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# TESTIMONIES

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## New Testament Association of Independent Baptist Churches

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### The NTAIBC and the FBFI

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The Fundamentalist Fellowship (FF) was organized in 1920 as a doctrinal protest group within the Northern Baptist Convention (NBC). It had no independent existence, but functioned as an organized group of pastors and individuals WITHIN the body of churches operating within the framework of the NBC. There were state branches of the Fundamentalist Fellowship, which individuals in NBC churches could join, by signing the Doctrinal Statement, (the so-called Goodchild Confession), and paying a small membership fee. When Dr. Earle Pierce was president of the FF, he appointed pastors as "Key Men" in the various states. The Fundamental Fellowship supported the startup of the CBFMS, efforts to reform the ABFMS, distributed promotional literature, and coordinated Pre-Convention strategy to use at NBC annual meetings.

In 1946, it became evident to many conservatives that efforts to reform the old NBC could not succeed and the FF of the NBC changed its name to the Conservative Baptist Fellowship. The CBA of A was started in 1947 as a fellowship of churches, according to the Preamble of the CBA Constitution and the CBF continued as an organized group of individuals WITHIN the framework of the new association, CBA of A. The dual affiliation clause allowed churches to remain in fellowship with the old NBC, which was not intended to be a permanent situation according to the CB leaders who held strong convictions on Ecclesiastical separation. In the mid 1960's, it became evident that there were strong men in the CBA/CBF who wanted to abandon the association principle of a fellowship of churches, and make the CBF, renamed the FBF, virtually a "stand alone" organized body of individuals. Printed materials pertaining to Baptist Polity and events of that time period include "Four Kinds of Baptist Church Government" by Dr. R.V. Clearwaters, "The Ten Most Important Dates for Conservative Baptist" by Dr. G. Archer Weniger, and "Why a New Association of Churches is Needed", by Dr. B. Myron Cedarholm.

The NTAIBC had its start in the minds and hearts of pastors and messengers of the CBF leaders within the CBA of A. The relationship of the CBF and the NTAIBC of the early to mid 1960's is reflected in an article in the *Central TESTIMONY*, July-August, 1966 Vol. III, Number 1, Titled "THE NEW TESTAMENT ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA (A Documented History) pages 2, 3. "We hereby declare and resolve that the time has come for those of us who still believe in the original declaration of Purpose in the Conservative Baptist Association and those of us who still stand where we stood when the Portland Manifesto was adopted by the unanimous recommendation of the four boards of our movement, namely the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, Conservative Baptist Home Mission Society, Conservative Baptist Association and Conservative Baptist Fellowship, and also unanimously passed by the constituency of each, which declared and manifested plainly that those documents did represent at this time the whole stream of the Conservative Baptist movement; and utterly reject new evangelicalism as herein described, believe the time has come for us to recommend a new national association of Bible believing Baptist churches, namely, The New Testament Association of Baptist Churches of America," ( October 21, 1964) (of America was dropped at the 1966 charter meeting in Indianapolis, IN). Many of the original NTAIBC trustees and officers were FBF members.

This year's annual meeting "New Testament Fundamental Fellowship" is a joint meeting of the NTAIBC and the FBFI. **It is not** a meeting to merge or regroup, but to meet on the common ground we share-independent, separatist Baptist, one as a local church association and the other a pastor's fellowship. Each organization has its own polity and policies of organization and administration.

**Plan to join us for this historic meeting June 13-15, Watertown, WI.** Full details of the meeting will be in the Spring TESTIMONIES or go online at [www.ntaibc.com](http://www.ntaibc.com) for more information.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Paul Kroenhert for his contribution to the historical narrative.

## Financials

### Plant for the Lord

Beginning Balance: \$11,095.35

Ending Balance: \$11,090.35

### General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$4,598.19

Ending Balance: \$4,824.84

## Chaplain Reinhardt Update

I'm still going to the Minneapolis Veterans hospital and the veterans home. Each time I am given a list of patients to visit. I make sure before I leave their room that I pray for them and I am assured they know how to be born again and washed in the blood.

I have given up the jail ministry after serving twenty five years. The jail ministry at First Baptist Church of Rosemount, MN is still going on, but without me.

## Greetings from Williston, ND

Much has happened! We had a great Help and Hope Conference in September and Mike and Sarah Miller, missionaries to Bolivia, were an encouragement to our church. The end of September we had a Men's Steak-Out with 19 men attending. Praise the Lord! We are trying to do more outreach and pray they would bear fruit. The ladies have again started to meet for a monthly Bible study. In October, we had our annual Chili Cook-off. We also celebrated our official one year anniversary as a church the first Sunday in November. We are so thankful for what the Lord has accomplished here this year. It seems like sometimes the days go so fast it's a wonder we get anything done.

We have had exciting opportunities to share the Gospel and are praying that God would keep doors open. We have also decided to do some more advertising, print fliers for specific outreach and had a billboard ad for Christmas. We have had a steady flow of visitors but follow-up is not always easy.

Work here has picked up! Most of our church men have gone from normal hours to working significant overtime. With ten drilling rigs active again and rumors that ten more rigs are going to be picked up, there will be more challenges ahead to reaching and working with people.

The Thanksgiving fellowship at our home went well and we had our first Christmas Program with several ladies from church helping with music and costumes. We all had a Ladies' and Girls' Christmas Tea and a Christmas Sing night at our house. It is a good time of year to be busy together as a church family!

