

FLA

Coordinator

Florida's Newsletter for
Florida State Association of
Free Will Baptists
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Sep/Oct 2010 In This Issue

- Truth & Peace: A 101's Perspective . . . 2
- Truth & Peace: A 401's Perspective 3
- Mission Update 4
- Mission Shares Golf Tournament . . 6
- Upcoming Events 7
- My Heroes 8
- Executive Secretary's Schedule. . . 8

2010 YOUTH EVANGELISTIC TEAM (YET) by Matt Berry

Have you ever wondered how to know when you are in God's will? For me, as a teenager, life seems to be normal week after week with very little change. Naturally, I am serving the Lord in my local church, but even that sometimes has such a sense of normalcy to it that I long to sense God's affirmation that I am, in fact, doing His will.

Well, this year I was privileged to do something way out of the ordinary for me. During the 2009 Free Will Baptist National Youth Conference I was selected to be part of the 2010 YET (Youth Evangelistic Team) along with eleven other Free Will Baptist youths from around the country. Our team met on June 13, 2010 at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and Jeff and Sherri Sloan set the tone for an exciting ministry! They challenged us to do our best as we prepared to minister together over the next three weeks. God orchestrated this group of teens to be an encouragement to our missionary churches in the central states, and I'm proud to say that I played a small part in serving.

While on tour, Mr. Sloan asked me to give my testimony and a short devotional challenge. When he asked me, I had many mixed emotions - I was



Rev. Randy Bryant

MY HEROES by randy bryant

There seems to be a lot of discussion about "heroes" these days. Now, more than ever, I'm asked, "Who are your heroes?" Maybe that happens as you get older. The question does give me the opportunity to think about some people I have admired. There have been childhood heroes on television, athletes on the sports field, and people in real life that I have wanted to imitate. There are heroes of the faith that captivate my attention. Then there are heroes that I see everyday. They might not meet the commonly accepted definition, but they are courageous, strong and committed.

In my travels, I regularly encounter individuals more accurately described as "heroines" for whom I have gained a tremendous appreciation. They are the pastors' wives. Across the state, our pastors' wives are some of the most selfless, sacrificial people around. Most of these ladies work full-time jobs, keep their home running, some feed, clothe, and chauffeur children, and then give their time and talent to the ministries of the church. Perhaps their most challenging job is to meet the needs of the pastor, keeping him encouraged. More often than not, I see the pastor's wife run in from work, throw something on the stove, freshen up a bit, and head back out the door for a district meeting, never once complaining. The average pastor's wife shoulders tremendous responsibility in her church. They are not paid, yet in many cases they are viewed as a staff member, a bonus gained by calling the pastor. They are expected to be at every function of the church, lead women's ministries, teach Sunday School, be ideal hostesses, and cover a multitude of other things that arise within the church and beyond.

Expectations for these "heroines" are very high. Many are never recognized or shown appreciation for who they are and what they do. Because some churches view them as just an extension of the pastor, they are often overlooked even when churches show appreciation for their pastor. Our pastors' wives are not looking for accolades or praise; they do not desire to be put on a pedestal or to be honored, but they deserve to be.

Mrs. Pastor's Wife, there is no way to express what you mean to our churches and to the kingdom, but I want you to know that you are indeed special, greatly admired, and appreciated. You are my hero!

Executive Director's Schedule:

October

- 4-6 Seniors' Summit; Altamonte Springs
- 8 Liberty Association Meeting
- 9 State Planning Committee Meeting;
- Chipley
- 15-16 Palmer Leadership Conference;
- Jacksonville
- 18-21 Rejuvenate Conference; Louisville
- 23 Hispanic Association;
- West Palm Beach
- 30 Indian River Association; Cocoa

November

- 5-6 Christian Workers' Conference
- Destin

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.

TRUTH AND PEACE: A 401'S PERSPECTIVE

by Emily Faison

For the past four years, my July has always been occupied by one event: Truth and Peace. Every summer during high school I attended Truth and Peace, and I have no idea what my high school life would have been like without it! I have learned more than I could have imagined about teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and most importantly, my walk with Christ. Each summer my expectations were blown to pieces as my relationship with Christ, as well as others, was stretched, tested, studied, and honed. This past July was no exception.

Being a "401," or 4th year-level of Truth and Peace, was exciting because it was fun, but also because it bore more responsibility than any other year of Truth and Peace. Three years of training finally paid off and it was necessary that I put my skills to the test as a top level Truth and Peace student. Each of the eight top-level students were assigned a specific task for the duration of the National Youth Conference, and it was my privilege to be the personal assistant to Allen Pointer, the director of Truth and Peace. Staffing the entire NYC is no easy task, but members of Truth and Peace are truly blessed each year with the opportunity to serve alongside fellow Christian leaders. The NYC is the testing ground for all of the training that is learned.

