

**THE WORD PREACHED MIXED WITH FAITH
IN THEM THAT HEARD IT**



*John Peeples,
IBFI Mission Director*

1. There are two important ingredients in a successful Gospel ministry, "The Word Preached" and "Faith" in the hearts of those that hear it. (Hebrews 4:2)

2. The Bible is filled with examples of both belief and unbelief. In Matthew 13:58, we see that Jesus "did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." In Mark 9:23, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

3. There is a great need to reach children in our local church ministries and in our missionary outreaches. There is no better time to hear the Gospel than before the heart is darkened by fear, distrust, doubt, and unbelief.

4. Below we have recent prayer letters from veteran missionary Melissa Houston, Missionary to the Children; and deputation missionary Breze Serugamba who is making a survey trip to Malawi, Africa as he prepares for his ministry there.

5. Please pray for them and prayerfully consider what God will have you do to help them.

**BREZE SERUGAMBA,
MISSIONARY TO MALAWI**

Calvary greetings to you in the loving name of our Lord Jesus Christ and Redeemer:

I am very happy to send this newsletter to you, and thank you for your support with prayers and finance.

Prayers request:

- Pray for the donors who committed to give monthly support to our family.
- Pray for Pastor Charles Webb and his wife travelling to Malawi with me.
- Pray for the meetings planned in Malawi.
- Pray for village outreaches.
- Pray for the souls to be saved.
- Pray to God to open doors for preaching the gospel.

We praise and thank God for all His blessings. We thank God for open Malawi door to preach the gospel. "I will always sing of my Redeemer and His wondrous love to me; on the cruel cross He suffered, from the curse to set me free. I will tell the wondrous story, how my lost estate to save. In His boundless love and mercy, He the ransom freely gave."

We thank you for all you have done for our ministries.

All For His Glory!

*Breze Serugamba,
Missionary to Malawi*



MELISSA HOUSTON – MISSIONARY TO THE CHILDREN

Dear Friends,

We have had a busy time around here lately! In the last week of October, we celebrated our International Dinner to close out our annual missions conference. For dinner, we divided up into four teams of all of the church ladies, and each decorated a space and cooked food that represented four countries. I am so happy to say that we had the BEST participation we have ever had! Our ladies really came together and worked hard. I will include pictures of all four groups. Also, Michelle made some beautiful quilts for our visiting missionaries! It was truly a labor of love!



United States



México-Tarahumara Indians



Columbia



Equatorial Guinea



Missionaries receiving quilts

In November, we began planning and preparing for the next year's church activities. We will be making some changes in our kid's Sunday programs to free up more space in the church auditorium. The new Sunday program will be a big adjustment for our teachers and children. Please pray for our new Sunday program (that the transition will go smoothly), and most of all, please pray that God will provide a new church building for us. We are quickly running out of space, which is a GOOD problem to have! In the meantime, adjustments need to be made.

Another activity we will be doing next has just been announced to our church, and we are all very excited! We will be doing a "dinner-theatre" program for Resurrection Sunday! There will be a drama in between dinner courses (with waiters in costume), and our choir (also in costume) will be singing during the drama as well. It will be a lot of work, but everyone is eager to get involved in the areas of work which include: cooking, serving, acting, singing, and making scenery. We will begin work in January. Please pray for this new endeavor for us. Our goal is to invite many people who do not know the true meaning of "Easter," which is Jesus, God come down to earth, who bore our sins on the cross, and rose again conquering death and sin three days later. Jesus is WORTHY to be magnified, and the good news of Jesus will be given. We pray for many souls to come to know the true goodness of God through Jesus. Please pray for me as I organize and direct the program.

Thank you all for your love, prayers, and support. I don't deserve any of it, but I am so grateful for it. As much as I am unworthy, Jesus is WORTHY of glory and honor. He is everything!

May God bless you all richly in Christ Jesus.

*In Christ,
Melissa Houston*



INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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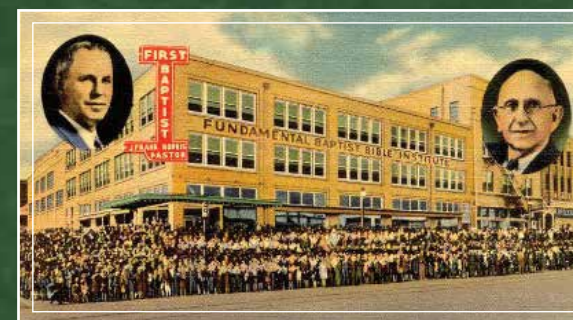
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The
Searchlight
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 VOLUME 36 ISSUE 4

Staying with a Longstanding, Tried and Proven Formula - Psalm 44:1!

