

FLA

Coordinator

Florida's Newsletter for
Florida State Association of
Free Will Baptists
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Florida's Free Will Baptist Newsletter

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MELBOURNE CHURCH CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Pulling a pocketknife from his pocket, Pastor Steve Berry sliced through a wax seal atop a large glass jar that was bottled shut during the Vietnam War. Then he pried off the circular wooden lid, raised the glass to his nose, and inhaled. "What's 45 years smell like?" Rev. Berry asked his congregation, smiling.

On November 8th, to commemorate their 50th anniversary, members of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Mel-

bourne retrieved and opened a time capsule from a cornerstone wall of their Lytton Road sanctuary. The two-handled jar contained a stack of church bulletins, handwritten lists of church officials, family photographs, coins, personal notes, and other assorted items. Perhaps the most peculiar discovery was a 1961 fishing license donated for posterity by churchgoer Larry Combs. Now 68, Combs attended the celebration and proclaimed, "I haven't been fishing since," drawing laughs from the crowd.

After Rev. Berry pulled objects from the time capsule and described them to the crowd, church clerk Jan Wilder carefully placed them in a plastic bag to be sealed inside a new time capsule to be socked away until a New Year's Day ceremony when worshippers will also fill a similar container with modern day documents and artifacts, for opening in another half century.

This 50th anniversary celebration also served as a rededication ceremony for the church. "Here may children of sin and sorrow find a refuge from despair and ruin," Rev. Berry preached.



Rev. Randy Bryant

Executive Director's Schedule:

January

- 8-9 Salem Association
- 11-12 Camp Meeting - Seffner
- 18-22 Ministers' Retreat - Cruise
- 30 Indian River Association
Okeechobee

February

- 9-11 Meeting of Executive Directors -
Jacksonville
- 12-13 Central Association - Seffner
- 21-23 State Mission Board

OVERLOOKED by randy bryant

Could it be that we have a document that is revered in our ranks but at the same time is overlooked? Could we have something that is highly regarded by many people but is also no more than words on a page to others? We may consider it a treaty to adhere to on the one hand but on the other hand we decide not to apply it to our own situations. What am I talking about? Our Free Will Baptist Church Covenant!

Our Church Covenant is an agreement which we have all acknowledged and accepted. The actual wording states "we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant." Some churches make all their new members agree to follow the covenant while others completely ignore it, yet it is a critical part of our denominational make-up. In many cases, we want the full force of the Covenant in areas like "abstaining from... all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages," but do we expect the same adherence of "watching over one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation?" We want to make sure every one knows that they have agreed to be faithful to support their church, but doesn't it also speak of the "promotion of educational and denominational enterprises?" Many of us have been accused, usually by our spouses, of having "selective hearing." I'm afraid this may have carried over in our approach to the Church Covenant as well and we may now be accused of "selective application."

My point is that the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant is a good document that our churches and members have agreed to abide by. It has served us well for many years and plainly presents the expectations of our members. My fear is that many have watered it down by choosing to apply only the parts that suit them while overlooking the rest of the document. It has become one of our most "enduring" contracts but also one of our most overlooked. Pastors, church leaders, and members alike need to give thought to what they have already agreed to and ask themselves if they are agreeing to the covenant "family style" or "cafeteria style." Let's be a family.

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.

Annual State Meeting Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists

April 8 - May 1, 2010

Lake Mary Marriott



Special Speaker: Dr. H.B. London
Vice-President
for Pastoral Ministries at
Focus on the Family

**Theme: Encouragement
to the Heart**

Check www.FLFWB.com
for reservation information.



Youth Worker Gatherings Scheduled

Free Will Baptist Youth Workers are encouraged to attend one or both of the FWB Youth Worker Gathering events this March. Gathering events are designed to provide youth workers the opportunity to get away and get together for times of encouragement, networking, and refreshment.

The Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando is scheduled for March 1-2. FWB Youth Worker Gathering meets in conjunction with the YPS on March 2-3. Basically, come to the Youth Pastor Summit for two days of inspiring workshops and stay another day to visit with other FWB youth workers. Registration will open in December at www.studentleadership.net/yps-registration. Registration is free, but space is limited.

There will also be a FWB Youth Worker Gathering in conjunction with FORUM 10 at FWBBC, March 7-10. This unique conference will provide an excellent opportunity for youth workers and young adult leaders to come together to address issues of vital importance with an informal Gathering session is planned for Wednesday. Forum 10 sessions are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. There will be a Gathering dinner Tuesday evening for all who wish to break bread together at a local restaurant and Forum 10 closing sessions are scheduled to resume following this dinner.

Watch for more details on both events at www.OutpostX.net, RSVP at the Facebook event: FWB Youth Worker Gathering 2010, or email SCM@randallhouse.com.



Happy New Year!

from

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home

"Thank you for your love and support!"

P.O. Box 8

Eldridge, AL 35554

(205) 924-9751

www.fwbhome.org

Mike Corley, Executive Director

Churches Seeking Pastors

Marvin Chapel FWB - Marianna

Contact Bill Sellers
850-482-5221

First FWB - Malone

Contact Jesse Hart
850-569-5006

Directory Update

No Updates

EDGMON UPDATE

November 9th marked the twenty year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. For 28 years the Wall stood, dividing East and West Germany and it represented the oppression of human rights in Eastern Germany. The fall of the Berlin Wall brought about the reunification of Germany, and ultimately, it meant the end of the Cold War.



In November 8th, the Alpedrete Church dedicated their worship services to a special focus on the Persecuted Church. We were reminded of the oppression, and in some cases, tremendous persecution that some people face for their faith. We pray that the "walls" of oppression in North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Somalia, and throughout the world crumble so that our brothers and sisters in Christ will be able to live out their faith in freedom. May His church experience profound growth around the world!

Many cities in Spain are still burdened with remnants and, in some cases, entire walls that were constructed centuries ago to protect them from invaders. Ávila is one of those cities and it is only 45 minutes away from Alpedrete. Often times these walled cities make me think of the walls that people put up to keep others out. Please pray with us that as we share and preach the Word, the power of the Gospel will debilitate and ultimately destroy these walls so that many will open their hearts to a personal relationship with Christ.

In Jerusalem, the "Wailing Wall" is the remaining portion of the temple of Jerusalem. Because of their belief that the temple was God's dwelling place, the Jewish people consider this wall to be the most sacred place on earth. It is a common practice to place written prayers in the crevices of the wall in order to have the ear of God. Since we have the assurance that God hears our prayers no matter where we are, we ask you to covenant with us in praying about the following things:

- Pray for those who are stepping into ministry roles in the Alpedrete Church;
- Those we come in contact with through the outreach center in Alpedrete;
- The Villalba Church is waiting on the permits and paperwork to come through in order for them to use their new church building;
- The Alcalá Church is experiencing growth and has begun looking for a new meeting facility;
- And while our churches here in Spain are cur-

rently experiencing growth, there are still 13 million people that do not have an evangelical church in which to worship.

Your missionaries to Spain,
Anthony and Lea Edgmon

VERLIN AND DEBBIE ANDERSON

Happy New Year from Bondoukou, Cote d'Ivoire! While we were away from home for 22 days on mission business, the dry season arrived. Now our nights are cold (well, 65-70 degrees SEEMS cold), and the air, trees, and furniture are laden with dust - our African version of snow. During this festive season, we express our heartfelt thanks for your helping us share Christ year-round. Tinsel and toys crowded shop shelves in Cote d'Ivoire. Children throughout the country anticipated gifts. We mourn that most Ivorians have acquired the material trappings of Christmas without knowing the wonder of experiencing Emmanuel, God with us, who made all the material. May the presence of Jesus fill ALL your activities this year!

