

# FLORIDA

# Coordinators

MAR APR 2016

## Celebrating 72 Years of Ministry at the 2016 State Meeting Discipleship...Closing the Back Door

This year's State Meeting marks the 72nd Annual Session and will be held April 27-30, 2016 at the Jacksonville Marriott. Please join us for dynamic insight on the importance of discipleship in our churches provided by Rev. Tim Owen, Pastor of the Piney Grove FWB Church in Chipley; Rev. Ron Hunter, Director of Randall House Publications; and Rev. Mac Brunson, Pastor of First Baptist in Jacksonville.



Dr. Mac  
Brunson  
pastor of  
First Baptist  
Jacksonville



Rev. Ron  
Hunter Jr.  
executive  
director  
Randall House



Rev. Tim  
Owen  
pastor of  
Piney Grove  
Chipley

You can make your reservations by calling 800-962-9786 or you can go on-line at <http://cwp.marriott.com/jaxfl/fwb2016convention/>. Room rates are \$85 per night but you must identify yourself as being associated with Florida Free Will Baptists. The deadline for room reservations is April 6th.

### Tuesday, April 26

- 9 am State Planning Committee Meeting
- 1 pm Budget Committee Meeting
- 7 pm Mission Board Meeting

### Wednesday, April 27

- 8:30 Executive Committee Meeting
- 4 pm Registration Opens
- 7 pm Worship Service - Rev. Tim Owen
- 9 pm Reception for Ministers

### Thursday, April 28

- 7:30 Welch College Friends Breakfast
- 9 am Discipleship Seminar - Rev. Ron Hunter
- 10 am Coffee Break
- 10:30 Discipleship Seminar - Rev. Ron Hunter
- Noon FWAC Mission Luncheon
- 1:30 State Business Session

### Thursday, April 28

- 7 pm Worship Service - Dr. Mac Brunson

### Friday, April 29

- 9 am Mission Service
- 10:15 State Business Reconvenes  
FWAC Business Session
- 2 pm Registration for SYC
- 2:30 SYC Judges and Coaches Meeting
- 3 pm Music and Arts Competition
- 5 pm Tic Tac Toe Preliminaries
- 6 pm Youth Dinner
- 7 pm Youth and Kids Rally

### Saturday, April 30

- 7 am SYC Judges Breakfast
- 8 am Bible Competition
- 11 am Awards Ceremony

## 2015 Ministers' Retreat in Review



Nine couples were treated like royalty during this year's Ministers' Retreat aboard the Emerald Princess. While everyone enjoyed the excursions, the food, the warm weather and the ports, most everyone agreed it was the fellowship that made the cruise so special. Some of us were even treated to a serenade by Jonathon Bowman during karaoke night! A special time of worship for our group wrapped up the week. Rev. John Gilliland from Calvary FWB in Hollywood took the occasion to remind us of what God's grace truly is. The worship time included a music medley lead by Rev. Tim Owen.

Special thanks to Randy Bryant for working out the details for everyone and to the Christian Ministries Board for sponsoring the event and supplementing the pastors' fees.



## The School of Hard Knocks by Dr. Ken Riggs

*The School of Hard Knocks* by Dr. Ken Riggs with foreword by Jack Williams, Former Director of Communications for Welch College. This book simply had to be written. If you do not know Ken Riggs now, you will by the time you finish reading his amazing life story in the pages of *The School of Hard Knocks*. Ken was the first person I met when I arrived at the Nashville airport in 1961 to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. He drove me across town to the West End Avenue campus where I enrolled in what is now Welch College. Ken and I were members of the same men's society, The William Jennings Bryan Society. We played on the basketball team and had many of the same teachers. He and his wife, Carolyn, were married on the same day as my wife, Janis, and I: July 13, 1962.

What an honor to read and edit these pages; it's like standing on a hill and watching more than fifty years of Free Will Baptist history unfurl. Ken is a preacher's kid who became a preacher. Both Ken and his father, the late Raymond Riggs, played major roles in the denomination's accomplishments for these many decades.

Every young preacher needs to read this volume; Ken Riggs walked the pages of history impacting generations with his example and character. Ken was in the middle of several denominational dust-ups in the late 20th century, including the notorious "Wine Issue" and the Christian School Mandate. He came through the controversies with a clear conscience and a brotherly concern for others.

