



MISSIONS NEWS

Bro. John Peebles

Psalm 16:11

We had a great October meeting in Jackson, Alabama, hosted by Dr. David Webb and the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church. The general assembly of the IBFI voted unanimously to recommend **Derek Bray** as our newest church planting missionary. Derek is sent out of the Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, pastored by Tyler Gillit. He is working with Brother Zack Doty and the Antioch Baptist Church Planters. Derek is a 2024 graduate of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. *Please pray for Derek and his ministry and prayerfully consider him for financial support.*



HEATH AND CARYSSA VAN ZANDT CHURCH PLANTERS IN RHOME, TX

Dear Pastor & Friends,

Since our last update there have been seasons of trials, but thank God we have experienced many triumphs as a family and church. I am reminded of what Peter states in 1 Peter 4:12-13 "(12) Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (13) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." Peter is writing about suffering, to a group of sufferers, about the One who suffered. I am reminded that it is **because of his suffering that we can be joyful and triumphant!**

As many of you remember we had a rather wet spring into early summer. Throughout the course of those months our building flooded several times. There were several times we had to vacuum out water and put fans on the drywall to prevent molding. Unfortunately, the last flood caused severe damage to several things in our church office, storage rooms, and even some classrooms. There was even a time where we had to hold services in our foyer. Although, this was a setback, it allowed our church family to grow stronger.

Our church suffered a great loss by losing our longest standing member of ABC. Sue Hulkenberg went home to be the Lord, and I preached my first funeral. Although, this was a time of mourning, we rejoice knowing where she is and that we will see her again! Please pray for her husband of 45 years, John, who is a faithful member and trustee.

I have seen in my short tenure of ministry, and Scripture supports, that **often great triumphs follows seasons of tragedy or trials!** Greatest of all, we have seen a couple of people trust Christ as their



Savior! We have seen several join the church, a couple of individuals have been baptized, and we have had several members complete our discipleship course. Lastly, God blessed us with our largest attendance on record for Antioch Baptist Church! On August 11th we had our Back to School Sunday, and we had 110 people in attendance with over 50 of those being children! Through this single event we have had several return, several interested in membership, and an increased excitement about the future of ABC! To God be the glory!

Building Maintenance

Would you pray with us about our parking lot? The parking lot is

one of the biggest sources of flooding for our building. Not only is it a problem for flooding, it is in major need of "repair" and restoration. Unfortunately, due to years of neglect, nearly the entire area is in need of care, and we are seeking the most cost effective solution. Through extensive research and speaking to several contractors, I have been lead to believe that it would be better to invest in a concrete parking lot rather than an asphalt one. Repairs seem to be nearly impossible at this point. However, the cost of concrete and labor would be beyond anything we could ever afford. *Please join us in prayer about this situation as we seek wise counsel and better understanding.*



In Family News

Salem and Silas both have medical insurance now! They also have both been granted a wish through the Make-a-Wish foundation.

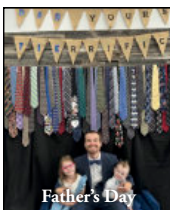
In early June, we had a major scare with Silas finding out (the hard way) that he is allergic to tree nuts. Thank the Lord we were able to get to the hospital when we did!

Salem and Silas have now been on Trikafta for 6 months, and for the most part things are going well. However, we are asking for you to please pray with us about Silas's liver levels. They are trending very high, and unfortunately his new specialist is not willing to take special notice or precaution until a certain point in which permanent damage could already exist. **Please pray** that his levels would come down and balance out on their own, and that the doctors would provide some sort of game plan to reduce his high liver levels.

Thank you once again for your continued support, investment, and concern for our ministry and family!

In Christ,

Pastor Heath Van Zandt and Family



PRAYER REQUESTS

Health
Pray for Silas's liver levels.
They are higher than normal.

1

Membership
Pray that our visitors
will become members of ABC.

2

Services
That each service will be
Christ-centered.

3

Outreach
Please pray for our Soul
Winning efforts in 2024.