It was great to have a visit from Pastor Jim and Ruth Grosse, Dillon, Montana. They are such an encouragement and we praise the Lord for them. Thanks again for your prayer and support. Be reminded that you have made a difference in lives all over this country. I recently received a call from a man in Minnesota that had come to our church during his time working out here. He said "Keep preaching the Gospel because there is not many left who do!" We are thankful for the opportunity we have had to minister.

The Pusts

**Please send any NTA giving to:**

**Pastor Scott Jones**

**10600 61st Street**

**Kenosha, WI 53142**

## Thompson Travels

We represented the NTA in two churches on November 13.

First Baptist Church of Preston, Minnesota, Pastor Stuart (Michelle) Weist had us teach the teen and adult Sunday School class and preach the Morning Service. We stayed and enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal with them.

Sunday evening we were at Calvary Baptist Church, Sparta, Wisconsin, Pastor Jeremy (Amber) Cochran. I presented a brief NTA history and purpose and preached. Pastor Cochran treated us to after service snacks and fellowship. (Editor note- Calvary Baptist is a chartered NTAIBC church)

Sunday December 4 had us doing Sunday School, Morning and an Afternoon Service at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Willmar, Minnesota, Pastor David (Suzanne) Rogers. The afternoon service followed an enjoyable Christmas dinner.

### NTA National Representative

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## Joe & Julie Matthews, Neillsville, Wisconsin

Our beginnings were similar, both born in Richland Center, Wisconsin. We grew up in church and were both saved young, although struggled with doubts about salvation for years.

We were married September, 1996 and had our first daughter, Marquita in August of 1997 and moved to Alabama so I could pursue a job as a police officer. It was there that I fully surrendered my life to the Lord. From that point, I committed myself to serve Him wherever He would lead. There was some trouble in our marriage and we had separated, but the Lord completely healed our marriage, we reconciled and committed to serve together wherever He would lead.

After the Lord began healing our marriage, I began to serve the Lord wherever He opened the door, including as a volunteer Police Chaplain and evangelizing, teaching and counseling soldiers I serve with and leading a home fellowship.

In the spring of 2015, I felt compelled to search for Independent Baptist Churches in Wisconsin that were searching for a pastor. I drafted a letter of introduction and sent it to four churches and the Interim Pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Neillsville called me. I preached for the first time on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, my official Candidate Sunday was July 31, 2016 and the church unanimously voted to call our family to pastor and we prayerfully and enthusiastically accepted.

I am still an enlisted member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, serving as a Squad Leader (Staff Sergeant). I still have several years left on my current enlistment contract. The Lord has graciously given strength and understanding where needed and the ministry is going fabulously well. I sincerely believe the Lord is leading in so many ways.

Over the course of the just over twenty years of marriage, the Lord has blessed us with seven children Marquita, Rachel, Jonathan, Nathanael, Leslie, Elizabeth, and Abigail.

We're excited to see where God leads us as a family and as a church as we seek to do His will in reaching out to the lost in Neillsville and Clark County. We do appreciate your prayers!



## Chaplain Baker

Our most recent update is that we have added a new one to the family. Jabez Adriel Baker was born on Nov. 22 and has given us quite a lot to be thankful for this year, (8lb. 8 oz, 20.5" long, and 2 weeks early).

I have been accepted as a chaplain candidate in the Wyoming Army National Guard. Pending the completion of my internship, my M.Div. will be completed, along with BOLC (Basic Officer Leadership Course) which is scheduled for February through April and I will be applying for my cross.

As a chaplain candidate I preform weekly drills under the State Chaplain and the JFHQ (Joint Forces Headquarters). Most of this time is spent studying and doing mandatory training but I have also had the opportunity to participate in some ceremonies by providing prayer and am scheduled to do the services in January before leaving for BOLC.

Prayer requests - The state chaplain is a Mormon and his assistant (an E-Free Pastor, previously a Mormon) is burdened for his salvation. We are praying for opportunity and the Spirit's preparation in this man's life. Secondly, for balance in life with family, work, chaplaincy, and the local church, especially during this time of my M.Div. required internship. This includes prayer for my wife as I leave her home with three children as I go to BOLC for three months.

2LT James Baker and family,  
Jabez (11/22/16), Willard (7/18/14),  
Dianna (8/4/12), and Stephanie

## Ekblad Update

God is good. We are greatly blessed and thankful for all of your prayers and are amazed at how fast time goes. It seems like only yesterday we were adopting and now the court documents are finalized, and Alethea is growing fast. Praise the Lord she is walking, has her first two teeth and is very healthy and strong.

God's blessings surround us everyday, though often times we get distracted by the events of life. I have been privileged to conduct over 900 counseling sessions with soldiers and families, over a dozen suicide prevention classes, and 15 services totaling 230 plus in attendance while working with 2 Battalions (over 1,400 soldiers) in this past year.

With every opportunity the Lord brings, comes many prayer requests. The biggest of these is approximately 1,000 troops from my Brigade are deploying. With this deployment, there will be only two Chaplains left at Fort Bliss to provide services for the remaining 3,000 troops. As the senior Chaplain, I will be responsible for all religious affairs within the Brigade and for the supervision of the other Chaplain. This is a big responsibility and I ask for God's wisdom and direction in caring for the troops as well as my family.

We had the great blessing of being able to travel home to visit both of our families during this last year, including trips for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

God has also blessed us with a church where we are actively involved. While the church is only about two years old, they have nearly doubled in size this last year. New Heights Baptist Church of El Paso, TX is currently meeting in a school, seeking the Lord's direction and patiently waiting for the right doors to be opened for the future. Pray as we seek to be a light in the community and seek



2 LT Baker



Chaplain Ekblad