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

Over 80 Years Ago, J. Frank Norris & Louis Entzminger Began the Fundamental Baptist Bible Institute of Ft. Worth, Texas, Which Later Became the Highly Effective Bible Baptist Seminary



NBBS is Still Training Preachers and Their Wives in the Same Way as the BBS of Old!

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Seize the opportunity to train for the ministry at NBBS!

NBBS
Seizing the Opportunity!
For a great door and effectual is opened unto me
1 Cor. 16:9

TO EXCEL IN BIBLE TEACHING & PREACHING

TO EXCEL IN CHURCH MINISTRY

TO EXCEL IN PRAYER

TO EXCEL IN EVANGELISM

The Searchlight

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IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Willie Weaver, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peeples, NBBS President Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Glen Anderson,

Pastor Barry Bedwell, Pastor Phillip Blackwell, Pastor Mark Brown, Pastor Eric Crawford, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Dale Harris, Sr.,

Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor Charles Pugh and Pastor Charles Wetherbee

ANOTHER MEANINGFUL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE IBFI AND THE NBBS!

Dr. Raymond W. Barber,
IBFI President Emeritus

A NOTE FROM NBBS PRESIDENT, JONATHAN STEWART

For the past 36 years, many who have remained vibrantly involved in various ways to the ongoing of the cause of Christ through the IBFI and the NBBS, have seen the undergirding of God in most every way possible. These past five years, supporters have seen how He has yet again, abundantly shown His interest in our endeavors as a fellowship! The blessings of God afresh upon the seminary – even astonishing at times, the steadfastness of IBFI missionaries and new ones that are joining their ranks, and the Lord's prospering of alumni's ministerial efforts, have been a special joy to Dr. and Mrs. Barber!

In a recent time of fellowship that my wife and I had with the Barbers, not only did we rejoice together over God's workings in our midst through the years, but of His special favor showered anew upon NBBS. Provisions, that if I were to list them afresh, even without elaboration, there would be no room for the letter below.

A letter to you as a fellowship, that I know you will find moving and very meaningful. This letter is even in addition to a very generous financial endowment also made by Dr. and Mrs. Barber to the NBBS. One of which we are in the process of getting properly set up, for the benefit of the school. A blessed situation you will also be hearing more about soon.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE IBFI, DR. WILLIE WEAVER

The letter from Dr. Barber stating that he and Mrs. Barber have included the IBFI and NBBS in their will is great news and an excellent challenge to all of us to follow their example. From the outset of the IBFI and NBBS 36 years ago, primarily led by Dr. Barber, the philosophy, as he stated in his letter, was "training preachers, planting churches, sending out missionaries, and winning souls". Including the NBBS and IBFI in their will certainly leaves no doubt that they are fully behind this philosophy to this very day. It should also be noted that they are including a very gracious endowment to be announced later. Dr. and Mrs. Barber are to be commended for what they are doing and for challenging us to do the same. This is such an encouraging decision on their part and will help assure that the NBBS and IBFI have a great future. Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Barber and may we all be challenged to do more to perpetuate our unique philosophy and the strong future of both the IBFI and NBBS. May many souls be reached for Christ because the IBFI and NBBS exist!

A VISION FOR 2020!

Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President

A BETTER VISION PHYSICALLY

The year 2020, readily brings to mind the matter of how well one sees, as in having 20/20 vision. In one way or another, many churches and preachers will be making use of this term to promote a theme for the year. The designation of 20/20 eyesight is the average quality of seeing among young adults. It is something which I discovered I did not have at the age of 15 when I went to get my driver's license and I did not pass the eye exam. My eyesight was just bad enough to require eyeglasses before I could get my driver's license. Guess what I reluctantly, but readily did. I was amazed by what I had been missing when I first put on those "corrective lenses" as I left the doctor's office and scanned the landscape around me. Clearly seeing the individual leaves in the tree across the street first caught my attention. That night, the Starry Starry Night of Van Gogh's portrayal was no longer the direction my vision was headed. Rather, the stars were clear points of light.

A person with 20/20 eyesight means that one can distinguish letters about 1/16th of an inch, at 20 feet. Even though it is the basic level of eyesight needed in everyday life, there are people who can see better than 20/20. A person with 20/15 vision can see objects at 20 feet that a person with 20/20 vision can only see at 15 feet. Generally speaking, the best eyesight a human can have is 20/10. The design of the human eye is limited to being no better than 20/8. However, some Aboriginal people in outback Australia are regularly reported to have vision that can be more than four times better than 20/20 eyesight. That would make them 20/5. This acute vision is because of the superior nature of the functioning of their retina with the part of their brain that receives the visual information.

