

MISSION UPDATE



John Peeples,
IBFI Mission Director

It is exciting to see God's blessings on faithful missionary service. Darrain and Mari Coker have continued on through cultural upheavals, dangers, and COVID-19. God is blessing their ministry in Central Mexico. Pray for them, their family, and their loved ones.

**DARRAIN COKER FAMILY
MISSIONARIES IN SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, GUANAJUATO, MEXICO**

Dear Friends,

I thank the Lord for His goodness to us, as your missionaries here in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, in Central Mexico.

We continue to have Bible studies in different homes - to give some special attention to the spiritual needs in the lives of folks in the congregation.

Thank the Lord, we were able to get our new location in order with lighting and paint. This has made a big difference. In mid-March, we closed for the pandemic. We re-opened in September for in person church services.

Continue to be in prayer for the future building of the church house on the lot we purchased some months back. In addition, we have plans to restart our weekly Bible class in a small community outside of town with the children and some young teens.

My wife and I continue to share the Gospel with people here in town. One day, a young man passed by our house; and I shared a gospel tract with him and then began to share the Gospel of Christ. After a while, he accepted Christ as his Savior! His name is Aaron Perez; pray that I can share more of what God has for him from the Word of God.



We had Missionary Jose Antonio Rojas and his family visit, to give a report of the work in the country of Haiti and preach God's Word.

This past November, we had three Sundays focusing on missions. Two Mexican missionaries came to two different Sunday services. The Missionaries are going to the countries of Italy and Turkey. The third Sunday, we took our Faith Promise and the congregation promised to give \$3,110.00 pesos (\$155.50 USD) each month. That comes to \$37,320.00 pesos (\$1,866.00 USD) for one year. Here, I speak of money for the Lord's work, but also God's people reaching the lost for Christ around the world - as the Word of God teaches. At this time, we are supporting five Mexican missionaries full-time, and by God's grace we will support more for this New Year!

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the spiritual growth of Mision Bautista Monte Sinai (Mount Sinai Baptist Mission).
2. Pray for the future building of a church house here in San Miguel de Allende.
3. Pray for Pastor Juan Pablo Rodriguez and the congregation in Nigromonte, for spiritual growth and for souls to accept Christ in their community.
4. Pray for the lost souls here in San Miguel de Allende to know Christ and for them to be discipled.
5. Pray for our spiritual and physical strength.

Thank you all for your prayers and financial support to win souls, and for the new church planting work here in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico!



Your Missionaries,
Darrain, Mari, and Damaris

"...all of us who believe in the name of Christ shall together hold to the Rock, the eternal Rock of Ages ..."

- Dr. J. Frank Norris

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

724 N. Jim Wright Freeway
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NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

Since 1984, Building Preachers on the Firm Foundation of the Bible, and Continuing Thereon with it, from the Ground Up!

By way of analogy, the classes in Bible school should not be like visits to a lumber yard to look "here and there" at various items used in building a house. Rather, the courses taught should be more like an actual construction project—done in such a fashion and sequence that when finished, a firmly structured true belief-system is in place, and put into daily practice.

Jude 1:20

II Timothy 2:15

I Corinthians 3:10-11

Hebrews 3:4-6

Ephesians 3:19-22

Isaiah 28:16

Teaching All 66 Books of the Bible in the Order in which they are Found in the Bible

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

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- Brazil
- Dominican Republic
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Malawi
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- USA

Help us expand to reach around the world!
Visit us on the web: www.ibfi.us email: missionoffice@ibfi.us



"There is a place for you at NBBS! Spring semester starts January 12th."

CHRIST IS THE ANSWER
JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOR EVER

NBBS
A School of Specialization Since 1984

NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY
Declaring Christ to the World by Training Preachers

The Searchlight

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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

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PRAYER: POWER, PROMINENCE, AND PRODUCTIVITY



Dr. Raymond W. Barber,
IBFI President Emeritus

(Series of Articles on Prayer)
NUMBER TWO

PRAYER: “BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF THE PRAYER OF AN HONORABLE MAN”
I CHRONICLES 4:9,10

“And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren . . . And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.”

- Jesus said” “Man ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1).
- Paul wrote: “Pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17).
- James penned: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

It is remarkable the great importance God places on PRAYER in the life of the believer. Someone asked a Baptist preacher: “Do Baptists have a Prayer Book?” The preached answered, “Yes, the Bible.” God’s book is a book filled with prayers—some 650 of them!

If God didn’t answer your prayer when you thought He should have, maybe He delayed His answer in order to increase your capacity to receive the answer.

In I Chronicles 4, we find a long list of names (171 of them). God gives a commentary on only one of them: **Jabez**. Verse 9 says that Jabez was “more honorable than his brethren.” Why? Because of his *singing, preaching, or witnessing*? NO! NO! NO! It was because of his **praying!**

LET’S ANALYZE HIS PRAYER.

FIRST: Consider the **character** of his prayer:

1. It was an humble prayer. Her did not try to impress God of his worthiness or righteousness: He simply prayed—called upon God.
2. It was a sincere prayer, nothing frivolous or flighty. He truly meant business with God. Someone said, “If you don’t mean it, don’t pray it.”
3. It was an *earnest* prayer. Jabez put his heart and soul into his prayer. “*He labored fervently in prayer*” (Colossians 4:12).

SECOND: Consider the **context** of his prayer:

1. He prayed for God’s *provision*.
2. He prayed for God’s *presence*.
3. He prayed for God’s *protection*. (Read verse 10 again)

THIRD: Consider the **consequences** of his prayer:

Verse 10 says, “*God granted him that which he requested.*”

Jeremiah quoted God as saying: “*Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.*” Go ahead and ask God for something big:

Remember, He is a big God.

*The poet wrote:
“Thou art coming to a king,
Large petitions with thee bring:
For His grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much.”*

REMEMBER: The **power house** is always there, so push the button labeled **prayer!**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dr. Willie Weaver,
IBFI President

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Happy New Year! It is for sure that 2020, was an unusual year for all of us. I am convinced, from Scripture, that we will not through the tribulation, but this pandemic COVID-19, as bad as it is, is nothing compared to the horrible judgements that will take place on earth during the Great Tribulation. I am counting on the pretribulation rapture.

What are some things we need to consider as we enter into the new year of 2021?

1. Christ may come this year. Long for and anticipate His return.

“*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*”. (Titus 2:13)

2. Take inventory of last year.

- a. What were my failures and my successes.
- b. How could I have done better?
 - More time in the Word
 - More time in prayer
 - More consistent and bold in our witnessing
 - Stewarding our time better
 - Setting new goals

- Plan your calendar for the new year (as a minimum). Two years would be much better, saving many problems and much confusion.

The challenges of our nation, and a new President, and the new progressive (socialist leaning) government officials, whatever their decisions, should not deter us from taking a bold and firm stand for Biblical truth. Peter and John were told to quit preaching Christ in Acts 4:17-20 and they said “*...whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*”

Bible believing pastors, churches and all true disciples may face some unusual challenges in the future. We, like Jeremiah, must be faithful to declare the truth, no matter what the results may be. What will happen in 2021? Only God knows, but we know if we keep ours eyes focused on Him we will have peace. “*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*” (Colossians 3:15)

We are anticipating a great new year for the IBFI, Norris Bible Baptist Seminary and the Missions Agency. God is Able! I pray you will have a great 2021.

YOUR FIRST YEAR AT THE NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY!



Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President

There is nothing like that first semester in Bible college, even the whole first year, especially at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary! It may be

“location, location, location” in real estate, and there are some impressive settings for Bible schools, but when training for the ministry, it is “**foundation, foundation, foundation.**” **Once concrete is poured and is hardened, it is set; so it is with the educational foundation to one’s ministry, if inadequate, it will be limited in strength.** *It can certainly be bolstered, but the student’s first impressions and capacity for perceiving the significance of the truths in the rest of the Bible will have been somewhat limited. Genesis really is the God-ordained undergirding of the Bible, as is getting a quality big picture of the whole Book from the start.*



Our first year classes are much like the early stages of building a house. Beginning with **Genesis**, we stay with the first eleven chapters for half of the semester, because they

are bedrock to the Bible. Then it is on to the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 12-50)! One also gets the “floor plan of the Bible” in **Old Testament Bible Survey** – a subject, which if properly taught, is very fundamental to getting the big picture of the Word of God, and experiencing what we call, “Unfolding Drama of Deity Made Known.”

In a course unique to NBBS, called Biblical Structure, one learns the “building materials” God used to build His “temple of truth.” Key words, persons, roles, places, events, objects, covenants, and truths, are identified and why they are so essential to getting a grasp on the Bible from beginning to end.

In Bible Doctrine Overview, the students learn of the five ways to study doctrine, and then they proceed to being taught an overview of the 14 major doctrines of the Bible. Following this, the class settles into a study of Theology Proper – the attributes of God (distinctions of God’s nature), the primary names of God, and His decrees.

The course **Life Skills**, also taught the first semester, is a very practical course wherein students learn about quality daily devotional time, time management, personal finances, principles for developing character, and much more!



The **English Grammar I & II** courses, incorporate elements to its curriculum that prepares students for the ministry in other ways.

The next semester, it is more of the same type of foundational courses. There is the study of **Exodus through Deuteronomy**, the study of the **Doctrine of the Bible** and why we hold to the King James Version of the Bible being the Word of God in the English language. **World History Overview**, a study of history from a Biblical perspective, is part of the mix of courses, and is very eye-opening. A course on **Personal Evangelism** not only gets one further grounded in the Gospel for their own benefit, but it also better equips and inspires one to present the Gospel more frequently and effectively. Finally, there is **New Testament Survey**, which completes the floor plan to the Bible.



After that first year of courses, **one will be uniquely readied** for the study of the rest of the books of the Bible, specific doctrines, church ministry, and living the Christian life!

In review, we are a school that **does not get the “cart before the horse”;** nor do we “pogo stick” through the Bible, hopping “**here, there and everywhere!**” In other words, we first study all the Old Testament books, then all the books of the New Testament – we do so in the order in which they are found in the Bible! **We actually study them twice, first by way of survey, and then, by way of exposition.** ‘



Four years of Bible saturation, doctrinal immersion, and practical instruction, truly characterize the 48 courses of the bachelor’s degree program at NBBS.

There are seven courses especially for the preacher’s wife, which are part of the degree program for women (Great Women of the Bible, Great Women of Church History, Christian Womanhood, The Preacher’s Wife, Homemaking, Teaching Children I, Teaching Children II).



Lastly, we **have chapel daily** (64 a semester!) wherein students get to preach at least twice a semester, as well as getting to hear many guest preachers.

See you in the fall!

II Timothy 2:2

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI NEWS

Kenneth Ralph, Alumni President



John graduated from Norris Bible Baptist Seminary in 1985. After graduation, John began church planting ministry in Grenada, West Indies. He married Kimberly Trenton in 1986, and together, the O’Malley’s planted two churches and several other ministries.



John O'Malley

John pastored in Alabama for five years, and in 1993, the Lord called him to serve with World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions located in Kings Mountain, North Carolina. John became the president of WWNTBM in 2020, while Kim serves as the mission’s Office Manager.

John’s ministry is to evangelize the lost, equip and encourage missionaries, assist churches in attaining their mission goals, and write to help believers in their walk with the Lord.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP!

We are Starting the Alumni Scholarship Once Again at this Year’s Annual IBFI May Meeting

If you will not be able to attend the Alumni Luncheon on Wednesday, you may send your contribution ahead of time, or give it to IBFI secretary while you are there during the week. Depending upon the amount raised, we will determine how it will be disbursed, and to whom during, the Luncheon.

Call Bro. Ralph for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IBFI National Spring Meeting
Monday – Thursday
May 17-20, 2021
Raymond W. Barber Conference Center
Fort Worth, Texas

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

Metroplex Area IBF

In view of the COVID-19 situation, the monthly meetings have not been held, but are scheduled to start soon.