

A WORD FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR



John Peeples,
IBFI Mission Director

ON OUR WAY TO THE UTTERMOST

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The progression of our witness for Christ in Acts 1:8 has a very definite progression—beginning in our home town Jerusalem, we then move on to the rest of our country, Judaea. The progression ends with the uttermost part of the earth. Christ is Savior, and "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Isaiah 52:10. On our way to the uttermost part of the earth, we encounter a strange and complicated place, Samaria.

Samaria represents a people group that while near to us geographically, is separated from us by barriers much more powerful than mere distance. Samaria is separated from us by barriers that are cultural, ethnic, and political. Even more difficult to overcome are barriers that we have built in our own hearts. Samaria represents the unreached people groups that, if we walk in the flesh, we do not really want to reach. Praise God we do not have to walk in the flesh; we can walk in the Spirit of God.

On our way to the uttermost, we must pass through Samaria. There are several cross-cultural people groups that come to mind when I think of Samaria, one of those being Native Americans. I am excited by what God is doing today in the Navajo Nation. Mark and Tricia Haynes have a very important and growing ministry. As you read their latest prayer letter, please let God speak to you about what He would have you to do to reach our Samaria.

MARK AND TRICIA HAYNES MISSIONARIES TO THE NAVAJO NATION

"...STREAMS IN THE DESERT." ISAIAH 35:6 b

Dear Pastor and Church,

THE SAVIOUR STILL SAVES!

It is difficult to put into words all that the Lord has done this summer in Navajoland. He blesses faithfulness. Many faithful people were involved in the various VBS meetings and other events held by the various churches and missions. Following is a brief report on all our Lord did in July and August.

THE SAVIOUR STILL SAVES AT VBS

The summer is always busy with VBS meetings as they are a tremendous outreach for our churches. It was our privilege to be involved in some of them. Low Mountain is a remote community in fairly close proximity to Pinon, where Joel and Fabi lead Strong Hold Baptist Church. It was decided to have a VBS in this community and see what the Lord would do. Bro. Joel thought we might have 30-40 people show up. Instead, there was an average of 93 with a high night of 107 with around 30 saved!! The Chapter House was packed! There are folks coming to Pinon as a direct result of this great meeting! Pray for the future of the Low Mountain community. It may be that the Lord will desire a church plant in this needy place! Crownpoint Baptist Church will start having regular services this fall under the leadership of Bro. Aaron Nelson. They had their first VBS and Mrs. Haynes and I were able to assist during one night of the meeting. They had an average attendance of over 100 and 22 saved! This is a great start for Crownpoint and there is even a young lady who was saved that Bro. Aaron and his wife have been discipling. Great stuff!



THE SAVIOUR STILL SAVES AT NAVAJOLAND BAPTIST REVIVAL (NBR)

NBR is a wonderful time when several of our churches gather to have a meeting in Ganado. The goal is to encourage and strengthen the churches and preachers. The last night saw nearly 300 people gather and the Lord came down!! There were a couple of folks saved and we were able to raise over \$2,500 to help a fellow church planter pay off a desperately needed van for his ministry! The results of this revival meeting are still being felt at Ganado Baptist Church! It also serves as the "kick-off" for the new semester at Ganado Baptist Bible College. We have 14 students this semester!



THE SAVIOUR STILL SAVES AT CHAMBERS BAPTIST CHURCH

The chartering service was held for Chambers Baptist Church. Pastor David Moncibaiz is now leading this indigenous work! Pastor Todd Lasseter and Bro. Bob Smith came out to have a part in the service. What a blessing! We are praying that God will use this church to reach many people for Christ! Bro. Joel and Mrs. Fabi were able to be a part of "turning loose" this work. Joyful and emotional!!

THE SAVIOUR STILL SAVES IN OLD FASHIONED DOOR-TO-DOOR SOULWINNING

Ganado Baptist Church has seen a good increase in the number of folks going soulwinning on Tuesdays. We had the privilege of leading a teen to the Lord. This past Sunday, she, along with her sister and dad, were baptized and three additional precious souls were saved in the service. This is possible because you pray and give. There were nearly 100 people in the service. This is possible because you pray and give. Thank you for helping us as we tell our people of the True God Who desires to save all men!!



- Dr. and Mrs. Mark Hayes

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PENSACOLA BAPTIST TEMPLE
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA



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For a great door and effectual is opened unto me
1 Cor. 16:9

TO EXCEL IN CHURCH MINISTRY
TO EXCEL IN BIBLE TEACHING & PREACHING
TO EXCEL IN PRAYER
TO EXCEL IN EVANGELISM

The Searchlight

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LOOK OUT, SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!

