

LENA PRIDAY – Oct. 15, 1942–Oct. 5, 2023 – Home with the Lord!

On the morning of October 5, 2023, Lena Sue Duncan entered the presence of Christ. She had been recently hospitalized in Siguatepeque, Honduras. Lena was about to turn 80 years old.

Lena was born to Edgar and Nora Duncan on October 15, 1942, in Redmond, Oregon. She became a follower of Christ as a child. Harold and Lena were married for 62 years. She served alongside her husband as missionaries in Honduras for 50 years. She devoted her life to serving local churches, developing children's ministries, training teachers, and teaching hundreds of children.

Lena is preceded in death by her parents, her siblings Floy, Virginia, Leroy, Carol, and her daughter-in-law Alba. She is survived by her husband Harold, her children Leslie, David and his wife Litza, Melissa, Nathan and Eliza; and her grandchildren Zadick, Halbert, Edgar, Lenis, Asael, Adriana, Noemi; and great-grandchildren Aly, Samantha and Judah; and, her siblings Glen, Harold, Sharon and Harvey along with her nieces and nephews.

Lena loved hosting and cooking for family gatherings. She delighted in sunflowers, orchids, and roses. Lena devoted herself to a life of diligent service to her Savior from her youth and in her beloved Honduras - where she yearned to finish her race and be buried. God was pleased in answering that prayer with a long, fruitful race. Certainly, Lena was welcomed to the presence of Christ with, "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." *There will be a special feature page on Mrs. Priday in next issue.*



For many years, Daniel and Michelle Jones have faithfully served as church planting missionaries in Mexico and the Rio Grande Valley. Over the years, God has blessed and continues to bless their work in a remarkable way. Please be in prayer for them and their ministry.

John Peeples,

IBFI Mission Director, Psalm 16:11

DANIEL AND MICHELLE JONES: MISSIONARIES TO THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY AND MEXICO

Dear Praying Friends,

According to the dictionary, "crisis" means a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger. We have seen many "crises" in the ministry lately.

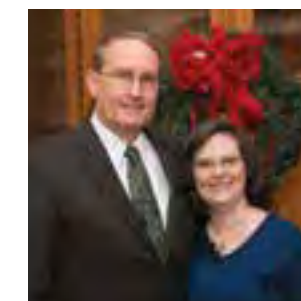
Spiritual Crises: In our ministry in McAllen, the devil has been working overtime - since we moved into our own property and saw how encouraged the people were. Since March, we have seen several people become very discouraged in the work. One couple left in March, another very active man quit serving all together. Several others are discouraged too. As we write this letter, we are preparing to go assist the Hispanic department of a supporting church for 3 weeks due to the loss of their pastor. Crises all around! Please, pray for revival!

Home Crises: Seven of our most faithful families are having problems in their homes. Some are having problems with their children, others have serious problems between husband and wife, and then there are others battling with their parents. Please pray for our families! (We know that this is part of the spiritual crisis mentioned above).

Health Crises: Amidst all the other crises, Michelle and I have had a really trying first half of the year health wise. Counting hospitalizations, seizures, and other illnesses - Michelle has been sick for over 50 days. With my surgeries and illness, I have been sick 30! We have really struggled lately. Please pray for our health!

Vacation Bible School Crises: We had our annual VBS in July with many workers getting sick! I was sick for 4 days, Michelle for 3 days, and Melissa Houston for 2 days. Several other workers also got sick! Had it not been for the group from Worth Baptist Church that came down to help us, it would have been even more chaotic!

Paul said in II Tim. 2:9, "Wherein I suffer trouble ... even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound."



Despite all our crises, the Word is not in crisis. Since our last letter, 5 were saved on visitation, the church is averaging over 90, we averaged over 100 in VBS, and raised \$500 in VBS for our Mexican missionary in Burkina Fasso, Africa. On top of all of that, the Bible Institute started classes in September!

Please pray that God will give us grace in all of these crises that we might glorify His name in all we do, and that more souls will be saved. Thank you for holding the ropes of prayer for us! We need you now more than ever!