4

Discipleship
Please pray for our members as
we plug them into discipleship.

5

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

PO Box 151259

Ft. Worth, TX 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

N. America
C. America
S. America
Europe
Africa



For Specific Nations: www.ibfi.us • EMAIL: missionoffice@ibfi.us

**ALL FOR
THE GLORY
OF GOD**

"For of Him, and through Him,
and to Him, are all things: to
Whom be glory for ever. Amen."
Romans 11:36

NBBS
TRAINING
PREACHERS
Since 1984

Spring Semester Starts
Tuesday, January 14

The Searchlight

A publication and ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship International

PO Box 151259 | Ft. Worth, TX 76108 | Phone: 817.367.3422 | Email: ibfi@ibfi.us | Website: ibfi.us

IBFI Board of Directors: Pastor Eric Crawford, Dr. Raymond Barber, Missions Director John Peebles, Evangelist Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Raymond Castro
Pastor Matthew Gage, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor Paul Shearin, Pastor Caleb Shipman, Pastor Claude Sutton
Pastor Heath Van Zandt, Pastor David Webb, and Pastor Michael Wiggins.

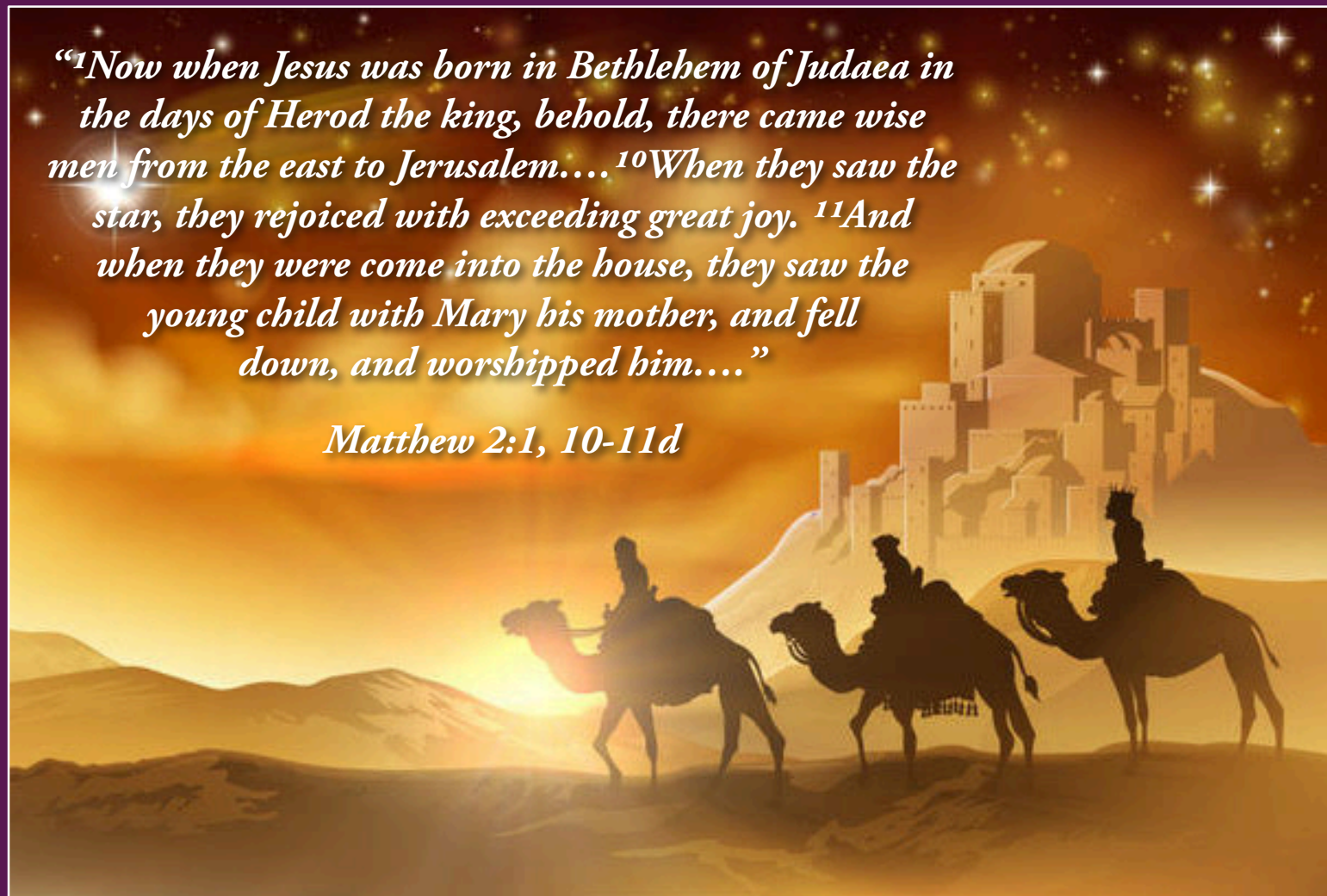
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

