles, 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 Heath Hogue and Pastor Charles Pugh.



# J. FRANK NORRIS: A MAN AMONG MEN A MEMORIAL TO DR. NORRIS (Fifth in a Series)



Dr. Raymond W. Barber,  
IBFI President Emeritus

## NORRIS—BARBER FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

The J. Frank Norris and Dr. R. J. Barber, Sr. families enjoyed a warm, personal, and cordial relationship for many years. The accompanying photo of the Barber family was taken in December of 1951. Dr. Norris often expressed his affection for the Barbers.

Helen and I had an intimate relationship with Dr. Norris: He married us, reserved and financed our honeymoon at one of Fort Worth's most prestigious hotels of that day, the Blackstone Hotel, and furnished us his personal automobile. Dr. Norris, a great fisherman, invited us to a fish dinner at his home on Eagle Mountain Lake shortly after we were married. What a great experience and a privilege to sit at the table with America's foremost fundamentalist of the twentieth century.

Following are the members of the Barber family who attended the Bible Baptist Seminary, all of whom sat at Norris' feet in the Seminary classes, as well as under his dynamic preaching at First Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas: Raymond and Helen Barber, R. J. Barber, Jr. and Justine, Stanley and Edna (Barber) Knick, Doug and Mamie (Barber) Gregory, Jack and Virginia (Barber) Blankenship.

Notice also the picture of my dad, Dr. R. J. Barber, Sr., (left bottom row). Helen and I are pictured next to my dad. (Notice how thin I was!) On the back of the photo, a note is written: **To be run in the Fundamentalist and school annual by request of Dr. Entzinger.** The note is dated December 1951.



While the oldest of the Barber preachers, Bob, is now in Heaven, three of us (Bill, Doug, and I) continue to propagate Norris' influence in a combined ministry of one-hundred sixty-eight years, plus Dad's ministry of forty years, and Bob's ministry of seventy-two years—a grand total of two-hundred eighty years--extending the ministry and influence of the "man among men." *To God be the glory!*

## DR. NORRIS' IMMEDIATE SUCCESSOR

Upon the death of Dr. Norris in 1952, the First Baptist Church called Dr. Homer Ritchie to succeed him. Homer, a warm and personal friend of mine for more than sixty years, pastored the historic church for more than thirty-one years.

On Sunday, February 3, Homer went home to be with the Lord at age ninety-two after being in the ministry almost seventy-five years. His years at First Baptist Church were blessed of the Lord, and *he being dead yet speaketh*. Our prayers are with his wife, Brenda, and the Ritchie family.

## INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATING 35 YEARS



Dr. Willie Weaver,  
IBFI President

This year we are celebrating the 35th ANNIVERSARY of the INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (IBFI). The IBFI was founded in 1984 under the leadership of Dr. Raymond W. Barber. The ministries of the IBFI are the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary (NBBS), the IBFI Mission Agency and our publication, the Searchlight.

Even though we try to make our fellowship and ministries known, people are not familiar with the IBFI and its ministries. How can we make people more aware of these? One of the main ways is for IBFI pastors, churches, and missionaries to tell others about us. Word of mouth is personal, effective, and hard to beat.

Many times I have been invited to various meetings and have been exposed to what they are doing. I recall, twenty-three years ago, being invited to Mexico for the Mount Abarim Baptist Mission, International conference. During the conference we made a trip to Tlapa, Mexico, to visit the children's home. I discovered that I agreed with Mount Abarim's ministries. I led our church, Worth Baptist, to support their ministry. My wife and I personally became financial supporters. How did that happen? Someone invited me and I was exposed to a great ministry.

Sometimes, it just takes our invitation for others to come to our national meetings, to visit the Seminary and chapel services, or to attend other activities we host. They may not be aware that there is a conservative fellowship that has a unique Seminary, that teaches the whole English Bible, and trains and prepares students for ministry. Our Seminary, has a great unity and is growing under the leadership of Dr. Jonathan Stewart.

If you are associated with the IBFI and its ministries, help get the word out to expose folks to what we have. A good way to do that would be to invite them to our next spring IBFI National meeting to be held, May 20-23, 2019, at the Raymond W. Barber Conference Center, Fort Worth, Texas. We have an exciting 35th ANNIVERSARY planned with some very special activities. We will have powerful Bible preaching, with Dr. Roger Green being our special guest speaker. There will be great music, encouraging fellowship and, of course, our exciting **Graduation Ceremony**. Make plans now to join us and also invite others to attend.