Following the "Pathfinders" theme and Acts 1:8, Truth and Peacers this year studied true pathfinders of the Free Will Baptist denomination. The Greek letters Phi Lambda (latitude and longitude) were proudly worn on t-shirts and jackets as an example of personal "horizontal" and "vertical" relationships. With Christ as the point of dead reckoning - the point against which all other things are measured - personal latitude and longitude can be used to follow Christ's path for us. As leaders, we must be willing and able to use Christ as our point of reckoning.

Truth and Peace is a great learning experience, as well as an entire month of fun. The training learned, friendships built, and memories made will serve me well as I enter college as a Christian leader. The past four July's are a time I wouldn't trade for the world.

If you would like to step up in leadership in your world, visit www.register-tp.com or visit the Truth and Peace 2011 Facebook page for more information on applying.

To Register Visit register-tp.com



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Churches Seeking Pastors

First FWB - Malone
Contact Jesse Hart
850-569-5006

Damascus FWB - Marianna
Contact Richard Rehberg
850-482-6600

Directory Update

Upcoming Events Around The State

Senior Summit, October 4-6, 2010 in Altamonte Springs. This event will include a trip to the Holy Land Experience and the guest speaker will be Rev. Bert Tippett.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2010.

Palmer Leadership Institute, October 15-16, 2010 in Jacksonville.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 1, 2010.

Christian Workers' Conference, "The Fight of Our Lives," at the Embassy Suites in Destin, November 5-6, 2010. Dr. David Gibbs, III of the Christian Law Association will be the guest speaker.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 14, 2010.

Look for more information on these events in upcoming issues or please visit our state website at www.flafwb.com

EDGMON UPDATE

We Departed from Alpedrete

On June 30th we boarded a plane to return to the States for our Stateside Assignment. We were comforted to know that as we left the Alpedrete church, we were leaving it in the capable hands of our teammates. We have prayed for and have been excited to see three of our laymen speak on three different occasions recently, while others are leading the praise and worship part of our services. This is a great sign of a maturing church and we ask that you pray that God would continue to raise up both men and women in Alpedrete who want to serve their local church, their community and their Savior.

We Celebrated in OKC!

Only three weeks after arriving in the States, we were privileged to attend the FWB National Convention in Oklahoma City. This Convention will long be remembered in our hearts and minds as the year our denomination celebrated the 75th anniversary of FWB International Missions (FWBIM). We were awed by the walk-through museum that FWBIM provided for visitors to view items from mission fields around the world. We were moved as we were able to participate in welcoming national representatives from many of these countries and we were thrilled at the tremendous response to the GO10 Walk, which culminated at the Convention. The fellowship with other missionaries and field representatives was great and we commend all of those who had a part in making this such a memorable National Convention.

We Moved to Munford, TN

During our Stateside Assignment we decided to live by Lea's parents in West Tennessee. Our search took us to Munford, which is about 25 minutes north of the Liberty FWB Church in Millington, where Lea's parents attend. We are pleased with the elementary school in this small suburban town and Emily and Marc began their first experience in an American school on August 9th. Although there have been a few tears shed, both kids seem to be adjusting well. Please continue to pray for our family as we settle back into the American culture.

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



VERLIN AND DEBBIE ANDERSON

As summer ends, we thankfully look back! Having our two college-age children home for the summer was fabulous. Cason and Cara helped to resolve computer problems; copied and systematized CHE lessons; worked the garden; tutored Corbin to improve his writing skills; decorated wedding cakes; animated our family talks and provided countless other blessings. Cara finished a painting depicting foot washing just hours before they left and we love it! Guests have already been stimulated to interesting conversation by it.

The busyness of August 16-21 capped a fruitful time of activity. During this time, our National Association Meeting, followed by a Pastor's Retreat, took place in the town of Bondoukou. Three pastors stayed with us during the retreat and we added a fourth guest during the National. Verlin participated in numerous meetings and he presented our report to the Association. Alice Smith, our dear coworker in CHE, announced her 2011 retirement from Cote d'Ivoire. The Ivorian church heard reports, discussed a revision of rules and by-laws, and resolved to try envelope giving to encourage tithing. They also authorized a feasibility study regarding a national project to build a Christian school in Bondoukou.

