

# FLA

## Coordinator

Florida's Newsletter for  
Florida State Association of  
Free Will Baptists  
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## 2011 MINISTERS' RETREAT AND PALMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The 2011 Ministers' Retreat is being held in conjunction with the Palmer Leadership Institute in Jacksonville, January 20-22nd at the Courtyard by Marriott. Due to the health issues of our scheduled speaker, Dr. Douglas Earls, the first session of the Palmer Leadership Conference was postponed and rescheduled to run in conjunction with our Ministers' Retreat. Through a process of instruction, coaching and mentoring, this year's retreat will provide pastors with the encouragement needed to lead and develop a healthy, Christ-honoring, growing church.

Rev. Douglas Earls, pastor of Calvary Chapel FWB Church in Buffalo, Missouri is the facilitator of the Palmer Institute. Under his influence, Calvary Chapel has experienced significant numerical growth. As the founder and facilitator of the Palmer Leadership Institute, he presents leadership training in the nation of Panama each year and he is assisting in the development of a new seminary in Chame.

Whether you're playing golf, touring shops or relaxing with friends, this year's Ministers' Retreat is your time to relax, fellowship and refresh! Be sure to visit our state website at [www.flafwb.com](http://www.flafwb.com) for more information and to register please contact Randy Bryant at 800-805-8797 or you can email him at [bryantfwb@bellsouth.net](mailto:bryantfwb@bellsouth.net). The cost is only \$50 per person and the schedule is as follows.



Rev. Randy Bryant

#### Executive Director's Schedule:

##### December

6-8 Leadership Conference  
- Nashville

##### January

7-8 Salem Association Meeting  
20-22 Palmer Leadership Institute &  
Ministers' Retreat  
- Jacksonville  
24-28 RCMA Conference  
- Tampa  
29 Indian River Association  
- Melbourne

## DEEP MYSTERIES OF THE CHURCH *by randy bryant*

Every body loves a mystery! At least that's what I've heard. Scripture makes reference to various mysteries revealed to us as believers. The mystery of Christ; the mysteries of the gospel and the mysteries of the faith are secrets that we, as believers, understand. In Scripture, mysteries have been defined as "something once hidden, now revealed." What I want to address (perhaps a bit tongue in cheek) are some mysteries of the current church, things that seem to be true which simply confuse me and leave me scratching my head in bewilderment. Maybe you can help me understand.

Here are some mysteries for which I have no answers: Why is it that your lowest church attendance in memory occurs on the days you host a guest speaker? I have experienced this scenario both as a pastor and as a guest speaker. Why is that? Is it because your people think no one can preach as well as you do, so they stay home? Maybe it's because they don't want to hear someone who preaches better than their pastor. Who knows? The only gratifying thing about this mystery is that other pastors and speakers seem to face the same dilemma.

Here are a few others I've pondered. Why is it that everyone goes to see someone else on holidays instead of coming to see the relatives in your church? I know that some churches benefit from holidays, but it's usually the opposite in the churches I've pastored. I hear others talk about huge numbers on Mother's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas but my experience seems to be that people go to see their relatives, instead of their relatives coming to see them. And can anyone tell me why musicians who haven't practiced their song feel the need to announce that before they sing? Just sing, we can usually tell if you've practiced or not. Here's another mystery that seems to be universal. Why does the devil seem to have free access to sound systems, projectors and computers? Without fail, if there is a problem during the service, it will be through the sound system. You can have the most experienced techs in town, but that battery is going to go out on your lapel mic as soon as you start to preach, or your sound system is going to pick up more from the CB radio in the big rig passing by than it does from your sermon.

Obviously, these mysteries are not on the level of the ones mentioned in Scripture but they are certainly nerve-wracking and challenging! If someone has the answers as to why these happen, I would sure appreciate some insight. Just drop in any holiday weekend we have a guest speaker and speak right into the mic!



