

FLA

Coordinator

Florida's Newsletter for
Florida State Association of
Free Will Baptists
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Jun / Jul 2009

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HE WAS LIFTED HIGH During the 65th Annual State Meeting

The 65th Annual State Meeting definitely served as a reminder to attendees to lift up the name of Jesus Christ as a light in this dark world. Donnie Hussey, Assistant State Moderator, opened the meeting on Wednesday evening by appropriately reading the 96th Psalm - "A Song of Praise to our Lord".

Based on comments from several attendees, the 2009 Florida State Association Meeting was one of the best in recent years. From the first sermon to the last, the preaching was excellent. Will Beauchamp, Tim Owen, Steve Berry and Larry Clyatt did an excellent job of presenting this year's theme - "Lift Him Up." As he concluded the State meeting during the annual Missions Service, James Forlines challenged attendees with their responsibility in The Great Commission. The music throughout the meeting was great with enough variety to keep everyone happy and the FWAC meetings went very well as did the Youth Conference and Competition.

In business, along with adopting the reports from the various boards, offices and committees, the voting body made three changes to our Constitution and By-Laws. One change involved including an article into the document that states that we are to be affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists and stipulates the process of selecting a General Board member. Another change dissolved the Historical Commission of the State Association and the last change put the promotion and administration of the Mission Shares Plan back in the hands of the Mission Board. The Mission Shares Committee was then dissolved.

Those who could not attend missed a great blessing! Make plans to attend next year's meeting with Dr. H. B. London from Focus on the Family as the guest speaker. The theme for the meeting will be "Encouragement for the Heart."



Rev. Randy Bryant

IS IT OVER? by randy bryant

The cover story of the April 13th edition of Newsweek Magazine declared the "end of a Christian Nation." The article went on to say that the percentage of people who consider our country a "Christian nation" has fallen from 71% under the Bush administration to 62% under the current administration. Coupled with that statistic were other figures offered as consideration to "prove" our country is no longer "Christian." Of course, you can use statistics to say anything you want. A recent Rasmussen Report stated that 85% of Americans believe that Jesus was indeed a historical reality and some 88% of those believe that He is the Son of God. Those figures hardly declare that our nation has completely rejected Christianity!

Recently, during a speech in Turkey, President Obama announced to the world that "America is not a Christian nation." His focus was intended to be that there are many religions in our country and we are not just specifically Christian. The sad truth of his speech was that he seemed to separate not only himself, but also our country, from the Judeo-Christian principles on which it was founded. Is it really that simple to throw out our historical roots?

The question that surfaces is: where are we and why are we here? Granted, our country does not reflect the Christian world-view it once did. We have left many of our founding principles and continue to spiral away from those truths. However, there are still millions of Americans who are Christians and Christianity remains the most popular religion in our nation. The real problem is that many of those who identify themselves as "Christian" rarely act or represent Christian beliefs.

It is tough to speak in generalities, but it seems to me that what we really need is more "Christian Christians." Christ told us Himself, "if the salt has lost its flavor, it is good for nothing." The call for today's world is more people who are real about their faith, who will live it out and fearlessly proclaim to others the hope that we have in Christ. Today's society gives us a unique opportunity to show the real difference in Christianity and all the other "beliefs" that are out there. Let's make a difference!

Executive Director's Schedule:

June

- 12 West Palm Beach Homecoming
- 12-13 Central Association
- 22-26 Camp Sonshine (Junior Week)

July

- 11 Salem Association
- 17-23 National Association
Cincinnati, Ohio

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.

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Visit us on the Web!

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.

HELP CELEBRATE PASTOR JEFF SHAVER'S "ALUMINUM" ANNIVERSARY AT TEMPLE FWB CHURCH

This year promises to be an exciting one for Pastor Jeff Shaver and the members of Temple FWB Church in Winter Garden. This year marks his 10th year in service to the church, which is traditionally considered to be the "aluminum" anniversary. Appropriately, aluminum represents durability and can be bent without being broken.

Church members are planning a week-long celebration complete with guest speakers and extraordinary singing each night. The theme for the week is "Because He Lives" and the celebration will kick-off on Sunday, August 9, 2009. A special dinner and time of fellowship is planned following the last service on Friday, August 14, 2009. All are welcome to participate in helping Temple FWB Church honor their Pastor and his family for their untiring service and dedication.

If you are interested in participating in this celebration as either a guest speaker or by providing special music, please contact Sylvia Arnold at caringsoul8@yahoo.com. Mark this date on your calendars and pray that the church is able to convey how much they care for and appreciate the ministry of Pastor Shaver and his family.

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S... THE EASTER BUNNY?

