

I was greatly encouraged during my visit with Bro. Mark Haynes, the Ganado Baptist Church, and with their 2022 Mission Conference. Churches, pastors, and missionaries are working together to see ten churches planted in fifteen years. These churches have a goal to give a combined yearly total of \$250,000.00 to Faith Promise Missions. They are well on their way to reaching this goal. The Ganado Baptist Bible College had 23 students; the largest enrollment in their eleven years. Darryl James, associate pastor at Ganado Baptist Church, graduated from this college in May 2023. What a Blessing to see God Working in the Navajo Nation!



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



**MARK AND TRICIA HAYNES**  
*Missionaries to the Navajo Nation Since 1996*

**CONFERENCE COMMITMENT**

Missions Conference 2022 was nothing short of amazing! Our theme was "Here am I, Lord." Our Conference speaker was Bro. John Peebles (he did an OUTSTANDING job). Our own missionaries out of our church - the Ryan Nez family - were also with us. Ganado had given over \$44,000 to missions last year. We were excited to see what the Lord had for us this year! On the final Sunday, we encouraged folks to dress up in other countries' attire. That was fun! We took the Faith Promise commitment that morning, and when the totals were added up - the people had committed over \$80,000 to missions for the next year! "Stunned" and "thrilled" were two words that jumped out! Exciting times!



**GOODNESS OF GOD IN TRAINING LEADERS**

Ganado Baptist Bible College finished strong this last semester. We have 23 students taking classes for the spring. We had a student chapel to finish the last semester, and the men did an outstanding job of preaching. Future pastors and church planters and Sunday School workers continue to be trained, and we are honored to be a part. Mrs. Haynes has a record number of piano students this semester.



**FOLKS ARE COMING**

Do you ever wonder if the work you are doing for the Lord is making a real impact? I decided to do a little survey over Easter. I am not a "numbers guy," but the truth is that we all want to reach as many people with the Gospel as we can. I called all the churches that are somewhat affiliated with Ganado Baptist. Some we helped directly start, some are churches that join with us for special meetings, and so on. The attendance in the churches I called ranged from 14 to 106 on Easter Sunday. When the final tally was made, there were over 630 people total in the various churches hearing the Word of God preached! Some churches on the Rez are in remote areas with a small population base. We must remember that we are not alone! It is exciting to see the possibilities when the Lord works!



**JARED AND ELIZABETH BLAIR**  
*Missionaries to Norway*

We are excited to recommend our newest IBFI missionaries, Jared and Elizabeth Blair. They have been preparing for this ministry for many years. Jared graduated from Norris Bible Baptist Seminary in 2017. They are sent out of the First Baptist Church of Meadowview in Mesquite, Texas, where Jared's father Roy Blair is pastor. Please prayerfully consider supporting them and their ministry to Norway.



**INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**

PO Box 151259  
Fort Worth, Texas 76108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FT. WORTH, TX  
PERMIT # 2182

