



Bro. John Peeples  
Psalm 16:11

Ted Wayne Johnson  
January 17, 1952 – December 8, 2025



Born in San Antonio, Ted was raised in Monterrey, Chihuahua, and Torreon Mexico where he learned the ministry from his parents, Missionaries Sydney and Dorothy Johnson. Ted married Karin Goza in 1974. They served as missionaries to Mexico beginning in May of 1977. Ted started churches and mission works. He worked with camps, retreats, and Bible institutes in locations across northern Mexico until suffering a stroke in his home in Torreon in February, 2007. Having known Ted since the early 1980's, one thing that was evident to me is that Ted had a calling. Ted served the Lord with a certainty that God wanted him to do His work. God chose Ted to perform several soul winning and church planting works over the many years of his ministry. In the last years, as Ted worked to recover his health, his plans were to either return to Mexico or to be fruitful where he was. Ted never quit, he never gave up.

Ted was faithful. Ted is survived by his wife, Karin; daughter, Rachel Ayala of San Antonio; son Joel and wife Karina of Chihuahua, Mexico; grandson, Yadid Ayala of San Antonio and Sister Marilyn Chavez of San Antonio. Ted was preceded in death by his parents Sydney and Dorothy Johnson and his son Steven Johnson. Ted would want you to know, "To get ready, Jesus is coming soon!"

**ZACK AND CHARISH DOTY  
ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTERS**



God is doing amazing things and allowing us to be a part of it. I have had the opportunity to plant a church in Nocona, Texas. The building required several renovations, and we were unsure how this was going to get done. One day at a time God began to work and provide the needs of this church. With the help of MANY volunteers and donations, that only God could have orchestrated, the church has been (almost) completely renovated. God allowed most of the work to be completed before our get acquainted meetings in October where we had an excellent turn out.



We had numerous churches volunteer to help us canvas Nocona and the surrounding areas. Passing out approximately 1200 John and Romans along with invitations to our services. We have started seeing locals visit, one couple join the church, and others asking how they can get plugged in and where they can be used. This is a great encouragement. In January we are going to be starting a New Members series and Lord willing a Wednesday night youth program. We have been blessed to join Central Baptist Church's Youth Group, pastor Tyler Bittner and youth associate Garrett Ringgold, for youth activities.



This has helped us facilitate the costs of activities as well as make our small youth group encouraged to be around other believers their age. We will be sharing a video of the renovations of the church on our Facebook page Antioch Baptist Church Planters. In summation this last 6 months have included renovating the church, canvassing, youth activities, two community outreach opportunities and so much more. We couldn't do this without the many who sacrificed their time/money to be a part of what God is doing in Nocona. We look forward to the new year at New Life Baptist Church, and all that God is going to continue to do! God is moving in Nocona.

New Life Baptist

Personal

To Support:  
IBFI Missions

**Prayer Requests:**

- Baptistry
- Continued Growth
- God to Send Laborers
- Financial Support
- Charish's Back
- Homeschool Expenses

P.O. Box 151259  
Fort Worth TX, 76108

**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

*The*  
**Searchlight**  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026 VOLUME 42 ISSUE 4

**A Great Opening Day Rally and Start to Our 84<sup>th</sup> Semester  
with the Ever-Developing Site of Our New Campus Before Us!**

A 26,200 sq. ft. Elevated Site Readied for the Post-Tension Concrete Slab that will Sit Upon 18 ft. Piers and will be Surrounded by 73 Parking Spaces with 50 More in an Overflow Parking Lot in the Back of the Facility. The Grounds will be Landscaped with Various Kinds of Trees and Shrubs.



500 Seat Chapel • 8 C/Rs • Theater Room (for Video Presentations as a Secondary Chapel & Classroom) • Library & Bookstore • Large Kitchen • Heritage Wall Displays • Student Gathering Area in Back of Chapel • 2 Print Rooms • 7 Offices • Several Storage Areas • Large Vestibule Area

**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](http://www.ibfi.us) • EMAIL: [missionoffice@ibfi.us](mailto:missionoffice@ibfi.us)

THE KIND OF PREACHER I WANT TO BE

The kind of preacher I want to be,  
Is one who measures time by eternity.

I want to preach without fear of favor,  
To stand for God and never waver.

I want to go and give and pray,  
And live for Jesus every day.

I want others to see Jesus, not me;  
This is the kind of preacher I want to be.

- Raymond W. Barber



Dr. Barber in the early 1950's

*A special edition memorial brochure on the life and ministry of Dr. Raymond Barber is soon forthcoming!*

**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](mailto:ibfi@ibfi.us) | Website: [ibfi.us](http://ibfi.us)

IBFI Board of Directors: Mission Director John Peeples, Evangelist Jonathan Stewart, Pastor Barry Bedwell,

Pastor Raymond Castro, Pastor Tyler Gillit, Pastor David Grice, Pastor Heath Hogue, Pastor Tony Roa,

Pastor Paul Shearin, Pastor Caleb Shipman, Pastor Jerry Siler, Pastor David Webb, and Pastor Michael Wiggins.