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*

## ELECTION INFORMATION

The following officers have each served one year and **WILL** be eligible for re-election:

WILLIE WEAVER, President | ERIC CRAWFORD, Secretary

The following officer has served for 2 years 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:

RAYMOND CASTRO | FRED FERREN | FRANK HEFNER

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.

## NBBS – OUR 35<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATION



Jonathan J. Stewart,  
NBBS President

35 YEARS THIS MAY,  
THE NBBS WAS STARTED!

The Norris Bible Baptist Institute was established in May of 1984, and began classes in August of that same year, offering three year Bible Diplomas. In the early 2000s, NBBI became the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. Accordingly, with the name change came an additional year of courses and the granting of a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies, with three different potential minors (Pastoral, Missions, or Church Ministries) as well as master and doctoral degree programs going into effect in 2014.

## SIX GRADUATES THIS MAY

We have five candidates for a bachelor's degree, and one for a one-year Bible certificate. 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 his Bible. Besides the benefit received from the classes, the student has a certificate to show for it. 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 who are also hungry to learn the Word of God. The interaction is beneficial to both.



Michael Bridges is securing a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. He was a member of the Pensacola Baptist Temple, where Bro. Glen Anderson is pastor. While in school, he has been a member of the Victory Baptist Church of Weatherford, Texas, where Dr. Charles Wetherbee is the pastor. Michael was a diligent student. He is married to Katherine, and they have two children.

Daniel Coates is a long-term missionary to Guatemala. Bro. Coates is another alumnus who graduated several years ago with the three-year Bible Diploma from the Norris Bible Baptist Institute. Because he took more than the 36 prescribed credits at NBBI when he was first a student, he was well on his way toward a bachelor's degree when he decided to go ahead and secure it. At the tail end of his furlough last year, he took five classes at NBBS this past fall, while still visiting in churches on Sundays. Bro. Daniel will graduate with a Bachelor of Biblical of Studies with a Bible Major and a Missions Minor. He is married to Tammy, and they have ten children. The oldest is a student at NBBS. He will be returning from the field for a few days in May to receive his degree in person.



David Grice is the founder and pastor of the Lighthouse Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas. He returned as a student at NBBS, in order to secure a four-year Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and Pastoral Minor. Bro. David is yet another alumnus who graduated several years ago with the three-year Bible Diploma from the Norris Bible Baptist Institute. He had taken more than the 36 prescribed courses at NBBI when he was first a student, so was well on his way toward a bachelor's degree when he decided to go ahead and secure it. Bro. Grice has been a faculty member at NBBS for several years, and is presently serving on the IBFI Board of Directors. He remained an active teacher at the seminary while taking classes. Bro. David is also the president of the IBFI of the Great Southwest. He is married to Angela, and they have four children. Bro. Grice has played a very significant role in the resurgence of NBBS in various ways of involvement.

Kenneth Ralph, was the youth director for six years at Maranatha Baptist Church, Columbus Georgia, where alumnus Mark Brown is the pastor. He came to NBBS to finish his degree, and was with us three years. While at NBBS, he has been the youth director at First Baptist Church of Cottondale, Paradise, Texas. Bro. Charles Pugh is the pastor. Bro. Ralph has been an outstanding student, and a very positive force at the seminary. He was one of those students who was more than "a student." He is receiving a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Pastoral Minor. Bro. Kenneth is married to Kristy, and they have five children. After graduation, Bro. Ralph is assuming the Associate Pastor position at Pensacola Baptist Temple, Pensacola, Florida. He will be serving under pastor Glen Anderson. Bro. Anderson is an NBBS alumnus and the alumni president.



Breze Serugamba is receiving a Bachelor of Biblical Studies with a Bible Major and a Missions Minor. Bro. Breze graduated with a Bachelor of Theology in Applied Theology Degree from the University of Wales in Cardiff, Wales. He has been a member of Cornerstone Baptist Temple in Dayton, Ohio, where Jerry Siler is the pastor. He was mentored by Bro. Siler and church staff and relocated to Ft. Worth, to attend classes at NBBS in January 2018. Bro. Breze has attended the Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas, while in school. Bro. Serugamba plans to start deputation soon, as a missionary to the African nation of Malawi. Breze was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and grew up in Rwanda. He is a British citizen. He is married to Chantal, and they have four children.

