

Fall 2011

THE TEXAS CHALLENGE

VBS Texas Style



Iglesia Bautista Libre de Houston and Liberation Free Will Baptist Church combine to make a successful VBS

by Jezer Urena

Vacation Bible School is one of the most vital ministries that we embark on every year. It requires a tremendous level of teamwork, commitment and sacrifice. When Christ was teaching in Galilee He gave us insight into the importance of teaching and preaching to children.

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)



Armando and Yolanda Roca have worked the registration table for eight years!

During VBS there was a combined attendance average of 129. Many of the children who participate in VBS are not members of the church, so it allows us to share the gospel with new families.

There are so many volunteers that allow VBS to function smoothly, but there are some special volunteers that make VBS possible. Yolanda and Armando Roca go through the painstaking process of registration and keeping attendance. They have answered the call without fail and with smiles for the past eight years. Yasi Gonzales took the helm for the

VBS requires the collaboration of both the Iglesia Bautista Libre and Liberation Free Will Baptist Church. Over the past 8 years we have worked together to ensure that we allow children a special opportunity to come to the Master.

This year's VBS was Panda Mania. It took us eight weeks of preparation and the cooperation of nearly 40 volunteers from both churches. It is amazing how the Lord touches the heart of so many to accomplish a successful VBS. The leadership of Dina Urena-Casillas and Joe Casillas galvanized the support necessary. We thank God for their tireless efforts. Great leadership is willing to take the sacrifices necessary to allow others to see God's vision.



Lucrecia Urena and her crew of dedicated workers prepare snacks for kids and meals for workers.

Bible lesson everyday and this is where children get exposed to the gospel story. Socorro Prieto, all 6'4" of him, can be seen running around getting the children excited in the game room. Rolando Lew helped children make crafts that would remind them of the lessons they would hear. Mando Roca Jr. took care of Chatter's Adventure Theater where children learn through ingenious short films starring Group's mascot. Lucrecia Urena and her



Socorro Prieto makes game time exciting and fun!

crew of dedicated workers prepare snacks for all the children everyday. They also prepare a meal for all the volunteers who rush from work straight to VBS, and I promise you the eating is Good. Lorenzo Guerrero taught the little ones (3 to 5 year-olds), because you're never too young to learn about the Lord. Last but certainly not least, Giselle Trevino and Diana Cinco set the tone by leading the worship with their lovely voices.

It is joy to see the unity that God gives the church when we make the commitment to serve. In this day in age when so many church are there to receive it gives me a great deal of pastoral pride that God has blessed us with an abundance of givers. They most certainly are the "salt of the earth".

May God Bless you all.

PANDAMANIA!!

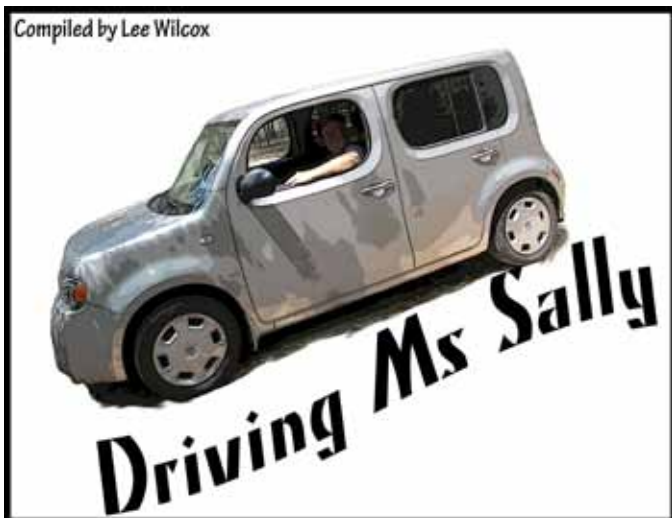
Wildwood FWB Church in
Porter, TX - VBS 2011



Fellowship FWB Church VBS

We did Pandamania VBS on August 3-5, 2011. Kids had a blast with the different stations. The music was so fun and the kids love the movements that go with the songs. This is the first time fellowship has had VBS in about ten years. Our high night we had 52. The Lord blessed our VBS.

The National Youth Competition involved our kids - Alex Dickey who did a PowerPoint and Josh Odle who did a dramatic duo with Alex. Hannah Odle did a song in sign language. This was the first time they have ever competed and gone to Nationals. Alex placed third with the power point. (see p. 12) The others did an awesome job but did not place.



Well, there isn't really anything new about me driving Miss Sally around. I've been doing that for years. We have been to almost every state

convention or "all boards" meeting for more than 10 years. I am the old fellow who was sitting in the back smiling while she told you all how much she enjoyed putting out this paper. It has been fun. We have had the privilege of meeting some of the best people Texas has to offer. What has changed is that I am no longer gainfully employed so she announced her intention of putting me to work.

