

FLA

Coordinator

Florida's Newsletter for
Florida State Association of
Free Will Baptists
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Oct / Nov 2008

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NOW THAT'S DEDICATION!

In just over the four years of its existence, the West Palm Beach FWB Church has grown so quickly that it has had to move from its original location two times! The people of this church seem to have enveloped Jesus' words found in Luke 14:23, "...Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

On September 20th, Bro. Andres Sancho, Pastor of the West Palm Beach FWB Church, was pleased to welcome 140 people to the dedication service at their beautiful new facility, which includes a 1500-sq. ft. sanctuary. "We are very thankful to the Lord for this tremendous change," beamed Bro. Sancho, "and we consider it a challenge to continue to reach people for His kingdom."



During March of this year, renovations began on this new facility. Much had to be accomplished before the first service could be held, including the installation of a new electrical system, air conditioning ducts, bathrooms

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TRUE PASTOR APPRECIATION by randy bryant



Rev. Randy Bryant

Executive Director's Schedule:

November

- 1 Greater St. Johns' Association Mission Conf. - Live Oak
- 7-8 State Executive Committee Mtg. Jacksonville
- 10-13 Rejuvenate Conference Virginia Beach
- 14-15 Christian Workers' Conference Destin

December

- 8-10 Leadership Conference Nashville
- 13 Central Association Meeting Bartow (Christian Home)

This time of the year, church members hear a lot about "Pastor Appreciation Sunday." Although this event is worthwhile and is surely appreciated by the pastor, it raises a question for us to consider: Do you truly appreciate your pastor only during the month of October or do you show your appreciation to him throughout the year also? I contend that real appreciation for your pastor is reflected in how you take care of him financially throughout the entire year.

A study by The Barna Group, a nationally known research firm, reveals that the average compensation package for a non-charismatic pastor in the United States is \$47,000 per year compared to \$42,000 for the charismatic pastor. The Southern Baptist Convention revealed that in 2006, the average full-time pastor received \$59,995 in total compensation and the average bi-vocational pastor received \$17,385. What about the average Free Will Baptist pastor's salary? No one really knows. Attempts have been made to gain this information in recent years by our Retirement Department but very few churches or pastors would return the questionnaires. While I know that there are several churches in our state that provide more than the average, my suspicion is that, as a whole, the financial compensation to our pastors falls well below the national average.

One point that was made clear by the work of our Retirement Department is that due to many ministry-related expenses, such as health insurance, convention travel, retirement, auto expenses, and cell phone bills, a pastor's actual "take home" pay is much lower than what is shown on paper. So, what's the point? We all know that a good pastor serves the church because he is obedient to the Lord, not for the pay package. However, the church needs to realize that your appreciation for your pastor is revealed in how you take care of him throughout the year - not just during October. It is understood that not every church can afford to pay a full-time salary, and not every church can meet the average compensation listed above. Every church does, however, need to honestly ask, "Are we doing the best we can?" Far too many of our churches approach the salary issue from the standpoint of "What can we get by with?" or "How little can we pay and still get a good pastor?" In my opinion, both of those approaches reveal a misconception of not only the church's responsibility, but also the value of a good pastor. Real appreciation means caring for him every Sunday of the year!

FLA Coordinator

The Coordinator is a ministry of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists. Our goal is to provide an informative newsletter that highlights the ministries of our state & your local church.

Published six times annually: Dec/Jan; Feb/Mar; Apr/May; June/July; Aug/Sep; Oct/Nov. Submission deadline is the 20th of the month prior to the issue (March 20 for Apr/May issue).

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THAT OLD TIME RELIGION

The Lake Hamilton FWB Church is hosting its 2nd Annual Community Tent Revival on Monday, November 17th through Friday, November 21st. The event will be held at the Lake Hamilton

Baseball Field in Haines City, beginning at 7 pm nightly.

Evangelist Frank Dillon from Craigs-ville, West Virginia will lead the re- vival services

and special singing will be provided throughout the week. For more information or to obtain directions, please call Pastor Phil Dillon at 863-439-2655.



JEROD MCNEAL NAMED FLAMES BASEBALL COACH

Jerod McNeal, a 22-year-old Business graduate of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, has been named the new coach of the Flames baseball team.

McNeal begins part-time coaching duties immediately.

"Even though his full-time coaching responsibilities and the baseball season does not start until next February," said Dr. Mike Phillips, Athletic Director, "Jerod has begun recruiting student athletes, reserving baseball fields, evaluating talent, and working on strength and conditioning programs for the men's baseball team."