Excavated site photograph provided by Terracore Construction

*Join Us for the IBFI Spring Fellowship and NBBS Graduation - May 18-20, 2026!*

**Exciting News from the Officers of the IBFI, the Mission Agency & NBBS!**

We Secured Our Building Permit, Thursday Morning, February 19!

Once the excavation was permitted a few days ago (certified to be completed according to required specifications), we knew we were just a few days away from getting the “green light to go” – i.e., our building permit. The much hard work of several IBFI related personnel, some students, and Paul Shearin of the Independent Baptist Builders means that by the time you read this, we will be seeing, or on the verge of seeing forms set and concrete being poured!

**EXCERPTS FROM A BIOGRAPHY OF RAYMOND W. BARBER BY HIS WIFE OF 74 YEARS, MARY HELEN BARBER**



*The Late Dr. Raymond Barber  
IBFI President Emeritus  
August 12, 1932 - June 25, 2025*

**Dr. Barber’s Childhood**

Raymond Wesley Barber was born August 12, 1932, in Danville, Virginia, to Maggie Stone Barber and Robert Jones Barber. Raymond was the sixth child born to this union. He was only two years old when his mother died, leaving his father with the care of the children and of the church he founded and pastored until his death in 1961.

**Raymond’s mother prayed that God would call her sons into the ministry.** God answered her prayers, and two of the sons became pastors. After her death, Raymond’s father married a godly woman who gave him three more sons.

Raymond’s father pioneered independent Baptist fundamentalism in the Piedmont area of Virginia and North Carolina. The Baptist Tabernacle was a large, growing church with a bus ministry to bring in the members at a time when bus ministries were unknown to church programs. He began the first religious daily radio program in the area, which was carried throughout the region. What a powerful and godly influence Raymond’s father was on all nine of his children.

J. Frank Norris, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fort

Worth, Texas, was a frequent guest as a speaker at the Baptist Tabernacle in Danville, Virginia. Raymond tells of interesting times as a child when Norris visited in their home, as well as did many other prominent preachers of the time.

**A Student at the Bible Baptist Seminary**

After graduation from high school, Raymond enrolled in the seminary, located at 408 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth, to prepare for the ministry. The seminary was housed in the facilities of the First Baptist Church.

It was in January of 1951 that I (Mary Helen Barber) enrolled in the Bible Baptist Seminary to prepare for full time Christian service. I moved into Sweet Dormitory, the six-story structure housing seminary students just across the street from First Baptist Church. As I entered the elevator of Sweet Dormitory to ascend to the fifth floor where I was to reside, there was a slender, dark, handsome young man on the elevator. I said to a friend of mine, “Who is he?” She said, “He is Raymond Barber from Danville, Virginia. His father is a member of the board of directors of the seminary. He won’t notice any of the girls because he has a girlfriend back home.”

The first day of classes was interesting! All students assembled in John Birch hall, and we were seated alphabetically. Would you believe that I was seated right behind Raymond. **He was a very serious student and was attentive to everything that was going on.**

I was interested only in the back of his head. **I think I fell in love with him then.** As luck would have it, students began shifting their seating after a few days, and I managed to be seated right beside Raymond.

**He was the most spiritual person I had ever known. He was constantly memorizing scripture, reading his Bible, and praying.** When Raymond left home for Bible school, his father gave him a Bible. He had Raymond write in the inside cover a pledge and sign it saying that he would make the Bible the number one book of his life and read a portion of it every day. **That he has done.**

My only interest at the time was getting him to notice me, which was a monumental task. He was a city boy; I was a country girl who had been reared on a farm-ranch in New Mexico and had been living in west Texas when I came to the Bible Baptist Seminary. He was smooth and polished; I was rough and tough. He was accustomed to pretty, sweet, southern women; I was decisive, determined, opinionated, and independent. He had been reared in a pastor’s home. I had not been in church as a child and was saved when I was seventeen years old. He knew the Bible well; I hardly knew anything about it.

I worked for Dr. Norris in the school office. I was awe-struck by his prominence and personality. Soon after I began dating Raymond, Dr. Norris said to me, “When you marry that Barber boy, I am going to perform the ceremony.” I had no idea at that time that I would ever marry “that Barber boy,” so I said, “Yes, Dr. Norris. When we get married, you may marry us.” *To be continued in the next issue of the Searchlight.*



*Jonathan J. Stewart  
NBBS President*

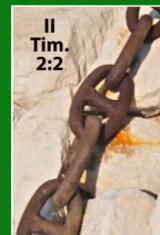
**Opening Day Rally!**

In the midst of a what was up to that point very unseasonably mild winter - warmer than usual, and with no signs of any ice or snow **yet** - we started the 2nd half of our 42nd school year with our Opening Day Rally. It went very well with not only new students in attendance, but also students who plan to start in the fall semester! One of whom just surrendered to full-time ministry the Sunday after he was here for the Rally.