Also during this time, we entertained a candidate for ordination, which we shared with you in our last update. Years ago, he left our church to be trained as a pastor elsewhere. Both he and Verlin spent hours together in prayer and discussion of his ordination exam. Often, it proved pivotal to engage in simple explanations of his worldview differences from that of which Free Will Baptist doctrine and church policy are built. It was a positive exchange. Hopefully the time will help him to more accurately evaluate whether he shares our beliefs, and, if not, let him understand that a rejection of ordination is not a rejection of him as a Christian brother.

August 28th found Corbin and Verlin at the dedication of a new FWB church in Kouafo, a village about an hour from Bondoukou. The construction, funded by one single Ivorian man, represented a community effort. Believers from many FWB churches attended the Saturday celebration which followed an evangelistic outreach on Friday. We hope it is a pattern of things to come.

Alice joined Debbie in August as the CHE (Community Health Evangelism) training of the women from the Goumere



FWB Church continued. It is a great joy to work with these hard-working ladies every Sunday afternoon as they begin to learn how to improve conditions in their families spiritually, physically, and relationally.

Another big project was planting the FAITH garden (Food Always In The Home). The pilot project is in our yard, as we are learning to provide the year-round vegetable needed for a 6-member family, using only 96 to 100 square meters of space. Malnutrition is rampant here and we hope that after four or five plantings we will be able to teach this method to many Ivorians, including our pastors, some who have not been paid for months. Right now, Verlin is ironing out pest problems and he is learning which home-made pesticides work in this region.

The GO10 walk leading up to the National in Oklahoma surpassed its million dollar goal! Thank the Lord and thank all of you who participated. We pray that International Missions will finish the year with plenty of resources to not only fund, but also to expand, the worldwide ministries the Lord has given us. You are helping to make that possible.

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

McVAY UPDATE

We've been back in Spain for over a month now, have settled into our daily lives and are enjoying being back. We've renewed many of our friendships and have visited all of the churches, receiving good reports from all of them.

We attend the Esperanza church, pastored by José Manuel. He began this church about five years ago and we are consistently blessed with about 25-30 people in attendance each Sunday. The storefront meeting place is very small and we are currently looking for a larger place to meet. The church owns this storefront and in order to find a larger facility, we either need to sell it or rent it out to another organization. We recently met with a group from the church and began making plans for this coming year. We discussed starting a Sunday School program, weekly prayer meetings and Bible study and the possibility of starting youth meetings. Please help us pray for these different ministries and its workers.



The Villalba church is doing well and they are enjoying their new building. They have had a few new people come to the church since the construction was completed back in December. Some of these visitors have become permanent and are faithful. Jhon Fredy is doing a great job as pastor of this church and several of the members are involved in leadership positions within the church. We've attended a couple of "Summer BBQ and Movie Nights" that they have sponsored and these activities were well attended by both visitors and members alike. During the first week in September, they held a baptismal service for two of their members. Please pray for these new believers as they make this public profession of their faith in Christ.

The Alpedrete church is bursting at the seams, even during the summer months. If everyone who attends would be there on the same Sunday, there wouldn't be enough chairs to seat everyone! They have about 40-50 in attendance each week. Several of the believers have been helping to teach Children's Church, singing in the praise group and playing instruments, giving devotions, and have even preached on occasion. Thank God for the growth in the lives of these believers.

The church in Colmenar Viejo is struggling, yet they have a good small group of believers. Juan Carlos, who is from Cuba, is the pastor of this church and he serves about 15-20 attendees each week. They have had a couple of new families visit recently, one from Cuba. They also have a lady preparing for baptism. Please pray that this church will be a light in the community and that many will come to know Him.

On a personal note, we are enjoying visiting with our grandson, Elijah, via SKYPE. He is so sweet, especially when he holds out his arms and wants his Papa to take him. He is now saying "Papa" and "Gram," and we love to hear him call our names! His parents, Suzanne and Jonathan, are doing well and Stephanie is back to teaching high school again. We are very proud of our family!

Thank you for your prayers, financial support, and encouragement. Please be faithful in your commitment to give to missions. Like many ministries these days, we are suffering from the economy but we desperately need more monthly support! Please pray about what God would have you do.

Your Missionaries To Spain,
Sam & June McVay



Mission Shares Cup Golf Tournament 2010

Soaked fairways (and drenched rough - for those who played there) did not dampen the fellowship and fun for the twenty golfers that participated in this year's Mission Shares Cup Golf Tournament. The tournament was held on August 13-14 at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River. A week's worth of rain prior to the tournament made for wet conditions, but everyone made the best of it and enjoyed the time together.