Former Flames coach Lynn Bracey said, "Jerod is the one of the best, if not the best player, I have ever seen. He is respectful and exhibits good Christian character."

McNeal, from Lake Butler, completed a B.S. degree in Business Administration this spring at the FWBBC. During his senior year, he was president of the John Bunyan Society and as a member of the Flames baseball team, he was named 2008 NCCAA Mid-East Region Player of the Year.

Continued from Page 1

and the construction of several new walls and an entire new ceiling. The renovation costs alone are enough to scare anyone, however thanks to the generosity of its Men's Ministry, the only bill submitted to the church was for the installation of the electrical system. These hardworking individuals worked continuously



for six months until the last light bulb was installed. "Our hearts are very thankful to the Florida Mission Board and the people in our Florida churches who have made this move possible," said Bro. Sancho. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in West Palm Beach as they continue to reach more people for the Lord and guide them into a life filled with Jesus Christ.

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VISIT US ON THE WEB!

Rev. Ron Burger and the Christian Home Free Will Baptist Church are pleased to announce the launch of their new website. It is a work in progress, but is already full of information and tools to help enrich your walk with God. Please visit us at

www.christianhomefreewillbaptistchurch.org

We welcome your comments and suggestions!

Also, the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists has a new web address, www.FLAFWB.com. Bro. Mike Taggart has done a wonderful job in creating this website and making it as "user-friendly" as possible. Please take the time to visit the website and keep apprised of what is going on in our denomination and around the state.

Churches Seeking Pastors

Beulah – Pensacola

Contact Tommy Payne
850-944-1413

Soul's Harbor – Pensacola

Contact Rod Johnson
850-471-3411

rod_frankie@bellsouth.net

First FWB – Malone

Contact Jesse Hart
850-569-5006

Abigail FWB – Vernon

Contact John Cook
850-535-2426

Smyrna FWB Church

386-428-4741

Zion FWB – Sanford

Contact Doc or Aggie Freeman
407-321-5974

EDGMON UPDATE

The first week of autumn coincided with the first week back at school here in Spain. Emily and Marc are transitioning very well back into the school year, and while Emily has always enjoyed school, Marc has just recently turned over a new leaf.



He no longer cries when we leave him with his classroom. Please pray for our children at school and also for the opportunities we will have to share the love of Christ with other school families.

Spain remains as one of the leading countries with the lowest percentage of Evangelical Christians. It may not be quite as difficult as finding the proverbial needle in a haystack, but finding a person that has a relationship with Christ is not an easy task! However, we are excited that God has brought us here to Alpedrete to plant a church and

we are also grateful for the Colmenar Viejo church, led by Juan Carlos, a Cuban FWB pastor, which recently celebrated its 4th anniversary.

Harvest time might still be a few weeks away, but I imagine that there is a lot of planning that goes on prior to the actual event. Here in Spain, we desire to see a church planting movement that will reap a great harvest in the years to come! We are grateful for all of you who are committed to fund the cause of Christ even in spite of such critical financial times. Unfortunately, our account continues to sink and we are now more than \$15,000 in the red. We ask that you covenant with us to pray about our need and we are boldly asking God to provide relief in such a way that, come spring time, we will no longer be in the red. Will you pray with us? Will you consider giving a special gift in these next few months to help accomplish this goal?

Thank you for all that you do!
Anthony and Lea Edgmon

McVAY UPDATE

During the month of September, we traveled to sunny Florida, Sam's native state, in order to spend six weeks visiting area churches. We are excited at the thought of seeing many of you while we are in your

town and we love spending time with you!

The other missionaries in Spain, along with our Regional Director, recently completed a three-day Annual Field Council Meeting. Even though it was held in Spain, we were able to "attend" the meeting by using a web cam here in the States. Isn't technology great? We have a wonderful group of missionaries and it was good to see everyone again. We are thankful for the many sound decisions that were made during this meeting and for the knowledge of how the Lord is blessing the work in Spain.

The construction of the Villalba church building continues to go well and progress is being made on it daily. It is so exciting to see all the work that is being done while we are away. To see the latest photos of the church building, log on to www.fwbgo.com/spain and click on the link on the first page.

Thanks to some wonderful people in Tennessee, we received some fantastic news last week: our account is now down to \$16,000 in the red! When we last wrote you, our account was over \$30,000 in the red. However, during the month of September, a few churches in Tennessee held Walk-A-Thon fundraisers for the work in Spain. With their contributions, along with a good month of giving toward us in August, our account is on its way to being back in the black! However, we must then raise sufficient funds to make our account strong before we return to Spain in March of 2009. Thank you so much, Florida, for the generous example you set for the rest of the nation through your "Nehemiah Project". It has inspired others to give generously also.