#### Retreat and Institute Schedule

**January 20 (Thursday)**  
Dinner together and fellowship

**January 21 (Friday)**  
Free Time, Relax & Refresh;  
Golf, shop, take in the sights

~  
Afternoon Session starts at  
3:00 p.m.

**January 22 (Saturday)**  
Session begins at  
8:00 a.m. - Noon

# 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).

Mail articles & announcements to:

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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](http://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.

## "OH, TASTE AND SEE..."

Congratulations to New Hope Fellowship Church in Cocoa on their new "Bread Ministry," patterned after Psalm 34:8, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good..." They began this new service to their community on October 20th after being blessed with a surplus of baked goods each Tuesday night from their local Panera Bread store.



"At first we were just allowing our members to enjoy this blessing," said Pastor Jim Christian. "But then we decided that because we had been given so much, why not reach out to our local community as a way to show our appreciation for all of their hard work and as a way to let them know that our church is here if they need anything."

The first recipients of New Hope Fellowship's Bread Ministry were their local firefighters and police departments. "The baked goods were so well-received that it was an encouragement to us to continue to do this every Wednesday," said church member Chrissy Kinney. "You never know what the Lord has in store for this ministry."

## MELBOURNE'S HISPANIC CHURCH CELEBRATES SECOND ANNIVERSARY

The Hispanic Free Will Baptist Church in Melbourne, Florida celebrated their second anniversary on Sunday, October 21st. According to Missionary-Pastor Yoan Chirino, a total of 133 were present for the celebration. The attendance was as follows: 53 from the Hispanic Church in Melbourne; 20 from the Hispanic Church in Vero Beach; 16 visiting from the Church Aposento Alto; and 36 from the First Free Will Baptist Church in Melbourne. The service included the baptism of six individuals from the Hispanic works in both Melbourne and Vero Beach.



Yoan and his family are joint project missionaries with the First Free Will Baptist Church and the Florida State Association's Mission Board. Praise the Lord for His blessings during these first two years of ministry in Melbourne.

### Churches Seeking Pastors

#### First FWB - Malone

Contact Jesse Hart  
850-569-5006

#### Lighthouse FWB - St. Petersburg

Contact Tony Henderson  
941-721-8108 or 727-347-4598

#### Damascus FWB - Marianna

Contact Richard Rehberg  
850-482-6600

## Upcoming Events Around The State

Palmer Leadership Institute and Ministers' Retreat, January 20-22, 2011 in Jacksonville.

Florida State Association Meeting, April 26-30, 2011 at the Jacksonville Marriott.

Palmer Leadership Institute (2nd Session), October 14-15, 2011 in Jacksonville.

Look for more information on these events in upcoming issues or please visit our state website at [www.flafwb.com](http://www.flafwb.com)

## VERLIN AND DEBBIE ANDERSON

For some time, we have mentioned the hope that missionary friends could visit the Doropo Clinic because the Abengourou team has developed a remarkable ministry to AIDS patients through CHE (Community Health Evangelism). The Lord enabled that trip to occur in early October. Thank you to Dr. Bernie Bledsoe, Emmanuel, and Pasquier for enduring the terrible roads and sacrificing time from their busy schedules to be a huge encouragement to our Christian brothers laboring in Doropo! Kelly, Dr. Bledsoe's wife, and Isaac, their delightful son, stayed with Debbie while the men went north. Typically, the electricity decided to shut off for those two days, but we still had a good time. Please pray that the vital information shared will enable the clinic to expand its ministry in whatever way the Lord directs.



Life is full of new experiences and our family has enjoyed several recently. Cason, our oldest son who graduates from Free Will Baptist College in May 2011, has announced his engagement to Suzanne

Dean. It will be a pleasure to welcome a second daughter to the family next summer!

Another recent joy in our family is the publication of the first book by Debbie's father, Eddie Payne. This creation novel renewed in our hearts a spirit of gratitude and awe for God and served as a sobering reminder of the damage done when we choose to follow our way instead of His. You will never guess the interesting character who tells the story, but we won't give away that secret! To find out yourself, you can buy *Naados and His Kin: The Beginning* through Tate Publishing online.