After several years of being a Special Education teacher in the public school system I have become old enough that it's hard to "herd cats". If you didn't know before I would like to tell you that special education is probably the most rewarding enterprise that one can attempt. It is, however, like herding cats. As I go through the Freewill Baptist community in Texas I find a number of people who feel likewise. The problem is that it requires someone with an old person's patience and a young person's energy. That means that I am only half qualified now.

Ms Sally has asked me to make it a point to meet our pastors and get their story. It's probably not a good thing to be among the first. She has already pointed out some deficiencies in a couple of my early interviews and I have promised to try harder. A hard taskmistress but I am hopelessly in love so I will try.

Since I am still oriented towards our youngsters, I will also be looking at anything that is youth-oriented. I expect to do something on all three of our youth camps before next summer and if you have something that you would like to publicize give me a heads up and I'll see what we can do. I was dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century but the training took well enough that I actually check my email. While somewhat dated now, contact me at wstarvingteacher@yahoo.com. If you put kids or challenge in the subject it would be appreciated.

Thanks, Lee

New Beginnings

Meet the Pastor: Kyle Howell

Ms Sally and I had the privilege of spending some time with Kyle Howell, his wife Beth and Daughter Elisa today. Kyle pastors New Beginnings Free Will Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas.

We first met them at Camp Sonshine where they were spending some very warm days in June.

Kyle attended Hillsdale FWB college in Moore Oklahoma. He attended with the express purpose of playing baseball. When an athlete shares living quarters with a group of Christian youngsters its pretty logical to think something might happen. Kyle simply says "I was saved."

He married Beth (daughter to John and Gaye Davis and granddaughter to Bobbie Joe and Barrie Sue). After college they became missionaries to Uruguay and then went on to New Beginnings. As iff being a pastor's wife, mom, and a camp volunteer weren't enough, Beth's "tent making" is as a full-time employee at Children's Protective Service.

Kyle credits 1 Corinthians 9:22 with giving the most wisdom in his day-to-day walk: "To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

If Kyle could have any wish granted, he would wish that everyone could be saved. He sees his church mission as evangelism and is committed to bringing everyone to Christ that he can. He hopes that in 10 years the legacy of his church will be the new churches they have planted.

If you are new to Bryan, visit New Beginnings at 2177 North Earl Rudder Freeway. Or visit their website at www.newbeginningsbcs.com where you will find all the info you need. You can also find them on Facebook listed as "New Beginnings." Or call them! 979-778-0063

Eastside FWB Church

Meet the Pastor: Dr Kenneth Mayo

Dr. Ken is a “mustang.” From any sailor that is a complimentary term. It refers to one who started at the bottom and came up due to merit. Dr. Ken and his wife Esther have been attending Eastside FWB church , 8825 CE King Pkwy, Houston since it was first built in 1982. For those of you familiar with Houston that is just off East Beltway 8 just a very few miles towards downtown on CE King.

He says he became aware that he should preach when God created a vacancy at Eastside while simultaneously closing several other options for him.. Seven years ago Eastside’s pastor left. After prayer, he felt that the pieces of the puzzle were a good fit and answered the call. He has been the Eastside pastor ever since.

Dr. Ken began his secondary education the same place many other FWB pastors have started. He attended FWBBC in Nashville. A teacher in the public school system he attended Prairieview A&M for his Master in Education and continued for his doctorate at Texas A&M.

What makes Dr. Ken a mustang is that he began attending Eastside Church in 1982, became a deacon, and then became the pastor. By anyone’s standards that is working yourself up within God’s family.

When asked what Bible verse gives him his greatest support he answered Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

If he could have any wish granted (for his church) he would like another auditorium built in the church and a multi purpose building for the public. When asked to describe his church he says that they are a loving group of people where guests feel welcome. I would certainly echo that statement for the times I have visited. They practice an interpersonal approach to worship and togetherness and he feels that has a big part to play in the stable environment they are today.

Although he is happy with where they are for the immediate present, Dr. Ken says that he hopes that by the time ten more years have passed that they will have grown to a number that they will need to plant another church within a reasonable distance.

Iglesia Bautista Libre de Houston

Pastor: Secudino Urenas

Dino was born in the Dominican Republic as was his wife Lucretia. Dino is from Elias Pina, a small town by the Haitian border. He tells us that he could not read or write, and was still working in a cane field with a machete when he was 14 years old. An accident with a machete caused him to reconsider his choice of career.

Dino was a member of a church that lost its pastor. The superintendent asked Dino to step out of his comfort zone and take the job. He did. His first church vehicle was a 10-speed bicycle. When the time came to stop renting and build his first church, the help to do so came from the administrator of a local sugar cane factory. From nothing, this church has now developed into five churches.