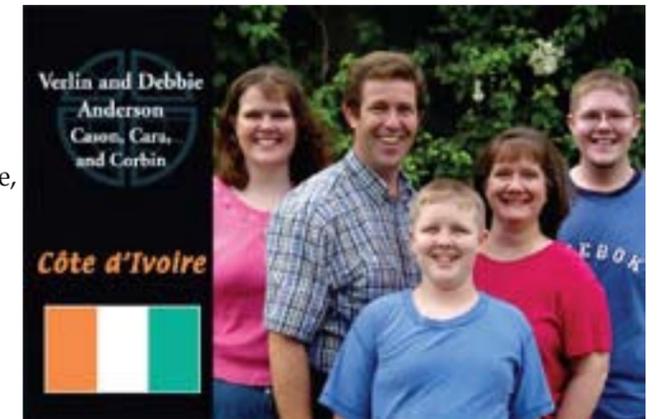
We want to thank you for your hospitality to us while we are visiting with you and for your continued prayers and generosity toward the work in Spain.

Your missionaries to Spain,
Sam and June McVay



YOUR CHANCE TO RUB ELBOWS WITH A MISSIONARY!

Verlin and Debbie Anderson, our missionaries to Cote d'Ivoire, will be visiting our State during the months of January and February 2009. This is your chance to learn firsthand about all of the exciting things happening over in the Ivory Coast of Africa! If you are interested in scheduling a visit with your church, please contact Randy Bryant at (800)-805-8797 or you can email him at bryantfwb@bellsouth.net.



FOLKS, WE HAVE A WINNER! by Chrissy Kinney

The month of October has been designated as Pastor Appreciation Month, and as such, we would like to congratulate Rev. John Cave, Pastor of the Parkway Free Will Baptist Church in Sebring, who is the winner of our Florida Pastor of the Year Contest. The nominations for Bro. Cave poured into the Executive Office and it was overwhelmingly obvious that he be voted "Florida Pastor of the Year."

Bro. Cave, and his wife, Barbara, initially visited Parkway FWB Church in the fall of 2004. They had recently retired from Indiana and were searching for a place to worship the Lord. Little did they know that Sebring was right where God wanted them.

From his very first visit, Bro. Cave made it clear that he was serious about serving the Lord, even as a layperson. The members of Parkway FWB were treated to an enjoyable concert when this first time visitor volunteered to play the church organ during the morning service!

While enjoying retirement, Bro. Cave discovered the truth in the old saying, "If you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plans". Parkway FWB was in need of a full time Pastor, and when the church board asked him to accept the position, Bro. Cave did not hesitate to willingly undertake this new call on his life. Retirement was not in the Lord's plan for John and Barbara Cave.

So what qualities earn Bro. John Cave the title of "Florida Pastor of the Year"? The impact he has made on his congregation can be easily discerned in the words and sentiments of his church members:

"Bro. John and Barbara are very devoted to God and the people of Parkway Free Will Baptist. He is so humble and is always ready to stand for what he believes." – Darlene Wban



"His love of God is evident in his talk, his walk, and most of all, through his preaching of the gospel of Jesus." – John Cotton, Jr.

"We love and appreciate Bro. Cave as both our Pastor and friend." – Harold and Wilma Shoemaker

"He is very kind and he is always ready to visit the sick at their homes or in the hospital." – James and Barbara Little

"His knowledge of the scriptures is evident every time he is in the pulpit and in all aspects of his daily life. Even non-Christians find it easy to talk to him as he answers their questions in his soft-spoken manner. But don't ever get the idea that he is 'soft' on sin. Once a person has listened to Bro. Cave preach and they realize that their life doesn't measure up to the Biblical standard, they understand what must be done. It's either 'Amen' or 'Oh, Me!'. I am thankful every day that the Lord sent Bro. John Cave to Parkway FWB." – Jane Klingensmith

"To know John Cave is to see Jesus in word, thought and deed. I feel that if God had not allowed me to meet Bro. John, I would only be able to wonder where I would be today." – Jim Scagge

2009 MINISTERS' RETREAT

The 2009 Ministers' Retreat, "Emotional First Aid", is being held in historic St. Augustine Beach, January 19th through January 22nd, 2009 at the Hampton Inn on A1A Beach Blvd. This year's retreat will provide pastors with the tools and knowledge needed to help the hurting through significant issues in life. Our speaker for this event will be Dr. Eddie Moody Jr. who has been a counselor/educator at North Carolina Central University since 1995. He also serves as pastor at Tippet's Chapel in Clayton, North Carolina where he resides with his wife, Lynne, and their two children.