Our beloved ministry colleague, Alice Smith, retires from Cote d'Ivoire in January 2011 after which she will spend several months visiting churches in the United States. Imagine saying good-bye to a country and people you have loved and served for over 30 years! Please pray for her during these last few months that those around her can encourage and be a help to her in practical ways. We will miss her greatly, but have no fear of continuing here alone. To quote Deb's dad in his book, "Life is beautiful, even with the sting!"

As always, besides regularly preaching, teaching, translating CHE lessons, home schooling, acting as field

team leader and treasurer, and serving on Ivorian church national committees, the weekly activities of life provide many opportunities for us to be a blessing to someone spiritually, physically, or emotionally. How wonderful that our Savior cares about aching and swollen feet as well as our eternal destiny and the cataclysmic events of the world. He is beyond compare!

Eager to hear of His blessings in your world as well, Verlin, Debbie and Corbin Anderson

## McVAY UPDATE

We have some great things to report to you this month. God is working here in Spain and we are so thankful to be a part of it.

The church we attend, Esperanza Church in Alcalá, has been looking for a new place to meet. They have found one that is quite a bit larger than what they have now and are talking with the owners of the building about coming to an agreement. They may try to rent it for the weekends until they can rent or sell their present meeting place. We are proud to be a part of this congregation and are encouraged by those who are faithful to attend each week. Please pray for Pastor José Manuel and the believers in this church.

We were invited to meet with a group of believers last Friday night from Collado Mediano, which is where we have lived for the past three years. We met at a neighbor's home. Thinking just a few others would be there also, we were pleasantly surprised to see how many people attended this meeting. There were 21 adults and 16 children who packed into this house for their cell group meeting. This group of people has been meeting for over six years and this was simply the organizational meeting for the coming year. This was our first meeting and it was a big encouragement to us to see so many there who want to grow as Christians. One lady who attended this meeting is not a believer but she did say that she was excited to learn more about evangelicals. Many people who were there attend the FWB church in Alpedrete, but live in Collado Mediano. We are excited to see how God is working here in our town because, as of yet, there is no evangelical church at all.

A lady from this meeting asked if we would meet with her each week for an English Bible Study. Her English is pretty good, but she said that she would like to improve. So, we will be meeting with her each week after she takes her kids to school in the mornings. She is actively looking for ways to be a help to others and to show her love as a Christian. She was also instrumental in the recent salvation of her sister-in-law and is currently conducting discipleship studies with her.

On a personal note, we'd like to announce that we are going to be grandparents again! Elijah's parents are expecting



their second child next May. We are all so excited! However, Suzanne is experiencing quite a bit of all-day sickness/nausea and she can hardly keep anything down or even get off the couch. She was recently admitted to the hospital for IV nutrition because she was dehydrated and we are praying that this will give her the strength she needs during this pregnancy. We'd appreciate your prayers for her during the rest of this first trimester.

Stephanie is doing well and enjoying her teaching job. She will have a fall break in a couple of weeks and she is going down to be with Suzanne and to help take care of Elijah.

The mission is still struggling financially. We'd LOVE to end the year in the black so if you can give a special gift between now and then, we'd very much appreciate it. We are definitely looking for more people to commit to giving monthly. If you can begin to give, or if you can make an increase in what you are giving now, it would be a HUGE help to us as we work here in Spain, doing what God has called us to do.

Thanks so much for your prayers, support, and encouragement. May God bless you as you

partner with us in Spain and with other missionaries around the world.

