



Norris

A School of Specialization

BIBLE BAPTIST SEMINARY

A Ministry of the Independent Baptist Fellowship Int'l. of Ft. Worth, TX

Established 1984
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JUN 6 2026

II TIMOTHY 2:2

Many Good Things to Report!

May 26, 2026

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NBBS President

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Secretary/Registrar

Heath Van Zandt
Alumni President

Raymond W. Barber
(1932-2025) - IBFI
& NBBS Founder;
President, President
Emeritus; NBBS
Chancellor, Teacher

David Grice
IBFI President

Tyler Gillit
IBFI Vice-President

Heath Hogue
IBFI Secretary

John Peoples
IBFI Missions
Director

"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 1:4

**Our mailing address while we are in a temporary facility awaiting the completion of our new facility at a new location.*

Our 42nd graduating class has joined a host of faithful alumni who are busy in the Lord's work across the nation and the world!

This year's class has much potential and their deportment and words warmed the hearts of all present as they testified of the grace of God in their lives and thanked the many who made their schooling possible.



The preaching was again especially good this year, as was the music. Our guest preacher, Mike Norris (who is actually a distant relative of J. Frank Norris) brought very relevant messages, to kick things off. Everyone else who preached did the same! Andrew Johnson and his family again did a great job of heading up the music. Worth Baptist Church went out of their way to host the meeting as they have done with the seminary this school year. **We remembered Dr. Barber in the Tuesday commencement service, and honored Mrs. Barber Wednesday night. The Barbbers would have been married 75 years this May.** Enclosed you will find a special commemorative issue of the Searchlight to honor the Barbbers. We also added a new award to our graduation program, the **Terry Riggsby Service Award**—given to a graduating senior. *A much fuller recap is upcoming in the next issue of the Searchlight.*

The building program is now rolling along well! The 250 foot long retaining down the south side of the property will be poured into forms any day now! All 62 piers are poured. The plumbing is roughed in. It readily passed inspection as have all the stages this far of the building program. **Forms for the foundation are being set,** and the trenching for the post tension slab that **is about to start!** The recently completed \$500,000.00+ engineered steel framework for the building is in safe at another location, and will be erected not too long after the foundation is poured. **Sometime in July, it should be in place. Rainy weather in April and throughout May has slowed us down off and on for several weeks,** but things are still coming together in a big way! The various crews are pressing on through it.

We are still looking to reach our May offering goal of \$50,000.00. Such goals are almost always reached by additional offerings coming in after the May meeting because not every pastor of our IBFI churches is able to make it to the May meeting. *The funds in general help all areas of the IBFI's ministries: the Searchlight newsletter, communication with IBFI churches, missions program and largely, NBBS.*

We are grateful for several offerings from different sources the past few weeks that were designated to the school that have totaled over \$7,000.00. Such spontaneous offerings, and regular monthly support checks from IBSI missionaries and churches to the seminary, and the May and October special offerings, allow us to keep tuition cost for the students at the level it has been for many, many years. They also enable us to allow the wives of full-time students to take classes tuition free, and buy needed equipment, supplies, etc. **No contribution to the May offering is too small!** We hope if have not, you still will have a part in it! In so doing, you are touching the lives of countless people forever that the graduates have and will reach for Christ. You are “getting in “on a good thing!” *If you include the aforementioned recent offerings given of late directly to the seminary, to the \$32,000.00 that has come in so far, we are at \$40,000.00 in total offerings. Please keep our \$50,000.00 goal in your prayers—with or without the effect of the recent funds donated just to NBBS.*

Our student body is indeed active in the churches in which they are a member while in school. When they graduate they continue to do so, but on a much larger scale as they start churches, revitalize small struggling churches, accept assistant pastor positions or pastorates, or head to the mission field – first via deputation, then actually onto the field. Momentum is on our side afresh at NBBS – you can continue to help to keep it going by your continued prayers and support! *Please remember, we are praying for you and your ministry too!*

Gratefully Yours,
Jonathan J. Stewart
 Jonathan J. Stewart
 NBBS President