With its wide, sandy beaches, breathtaking sunrises, great fishing, and small town, homey atmosphere, St. Augustine Beach remains one of Florida's most treasured and memorable natural splendors. Just five miles from St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city, St. Augustine Beach is close to all the historic landmarks and points of interest topped off by the beauty of the sea, a combination that naturally attracts visitors and entices locals to stay. Whether you're playing golf, walking along a sandy shoreline, touring historic shops, or relaxing with friends and enjoying the view, this year's Ministers' Retreat is your time to relax, fellowship and refresh! The schedule is as follows:

Monday, January 19

Dinner on own ~ Evening session starts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20

Free Time, Relax & Refresh; Golf scheduled for those who play

~

Evening Session starts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 21

Free time; Dinner on own

~

Evening Worship Time starts at 7:00 p.m.



2009 Ministers' Retreat Reservation Form

Please make checks payable to Christian Ministries Board

Payment & Registration due no later than Jan. 5, 2009

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Home Church: _____ Roommate: _____

Please Sign Me Up For Golf

Registration of \$200 per couple (\$100 per person, double occupancy) Island View

Registration of \$260 per couple (\$130 per person, double occupancy) Ocean View

Detach and mail to Michael Taggart, 2355 Armadillo Ct., Cocoa, FL 32926

FWBBC IS MAKING THE GRADE!

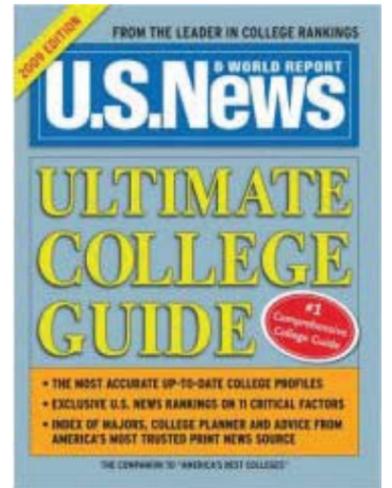
According to President Matt Pinson, Free Will Baptist Bible College received notification in mid-August that the institution is ranked among "Best Baccalaureate Colleges" in U.S. News & World Report's 2009 edition of America's Best Colleges Guidebook. Highlights of the college rankings were published in the September 1, 2008, issue of U.S. News.

"We are so pleased to be ranked among America's best colleges in this prestigious national study," said President Pinson. "This is another confirmation to our alumni and denominational constituency that their investment in FWBBC has produced exceptional dividends in the academic marketplace. I hope this report encourages more potential students and their parents to look at FWBBC first when considering a college."

The "Best Baccalaureate Colleges" category includes 319 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs both in the liberal arts and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. FWBBC received particularly high marks in four strategic areas - percent of classes with under 20 students (84%), student/faculty ratio (9/1), freshman retention rate (69%), and graduation rate (41%).

Provost Greg Kettman said, "Our inclusion in U.S. News' list of "Best Baccalaureate Colleges" indicates that by several important measures, including our standing with peer institutions, FWBBC continues to provide high quality college education for our students and our denomination."

This is the first time FWBBC has been ranked in the annual America's Best Colleges Guidebook. For more information regarding the rankings and methodology of this study, please visit <http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/best-colleges/2008/08/21/about-the-rankingsmethodology.html>



TIM OWEN TO ASSIST FWBBC WITH SPECIAL EVENTS

Reverend Tim Owen, pastor of Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Chipley, has agreed to serve as part-time Special Events Coordinator for Free Will Baptist Bible College. According to David Williford, Vice President for Institutional Ad-

vancement, Bro. Owen will begin his new duties this fall, which will include arranging fundraising dinners and golf tournaments.

"We are so pleased that Tim is willing to make this important commitment to FWBBC. He is a long-time supporter, an alumnus, and a pastor with far-reaching influence in the denomination," said Mr. Williford. "We need his mature leadership and help in this crucial area of event planning."

Reverend Owen and his wife, Karen, graduated from FWBBC in 1982 with B.S. degrees and two of their children, Jared and John, are current students of the college. He has pastored 21 years in Florida, the past eight years in Chipley. He also served ten years as moderator of the Florida State Association and is currently Vice Chairman of the Randall House Publications Board.

"I'm honored to be part of the FWBBC team," Bro. Owen said. "These are exciting and opportune days, and I am eager to do my part."