LOOKING BACK

We have gratefully welcomed Alice Smith, our missionary Community Health Evangelism (CHE) partner, back to the field and together we have completed the Ivorian labyrinth of paperwork to accommodate our presence here;

- We attended a very informative Transition Workshop in Spain, prepared by International Missions, to answer questions and facilitate the change in the financial structure for 2010;
- We were graciously received by our Spanish missionaries, and were blessed to worship in the Alpedrete church while enjoying many good times of conversation with our Regional Director, Clint Morgan, regarding the transformation God is performing here;
- Shared a Thanksgiving meal and service in Abidjan with other missionaries, including one FWBBC graduate here with another mission group;
- Completed many repairs to our two FWB properties in Abidjan;
- Treated (and survived!) three bouts with malaria (Verlin 2; Debbie 1), and Deb had to take a mandatory ten-day slowdown due to problems with her back;
- Visited the fourth new FWB church in Abidjan, this one in the Koumassi quarter, where Verlin preached, and we were able to worship with another 7-8 believers who gathered in a rented classroom;
- Continued strategic planning meetings with Ivo-

rian church leadership; and

- Resumed the translation and data entry process for CHE lessons and other documents.



LOOKING UP:

- Please pray with us for a Muslim man to whom Verlin witnessed during an hour on the flight from Spain while Debbie prayed. His

heart and mind were very open;

- Ange, a gendarme, who called recently to say he was saved after getting a Bible from us at the Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire border about two years ago. Verlin hopes to have lunch with him the next time he's in Abidjan. Ask the Lord to help Ange realize the importance of attending church, accountability, and prayer;
- Our children in college, Cason and Cara;
- Serious financial needs of International Missions. Many charitable organizations suffer because of the economy. Our hearts yearn for ministries to continue unhindered. Please ask the Lord to guide our government's fiscal policy and the financial changes at IM in 2010 so that real Good News will spread to even more people and places!

Joyfully His and yours,

Verlin, Debbie, and Corbin Anderson

McVAY UPDATE

Dear Family and Friends:

Thanksgiving has passed, Christmas has passed, and we are already into a new year, but we are still focused on being thankful. As we think of you, we thank God for how He has used you in spreading the Gospel to people in Spain. Your partnership in prayer and financial support has been used by Him as we have come in contact with those around us. Thank you for allowing God to use you in this way.

With the help of Mick and Rachel Donahue, we were able to host a Thanksgiving lunch for several American girls who are here studying in the Madrid area. Many of these girls have been attending the church in Alcalá, and we decided to give them "a taste of home". There were seven university students who attended, including a few non-believers. We pray that our time together would cause

them to be interested in spending even more time with us and the church, allowing God to lead them to His truth.

During November, we participated in meetings with missionaries who are serving in both Spain and Africa, as well as with our Regional Director and staff from the Nashville mission office (some via webcam). The focus of these meetings centered on the transition into 2010, mainly concerning all the changes that will be taking place in the mission. We understand that giving as a whole to missions has gone down significantly in the last few months and this has put the mission in serious financial need. Please help us pray about this, and give as you can, so that our various ministries will be able to continue with sufficient funding.

We have recently been asked by two different groups if we would begin teaching an English course. So, it looks like we will become English teachers very soon! It is definitely an area of interest for people in Spain and it is an excellent way to make contacts and deepen friendships with those we already know. Please be in prayer as we begin these classes. We seek God's direction in spreading the Good News to those who need to hear it.

Praise the Lord that the new Villalba church building has now been completed! The church has filed papers for a usage permit, so when it is granted, we will be able to move in and start worshipping in the new building. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Our family is doing great. Stephanie continues to enjoy teaching French and is thankful for a good job and Suzanne and Jonathan are enjoying all the changes going on with Elijah (their son and our grandson). He is crawling, pulling up, and growing up fast and he is now eight months old. Time flies!