Eulaytia Shipman is receiving a One-Year Certificate in Biblical Studies. She has been a warm and friendly presence at the school. She is a member of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, where alumnus David Grice is pastor.



Plan now to attend the graduation service May 21, 7:00 PM, to encourage these graduates! They are fruit of your labors!

## NBBS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

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 (totaling over \$3,500.00). The special focus capped a three month period of time (December-February) wherein the school was greatly undergirded with over \$25,000.00 worth of contributions over and above the monthly regular support. These contributions were either for specific projects, Christmas offerings in general, or first of the year offerings to help in the expenses of launching a new semester. As I write, more than fifty churches and individuals (including five IBFI missionaries), are regular supporters of NBBS.

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

## HOTEL INFORMATION FOR MAY FELLOWSHIP MAY 20-23, 2019

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	Staybridge Suites Fort Worth	Scottish Inns White Settlement
402 N. Jim Wright Fwy. Fort Worth, TX 76108 817-246-6800	229 Clifflord Center Drive Fort Worth, TX 76108 817-312-9987	500 N. Jim Wright Fwy. White Settlement, TX 76108 877-537-2062

## "PREACH THE WORD..."

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Glen Anderson, Alumni President



The Apostle Paul said to Timothy, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." II Timothy 3:1-5

As we look around and observe the conditions of our days, surely, we can see we are living in the "last days." Today, we are faced with people who are exactly as described in these verses. In our world today, it is all about self and self-gratification. Paul has described our society perfectly in this passage. Every word he says fits our society. Paul says of them, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." This worldly mentality is found in churches all across our nation. People who claim to be Christians are absolutely no different from the rest of the world. This is true also amongst preachers today and how sad this is. After Paul describes the wickedness of the last days he says, "from such turn away."

I thank God that He led me to Norris Bible Baptist Seminary where I was taught to, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." I was also taught that a preacher is to have godly character and to be above reproach.

We are still training God called preachers today! I highly recommend the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary to anyone who feels the call of God to "PREACH THE WORD." Lord willing, I will see you in May at the IBFI National Spring Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

## LEARNING MORE!

### Terry Riggsby, NBBS Field Representative



## SPRING SEMESTER WELL UNDERWAY

Although I am not teaching this semester, I sense that Norris Bible Baptist Seminary is off to a good start for the spring semester. Student attitudes, attendance, and participation are exceptional and they are focused on learning more about the Written Word and the Living Word!

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

James "Buzzy" Daniel, a 1990 graduate of Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, recently passed away. I received a letter and a love offering for the school from his wife, Mary. In her letter she personally thanked NBBS for its part in training James for his work in the ministry. Although James never was a pastor or a full-time worker, he epitomized what we hope our graduates become. I quote from Mrs. Daniel's letter:

*"I am still meeting people that he witnessed to who are telling what an influence he had on them about: knowing the Lord in salvation, being right before the Lord, reading their Bibles, and attending church. He was bold for the Lord whom he really loved."*

We praise the Lord for the legacy that James has left as a NBBS graduate and a faithful Christian!

As a reminder, I am still available any time to come and present the ministry of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. You can contact me at 817-648-1859.

## 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, fun and relaxing event.

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

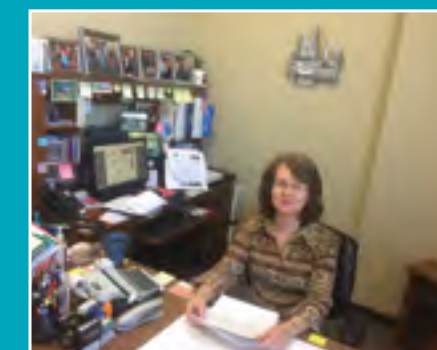
Wednesday at noon we will have our Annual Alumni Luncheon. Everyone is invited to attend so make plans to attend.

The Wednesday evening services will be held at the Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, TX.

Thursday morning we wrap the meeting with some wonderful preaching. Please plan to attend and you will not be disappointed!

Nursery will be provided for all services.

## MISSION STORE 2019



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 Shirley Peebles at the Mission Office at 817-367-3422.