The Harmony FWB Church in Lake Butler held an Easter Extravaganza on April 11, 2009 as a community outreach project. This event was planned by their youth minister, Jeremy Crittenden, and the pastor, Larry Clyatt. Games were planned throughout the morning for the children and lunch was served in the church's Family Life Center.

During the afternoon, the Easter bunny arrived by helicopter and an Easter egg hunt was conducted for children of all ages. To aid in follow-up, individual photos were taken of the children with the Easter Bunny, which were then later mailed to their homes, along with information on the Harmony FWB Church and their service times. Several visitors who attended the Easter Extravaganza also came back for Easter Sunday services. Over 250 people attended this event which brought many new prospects for the church.



BUSER 20TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations to Lonnie and Jeannie Buser who celebrated their 20th Anniversary with the West Palm Beach FWB Church on February 28, 2009. A celebratory dinner was held at the Lanatana Recreation Center where the Buser's were affectionately showered with cards from faithful church members. Bro. Bill Pinkerman also presented the Buser's with a commemorative DVD consisting of pictures from past church events from the last twenty years. Also in attendance was Randy Bryant, State Executive Director, who offered heartfelt thanks to the couple for their loyalty and faithfulness to the calling of God in their lives.

EVERY GOOD GIFT IS FROM ABOVE

The Iglesia Hispana Bautista Libre Missionary Church in West Palm Beach is in need of a Communion Table for their church sanctuary as well as a van for their outreach ministry to their community.

The FWAC have decided to take on the responsibility for the Communion Table and hope to present Pastor Andres Sancho with one by Christmas of this year. If you would like to donate money toward either of these needed items, please contact either Randy or Diana Bryant at (772) 567-2338.

SALEM FWB HOLDS IT'S FIRST CHURCH GROWTH CONFERENCE

Salem FWB Church held its first Church Growth Conference on March 27-28, 2009. The guest speaker for this event was Cliff Donoho, pastor at the Rejoice FWB Church in Nashville, TN.

This Church Growth Conference covered such areas as: Presenting a Friendly, Open-Greeting System; Implementing Visitor Follow-Up Guidelines; Having a Pleasant Church Appearance both Inside and Out; and Establishing Clear Directives for Church Members. The Salem FWB Church has already employed several of these procedures and has seen some growth as a result.

Bro. Donoho has started churches in many states, including Illinois, Iowa and Tennessee and has taken them to a self-supporting status in just a few years.

Churches Seeking Pastors

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

Directory Update

Benjamin Hull

First FWB Church - Chipley

Yoan Chirinos

Hispanic Church - Melbourne

Jessey Bradshaw

Faith FWB Church - Orlando

Note: The Citrus Association has disbanded and the following churches have affiliated with other associations:

Parkway FWB, Sebring
Central Association

First FWB, Ocala
Greater St. John's Association

ANDERSON UPDATE

To paraphrase an old song, "Spring is bustin' out all over" in Nashville! What a glorious time to celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Because He lives forever, we have hope to share with the nations! Here is our good news from the past few weeks:

We have been approved to return to Cote d'Ivoire this summer, hopefully in early July! Verlin will probably precede Corbin and me by 14 days, as visas are approved.

Our account balance climbed from \$28,000 in the red and is currently hovering at around \$0. Please pray with us that a remaining \$16,000 in cash will come in before our departure date, along with an additional \$1,500 per month which, due to the money exchange rates, is necessary for us to minister effectively while in Africa.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the people of Florida, North Carolina, Michigan, and Tennessee who welcomed us while we were visiting. People were saved, lives rededicated, and all seemed encouraged by what God is doing through Community Health Evangelism (CHE) in West Africa.

As an update, the Christian teen who was converted from a Muslim family has been stopping by our house in West Africa to attend a Bible study and prayer meeting. Praise God that the persecution from her family has lifted a bit to make this possible, however she is still not able to attend church. For her continued safety, we will refrain from using her name.

Thank you for all you do. May your family enjoy a precious season, rejoicing in our risen Savior.

He is risen indeed!
Verlin, Debbie, and Corbin Anderson

McVAY UPDATE

We've been back in Spain now for six weeks but in some ways, it seems much longer. We have been busy renewing friendships and visiting our pastors and each of our Free Will Baptist churches here in Spain. There are many positive things happening in our churches and we are thankful for what the Lord is doing.

The construction of the Vil-

alba church is moving right along. The inside still has a lot to be done before it is finished, but the drywall is going up, and the bathroom tiles have been added. If you haven't seen the latest pictures, we encourage you to visit our website at www.fwbgo.com/spain. We didn't anticipate the construction taking this long but we are also not surprised that it has.

The church itself is doing well, hosting a full house most Sundays with standing room only. This is a great problem to have and we are looking forward to when we will be in the new church building where everyone will have a seat.