Dr. Raymond W. Barber, IBFI President Emeritus

God used the Prophet Isaiah to declare the effectiveness of His Word. It is written in Isaiah 55:9-11. The focal point is verse 11: *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it.”*



When I was a student in the Bible Baptist Seminary seventy years ago, Dr. J. Frank Norris said to us young students: *“Interpret Scripture by Scripture: God’s Word means everything; our words mean nothing.”*

John Jay, the first justice of the United States Supreme Court, said: *“The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the Word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and the next; continue therefore to regulate your life by its precepts.”*

Every message preached should be based on the Word of God and designed to glorify Christ. Any message that it not embedded in the Word of God and focused on Jesus Christ is not worthy of being preached.

There are three kinds of preachers: (1) Those to whom you **cannot** listen; (2) Those to whom you **can** listen; (3) Those to whom you **must** listen.

FIVE THINGS THAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE WORD OF GOD IS PREACHED

One: When the Word of God is preached, light penetrates a world steeped in darkness:

- Psalm 119:130—*“The entrance of thy words giveth light.”*

Two: When the Word of God is preached, cleansing is brought to unclean lives:

- John 15:3—*“Ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.”*

Three: When the Word of God is preached, seed is planted that will bring forth the harvest in God’s designated time.

- Matthew 9:37,38—*“Then saith he to his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers unto his harvest.”*

(Do not forget whose harvest it is.)

Four: When the Word of God is preached, food is served that will nourish hungry hearts.

- Matthew 4:4—*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* (Over 700,000 words came from the mouth of God to comprise the Bible, and every word is perfumed by the sweet aroma of heaven, and God does not have halitosis.)

Five: When the Word of God is preached, medicine is dispensed that will heal sick souls that are contaminated by the disease called sin.

- Psalm 107:20—*“He sent his word and healed them.”*

A FINAL WORD

The consequences of sin are spelled out clearly in God’s Word, and the preaching of the gospel produces the results that God designed it to produce. (Read again Isaiah 55:11.) In my sixty-eight years of preaching, I have learned that every time the Word of God is preached (irrespective of the preacher), **something happens.**

Look out, it is sure to happen!

THIRTY-SIXTH FALL MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL-A GREAT SUCCESS!

Dr. Willie Weaver, IBFI President



What a wonderful meeting of the **Independent Baptist Fellowship International (IBFI)**, at Pensacola Baptist Temple, Pensacola, Florida. **Bro. Glen Anderson** prepared an attractive booklet for the fellowship meeting, with a note of welcome, the daily itinerary, a list of points of interest and restaurants, as well as pages for sermon notes. I think I can speak for my wife and I, Dr. and Mrs. Barber, and Bro. and Mrs. Tyler Gillit, that the **Cazadores Mexican Restaurant** was one of our favorites. In fact, we ate there twice. Bro. Gillit had to go back and have what he described as “the best pico de gallo” he had ever eaten. I think we were all in agreement!

The members of **Pensacola Baptist Temple** were so gracious, friendly, and accommodating. They prepared a nice **continental breakfast** each morning, and served us **delicious lunches** each day. (A special thanks to those who caught and prepared the fish for the Wednesday lunch.) The desserts, of course were outstanding. Out of curiosity, I had to try the “**persimmon pie**.” It was delicious and believe me when I tell you it was much better than the “green persimmon” my brother gave me as a child, which was quite an experience!

Special trips were planned by **Pensacola Baptist Temple**. The ladies were taken shopping on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday, trips were planned to the **Naval Aviation Museum** or **Fort Barrancas National Park**.

Special music was provided by members of **Pensacola Baptist Temple and their choir**, **Bro. and Mrs. Kenneth Ralph and his family**, **Mrs. Tori Gillit**, **Dr. Charles Wetherbee**, **Bro. and Mrs. Arthur Lockard**, and the **David Webb family**.

The preaching in the morning and evening services, was outstanding! Tuesday night, our speakers were **Dr. Dale Adkins**, Director Of Student Care, Pensacola Baptist College and longtime friend of the IBFI, and **Dr. Charles Wetherbee**, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Weatherford, Texas. Wednesday evening, the speakers were **Missionary True Hawkins**, missionary to Brazil, and **Dr. Raymond Barber**, Pastor Emeritus of Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and Chancellor of Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. We heard from men of God preaching the word of God to us. The messages were **challenging, encouraging, and convicting**. I know I personally enjoyed all of the messages.

It was obvious the **Holy Spirit’s anointing** was on the speakers and the entire fellowship meeting.

Bro. John Peeples, Missions Director of the IBFI, introduced the missionaries present at the meeting. It was good to hear from them as they shared with us what God was doing in their ministries. We are very thankful for our **IBFI Missionaries** and their families. Our fellowship loves, supports, and appreciates missionaries. Without them we would not be able to carry out the “great commission”.