The
Searchlight
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024 VOLUME 41 ISSUE 3

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem....¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. ¹¹And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him...."

Matthew 2:1, 10-11d



FALL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING RECAP INSIDE

WALKER SPRINGS ROAD BAPTIST
CHURCH, JACKSON, ALABAMA

OCTOBER 14-16, 2024

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

ALUMNI NEWS



Heath Hogue

Alumni President

It is the busy time of year, as if other parts of the year have not been busy. I am glad that I took the time to attend the IBFI Fall Meeting at Walker Springs Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama.

Bro. David and Mrs. DeAnn Webb along with the folks at WSBC did such a fantastic job hosting this year. From the fabulous meals, the sweet fellowship, the magnificent, and I mean magnificent music, along with the fiery preaching, the week could not have gone any better. Thank you, Bro. and Mrs. Webb and the congregation.

It was great to hear from so many alumni of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary. Bro. Kenneth Ralph (2019) preached Tuesday morning, and Bro. Jeremy Ogdie (1999) preached a message that spoke to everyone's heart on Looking Back to Look Forward. Then on Wednesday, Vice President Bro. David Grice (2002) and President of our fellowship Bro. Eric Crawford (1995) preached in the morning service. The school was well represented by a powerful message from Dr. Jonathan Stewart on Wednesday evening, as he filled in for Dr. Raymond Barber, who unfortunately could not attend the meeting.

Mark your 2025 Calendars right now for October 13-15, for the next Fall Meeting. It is well worth your time and effort. Make it your priority in October, to come to worship and fellowship together.

Now that the fall meeting is over, our attention turns to Thanksgiving and Christmas plans with many activities at church and at home. It will be a time of **go, go, go**. Go to this dinner, go to this Christmas party, go to this place or that. We will go on visitation, we will go to work, we will go to Church, we will go Christmas shopping...**go, go, go**. Remember Matthew 11:28, Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Jesus said to take time to rest in Him, but He never said stop going! It is a busy time. Stay busy, but make time to come unto the Lord.

God bless, and I pray that each of you have a very wonderful Christmas.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Bro. David Grice

Lighthouse Baptist Church - Pastor

Psalm 34:3

Alumnus Dale Harris, 2003 Graduate and former president, just recently retired after 21 years of pastoring.

His last Sunday at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Texas,

was August 18, 2024 (12 years).

A church member stated that Bro. and Mrs. Harris were an "instant fit" at Emmanuel in 2012, and are greatly missed today. They said that he was one of the nicest people they had ever met and that he **led with love and was a very gentle pastor.**

Prior to that, Bro. Harris pastored at Grace Baptist in Midlothian, for nine years.

Bro. & Mrs. Harris recently joined Victory Baptist Church in Paris, Texas, where his son is co-pastor. They love being near family, especially their seven grandchildren. Since he does not want to quit preaching, **Bro. Harris has been doing some pulpit supply and helping churches.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January 14, 2025

Student Orientation begins at 8:00 am

The Opening Day Rally will begin at 9:30 am.
A lunch will be provided afterwards.

METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS

December 12, 2024

Rockwall Baptist Church
Pastor Tony Roa

IBFI MAY FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Monday - Wednesday

May 19-21, 2024

Worth Baptist Church

Fort Worth, TX

Host Pastor - Tyler Gillit



OUR UNCHANGING CHRIST FOR A CHANGING WORLD

(Excerpt from the book by Raymond W. Barber: *What the Bible Teaches*)

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
(Hebrews 13:8)

Dr. Raymond Barber
IBFI President Emeritus

A Changing World

The most permanent thing in all our world is change. We are living in the midst of a changing world. Sadly enough, many churches have changed and geared their program to a streamlined and worldly one in order to attract people. This is a dangerous trend. When the church wants to become like the world and resorts to that which tickles the ear, excites the flesh, and motivates nonessentials, we have reached a very dangerous hour in the history of the church.

Thank God that some churches have not changed with the times. I feel we ought to have a national and international calling back to the New Testament way of getting things done. We cannot improve on the book of Acts way of building churches. God did not write a book that was applicable only for the first century. God did not write for us a Bible that was true only a hundred, or five hundred, or a thousand, or two thousand years ago. **God gave us a Book whose principles, teachings, and precepts can be adapted to every age, every hour, every circumstance.** We do not need a change. We need to stick to the old-fashioned way of doing things!

If we change with the tide of time, where is there a stopping point? Where is there a place to say, "We go this far and no farther." It is like some saying, "I believe some parts of the Bible." Well, which parts? If we accept only parts of the Scriptures as verbally inspired, which parts are we going to accept? Therefore, I declare unto you that we should, and we do, accept the entirety of the Bible. Book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, line by line, word by word, syllable by syllable, we accept the inspiration of the Scriptures. We have reached the time when preachers ought to call their people back to the Book and back to God's way of doing things!

Divine Order

If you study carefully the first few chapters of the Book of Acts, you will discover that first of all the prayers went up. That is what we need in this hour. **We will never have the power of God until we learn to pray.** The power came down. The people went out. The prospects came in. The persecution broke out. But by then, multitudes were added to the church.

I am convinced that if we would have a great wave of persecution, it would drive us to our knees. There is no challenge anymore. The average church member takes the church for granted. I wonder if it would be good for us if a wave of persecution broke out against us. The church had its greatest period of growth when it was being

persecuted.

God help us to come back to the ancient path, to the Acts way, the Bible way, and God's way of church and Sunday school. That way is by our **going out in the power of the Holy Spirit and saturated with prayer, witnessing, sharing, inviting and enlisting others to come and hear the Word of God.** The Bible says that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

We are living in a world of changes: governmental changes, educational changes, social changes, economic changes, cultural changes, religious changes. Thanks be unto God, **Jesus Christ never changes!**

(continued next issue)



MOVING FORWARD

Eric Crawford
IBSF President

Time is marching on! The election is underway, and although it seems like our world is falling apart **we know it is not falling apart, but is falling in place.** I am glad I know my hope is in the Lord.

The Fall Fellowship meeting at Walker Springs Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama was great! The preaching, hospitality, food, and fellowship was wonderful. It was such a great meeting! **I want to thank Pastor David Webb and the church for being such tremendous hosts.**

The following is the building update: The building is progressing. The construction plans are complete and bidding out the jobs has now started. Soon contracts will be signed, and construction will commence. We are so very close to having our permits. These are exciting times!

I just want to encourage everyone who was not able to go to the fall meeting and did not give an offering to please do so if possible. I have had several pastors who have said they are going to send an offering. If everyone would give, the goal of \$40,000 could be met easily.

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner and the focus of so many people will be the celebrations, family, and food. **It is always good to remind ourselves and others to remember the reason for the season - Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was made flesh.**

Dr. A.V. Henderson preached this outline years ago, and it always comes to my mind at Christmas and Easter: Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, raised in the **Ghetto** of Nazareth, climbed Mount Olive to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, was tried at **Gabbatha**, died on **Golgotha**, was laid in the **Grave**, rose from the dead and now resides in **Glory**, and is coming again one day in all His **Glory**.