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

Individual Church Sent Missionaries Supported by Many Churches

- North America
- Central America
- South America
- Europe
- Africa

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

**NBBS - Now in Our 40th Year & STILL ON TRACK!**

I Timothy 6:20      II Timothy 2:2      II Timothy 3:14

**SINCE 1984**

"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" Matt. 28:20

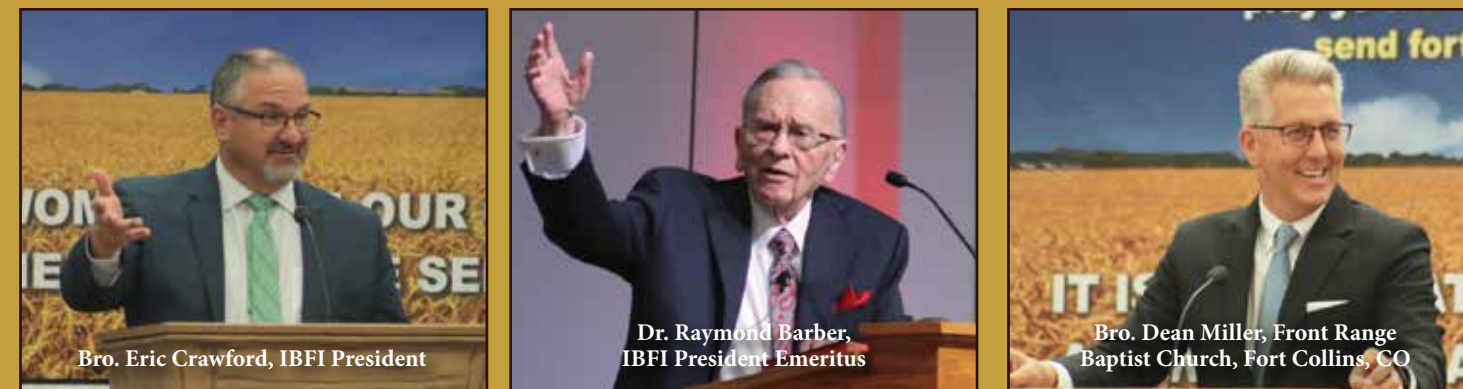
**The Searchlight**

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International  
724 N. Jim Wright Freeway | Ft. Worth, TX 76108 | Phone: 817.367.3422 | Email: [info@IBFI.us](mailto:info@IBFI.us) | Website: [www.IBFI.us](http://www.IBFI.us)  
**IBFI Board of Directors:** Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Raymond Barber, Mission Director John Peebles, Evangelist Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Raymond Castro, Pastor Chad Fitts, Pastor Matthew Gage, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor David Pugh, Pastor Kenneth Ralph, Pastor Paul Shearin, Pastor Claude Sutton, and Pastor Heath Van Zandt

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

*The*  
**Searchlight**  
JUNE/JULY 2023 VOLUME 40 ISSUE 1

**The 39th Annual May Fellowship Meeting was Another One for the Records, and We Are Now in Our 40th Year!**  
*Still on Track - Matthew 28:20 • II Timothy 2:2*



**NBBS Opening Day Rally will be Tuesday, August 8, 2023 – First Day of the New School Year**



**THE PREACHER AND HIS FAMILY**  
(STAY CLOSE TO THE “BE-HIVE”)



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

Too many Preachers have lost their family while trying to win the world. We all understand that the pastor should do all he can to reach as many souls as possible, but not at the price of losing the most precious asset to his ministry.

The following “BE’s” will be helpful in preserving any pastor’s family in these difficult times:

- 1. Be around**—If you are not around to guide, comfort, and boost your children while they are young, they probably will not be around to assist you when you are old.
- 2. Be available**—All too many preachers have time to counsel their congregation, but they are not available to communicate with their children. If you do not gain their ear now, you will lose their hearing later.
- 3. Be acquainted**—If you are a stranger to your children in their growing-up years, you will find that they will be strangers to you in your growing-old years. Get acquainted while you can. You might be surprised the kind of friendship you can build with your very own children.
- 4. Be affectionate**—Is not it strange how warm a preacher can be to outsiders, and how cold he can be to those under his roof? Preacher, warm your heart and your hands as you reach out and touch your children with sincere love and heartfelt affection.
- 5. Be agreeable**—To prevent the home from becoming a debate forum, you must display a spirit of agreeableness governed by a pleasant disposition. Your family deserves it, and you owe it to them.
- 6. Be alive**—Why is it that the preacher can be the center of attention at an assembly or gathering, and be a wall flower at home—a dead-pan with his children. Wake up, and show yourself alive to your family.
- 7. Be authoritative**—you can be authoritative without being dictatorial; you can be terse without being a tyrant, and you can exercise control without being a commandant.
- 8. Be approachable**—Many children have turned to a neighbor or friend because they discovered that their preacher-daddy is unapproachable. You can maintain dignity without being distant. Open arms send a better message than clenched fists.
- 9. Be attentive**—What seems small and insignificant to you could be big and important to your children. Acknowledge their accomplishments. Reward their achievements. Attend to their needs, and listen to their ideas.
- 10. Be awake**—Don’t sleep through their aims and ambitions. Be alert to what they say, what they do, and where they go. (Be sure you know also with whom they go.)

**LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY . . .**  
Like a mighty army moves the church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.  
(Adapted from the hymn: “Onward, Christian Soldiers”  
Written in 1834 by Sabine Baring-Gould.)

Unity, oneness, togetherness, and cooperation are just a few of the words that describe the **39th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IBFI on May 22-25**. After having been a part of every meeting since its beginning, I am in a position to say that it was one of the most productive in all of our history. Our hearts and minds are now turned to the celebration of our fortieth year beginning on August 8, with the **OPENING DAY RALLY of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary**.

**IN HIS TIMING AND FOR HIS GLORY**



*Eric Crawford,  
IBFI President*

The **2023 IBFI May Fellowship** was amazing! The spirit of the meeting was encouraging and the preaching was very impactful. Bro. Dean Miller did a fantastic job Monday night and Tuesday morning. It was so encouraging to see nine graduates on Tuesday evening for the Graduation Ceremony.