Dr. Jonathan Stewart, President of Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, gave a report concerning the seminary. The number of students attending is still good (last semester broke the old attendance record), and an increase in attendance for the next semester is anticipated. There is a great spirit among the students. An interesting highlight at the close of the meeting was when **Bro. Glen Anderson** called **Bro. Kenneth Ralph** (assistant pastor of Pensacola Baptist Temple), to the podium and pointed out that both of them were **graduates of Norris Bible Baptist Seminary**. How encouraging to see the product of NBBS, and how God is using these graduates in ministry! The seminary had experienced excellent growth and unity under the leadership of **Dr. Stewart**.

Bro. Glen Anderson stated in the beautiful booklet they prepared for those attending the fellowship meeting, that their prayer was *“that you will enjoy this week and return home refreshed, recharged, and ready to continue serving our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ!”* Well, I believe their prayer was answered, and that everyone who attended experienced exactly what **Pensacola Baptist Temple** had prayer for. I know I did personally. I left refreshed, recharged, and ready to do more for my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Thank you **Bro. and Mrs. Glen Anderson**, **Bro. and Mrs. Kenneth Ralph**, and the fine people of **Pensacola Baptist Temple** for your excellent job in hosting the 36th Fall Meeting of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International.

PENSACOLA BAPTIST TEMPLE SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY!

Jonathan J. Stewart, NBBS President



The Pensacola Baptist Temple in Pensacola, Florida, is a historic church. In 2020, they will be celebrating their 85th year. NBBS alumnus, Glen Anderson, has been their pastor for 19 years. They have done so much for missions through the years, and this has included the NBBS in numerous significant ways.

We were looking forward to the annual fall fellowship meeting of the IBFI being hosted October 8-10, by Pensacola Baptist Temple. This anticipation was for several obvious reasons—the preaching, fellowshiping, and sharing the good news of the progress of the Seminary. Another reason though, was how well they as a church host a fellowship meeting. It is something they are no stranger too, having graciously done so, many times. They certainly lived up to their reputation this year.

From start to finish, the semi-annual meeting of the IBFI was blessed with the Lord’s presence in all aspects of the program. Sermon after sermon edified all in attendance, the music was uplifting in every way, and the hospitality of the church undergirded it all.

Alumnus Kenneth Ralph and his family are already in the flow of the Pensacola Baptist Temple’s ministry. He graduated from Norris Bible Baptist Seminary this past May, and entered the role of assistant pastor immediately afterwards. He also directs the music program. It is a great blessing to us that such a strong supporting church of NBBS would be able to benefit so directly from their investment through the years.

Michael Bridges and his wife are also among the membership of PBT. He is another 2019 graduate of NBBS, and has returned to his home church to further train for the ministry. He is teaching a college age Sunday school class. PBT has another student in attendance at Norris, and yet one more likely soon to come.

Thank you Pensacola Baptist Temple for being a great blessing to so many, yet again! The pictures below, and throughout this issue of the Searchlight, are exemplary.



“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” II Corinthians 9:15



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

Isaiah 9:6-7



OUR LEGACY *Terry Riggsby, NBBS Field Representative*



Having served as an administrator and faculty member for the past 36 years, I am excited to see many students who graduated from the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary return as faculty or board members to help perpetuate our philosophy as a “preacher-training” seminary!

At this writing, the following NBBS graduates are currently serving on the board of directors or as faculty members:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Bro. John Peeples, Missions Director—1986 | Pastor Michael Wiggins—2001 |
| Pastor James Hamilton—1988 | Pastor David Grice—2002 |
| Pastor Glen Anderson—1994 | Pastor Fred Ferren—2002; 2018 |
| Pastor Mark Brown—1995 | Pastor Dale Harris, Sr—2003 |
| Pastor Heath Hogue—1997 | Pastor Frank Hefner – 2005 |
| Pastor Eric Crawford—1995 | |

“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.”

II Timothy 2:2

Just as a reminder, I am available to present the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary ministry or fill a pulpit. I can be reached at 817-648-1859.

INVESTMENTS *Kenneth Ralph, Alumni President*



There are many ways we can invest in the lives of others. This investing may be financial in nature or in the form of prayer. However, the most underrated and overlooked way we can invest in the lives of others is being there for them. Coming together biannually for fellowship meetings is an investment. I want to thank each person who made it a priority to be at the fall fellowship meeting this year. God used your investment (in the form of an encouraging message, gifts, conversation and comments), to encourage me. Just knowing there is someone else who knows the battles one faces, strengthens that one to take the next step. We really are “investing in the lives of thousands”.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nathan Howard (2017 Alumnus), and his wife Jessica are currently ministering at Sunrise Christian Academy in Wichita, Kansas. They are able to minister to students from both the United States as well as abroad, in places like Mali and China. In the near future the Howard’s plan to become missionaries to Thailand. God is also using Nathan in His local church, Berean Baptist Church, to teach the teenagers. Please take a moment to pray for Nathan and Jessica.