A GREATER VISION SPIRITUALLY

For many, Lasik surgery can improve their physical eyesight, but only God, via the Scriptures, can improve one's spiritual and eternal eyesight (e.g., Psalm 19:8). Christ steadily improved the "Biblical eyesight", of the apostles (Mark 8:18). At the seminary, the faculty seeks to maintain and continue to improve their Biblical eyesight through prayerful Bible study, in sermon and lesson preparation (Psalm 119:18). They do so not just for the sake of fostering the spiritual improvement of the people to whom they minister in the churches in which they preach and teach, but also to **enhance the spiritual visual perception of the students whom they teach at NBBS.**

A CLEARER VISION MINISTERIALLY

It is very encouraging to students and faculty, as well as to the school administration when pastors and churches see the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary as a worthy investment of their time and energy through their prayers and financial support. **Accordingly, please view the pictures below of the OPENING DAY RALLY on Tuesday, January 14, at NBBS and be blessed by seeing how your investment is paying off.** Or, see it as something you want to further involve you and your people in – as another significant missions endeavor through regular monthly support coupled with your prayers. Our students are not just promising in their potential, they are active in church ministry at various levels, and as witnesses on the job and with friends and family. We regularly hear from them, and are asked to assist them in their evangelistic and discipling efforts. What a joy it is to do so.



*Keep Praying & Spreading the Word about NBBS!
"Ye also helping together by prayer for us" II Cor. 1:11*



Bro. Andrew Johnson led the singing and sang a couple of specials. Bro. Charles Pugh, as Moderator of the IBF Metro-Area Fellowship addressed the crowd; Bro. Eric Crawford, graduating seniors James Chambers, Tony Roa, and Chancellor Raymond Barber preached!



The Chapel was Full Even Along the Side Walls Not Shown in Pictures

"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

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ALUMNI

ALUMNI NEWS

Kenneth Ralph, Alumni President



John Lund, was saved at an early age at Trinity Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas. He surrendered to preach as a teenager. During his high school years, he strayed away from the Lord and His calling on his life. However, God ultimately brought him to the place of true surrender and in August of 2012, he was enrolled at Crown Southwest/Norris Seminary. In the fall of 2014, when Norris Bible Baptist Seminary returned to singularly being a seminary and no longer also a college (as it was from 2007-2014), Bro. Lund was one of the foundational students that were the early basis to the school's resurgence. Shortly after his graduation in May of 2016 from NBBS, he was brought on staff of the Sioux City Baptist Church, Sioux City, Iowa, under Pastor James Pointer. After Bro. Pointer's retirement, Bro. Lund continued on staff with Pastor Quentin Vaughn as an Assistant/Youth Pastor. Bro. Lund says, "I enjoy most all of the jobs of an assistant, preaching for Pastor Vaughn, making visits, building maintenance, and literally chasing wild turkeys out of the parking lot! It amazes me that God would use a wretch like me, but I love every minute of it!"



John Lund



David Grice

Pastor David Grice is a 2002 graduate of NBBS, and a current IBFI Board Member. Pastor Grice started Lighthouse Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, in 2003. Bro. Grice, and the Lighthouse Baptist Church family are soul winners who love missions, missionaries. They currently are supporting more than 80 works around the world with three missionary families sent directly from Lighthouse. Bro. Grice teaches Life of Christ I & II, Missions II, and a course on the Family. He also helps with other courses with his wife Angela, who teaches one of the seven courses for the women entitled Homemaking, and helps with other women's classes. The Grice's also host an annual Revival at Sea, with many pastors, missionaries, and evangelists attending each year.

I am thankful to call both of these men friends. Take a moment to pray for them, their families, and the ministries to which God has called them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IBFI National Spring Meeting

Monday – Thursday
May 18-21, 2020
Raymond W. Barber Conference Center
Fort Worth, Texas

Full details will be at the IBFI website www.ibfi.us

OUR THEME:
Seizing the Opportunity!
*Behold I set before thee an open door
Revelation 3:8*

Metroplex Area IBF

March 19, 2020
Lighthouse Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas
Host Pastor – David Grice
Contact Bro. Grice for more information, 972-264-5422

April 16, 2020
Countryside Baptist Church
Mansfield, Texas
Host Pastor – Claude Sutton
Contact Bro. Sutton for more information, 817-223-2582

HOTELS

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201 West Loop, I-820, Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-246-8777

Candlewood Suites
402 North Jim Wright Freeway
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817-246-6800

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Fort Worth, TX 76135
(480) 568-4526

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Lake Worth NW Loop 820
3541 NW Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76106
(817) 744-7755

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

Scottish Inns White Settlement
500 North Jim Wright Freeway
White Settlement, TX 76108
877-537-2062

Prayerfully,

Raymond W. Barber

Raymond W. Barber

Galatians 6:14

Pastor Emeritus Worth Baptist Church
President Emeritus Independent Baptist Fellowship International
Chancellor: Norris Bible Baptist Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas