



**THE LORD IS GOOD! WE ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE TWO RECENTLY APPROVED IBFI MISSIONARIES.**

*John Peebles,  
IBFI Mission Director, Psalm 16:11*



**TYLER YATES – CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARY TO YUCATAN, MEXICO  
2021 GRADUATE OF THE NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY  
SON OF EARL AND YOLANDA YATES, MISSIONARIES TO MEXICO**

Pastor Javier Garza of Iglesia Bautista Nuevos Horizontes in Fort Worth, Texas, writes, "It is with great pleasure that I recommend Brother Tyler Yates to you. He is a hard worker; he loves the Lord and loves the lost. I have no doubt in his calling. Our church, our family, and myself are proud of the work the Lord has done through him and look forward to supporting him as his sending church and look forward to seeing how God will continue to use him for His glory!"



**CHAD FITTS - CHURCH PLANTER AND 2016  
GRADUATE OF THE NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY**

Pastor Cody Samford of Victory Baptist Church in Kerrville, Texas, writes, "I would like to recommend Bro. Chad Fitts and his family. I have personally known Chad for over 16 years, and he is a man of faith and character. The church unanimously voted to send our brother, Chad Fitts, and his family as a church plant out of the Victory Baptist Church in Kerrville, Texas, to Northlake, Texas, under the name of Arise Baptist Church. We will be working with Bro. Fitts very closely as his sending church to help navigate and facilitate any needs that the new church might have. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to work together with the IBFI to see the Lord do great and mighty things through new church plants in the metroplex area! Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions. May the Lord continue to do great and mighty things through called men and women!"

**WE HAD A GREAT MISSIONARY SEMINAR**

Twenty-four were present for our annual IBFI Missionary Seminar. Valuable wisdom was imparted during our sessions. There was also great fellowship and delicious food. We were encouraged by our time together are now better prepared to serve our Lord.



*A Faithful Servant of the Lord has been a special blessing to our Missionaries. Please see the obituary below of Rev. Arthur Houk*

**ARTHUR BARNES HOUK  
JULY 24, 1929 – FEBRUARY 6, 2022**



The world first laid eyes on Arthur Barnes Houk on July 24, 1929. Born in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, he grew to adulthood there. In the summer of 1946 as a Merchant Marine seaman, he signed on with the crew of the Villanova Victory to deliver cattle to Greece for Hefer International. Because of the danger of mines in the Mediterranean Sea left from World War II, he was considered a veteran of the war. After graduating from Doylestown High School in 1947, he enrolled in the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (now Biola University) at the behest of his cousin Chuck. Bible was not his real interest; it was the allure of Southern California. However, shortly after becoming a student he put his faith in Jesus Christ for his eternal salvation. Several years later he graduated with a Bachelors degree and a new wife. On December 22, 1950 Arthur married Shirley Chambers, a Biola graduate from Ohio. They were a couple until she passed away November, 2016. After graduation in 1952

he became the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Clarkston, Washington. For more than six decades he pastored churches from Southern California to Alaska and from Miami to New York City, and points in between.

After serving for almost fifteen years as the pastor of Arden Faith Baptist Church in Colville, he retired at the age of 91, and moved to Brooklyn to live with one of his daughters. In addition to his regular church ministries, he preached in the Stevens County jail several times a week, gave a five-minute Gospel message Monday through Saturday on Radio Station WCZL, and sent frequent letters-to-the-editor of local newspapers.

Arthur is survived by his five children: Ruth Christopher (Stephen), Brooklyn, NY; David Houk (Cathy), Tempe, AZ; Deborah Clary (Glenn), Lynchburg, VA; Daniel Houk, Palos Verdes Estates, CA, and Jonathan Houk (Christine), Marietta, GA. In addition, he has twelve grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Arthur loved the Lord and left generous gifts to many Missionaries including IBFI Missionaries. His ministry to our Lord Jesus Christ continues today through these missionaries and the many lives of those he impacted with the Gospel.

**INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**

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Fort Worth, Texas 76108

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**INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**

*The*  
**Searchlight**  
JUNE/JULY 2022 VOLUME 39 ISSUE 1

**The 38th Annual May Fellowship Meeting was  
One for the Records, and Abounding in Blessings!**

*"thy blessing is upon thy people." Psalm 3:8*



Bro. Eric Crawford, IBFI President



Dr. Raymond Barber,  
IBFI President Emeritus




Dr. Kevin Folger,  
Cleveland Baptist Church, Cleveland OH

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

**Individual Church Sent Missionaries  
– Supported by Many Churches in:**

- North America
- Central America
- South America
- Africa

For Specific Nations See  
Website: [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us)  
Email: [missionoffice@ibfi.us](mailto:missionoffice@ibfi.us)



**Preliminary Rendering of NBBS New Facility**



Facility Would Also House  
Needed IBFI & Mission Offices



**NBBS Opening Day Rally - Tuesday, August 9, 2022 - First Day of the New School Year!**

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRESIDENT | NEWS & EVENTS | SCHOOL, MISSIONS & ALUMNI NEWS





**IN MEMORIAM**  
**DR. DONALD E. SHIPMAN**  
 SEPTEMBER 15, 1936–APRIL 12, 2022



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

Dr. Shipman, a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, went home to be with the Lord quietly and peacefully on Saturday afternoon, April 2, 2022, in Dallas, Texas, after an extended illness. Orphaned at the age of nine, Don was raised by his older brother, Ralph, and sister-in-law, Irene. At age fourteen, Don heard the Gospel of Christ, and accepted Him as his personal Lord and Savior. At seventeen years old, he surrendered his life to the Lord and the Gospel ministry. Soon after, he moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he enrolled in the Bible Baptist Seminary. While ministering in music at Central Baptist Church in Bowie, Texas, he saw a pretty young lady at the piano. He leaned over to a friend, and said, "I'm going to marry that girl." A little over a year later, Don and Elvena were married. **Together, they ministered in churches all over America for sixty-two years.** Don's ministry spanned over a period of almost seventy years.



Don was on the frontline of the organization of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International and the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. He served on several boards through the following years. He and his family were faithful in all phases of the fellowship's ministries. The Lord used him and his family in preaching and in the music. Who could forget "Ship Ahoy" as only Don Shipman could sing it? His faithfulness to Christ and his dedication to the ministry, will continue to impact people long after his death. To God be the glory!

**IMPRESSIONS: SPRING MEETING OF THE IBFI AND 2022 GRADUATION OF THE NBBS**

For most of my adult life, I have been attending and/or leading fellowship meetings. Some rated fair, some acceptable, and some rated excellent. The 2022 Spring Meeting of the IBFI certainly rated excellent!

The fellowship was sweet, Spirit-led, sincere, and genuine. The music was uplifting, Christ-honoring, and inspirational. The preaching was excellent, Spirit-ordained, and biblically inspiring.

The offering goal of \$60,000.00. was not only met, but it was surpassed by a little over \$20,000.00. That is just like God: "He gives, and gives, and keeps on giving!"

The nine graduates of the NBBS walked proudly across the stage to receive their degrees at the hand of President Stewart, whose commencement message was par-excellent. As long as our seminary produces students of the caliber of the ones who completed their work, God will be pleased. As long as we operate by the Norris-Entzminger philosophy: "Teaching the whole English Bible from Genesis through Revelation". (in the order in which the books appear), we can continue to impact the Baptist world. Let's go forward under the banner of the Cross. Keep looking up—Jesus is coming soon!

**A GREAT MAY FELLOWSHIP MEETING!**



*Eric Crawford, IBFI President*

The 2022 IBFI May Fellowship was, in my estimation, **one of the best May fellowship meetings I have attended**, and I have been attending them since the spring of 1992. The preaching was great, the spirit was encouraging, and the fellowship was sweet. Bro. Kevin Folger did a fantastic job Monday night and Tuesday morning. It was so encouraging to witness nine graduates walk the platform on Tuesday evening for the graduation ceremonies.

The offering for the IBFI May Fellowship on Wednesday morning went great. **Our goal was \$60,000.00, and within 15 minutes we raised over \$70,000.00!** Since then, more offerings have been given and, with the promise of offerings to come, the total will exceed \$80,000.00. Praise the Lord!

The combined Wednesday night service was held at Victory Baptist Church, in Weatherford, Texas. People overflowed into the balcony from the floor level. There was great congregational singing and uplifting special music, as well as two impactful sermons from Bro. Larry McKinney (missionary to the North American Indians), and Bro. Tyler Gillit, pastor of Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, preached in the place of Dr. Raymond Barber, who was unable to attend.



**The selling and purchasing of property and land continues to move forward.** Though sometimes it moves slower than I had hoped for, it is all in God's timing. We do now have a contract on the selling of our properties and buildings. We also have a contract on the purchase of a little over 8 acres, not more than 10 minutes from our current location. The two contracts are in the "Due Diligence Period" which affords us the opportunity to test and examine the possibility of building our new facility. If we find that the property is going to require more preparation work than we can afford, we can back out of the contract with no money loss and look at selling just our vacant land and remodeling and expanding the Conference Center at our current location to largely match what we would build on a new property.

The Norris Bible Baptist Seminary needs more space as we go forward, so please continue to pray for God's direction.

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**



*Jonathan J. Stewart, NBBS President*

The theme that was used for both the IBFI and NBBS this past year – "For Such a Time as This," is taken from Esther 4:14. **It served us well throughout the year, and during the annual May fellowship meeting.** Indeed, Queen Esther and Mordecai had their time, and as believers, we now have ours.

In various ways and in varying degrees, all the reasons we exist as a fellowship, why people serve in different capacities therein, and why we assemble as preachers, with family and friends, increasingly came to the forefront as the May meeting unfolded Monday night through Thursday noon.

From the Monday night fish fry dinner, throughout all the four days of preaching, **there was yet again a freshness in the air, and a warm spirit among the people.** The Tuesday night graduation was characterized by a **full house being greatly blessed by the lives of our nine graduates and their dedication to Christ.** The large group of missionaries sharing words about their ministry on Wednesday morning, (many of whom are NBBS alumni), had a great effect on the congregation.

In the area of the financial needs of the ongoing operation of the school and the fellowship in general, we far surpassed our \$60,000.00 goal for the May offering! Also, over \$750.00 was given at the Alumni Luncheon, for the Alumni Scholarship.

**The pictures on this page from the Tuesday night graduation, in conjunction with the other pictures throughout this issue of the Searchlight, say it all. Once again, our prayer warriors, supporting churches and individuals, are dramatically seeing the fruit of their labors.**



**ALUMNUS**

*Kenneth Ralph, Alumni President*

Psalm 115:1 "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

It is obvious that God has his hand on Norris Bible Baptist Seminary for many reasons, and if you were able to attend this year's spring meeting, it was overwhelmingly evident. From the preaching, singing and fellowship, down to the offering, **God showered us with His favor.** There is no better time to be an alumnus of NBBS - those who have graduated are continuing to enter ministries across the country. Alumni are becoming pastors, assistants, youth directors, missionaries, and church planters. We are seeing fruit from the previous 38 years of steadfast sacrifice that God's people have made to our seminary. God is good!

I want to personally thank each of you who had a part in giving toward the Alumni Scholarship Fund. All you have given will help to reduce the distraction of finances as the recipient devotes his or her time to the study of God's Word. You were truly a blessing! "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

In the next few weeks, we will be sending out a letter more officially detailing the need to remodel the last of three restrooms in the dorm. The estimated cost was around \$6,000.00 for the more drastically needed remodeling of the smaller restroom which was done last year. This remodel will surely be a little more now, due to the increased cost of materials. We appreciate Evangelist Lee Davis (Norris graduate), donating all the plumbing. If you feel led to give toward this project, you can mail an offering to the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary (724 N. Jim Wright Freeway, White Settlement, Texas, 76108) with the designation, "Restroom Remodel Project."



Those alumni who are transitioning into new ministry roles; please let me know the details so that I can feature such things in subsequent articles.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS**

July 21, 2022  
 Fort Victory Baptist Church  
 Crowley, Texas  
 Host Pastor – Bill Keisling

August 18, 2022  
 Lighthouse Baptist Church  
 Grand Prairie, Texas  
 Host Pastor – David Grice

September 15, 2022  
 Open Door Baptist Church  
 Grand Prairie, Texas  
 Host Pastor – Heath Hogue

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

Tuesday - Thursday, October 11-13, 2022  
 Faith Baptist Church  
 Canton, MI  
 Host Pastor – Barry Bedwell

November 17, 2022  
 Central Baptist Church  
 Chico, Texas  
 Host Pastor- Fred Ferren

December 8, 2022  
 Worth Baptist Church  
 Fort Worth, TX  
 Host Pastor – Tyler Gillit

**OPENING DAY RALLY FOR NORRIS BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY**

August 9, 2022  
 Student Orientation begins at 8:00 AM  
 The Opening Day Rally will start at 10:30 AM and include a charge in the form of a sermon by NBBS Chancellor, Dr. Raymond Barber at 11:00 A.M.  
 A luncheon will follow.  
 Full details will be in the August/September issue of the Searchlight and at the IBFI website  
 www.ibfi.us