Educator, pastor, evangelist, national leader, father, husband, and friend, Ken has written with love and respect about the difficult moments that divided the movement those years ago. He does not write with bitterness or anger, but with a warm heart and honest words.

This candid, carefully written spiritual journey belongs in the library of every Free Will Baptist pastor and church. I plan to get an autographed copy for myself and purchase other copies for my preacher grandson and other friends. *The School of Hard Knocks* is worth the price of the book; it's an investment not an expense. Thanks, Ken, for bringing me along with you on this history-memory journey. Well done, my brother.



Coordinator

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## Thank God for the Church

by Randy Bryant - Executive Director - cell 772-696-3409

Recently, our neighbors, which included a grandmother, mother and a teen-age daughter who had kept to themselves while living across the street, moved out of our neighborhood to a cheaper home about ten miles away. When I got up that morning and saw the moving company at their house my first thought was "if they had a church family, they would not have to spend a thousand dollars for a moving company; their church would have helped." That idea got me thinking about all the benefits that being a part of a church offers people.

While obviously the church provides opportunities to worship and receive biblical instruction, think beyond that. When a church member has a need, the church family is there to help whether it is with labor, muscle, food, or just companionship and a listening ear. In an emergency, the church family rallies and provides the needed help. When you have spiritual or emotional needs, the church you're a part of offers encouragement when you're discouraged and advice when you're seeking direction. When you have burdens and concerns that need prayer, you turn to the church. It's also the church that offers you the opportunity to develop and use your talents and gifts to make a difference in other people's lives.

We need to be grateful for the love and support we receive from our church family, but it also needs to be an advertisement to the world. "They will know we are Christians by our love" means that not only does the church provide these benefits for their own, but that they reach out to the community and show them God's love. Many times people form an opinion of the church without ever stepping inside the door. Serving our neighbors lets them know that we take the Bible's command to love one another seriously. The love that we have for each other inside the church, and the love we show others outside the church, should lead us to respond "thank God for the church!"

### Executive Director's Schedule

#### March

- 3-4 Site Visits  
Daytona Beach
- 30 Deep South Tourney

#### April

- 3-6 Revival - Sneads
- 8 Salem Association  
Traveler's Rest
- 16 Hispanic Assoc.  
Ebenezer, Miami
- 23 Indian River Assoc.  
Hollywood
- 27-30 State Meeting  
Jacksonville

## Tallahassee Mission Project Update

It is with great regret the Florida State Mission Board makes the following announcement: Following the resignation of our church planter, Cliff Donoho, and after meeting with the remaining congregation in Tallahassee, the Florida Mission Board has voted to discontinue our State Mission Project in Tallahassee. The board is thankful for the lives that were touched during the four years the church ministered in Tallahassee. The board commends Cliff and Kathy Donoho for their service and their efforts. The Legacy Church held its final service on January 31, 2016.

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Free Will Baptists  
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The logo for 'UPcoming EVENTS' features the word 'UP' in large, bold, green letters with a blue outline, and 'coming' in smaller green letters. Below it, 'EVENTS' is written in blue. Three red stars are positioned above the 'UP'.

- World Mission Offering (WMO) April 24
- State Meeting, April 27-30 - Jacksonville
- National Convention, July 17-20 - Kansas City
- Mission Shares Golf Tournament, Aug. 19-20  
Crystal River
- Christian Workers' Conf. Sep. 16-17 - Orlando
- Seniors' Summit, October 17-19
- Christian Workers' Conf. Nov. 4-5 - Destin

For information about upcoming events  
visit the State Website  
[flaFWB.com](http://flaFWB.com)

## Digital Issue Available!

In an effort to be more cost-effective, The Florida Coordinator can now be made available to you through email. If you would like to receive the Coordinator newsletter via email instead of through the mail, please send Chrissy Kinney, Editor, an email at [mckinney2@live.com](mailto:mckinney2@live.com) with "GOING DIGITAL" in the subject line and she will add your name to our email subscriber list. You can also access our newsletter on-line at [www.flafwb.com](http://www.flafwb.com).