The Alpedrete church has an average of 25-30 attendees each week. Missionaries Tim and Kristi Johnson and Anthony and Lea Edgmon are doing a great job facilitating the planting of this evangelical church, the very first of its kind for this 500-year-old city.

The Colmenar Viejo Church averages 20-25 people each Sunday and can boast of some recent visitors. Pastor Juan Carlos is doing a good job with this church and has a heart to reach this community for Christ.

The small congregation of 20-25 people at the Esperanza Church has recently moved into their own meeting space. It is a store-front space near the center of town. Missionaries Mick and Rachel Donahue have recently begun offering English classes and covet your prayers for their new outreach program.

Last week, we held our semi-annual Field Council meetings which we use to strategize, plan for and pray over the work here in Spain. It was wonderful to have our Regional Director, Clint Morgan, and his wife, Lynette, with us for a few days. On Saturday evening, while the women from all of our churches gathered for a "women's meeting" (our version of Women Active for Christ), Clint met with our three pastors. They had a great time of fellowship and encouragement. The picture shown is of Sam with our three Pastors and Clint.



Thank you, as always, for your partnership with us in the ministry here in Spain. We are grateful for your prayers, financial support, and encouragement. It's all because of you that we are here and are able to do what the Lord has called us to do.

Your missionaries to Spain,
Sam and June McVay

FLORIDA WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST "DWELLING RICHLY"



The theme "Dwelling Richly" from Colossians 3:16 was explored by both the WNAC Executive Secretary Danita High at the annual Missions Luncheon and also by Missionary Debbie Anderson at the WNAC business session on Thursday and Friday of the State Meeting.

On Thursday, during a delicious Italian meal, Danita was able to share her vision for the future of WNAC. She reminded attendees that the WNAC purpose, "helping each woman find her place in the Great Commission", is achieved by helping women live out their faith in their homes, their communities, their churches, and around the world.

On Friday, Debbie Anderson reminded the ladies of the treasure that we have in God's Word and she urged us not to take this for granted. She illustrated this fact to us by sharing the story of a young girl in Cote d'Ivoire who accepted Christ but had to hide her Bible from her family because they had forbidden her to read it. Missionaries replaced copy after copy when the young girl's only Bible was stolen time after time. Debbie challenged us to treasure not only the Word of God, but the freedom we have to possess it.

International Mission Director James Forlines brought a powerful message on Friday morning urging us to focus not only on the "top line blessings" found in scripture, but also on the "bottom line responsibilities" God has given us. We so often make it about "us" when it is actually all about "Him."

Florida women rose to the challenge to assist in these ministries through a \$607 offering for the Anderson account and a \$1000 gift for the general fund of WNAC. During the business session, reports were reviewed which demonstrated the Florida Women Active for Christ's support of several ministries, the Shares Program and the fund that will help us as we host the national meeting in 2013. A basket auction this year added to that fund which now stands at around \$8000. Becky Christian brought in a very heavy box containing \$85 in pennies that the women from New Hope Fellowship Church had collected for the 2013 fund. Thanks! Florida women have always been generous and hard working.

We dined together, enjoyed fellowship, worshipped, and conducted business in a short amount of time. Officers were elected: Diana Bryant, President; Eleanor Cutler, Vice President; Gloria Hutchinson, Treasurer; Betsy Lucky, Secretary; and Peggy Clyatt, Field Worker. If you have any questions about Florida Women Active for Christ, comments, or just want to share what your women are doing, I'd love to hear from you! Please contact me by writing to: 2156 54th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32966 or you can email me at bryantfwb@bellsouth.net.

Florida Mission Shares Cup Golf Tournament

Mark your calendars for August 28-29, 2009 and join us for the two-man scramble golf tournament to benefit the Florida Mission Shares Program. The tournament will be held in Crystal River at the Plantation Inn.

The price of the tournament is \$150 per player and includes two rounds of golf, a delicious steak dinner on Friday evening, lodging for one night and breakfast. Mulligans may be purchased for \$5 each with a maximum of two mulligans per player, per round. Reservations must be made no later than August 12, 2009.

Not a great golf player? Don't worry; just remember that no matter how bad you are playing, it is always possible to play worse! You can also help raise money by sponsoring a hole for only \$50. Just get out there, have fun, and help raise some money for our Florida missionaries.

Send registration forms to:
Florida State Association of FWB, 2156 54th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32966.
Call 800-805-8797 for more information.

Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Church: _____ Partner: _____

COLLEGE CHOIR SINGS GOD'S PRAISES IN THE PENINSULA



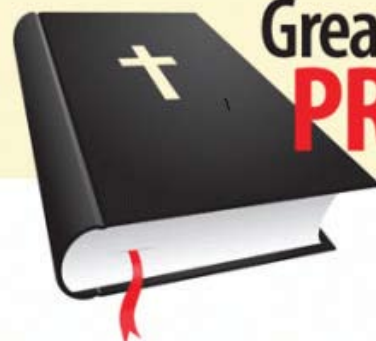
On March 13, 2009 the Southeastern FWB College "Sounds of Victory and Sounds of Praise" Choir arrived in the Florida Peninsula on a mission to lift up the wonderful name of Jesus while visiting many of our churches. Forty-seven students, led by choir director, Kevin Denton, ministered in both song and the preached Word through Heath Ferguson, the Southeastern Promotional Director. Many churches, including First FWB of Seffner, Christian Home FWB in Bartow, First FWB in Titusville, and the First FWB Church in Melbourne were blessed to host this magnificent group of young people. "The group was as good as I have ever heard them," remarked Charlie Elliot.

Florida Free Will Baptists can be proud to have three of its four students at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College as members of the "Sounds of Victory and Sounds of Praise" Choir. Meagan Berry, from the First FWB Church in Melbourne, and Noelys and Noharis Rodriguez from the Cedars of Lebanon FWB Church in Cuba are richly representing Florida as they minister around the country.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

During July, thousands of Free Will Baptists will flood Cincinnati, Ohio, "the city by the river", for the 73rd annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Convention organizers expect a great turnout this year as attendees will have the opportunity to choose from over 1,200 rooms in five hotels located within a comfortable walking distance of the Duke Energy Convention Center.

You must register by June 15, 2009 by going to www.nafwb.org and completing the on-line form. A registration badge will be required for entry into all events. Below is a schedule of events for this year's convention:



Great & Precious PROMISES

National Association of Free Will Baptists
CINCINNATI, OH | JULY 19-22

MONDAY, JULY 20
General Board Meeting
 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
NYC Competition
 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
NYC Seminars
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Theological Trends
 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
WNAC Seminar
 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Missions Rally
 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Exhibits Open
 3:00 pm - 10:30 pm
Benjamin Randall Appreciation Dinner
 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm
Evening Worship
 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

TUESDAY, JULY 21
NYC Competition
 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Randall House Seminar
 8:00 am - 9:30 am
WNAC Convention

8:30 am - 10:30 am
Pastors/Laymen Conf. with Steve Berry
 10:00 am - 11:45 am
NYC Seminars
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Exhibits Open
 10:00 am - 10:30 pm
WNAC Missionary Service
 10:30 am - 11:30 am
WNAC Fellowship Luncheon
 12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm
Convention Business
 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Evening Worship
 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
NYC Competition Finals
 8:00 am - 11:00 am
NYC Seminars
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Convention Business
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Exhibits Open
 10:00 am - 10:00 pm
FWBBC Alumni Luncheon
 12:00 Noon - 1:15 pm
Evening Worship
 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm
NYC Awards Ceremony
 8:50 pm - 11:00 pm

Tough but Exciting An Overview of the State Youth Competition

by Abby Faison

The State Youth Competition was tough and hectic this year. Participants ranged from the first grade all the way up through seniors in high school. Whether it was due to the wonderful performances or the fact that the children were just so adorable, at some point during the competition, it seemed as though everyone had a smile on their face.

The Lake Mary Marriot was crowded, and it seemed like everywhere you turned you saw a familiar face. Many students moved between rooms during competition to either compete themselves or just to watch one of their friends compete. Throughout each performance and presentation we saw determination, focus and passion.



In the past, competition was mainly relegated to just two categories: music and Bible knowledge. But not anymore! Attendees to this year's State competition were treated to puppeteer-ing, miming, photography, paintings, writing and sign language performances. Due to the wide range of competition categories, each student who participated received an award and many will be headed to the National competition in Cincinnati as well.

Judges, coaches and parents alike are all very proud of their students and are honored to have been a part of the competition this year. The choir ensemble from the Southeastern Free Will Baptist College provided many of our panel judges this year and at least one pastor served on the judges' panel for Bible competitions. Their comments were fair and helpful, pointing out the competitor's weaknesses and where they exceeded the expectations set for them.

The awards ceremony took place late Saturday morning and it is interesting to note that all of the scores were very close with only a five point difference. Congratulation goes out to all of the participants and watch out Cincinnati!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Abby Faison, 15, has just completed her freshman year at Vero Beach High School and is the daughter of Steve and Robyn Faison and younger sister to Emily. She attends Ryanwood Fellowship in Vero Beach and her future plans involve working in some type of church ministry, guiding students in a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. Florida is proud to have Abby as part of our Free Will Baptist family.

THE D6 CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2009
DALLAS
 reconnecting parents with kids

randall house

Register at D6conference.com or by calling 800.877.7030