In Him,

Daniel and Michelle Jones

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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The Searchlight

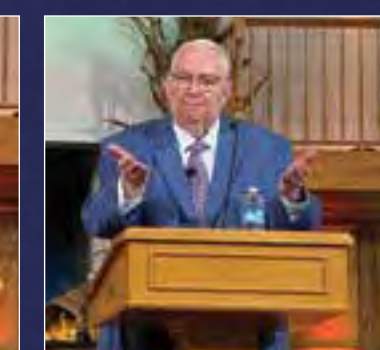
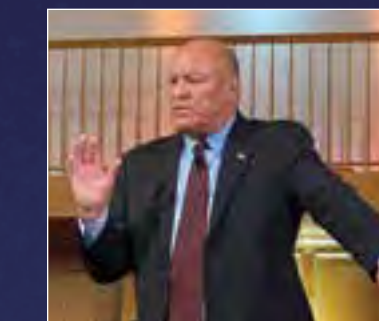
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 VOLUME 40 ISSUE 3

FALL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING RECAP CORNERSTONE BAPTIST TEMPLE, DAYTON, OHIO OCTOBER 10-12, 2023



Another Great IBFI Fellowship!

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." I John 1:3



UPCOMING EVENTS

**OPENING DAY
for NBBS Spring Semester**
January 16, 2024 – Tuesday, 9:30 AM
Worth Baptist Church
There will also be a lunch to follow.
Theme: "Still on Track"

IBFI National Spring Meeting
Monday – Thursday
May 20-23, 2024
Worth Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

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

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
Email: missionoffice@ibfi.us

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

II Timothy 2:2 II Timothy 3:14

SINCE 1984

I Timothy 6:20

**Get On Board!
School Starts
January 16**

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

The Searchlight

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THE FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

(Article Two in a Series)



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

We Independent Baptists are different, distinct, and disconnected from any ecclesiastical hierarchy. We believe in the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of the believer. We refuse to compromise our convictions or lower our standards.

We must never forget **who** we are, from **where** we came, and **what** we believe. We entertain no new revelations. If it is not in the **BOOK**, we have no part or parcel of it.

I call to the witness stand a well-known exponent of the truth, **JUDE**, who wrote the book that bears his name. He identified himself as *“the servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James”* (Vs. 1).

Jude wrote his epistle around 66 A.D., the theme of which is **“Contending for the Faith.”** Read what he wrote in verse 3: *“Beloved, when I give all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints.”*

Why did Jude think it was necessary for him to exhort his readers to *“earnestly contend for the faith (body of revealed truth) which was once (once for all) delivered unto the saints?”* It was needful because the apostasy of the professing church had already lifted its ugly head.

What do we Fundamental Baptists believe?

1. NUMBER ONE: Concerning the Scriptures:

- We believe that the whole Bible, from Genesis 1:1 to the Revelation 22:21, is the **inspired, infallible, inerrant word of the living God.**
- We further believe that the Bible is **impeccable, indestructible, incontrovertible, indisputable, and imperishable.**
- We furthermore believe that the Bible is **powerful, precious, pure, perfect, productive, pontifical, preserved, unfiltered, unaltered, and unabridged.**
- We believe that the Bible is the Book OF preaching, designed FOR preaching BY God-called preachers.

It is important for us to understand that God’s Word does not need to be re-edited, re-interpreted, or re-written; it needs to be re-read!

Interestingly enough, there are no fewer than 1500 references in the Bible that testify to its divine origin (internal evidence). A prime example is Proverbs 30:5,6:

“Every Word of God is pure; he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

To say that the Bible is pure means that it is free from impurities and imperfections. The Bible does not contradict itself. It contradicts those who read it with preconceived ideas about its inerrancy.