When the two rounds were over, two teams were tied for the lead. The father/son team of Jeff and Jonathon Bowman and the grandfather/grandson team of David Buser and Kaulen Hatton both finished with a two round score of 145. The two teams shared the first place prizes, but based on a tiebreaker hole the cup went home with David Buser and Kaulen Hatton from New Hope FWB Church in Dover. Other awards went to Clark Ryman for the Most Accurate Drive; Kaulen Hatton for the Longest Putt; John Gililand for Closest to the Pin; and Philip Pinkerman for the Longest Drive.

Along with the fellowship and enjoyment, the tournament raised approximately \$1000 for our State's Mission Shares plan of support. We would like to express our appreciation to each of the hole sponsors.

Affordable Monuments- Ron & Kim Livingston
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 Master's Men of Ryanwood Fellowship FWB
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 FWB Foundation
 Sneads FWB Church (2 holes)
 Crystal River Medical Equipment
 Randall House Publications
 Youth Group from First FWB Church, Ocala
 Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church
 The Bowman Family

A special word of appreciation goes to David Williford from FWBBC and Ron Hunter from Randall House for providing beverages for the golfers during the two rounds of golf.



TRUTH AND PEACE: A 101'S PERSPECTIVE

by Danielle Pate

Truth and Peace: one long application, 103 members, 102 new friends, an awesome staff, and one amazing God that supports us all. Truth and Peace is a leadership conference for high school students in which we cultivate skills for a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. I was one of three people from the state of Florida on Truth and Peace 2010 and I was a "101" which simply means it was my first year.

This year we were housed at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and before we even arrived at the conference, we were assigned specific books to read. My assigned reading was *Lady in Waiting*, *Being A Girl Who Leads*, and *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*. We attended classes which gave us the opportunity to discuss the topics in our books with other participants.

One of my favorite parts about Truth and Peace were the BOSS sessions. One of the BOSS sessions I attended was taught by Cameron Lane. In this session, we learned about the physical abuse that Jesus endured for us. Christians always say, "Jesus died on the cross for you and me," but we never really think about what actually happened to Jesus. He was whipped with straps of leather with spikes and nails on the end; He was spit upon numerous times; His crown of thorns was pressed firmly on His head to mock Him. Words cannot express the physical pain that Christ went through for all of us. To give us a physical reminder of His suffering, we also watched clips from *The Passion of the Christ*, which is said to be an accurate portrayal of the crucifixion of Christ.

Our teams this year were based on famous explorers and I was part of a 6-person team represented by Vasco DaGama. At night, before we went back to our rooms, we met with our team to hold devotions.

Every year, one of the highlights of Truth and Peace is its Concert of Prayer. We are assigned a prayer partner and sometimes we prayed with them, sometimes we prayed by ourselves and sometimes we prayed in groups. We participated in a three-hour prayer session and I witnessed a lot of life-changing decisions through this act of worship.

Another highlight of Truth and Peace was our responsibility to work at and to manage the National Youth Conference during the National Convention held in Oklahoma City. In addition to the work and study classes, we enjoyed a lot of fun activities such as bowling, sightseeing and we even took in a Red Hawks baseball game!

Truth and Peace was definitely an experience I will never forget and hopefully it is something I will be allowed to do again each year, culminating with the opportunity to be a "401." God worked in so many lives during these two and a half weeks, and He really worked in mine. I'm so appreciative of the opportunity I was given! We are Truth and Peace!



To Register Visit Register-tp.com

National Youth Evangelistic Team (Continued from Page 1)

excited to have the opportunity to share what God has done in my life, but I was also very nervous because I had never preached or given a devotional in front of a crowd. However, once I took my Bible in my hand, I felt the Holy Spirit comforting me and giving me a peace that I cannot explain. That evening, following the YET's program, my message and Mr. Sloan's challenge, over a dozen teenagers found themselves on the altar, calling out to God. That experience proved to be a real affirmation of God's calling on my life to preach His Word.

There were many wonderful experiences in YET that have really blessed my life. Being surrounded by so many talented teenagers really challenged me to grow stronger. With 14 of us crammed into a 15-passenger van for 2,500 miles, we all had the opportunity to get to know one another. I can't wait to watch and see the workings God will do in each of our lives as we keep serving Him on the mission fields He is preparing for us.

I want to send out a special thanks to the Florida Christian Ministries Board, the Indian River Christian Education Board and the Master's Men of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Melbourne, my home church. These organizations sponsored and helped provide for my financial needs during this entire experience. I also want to thank my parents and the Florida CTS program for preparing me to serve and use my talents for Christ.