Four potential graduating seniors preached, and they all did very well! Our theme for the year “Co-laborers together with God” was preached with several impactful illustrations. The four students who preached warmed the hearts of all present with their use of Scripture, content, and poise in the pulpit. There were also testimonies from alumni and current students. Bro. Charles Wetherbee, who stays busy after retiring from the pastorate preaching family, missions, or stewardship conferences, or filling the pulpit, sang “I’d Rather Have Jesus”, as well as leading the music.

**Faithful Men Fridays**

Both **Dr. Wetherbee** and **Dr. Willie Weaver**, are regular features in our chapel. Bro. Weaver teaches intermittently at the seminary in courses that lend themselves to having more than one teacher for the subject. Bro. Wetherbee teaches a course on Marriage, and the class Biblical Basis for Missions. He sometimes splits the Pastoral Ministry course or Pastoral Epistles with **Bro. Gary Cox** who is a regular teacher each semester. The three aforementioned men’s combined pastoral experience is over 150 years!



This semester we are featuring the three of them in chapel as “Faithful Men” to accentuate our school’s theme verse: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” II Timothy 2:2. We use an anchor chain prop to illustrate this verse. The **first link represents Christ**, the **next link, the apostles**, then a **link for the Timothys**, then the **fourth link for faithful men** (which speaks of so many who were with us when the school started and “stayed by the stuff” - who will be recognized by name in the new facility. If I start naming them, men like Lowell Spencer, James Pointer,

**OPENING DAY RALLY AND BEYOND!**

Jerry Siler, etc., many would be from the original 117 preachers present in the May meeting of 1984. Of course, those who have gone on before us into Heaven - several whom we have cited of late in the Searchlight and the students being the “**others also**” links. We refer to it at the seminary as “Chain Reaction Christianity.” Which, by the way, is the theme of our course on the Baptist Distinctives. All our courses have a theme and a verse attached to them.

**Between the Semesters**

Often, a lot happens over the summer and during Christmas break, between school years in the school and the lives of the students. From this past May, some students have gotten married, some have had children, and some even became part of the construction team working on our new campus. **Bryant Gonzalez** (of Vanguard General Contracting), who is married to the granddaughter of IBFI Missionary Danny Jones, headed up the excavation work.



Speaking of our near future location, the excavation work is now finished! The retaining wall, forms, piers, and roughed-in plumbing are next on the agenda. The engineered steel “bones” to the facility are due to arrive soon.

**God Continues to Greatly Provide**

We had another new supporting church come on board in January. Such support is very helpful. Some churches raised the amount of their support last year! One-third of our operating cost is covered by the monthly supporting churches and missionaries that also regularly support the seminary. Another one-third is covered by the bi-annual May and October fellowship offerings. The remaining one-third is paid for by the students by way of their registration fee and tuition. If the student is taking six classes, his cost is \$1,350.00 for tuition (\$225.00 per course) and a \$160.00 registration fee.



By the way, “Old Man Winter” did finally show up with heavy sleet, snow, and rain the week of January 23-27, but we all safely made it through.

**ALUMNI NEWS**



*Heath Hogue  
Alumni President*

**A Fresh Coat of Paint!**

Opening Day Rally reminds me of a **fresh coat of paint**. Everything is fresh, and everything is new looking. The thing about a new coat of paint is this, the walls are the same, the studs in the wall are the same, and the foundation is the same. It is not a remodel or a rebuild or rebranding.

In the forty-second year, the eighty-fourth semester of the NBBS, the foundation and structure have not changed. In a day full of change and compromise, the NBBS has kept the same vision and goal, to train preachers and pastors by preachers and pastors with the textbook of the King James Bible.

The structure and goal are not in need of a rebuild, or even a remodel. But **a new coat of paint is always fresh and exciting. It gives one a new view, a new perspective on things.**

My hope is that we all grab our paintbrushes, grab a paint can, and invest in this fresh coat of paint in 2026. The theme for the year is “Co-laborers Together with God”.

And we are working together, from the most senior pastor, to the graduates in May, and the students starting their first semester.

For many summers, I had the opportunity to work with my dad, and both of my grandfathers on the construction site, and heard many the quote. One of the quotes that stands out to me still to this day is “Many hands make light work.” We

need everyone, serving and working together to share the Gospel. The more the better! One other quote that my grandfather would say on the first day of every single project was, “All we lack is finishing.” New students, all you lack is finishing. Seniors, all you lack is finishing. Pastor, missionary, co-laborer, all you lack is finishing. Let us labor together, that we can all say as the Apostle Paul said, “I have finished my course...”

A new coat of paint is fresh and exciting, and it is a fresh and exciting new year. **Work to finish strong!**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**METROPLEX AREA IBFI MEETINGS**

May 18-20, 2026  
IBFI Spring Meeting  
Worth Baptist Church  
Fort Worth, Texas

**IBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

Monday - Wednesday  
October 12-14, 2026  
Gateway Baptist Church  
Pastor: Josh Farmer



**NBBS Class Session**