Sir Walter Scott, a great English poet and statesman, wrote:

*“Within this ample volume
Lies the mystery of mysteries.
Happiest they of human race,
To whom their God hath given grace
To read, to fear, to hope, to pray,
To lift the latch, to force the way.
But better had they ne’er been born,
Who read to doubt, or read to scorn.”*

(Continued in next issue)

MOVING FORWARD



*Eric Crawford,
IBFI President*

We had a great Fall meeting at Cornerstone Baptist Temple in Dayton, Ohio. Bro. Jerry Siler did a wonderful job hosting the meeting. Our goal of \$40,000 was surpassed, and there was such a great spirit throughout the meeting.

The new building is moving forward. Soil Core samples have been drilled and the beginning stages of designing the slab have begun. The layout of the building has been finalized as well as the campus master plan. It is exciting to see things move forward, however slowly, in anticipation of a new campus soon.

I am often asked about dates, when we will start moving dirt, or when the building will be complete. I have learned over the years not to set dates for buildings to start or finish. There are so many factors these days that play into building, and now with the supply chain issues it is even worse. I do think and hope that we will start moving dirt after the first of the year, and construction should take about one year. In the meantime, I just that you please pray for the new building.

The school is doing well in its temporary location as Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX.

Thank you for all your prayers, support, and all you do for Norris Bible Baptist Seminary!

Please note that in the next issue of the Searchlight there will be a special feature on missionary Lena Priday.

*“when the fulness of the time was come,
God sent forth his Son” Galatians 4:4*



OUR 79TH SEMESTER IS WRAPPING UP!



*Jonathan J. Stewart,
NBBS President*

The “wrapping up” referred to in the headline, can be taken in various ways. **In one sense**, we are thinking of the greatest gift of all, God the Son wrapped up in swaddling clothes – even further, clothed with humanity (body, soul and spirit) and coming to us, as us, for us (II Corinthians 9:15; Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 2:14-16). We wrap up the semester with a focus on the incarnation of Christ via chapel sermons, music, and decor. We then officially close out the semester with a Christmas fellowship (a night of preaching by the students, seasonal food, drawing for prizes - as in study Bibles, restaurant gift cards, prayer, etc.).

In another sense, we wind down another 17-week semester, which has again been wrapped up in the ongoing gift of God’s grace (i.e., freely given favor even unto enablement), being manifested at the seminary! The student body and faculty have received and given out the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit – who is “grace personified.” This is all because of the continual faithful praying and giving by so many churches and individuals these past few months. The seminary has received, in addition to the monthly support from churches and several of our missionaries, some special offerings from various persons and churches. The recent October semi-annual offering, exceeded our goal of \$40,000.00! (which along with the May offering, makes up the funds needed for one-third of the operating expense of the seminary). **What a blessing Pastor Jerry Siler and the Cornerstone Baptist Temple of Dayton, Ohio, were as hosts of the semi-annual fellowship**, to the many preachers in attendance by way of decorations, special music, food, friendliness, and attendance turnout each night.

In a third sense, the seminary has also enjoyed being wrapped up in the surroundings, accommodations and caretaking of Worth Baptist Church. The staff of the Church has made us feel at home. From Tuesday through Friday, we make use of up to five Sunday School classrooms, two offices, the chapel area of the Spanish ministry, and at times the Fellowship Hall.

In the new year we will see **new students** joining us in January, **several new graduates**, and our **new 26,000 sq. ft. facility taking shape before our eyes**, just 1.5 miles west on White Settlement Road from our old location, then 1.5 miles south on Chapel Creek Boulevard (hence located just one half of a mile north of I-30). **We will also see new churches** getting started or revitalized by NBBS graduates or students; and new missionaries on deputation, or headed to their foreign field of service!

Your prayers are greatly appreciated!