Your missionaries to Spain,
Sam and June McVay





SENIOR SUMMIT 2009

The Plantation Inn in Crystal River provided the quaint setting for the 2009 edition of the Seniors' Summit. Some 48 senior adults (with a few younger chaperones thrown in) met in Crystal River on October 19-21 for a time of worship and fellowship. Rev.

Bill Evans, retired Director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, served as the speaker for this year's retreat.

Entertainment is always a part of the retreat as well. Cindy Berry adapted her ventriloquist skills to a new "dummy" this year. "Nicodufus" was a good replacement in the absence of Nicodemus. Every one stayed on the edge of their seats waiting to hear what new insight would be provided by the dummy this year. As a special treat, Steve and Cindy Berry gave the seniors advice on preparing for a romantic date through "Stevie Weevie."

Homosassa Springs State Park took the group back to "Old Florida" and provided insight into various forms of wildlife housed there at the park. The lions, tigers and bears were replaced by manatees, panthers and red foxes (among other creatures). The casual environment set the stage for a relaxing day in the park. It was definitely a unique excursion for our Summit attendees.

"Can't wait until next year!" was a familiar comment from those in attendance. Speaking of next year, mark your calendars now for the 2010 Senior Summit to be held on October 18-20.

Special thanks to David Brown from the Free Will Baptist Foundation for sharing about planned giving with the group; the First Free Will Baptist Church of Melbourne for allowing the group to use their bus; Ryanwood Fellowship Free Will Baptist for providing refreshments for the Hospitality Suite; Mike Taggart for his help with the sound and, as always, to Charlie Elliott for leading the music for the Summit.



Destin Christian Workers' Conference 2009

"This is the best Christian Workers' Conference, yet!" That comment along with others like that, were voiced by the nearly 90 participants at the 2009 Christian Workers' Conference held on November 6-7. Embassy Suites in Destin served as host of this year's conference. The group was blessed, encouraged and challenged as Doug Little lead the sessions in the subject of "Ten Strategies for Effective Worship."

Bro. Little shared information and strategies that will benefit each of the twelve different churches represented. Whether your style of worship is traditional, southern gospel, blended or contemporary, there was something that applied to your needs. One question by Bro. Little pretty much summed up the issue of worship style, "What kind of worship style is going to reach people for Jesus - not just make me happy?"

The Christian Workers' Conferences are sponsored by the Christian Ministries Board of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists. Your gifts to the State Association's co-op plan help to underwrite these conferences. Special thanks to Mike Taggart who handled the registration for the Christian Workers' Conference in both Destin and Orlando.



MACEDONIAN LOCK-UP 2010 • 2 TIMOTHY 1:8

The Florida Free Baptists have done it again. Led by the state executive secretary, Randy Bryant, people all over the state are being charged with "having a heart for missions." Young adults, seniors and teens are being charged with this outrageous crime and being sentenced to a day of rehabilitation, while being fed only an educational diet of missions, which includes a reading through the book of Titus, a study of the missionary journeys of Paul and sessions of prayer for our missionary families.

Saturday, April 10, 2010 has been set aside by the State Mission Board to book these guilty offenders. Throughout the state there will be six precincts set up to rehabilitate these shameless folks. Each person charged will receive a letter in the mail with their mug shot, stating their offense as well as their suggested bail amount. On April 10th they will turn themselves in to their closest church precinct to pay for their crimes. It is suggested that they immediately get busy raising bail money from family, friends and church members.

All bail money raised will go to support Florida Mission Shares. The goal is to raise \$25,000 as well as to educate everyone involved regarding missions. It is also a great way to promote fellowship amongst our area churches. In January, pastors will begin to receive phone calls from mission board members, exposing your guilty church members. Our goal is to find five to ten folks guilty of having a heart for missions in each of our churches. The remaining members are charged with the task of helping the "criminals" reach their bail in the hopes of being released back into the general population.



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