

A Streamlined Approach

In the Scriptures, wind is used by way of analogy, to depict the dramatic effects that worldliness and false doctrine can have on a preacher not sufficiently rooted and grounded in the Bible, and of his position in Christ (Ephesians 4:14, James 1:6, Jude 12). As winds of opposition continue to increase in days ahead, **preachers, now more than ever must be streamline** (Hebrews 12:1-3) in their devotion.

The concept of something being streamline can be readily understood by all. For example, it is amazing how water droplets cling to a car going down the highway as though there is no wind resistance. The air flow over a vehicle of high tech design today, is so redirected that a flimsy insect, while in plain view of the driver, can be transported far away from its habitat while a passenger on the hood of a car!

In the late 1930s, when smooth lines and rounded corners were an aesthetic trend in car, architecture, and even furniture design, J. Frank Norris and Louis Entzminger, **took a streamline approach** to educating preachers for the ministry when they started the school that was to become the Bible Baptist Seminary. They did it though, for different reasons than being stylish, or looking good in the eyes of men. They saw the need to shed excess subjects of study that displaced more substantive and purpose-directed courses. The school they started was **singular in its objective** to train preachers, and their wives for the ministry. They taught them the whole English Bible, theology, and subjects directly related to church ministry. In other words, the part-Bible and part-liberal arts practice that was already common in their day, and had largely been their educational experience years before, was disregarded. The result? Their graduates went on to build some of the most influential ministries of the 20th century.



When the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary began in 1984, it took the same approach the old BBS did. Consequently, there is no excessive drag upon the student financially, academically, or timewise. Costs are low, because the school is debt free and does not have large maintenance concerns, and the faculty is made up of pastors who already have a primary income. All courses are in Bible, theology, church ministry, and practical Christian living. *Even the English courses are ministry-directed!* All subjects are in-depth, very focused, and **fitted solely for training preachers** and their wives. While in school, as a student serves in his church, he is further refined in the “windtunnel of experience”, while being inwardly shored up theologically and practically by his pastor, and his instructors at NBBS.

*To streamline,
is to improve
efficiency by
eliminating what
is not necessary,
or causing drag.*



More good Christian colleges *are* needed all across the nation, but there is a place for schools **specializing in the training of preachers**. Since the Bible is so singularly what a pastor is to impart to his people, according to Scriptural mandate (Acts 20:27-28; II Timothy 3:16-17, 4:1-2, etc.), he must know it well, and truly love it, to do so.

A preacher-in-training's time should not be spent in academic pursuits that are not related to him getting further grounded in the Word (Ephesians 5:16). Ahead of all other pursuits, he need not only to become dynamic in his presentation of it, **but also “aerodynamic”** in his practice of it. “Sanctify them through they truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

Important Dates

1. **NBBS Sunday** in IBFI churches is March 6. Accordingly, we are anticipating yet more of God's blessings upon the school. **Spring Break** is March 15-18. **Founder's Week with Dr. Barber** is April 26-29. Spring semester ends May 13. **Graduation is Tues., 7:00 PM, May 18.**



Classrooms are filling up again at the seminary!

2. **NBBS representatives are ready to visit your church!** Consider having Bro. Wiggins, Dr. Riggsby, or Bro. Stewart present NBBS to your people. We are always ready to share what makes the NBBS uniquely effective in the training of preachers, as well as a wise investment.
3. **Opening Day Rally and the first day of school in the fall is Tuesday, August 16.**

Favorite Sayings

"Riggsbyisms"

"Early is on time. On time is late." Dr. Terry Riggsby (NBBS Administrator 1984-1999.)

Our Heritage Speaks

"The world needs a new vision of God, the God of this universe, the God that created the heavens and the earth, the God that upholds every star by the word of His power, the God who is from everlasting to everlasting..." J. Frank Norris

Alumni News!

NBBS Alumni President and IBFI Secretary **Glen Anderson**, will be bringing the main message at the graduation ceremony, Tuesday night, May 17. He is a 1994 graduate of the NBBS and a strong supporter of the school. He is pastor of the Pensacola Baptist Temple of Pensacola, FL. His church very warmly hosted the past fall national meeting of the IBFI, in October.

A Busy and Exciting Semester

The additional six students this semester brought with them an excitement for the school even before they had started to class. Supportive pastors, the influence of current and past students, advertising materials explaining the school's approach, or the attending of some classes last semester, were used in one combination or another by the Lord to impress upon them that this was the school for them.

The seminary hosted the monthly meeting of the IBF of Metro Area Churches, January 21. It featured three of our alumni, John Peeples, our IBFI Mission Director (a 1986 graduate); **Fred Ferren**, Pastor of the Central Baptist Church of Cisco, TX (a 2002 graduate); **Frank Hefner**, Pastor of the Mountain Home Missionary Baptist Church of Jacksboro, TX (a 2005 graduate). It was well attended and the many preachers present rejoiced in the blessings of God upon the school. Funds were raised for the purchase of the rest of the laminated and framed maps of the USA and the world that were needed in order for us to the further promote church planting both stateside and abroad.

A night of fellowship for the students and their family and friends was conducted at the school early in February. It was given the moniker of **Norris Night**.

Besides Texas BBQ, there was **preaching by the student body** and challenges from faculty members. Over sixty were in attendance. For the most part, the students not present had church or job conflicts. The students' were very upbeat about it for many days afterwards. Prospective students were present.

The school leadership, faculty, and student body continue to be greatly encouraged by the **support that continues to come in monthly**, as well as in **special offerings**. Some churches sent in a **Christmas offering!** Another new church took the school on **for monthly support** beginning in February.

Bro. Mark Brown, the IBFI President, was able to raise over the phone \$3,300 of a needed \$4,800 for repairs done on main building's roof drain system (16 downspouts and 2 drain pipes). **Another church sent \$500 to help toward the \$1,900 worth of security lighting** repairs that was recently done on fixtures in the yard, some on walls, and on some of the parking lot poles.

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