

Seasoned Flight Instructors

On Wednesday afternoon, October 10, during a break in the semi-annual IBFI meeting in Dayton, Ohio, I went with several others to the National Museum of the United States Air Force. While viewing the exhibits, the following analogy became further developed in my thinking, one that comes right out of the history of our movement.

The student body of the Bible Baptist Seminary, of Ft. Worth, Texas, in the days of J. Frank Norris and Louis Entzminger, shortly after the end of World War II, included many veterans. They were men who had sensed a call to the ministry. Many of these, after graduation, went on to either pastor churches, or serve as church planting missionaries on the foreign field. Among these men were those who flew in military aircraft, in combat settings. At the least, **they were trained to fly with air warfare in view**. The more advanced their training became, the more they were taught by seasoned combat airmen.



Learning to fly civilian aircraft by civilian pilots would not have sufficiently prepared men for the experiences they were going to face as pilots, navigators, bombardiers or gunners. In view of this, it is one thing to be taught by well-versed professors who are theologians in the right sense of the word, and who indeed have their role in the cause of Christ, but **it is another to be more broadly taught by studious pastors and missionaries who have been, and are, daily in the front-line fray of spiritual warfare** in which a pastor or missionary often finds himself.

At NBBS, sitting under the instruction of a faculty made up of several preachers – men who teach courses in areas of Biblical and doctrinal subjects, as well as practical church ministry classes, along with courses on living the Christian life – means **students are being taught by seasoned instructors**, in a calling that the Apostle Paul likened unto a military context (II Timothy 2:3). There are also 64 daily chapels per semester in which there is practical and doctrinal exhortation. Furthermore, Norris students, at various levels, **get “real life” varied ministry experience in their churches**. NBBS even has 7 courses specifically for women, all of which are taught by the wives of preachers.

The Bible makes it clear in Ephesians 6:12, that ultimately we are not wrestling with flesh and blood, but we are in conflict with “principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Furthermore, as Christians in general, we war against the fallen nature within, the old man. Learning to do battle in both spheres, in the strength of the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-20; James 4:1b; I Peter 2:11), even in view of the heavenlies, is a must if one is going to “fight the good fight.”

In view of today’s far more sophisticated aircraft and aerial warfare settings, even more so the need is for men who have been in battle, and are even in the midst of it, to train those who are piloting the churches of tomorrow, come get your wings with us (Isaiah 40:31)! Some of what it means to wait upon the LORD is taking the time to get properly trained for the ministry. **Don’t limit your potential “ceiling.”**

The above analogy is also a salute out to our Veterans. Nothing so honors their investment in our nation and the world than to make great use of the freedoms they gave their time and energy for, and many their physical well-being, even lives defending – especially for us as preachers, the first amendment of the Bill of Rights.

Important Dates

Founder's Week w/Dr. Barber, March 19-22

Great News!

NBBS Representatives are ready to visit your church! Consider having Bro. 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.

Favorite Sayings

"Riggsbyisms"

"God-given responsibilities rarely if ever conflict." Cited often by Dr. Terry Riggsby (Administrator of NBBS – 1984-1999).

Our Heritage Speaks

Ten Points About the Unknown God by Paul in Acts 17:23-31: 3) He is Life, and the source of life" v. 25 *Studies in Acts*, Louis Entzminger

Alumni News!

Daniel & Tammy Coates, NBBS alumni & missionaries to Guatemala, with their oldest children, Jessica, Jillian & Joseph attended this past fall while on furlough. Parents are pursuing a bachelor's degree. Jessica stayed as her parents and siblings returned to the field.



The whole family was a great joy to have around.

70th Semester is Well Under Way!

We had a great start to the spring semester. Opening Day Rally was again in conjunction with the IBF Metro Area Preachers' Fellowship. Overflowing attendance, an exciting spirit, great hymn signing and preaching, characterized the day.

Some of the church members who were taking classes first semester who did not return, plan to be back in the fall, but we have seven new students.

We have six potential graduates for May. Five of whom are for a bachelor's degree and one for the One Year Bible Certificate. Two are NBBS graduates Who returned to get their bachelor's degree.

We are looking forward to the arrival of the Daniel Barker family from Dayton, Ohio, who are moving here in April to continue school in the fall. They have been doing an extension course through us while in transition (selling of house, welcoming a new baby to their home, and finding a house to rent).

Toward the end of last semester, **Jessica Coates was given a car by alumnus Jared Blair and his wife Elizabeth.** Elizabeth was taking courses while Jared was pursuing a master's degree from NBBS.

From December through February, the school received over **\$20,000.00** in Christmas offerings, funds given for specified projects (e.g., dorm remodeling of the second floor, new dorm refrigerator), outside ground level security light, additional funds for new A/C, and offerings in general for the seminary. Some of this came in the first day of school during the aforementioned Opening Day Rally, from individuals and the IBF Metro Area Fellowship.



Bible Doctrine V - Christology class, of this past semester.