

Jan-May 2023

Independent Baptist Online College

Greetings, in the name of our Lord! I've just finished my busiest quarter preaching schedule since going full time in the college 4 years ago! I've preached in 15 different churches throughout Indiana, Ohio, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Delaware during these past 4 months. I am always grateful to be used of God in His service!

FORTIFY 2023 was a great blessing to many! It was held April 23-26 at the Grace Baptist Church in Delaware Ohio. I preached twice in the conference as well as Drs. Bob Gray Sr., Bruce Miller, Dave Baker, with Dewayne Walker who pastors in Lexington, Ky. as well as a beloved faculty member of IBOC, and Ray Rameriz, who pastors an aggressive soulwinning church in Los Angeles, California. We had 21 Preachers attend the conference as well as many laymen. Several Pastors asked about the dates for next years FORTIFY conference as they want to bring van loads of their people to the conference. We have begun the process of planning FORTIFY 2024 and will notify you when the dates have been secured.

We hit a new milestone as we recently enrolled our 1600th student in the college! We also added our 166th Bible Institute: this one located in the state of Washington. Because each institute is run autonomously we do not know the amount of students enrolled in them. A conservative estimate would easily be 500+ students! That would take our total enrollment over 2,100 students! We are blessed to see the Lord use the college as we have both graduates and current students out in the ministry as pastors, missionaries, teachers, and assistants. It always encouraging to hear the victories for the Lord these folks are seeing in their ministries! I have a goal to personally see their works in the near future.

Please continue to pray for my health needs. I have recently been given a new medication for my non-smokers COPD that has helped my breathing tremendously! I had gone through 3+ weeks of violent coughing that seemed as though it would never go away. The breathing medication helped on the first dose. I also was hospitalized for a week with an Afib situation. After working with a cardiologist from Cleveland Clinic, I had the coversion treatment which put my heart back in rhythm. I am still working through my knee issues but all I see improvements in my health.

Summer school has begun at the college. You may purchase a course and receive a second course for free. This continues until the end of July. I hope you or someone in your family or church will take advantage of these great opportunities to receive a great education at a reduced rate.

Thank you for your faithful support of me and this college. Your friendship means much to me!

In the Service of the King,

effrey/S. Smale, Th.D.