The offering for the Seminary on Wednesday morning was great. **Our goal of \$75,000.00 was surpassed within just a few minutes, and since then more offering has been given or promised.** The total offering will exceed \$95,000.00! Amen! Praise the Lord!

Our church, Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, Texas, had the privilege to host the Wednesday night service. A great group from Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and several other churches attended creating a full auditorium. Our church choir and members of Worth Baptist’s choir combined to sing “Nothing Ever Can, Nothing Ever Will.” They did an amazing job, and it made one want to jump a pew (chair). Dr. Barber preached a message on “The Word,” and Tyler Yates (missionary to Mexico) did a great job on his sermon as well.

The selling and purchasing of property and land continues to move forward. As of this moment we are hoping to close on both properties in a few weeks. Please pray for the Lord to continue to guide us through this slow process. It is all in His timing and for His glory. I want to thank Worth Baptist Church for their willingness to house the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary during the transition. What a blessing they are and have been to the school.

Thank you for your continued support, financially and prayerfully.

**A VERY PROVIDENTIAL YEAR!**  
*“by the good hand of our God upon us” Ezra 8:18*

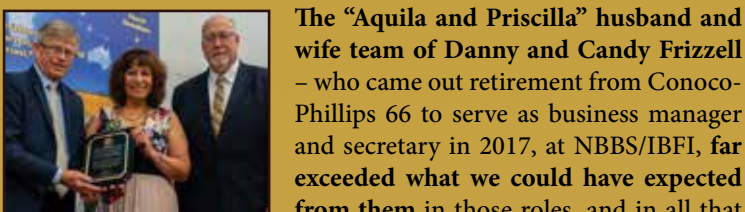


*Jonathan J. Stewart,  
NBBS President*

**OVER 250 GRADUATES!**  
We now have graduated 50 students since returning to being only a seminary with the singular emphasis of training preachers, evangelists/missionaries). This is in spite of the lingering disruptive effects of the COVID situation. These join the ranks of well over 200 other NBBI/NBBS alumni who graduated prior to 2015 – many of whom are still serving the Lord across the United States and around the world. *Congratulations to our 2023 graduates!*



**VERY TIMELY HELP AT A KEY STAGE OF OUR HISTORY**



The “Aquila and Priscilla” husband and wife team of **Danny and Candy Frizzell** – who came out retirement from Conoco-Phillips 66 to serve as business manager and secretary in 2017, at NBBS/IBFI, far exceeded what we could have expected from them in those roles, and in all that they have done to undergird the resurgence of the seminary. **There is not one area of the school’s program in which they did not make a very significant difference** before retiring “again” and moving to Oklahoma to be closer to family (especially grandkids), as this past fall semester was winding down. As shown in the pictures, we expressed our deep appreciation to them during the graduation service. They were faithful members for many years of Victory Baptist Church in Weatherford, Texas, a great blessing at the same time, to the IBFI and NBBS!

**AN AMAZING MAY OFFERING!**

We reached our \$75,000.00 goal in our bi-annual fellowship offering efforts, but additional funds continued to come in from several churches and individuals by mail afterwards, even into the middle

of June. Our total for the May fellowship offering has reached \$94,568.00! This does not include other very generous offerings that we received in June, designated just to the school.

**OUR 40TH YEAR IS UNDERWAY AND A NEW FACILITY IS IN SIGHT!**

We are now officially in our 40th year of ministry as a fellowship, mission agency, and school. **This fall, Tuesday, August 8th, we will begin our fortieth school year, and a new facility is in sight!** All throughout the school year, we have continued to take the necessary steps to either go next door and greatly expand the Conference Center to create a much enlarged setting for NBBS, or to relocate to a property nearby that will house a new 25,000 square foot facility. The new facility would also house the IBFI mission agency. We have seen God’s hand in many ways in this pursuit, even in the personnel who have thus far, played a role in the development of the school’s new facility. Several of these persons will continue their involvement in the ongoing of this endeavor. We know there will be others also, who in the same spirit, will come alongside us to help in such a way, that it will continue to evidence God’s leading. We are grateful for the many who have been praying, and it certainly makes a difference. We may be returning, for a year or so, to the facilities where it all began in 1984, the Worth Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. This will be the case if our sale for our present property goes through, and we therefore cannot stay at our present location. *By the time you read this, we should know!*