Bro. Gillit preaching in chapel



Classroom at WBC



Students wishing Dr. Barber Happy B-Day by phone and a texted picture



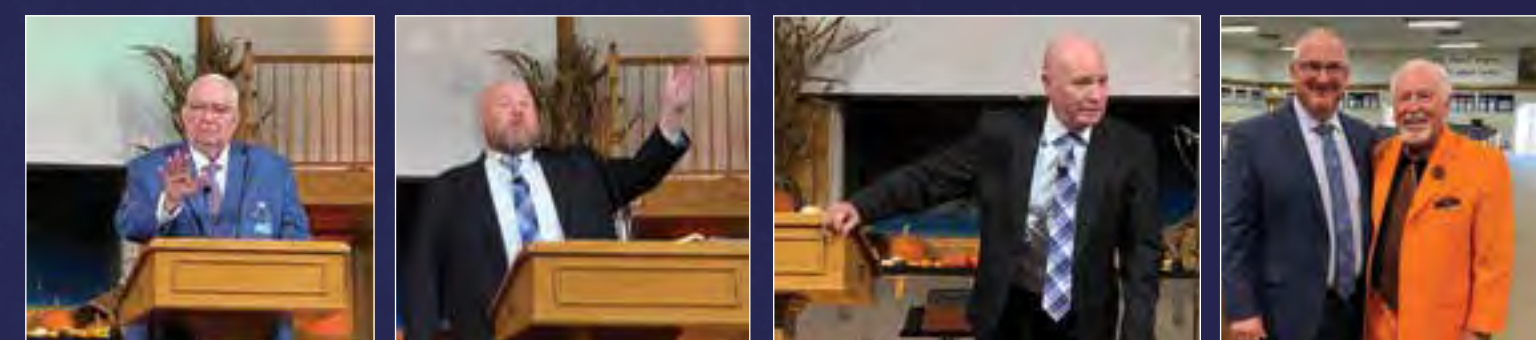
Week of Concentrated Study on the KJV with Dr. Phil Stringer



Chapel



*“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem...
there came wise men from the east” (Matthew 2:1)*



ALUMNUS

*Heath Hogue,
Alumni President*

What is fellowship? Webster defines it as “friendly association, especially with people who share one’s interests.” It is a partnership to the mutual benefit of those involved. The fall fellowship meeting was just that. A friendly association of brethren, who have the same interests, and it was certainly beneficial to all that were in attendance. It is good to have friends and relationships with people outside the church, but we need that fellowship with fellow Christians and fellow pastors. Just as iron sharpeneth iron, the fellowship with other pastors sharpens our faith and stirs up a renewed energy to do the work the Lord has called us to do.

The meeting this fall was such a wonderful time of fellowship. A huge thank you to Bro. Siler and Cornerstone Baptist for hosting and making each pastor feel welcome and at home all week. It was a blessing to hear such wonderful music and powerful preaching. I was encouraged, I was edified, and I left excited. I am reminded of what the Apostle John said about declaring Christ that the church might fellowship with Him, and His fellowship was with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (I John 1:3)

The messages preached at the meeting were all encouraging and timely for today. It was great to hear from many alumni of **Norris Bible Baptist Seminary**. On Tuesday, Bro. Daniel Barker asked the question “Are you spirit filled right now?” Are you? Bro Grice reminded us that Jesus is better. Just Better! Our president Bro. Eric Crawford then took that thought a step further and preached on the powerful greatness of God. During the Wednesday evening service, missionary Jared Blair encouraged us to make sure we are building on the right foundation. Then to close out the meeting Bro. Mark Brown gave us the formula for staying on track, which was a powerful and much needed message.

I did not realize how much good the fellowship would do me I am glad that I made the decision to make the trip to Ohio. If you were unable to attend this year, then you certainly missed a blessing. You missed good fellowship. Let me encourage you to make plans to attend the fall meeting in 2024. Start today, right now as a matter of fact, to mark **October 15th-17th, 2024, and then make it a priority to attend the fellowship hosted by Walker Springs Road Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama, pastored by alumni Bro. David Webb.** You will not be disappointed.

To all the alumni, if you have anything going on, or a special event at your church at the very least, I would like to pray with you about it and would love to hear about it. You can email norrisalumni@gmail.com.

SEMI-ANNUAL IBFI FELLOWSHIP MEETING Cornerstone Baptist Temple, Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 9-12, 2023