Thank you for your prayers and support for NBBS.



Jonathan J. Stewart
NBBS President

There is nothing like the Christmas Season! Because we serve a heads up, hands on, heartfelt God, surely it has to be His design that we celebrate the incarnation of God the Son at the end of the year in order that we might be **spiritually recharged for a new year.** Truly, in Bethlehem "the hopes and fears of all the years [were] met in thee [that] night!" It was indeed a holy night when "the soul felt its worth!" When "mild He laid His glory by" and "without reluctance, flesh and blood His substance, He took the form of man, revealed the hidden plan!"

The student body this semester was again characterized by students who love the study of the Word of God, under a faculty of preachers and their wives who love to teach it. **Our students are busy in their churches** – pastoring, serving on staffs, interning, working in various outreach ministries, and **witnessing on the job** as they are out in the "everyday world" – even as living Christmas ornaments – "Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that **they may adorn the doctrine of God** our Saviour in all things." Titus 2:10

Our supporting churches are amazingly faithful in their support and prayers for us as we are for them weekly in chapel. They are also characterized by special offerings being sent throughout the year.

Our graduates continue to go forward in the Lord's work. The latest one to call attention to, is **Derek Bray.** He is a 2024 May graduate of NBBS. In the recent October semi-annual meeting (wonderfully hosted at Walker Springs Road Baptist Church, Jackson, Alabama), **he was approved unanimously to go out as an IBSF recommended missionary. He will be church planting and church revitalizing as a member of the Antioch Baptist Church Planters,** headed up by alumnus and faculty member Zack Doty, who is also an IBSF stateside missionary. Derek is sent out of the Worth Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Early in the new year, Bro. Bray will be including deputation in his ministry, as **he has already started joining in with Bro. Doty "in the work."** Churches are already taking him on for support to further enable him to soon more fully launch his ministry in the new year. Both he and Bro. Doty are very worthy of your monthly investment.

MANY POSITIVES TO THIS PAST YEAR AND A VERY PROMISING NEW YEAR JUST AHEAD!

All for the Glory of God!
Romans 11:36

Most, if not all, of the foundational footwork with the city of Ft. Worth, in coordination with our engineering firm and architect, has been done for the development of our new campus and facility! The waterlines are now in place, fire hydrant and all. The grading of the property will soon begin, and what is on paper will begin to become physical reality! New students are already enrolling for the spring semester and **several potential graduates in view for May of 2025. In view of all of this, we have an especially compelling year ahead of us!** To top all of this off, as frosting on the cake (even a pan of seasonal gingerbread), Worth Baptist Church is still as gracious as ever in their temporary housing of NBBS. ***Your investment in NBBS is paying off as well as ever! Thank you!***

May you unwrap afresh the glorious gift from the Father of God the Son as you ponder anew the great passages in the Bible on the birth of Christ. Although He is no longer a babe, ministering in the midst of villages and towns of Israel, or still on the cross, had He not come the way that He did (Hebrews 2:14-16), His life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and intercession would not mean what it does!

The Wonder of Wonders Charles Wycuff

The Wonder of Wonders as she looked on His face
That this little boy spoke the worlds in their place
The stars and the moon, shining brightly on them
The earth and the sun were created by Him

The Wonder of Wonders as she heard His small cry
That this voice had thundered on Mount Sinai
The small hand she held so tenderly
Had made a dry path through the mighty Red Sea

The Wonder of Wonders as she looked down and smiled
The He was her maker as well as her child
He created the womb that had given Him birth
He was God incarnate come down to the earth

The Wonder of Wonders as the Father looked on
In eternity past this was His Son
He sent Him to die on Calvary's tree
And that is the Wonder of Wonders to me

Refrain

The Wonder of Wonders, Oh how could it be
That God became flesh and was given for me
The Almighty came down and walked among men
The Wonder of Wonders He died for my sin