Your Missionaries To Spain,  
Sam & June McVay

## EDGMON UPDATE

### SCHOOL YEAR STARTS WITH A BIG SPLASH!

For the first time ever, we celebrated Alpedrete VBS in September this year. It was as if the momentum kept building until September 6th, when the first "wave" hit us. During the five afternoons of VBS, a total of 51 children washed in for the extreme adventures on "Isla Canoa" (known as Outrigger Island in English). Visit us at [www.fwbgo.com/missionaries/edgmon](http://www.fwbgo.com/missionaries/edgmon) to read more on VBS and to see great pictures from this event. The following week, the children had to dive right into school, and with the beginning of school, the activities of the Outreach Center begin as well. Please pray for all of the children impacted by VBS as well as for the families we have contacted through the Outreach Center events.



### CATCHING SOME WAVES

During the months of September and October, our Stateside Assignment (SA) has provided us with some unique opportunities. We "caught a wave" into Plano, Texas where we were able to spend several days with Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church. Then the currents took us back to Tennessee where we spoke at the meeting of the West Tennessee District of FWB Churches where we were able to give them a taste of Spain during their reception time. We have also traveled to northern Virginia where we spent almost a week attending a Sunday School picnic and speaking at several church events hosted by Yorkshire FWB. During October we made our way down to sunny Florida, but not for the surfing. This trip gave us the opportunity to spend several days with the folks at Calvary Chapel FWB Church.

### 10-10-10

No, we are not referring to your surfing scores. We just thought that this date on the calendar presented a unique occasion for service. Even though this date has passed, the opportunity has not and we would like to challenge you to do all three of the following items:

1. Make a list of ten unsaved persons that you know and earnestly pray for their salvation;
2. Encourage ten people by either sending them a short note or calling them on the phone;
3. Give \$10 (or a multiple of ten) to someone in need. You may think of someone around you who is struggling financially or you could give this gift to FWB International Missionaries to help us finish well during this difficult year. Just go to [www.fwbgo.com/give/](http://www.fwbgo.com/give/).

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

## SENIORS' SUMMIT 2010

The Altamonte Springs Hilton served as the setting for over 40 seniors from eight different churches for this year's Seniors' Summit. The annual retreat, held October 4-6, provided sweet fellowship, great preaching and tons of fun for the over 55 crowd (plus a couple of chaperones who were not quite old enough to attend on their own merit).

"Back up and punt" may well have been the theme as this year's retreat saw several last minute changes implemented. First, our scheduled speaker, Bert Tippet, had to back out due to health reasons. William Smith, Executive Secretary of the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists, stepped in and did an excellent job of preaching during each of our sessions. The second "punt" took place on the morning the group was set to go to the Holy Land Experience. The park had implemented a "free admission day" so by 6:00 that morning the parking lot was full, with traffic backed up onto Interstate 4. Instead of fighting the crowds at the Holy Land Experience, the group opted to go to the Wycliffe Bible Translators Discovery Center. The Discovery Center offered great insight into the on-going ministry of translating Scriptures into various languages throughout the world. While the Discovery Center provided a totally different excursion than had been planned, it received high marks from those who attended.

Many thanks go to Cindy Berry and Nicodemus for providing entertainment again this year. They provided lots of laughs during our fun time following the Monday night service. Special thanks also to Mike Taggart for his work with our sound and for driving the bus to the Discovery Center. We also appreciate the First FWB Church in Melbourne for the use of their bus during the retreat.

Read Comments from attendees:

*"Can't wait until next year!"*

*"This was my first year but it won't be my last."*

*"Always enjoy the fellowship!"*

*"Why can't we make this a week long?"*

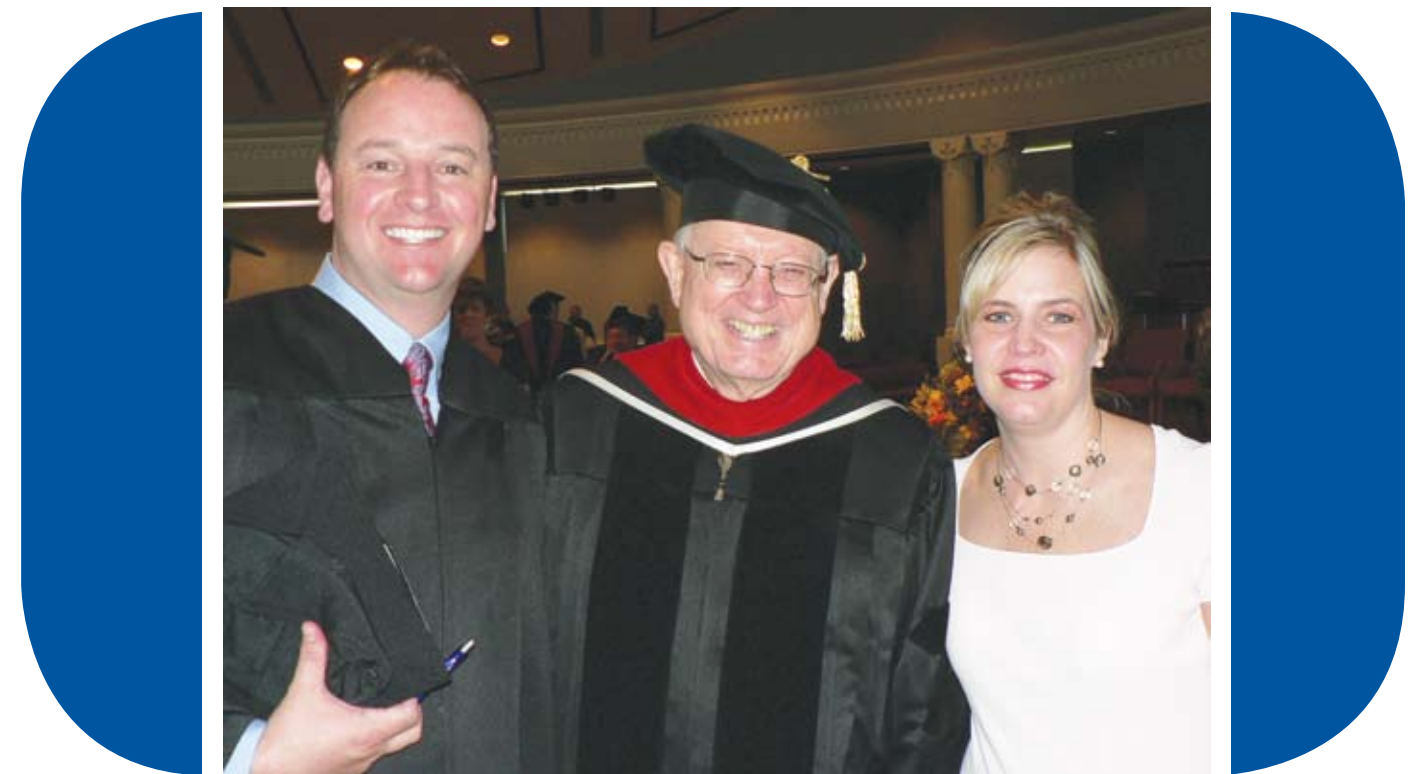


## THE COORDINATOR IS GETTING A FACE-LIFT!

Beginning in 2011, The Coordinator will have a new format. Look for our new four-page spread, chocked full of vital information from around the state, keeping you abreast of the latest happenings and event deadlines to help keep you plugged in. And to keep you informed about our missionaries, their field updates will now be available on-line at [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com).

Thank you for your continued interest in Free Will Baptist happenings around Florida and please continue to send information on your church events and ministries to [weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com](mailto:weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com).

## GRADUATE RECEIVES UNEXPECTED HONOR



Congratulations to Will Beauchamp who recently graduated from the Dallas Theological Seminary with a master's degree. Both he and his wife, Jennifer, were treated to the unexpected honor of meeting Dr. Chuck Swindoll. Way to go, Will!

## STATE GIVING UPDATE

As of September 30, 2010, Cooperative Giving received \$74,794.92 putting co-op giving \$2,946.36 under budget through September.

The Florida Mission Shares program received \$87,729.09 putting Shares \$55,411.41 under budget through September.