**WE SORROW NOT AS OTHERS - I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

In closing, we continue to reflect on the passing of three of the four persons during this past school year, who very practically helped to lead the way with Dr. Raymond Barber in the founding of NBBS. In November, Dr. A.F. Jernigan, the first Executive Director of NBBS, graduated to glory. He is still much in our thoughts at the school. In April, Patsy Cooper, the first secretary of IBFI/NBBS, went home to be with the Lord. She was a longstanding member of Lakeland Street Baptist Church for many years under the pastorate of Dr. Jernigan. In more recent times, she was a member of the Victory Baptist Church, in Weatherford, Texas. We especially honored her during the annual May fellowship meeting in 2015, as we focused afresh upon our early days as a school and our heritage. Dr. Terry Riggsby, also went home to be with the Lord in April. He had continued his uninterrupted involvement in NBBS through his 80th birthday this past fall, teaching yet again his Life Skills class (aka Practicum). He assisted in “most every way” he could for all these 39 years, even after stepping aside from being the NBBS Administrator in 1999. This included being a Field Representative for the seminary since 2014. He and I again jumped into the leadership of the school in the summer of 2014, and together we saw God do great things! I know he was much pleased by ongoing afresh of the seminary. We will be honoring him and his wife Peggy, with a special tribute in the upcoming issue of the Searchlight. What these three gave their lives to in their family involvements, churches, and the seminary, to name just three key areas of their lives, means now more to them, then it even did here on earth! **We will miss them, but we know we will see them again—forever! We will never say goodbye in glory!**

*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. Revelation 14:13.*



**ALUMNUS**

*Kenneth Ralph,  
Alumni President*

As reports of the Spring Fellowship Meeting flood my inbox, I find myself overwhelmed and excited by what took place, but I am also filled with anticipation over what lies ahead. Fellowship meetings are incredible opportunities to reconnect, reminisce, and forge new bonds.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of leading our alumni over the past four years. It has been an absolute honor to serve alongside dedicated individuals who share a passion for NBBS. The memories we have created, the challenges we have overcome, and the accomplishments we have achieved together have truly shaped my journey as an alumnus, and I cannot wait to see what God has in store. Witnessing the growth and success of our alumni, watching as they are installed into ministry positions, as they take on new opportunities and remain faithful to the cause, has been a joyous experience. I am sorry to have missed the moment to celebrate those achievements with each of you this past May.

I am thrilled to welcome our newly elected alumni president, **Heath Hogue, to the helm.** Heath and I have been friends for many years, and I have full confidence in his abilities to lead our alumni forward. His passion, vision, and unwavering commitment to our shared values of NBBS make him the ideal candidate to take the reins. I firmly believe that under his leadership, our alumni will flourish and reach new heights, while remaining committed to the furtherance of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary.

As we look forward to the Fall Fellowship Meeting, let us revel in the joy of shared experiences, celebrate the accomplishments of the past, and embrace the limitless potential that lies ahead through the power of God. As was taught in class, “a foot in the past, an eye on the future, and a heart for the present.” Together, we can build upon the strong foundation others have labored for, fostering an even stronger sense of unity, support, and camaraderie within our alumni community.

In conclusion, the Spring Fellowship Meeting represents a celebration of dedicated service through the years. With immense gratitude and unshakeable confidence in our new president, I eagerly anticipate future gatherings of kindred spirits, who are eager to create lasting memories and pave the way for a tightly knit journey ahead.

I hope to see you at the next IBFI Fellowship Meeting this October in Ohio.

If any alumnus has a ministry update or news they would like to share, or would like to get in touch with the current Alumni President, Pastor Heath Hogue, they can email [norrisalumni@gmail.com](mailto:norrisalumni@gmail.com).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS**

**July 20, 2023**  
Fort Victory Baptist Church  
Crowley, Texas  
Host Pastor – Bill Keisling

**August 8, 2023**  
Will be combined with Opening Day Rally at Norris Bible Baptist Seminary  
A lite breakfast will be served from 8:30am – 9:15am.

The Opening Day Rally will start at 9:30am and will include a message by NBBS Chancellor, Dr. Raymond Barber. Lunch will be provided.

**September 21, 2023**  
Antioch Baptist Church  
Rhome, Texas  
Host Pastor – Heath Van Zandt

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

**Tuesday - Thursday, October 10-12, 2023**  
Cornerstone Baptist Temple  
Dayton, Ohio  
Host Pastor – Jerry Siler

Full details will be in the August/September issue of the Searchlight and at the IBFI website [www.ibfi.us](http://www.ibfi.us)

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

**August 8, 2023**  
Student Orientation begins at 8:00am. The Opening Day Rally will begin at 9:30am. A lunch will be provided afterwards.