Lucretia was a legal resident of the United States when a chance errand took her on a trip back to the Dom Rep brought her into contact with Dino. The ultimate result was the two of them in the United States. Now they have been married 35 years. The path leads from Boston, to Midland/Odessa, to Houston. “By chance” he found his current church when he was looking for a spanish-speaking church home for his parents.

In that church home he taught the spanish church in four different locations (classroom/kitchen/etc) until the hispanic work outnumbered the English- speaking church. Brother Bobby Ferguson then traded spaces and eventually moved to a new church (First Church Houston) in Tomball.

Dino is a graduate of the seminary Methodista Libre in Santiago, Dominican Republic. He and Lucretia have two sons T.J. and Jezeer and a daughter Dina.

I asked him what his kids thought about being “PK”s and that brought a laugh. He said he hadn’t given them much choice but thought they survived the trauma. Jezeer is a pastor like his dad.

He describes his church as a mix of contemporary and conservative. His current efforts are on emphasizing that evangelism is more than passing out tracts, and he is trying to focus on followup and accountability.

His greatest support comes from Matthew 28:18-20, emphasis on “...I am with you always...”

This article comes shortly after the conclusion of this year's National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. I always enjoy attending the convention, when I get to see long-time friends, make new friends, and get caught up on the latest developments within the denomination. I also spend a fair amount of time as a judge and MC in the National Youth Conference competitive activities, which is a lot of fun. Just over 6,000 people registered for this 75th Annual Meeting, taking part in the National Association, the National Youth Conference, and WNAC, and we heard some great preaching and singing and had some great fellowship. Delegates adopted combined ministry budgets of about \$24.7 million, and nearly 1,000 youth competition entries were fielded in Bible, Music, and Arts.



Next year's annual meeting will be in Memphis, Tennessee, in July. I hope that you will make plans now to attend; I'm sure you will receive a blessing for attending. While on the subject of making plans, we were reminded once again that the 78th Annual Meeting will be taking place in Fort Worth just three short years from now. I hope you have already anticipated attending that meeting and taking part in all it will have to offer. It coincides with the 100th anniversary of our Texas State Association and we will be looking to be fantastic hosts and show all of our visitors the hospitality that always gets us tremendous compliments by those who attend our State Meeting.

In making plans for the 2014 National Convention, it is time once again for me to remind everyone of our goal of raising money to help offset the costs of hosting the convention. Specifically, we have a goal of raising \$30,000, which is the cost of renting the meeting space at the convention center in Fort Worth. While this goal has not been made a requirement for us to host the convention, it has been suggested that this would be a good target for us to strive for, to ease the financial load of conducting a convention of that size. When this goal was set in 2004, it was a much more manageable number; we could easily reach our goal by each church setting aside \$5.00 per month over the 10-year period. Some churches have given this amount (or more) in monthly or annual installments; others have given differing amounts from time to time as they have fundraisers or special offerings, and we appreciate every penny that you have given up to this point. Our current total, as of July 31, is just shy of \$9,000, so we have quite a ways to go in order to reach our goal. Of course, economic times are much different today than they were seven years ago; our churches support a wide variety of home and international missionaries, colleges, and denominational ministries, and you should continue to do so. Each church also has an obligation to pay their own bills and operating expenses, taking care of their ministers and maintaining their facilities, and you should continue to do that as well. However, if the Lord has blessed your church and given you a burden to help the State Association, this would be a great way to help that ministry. I encourage each of you to set aside what you can to help us meet this goal, even if it is at a level of \$5.00 per month. When your church evaluates its next annual budget, please prayerfully consider including the State Office and the NAFWB 2014 fund in your giving.

We have also set in motion the initial plans for the next three State Meetings. Next year's meeting (June 13-15, 2012) will be held at the First FWB Church in Henderson. Per direction from delegates at this year's meeting, the 2013 meeting will tentatively be held at an all-inclusive facility that provides meeting space, meals, lodging, and activities on the same property; this will allow us to try a new retreat-style conference that will provide an interesting change of pace for our attendees. We will evaluate the results of that meeting in making plans for 2015 and beyond. Finally, delegates voted that the 2014 Centennial meeting will be held in Bryan-College Station, and plans are already underway to identify lodging and develop a program that will incorporate several of our historic churches in the area. Please be in prayer for our state officers and leaders as we plan for these momentous events in our association's history, and, as always, if you have questions or suggestions, please let us know. God bless!

Children's Ministry

First Houston FWB Church

We have an exciting children's ministry called AWANA which stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed." The children memorize scripture, learn stories of the Bible and play exciting games. The children earn awards for memorizing God's Word, inviting people to church, and serving in the church.



Each month we have a fun theme (see pictures) in which the kids participate. The AWANA program offers opportunities for kids to have fun while learning.

God has truly blessed us with an amazing group of children. This program is designed to express what God wants us to do by serving others, hiding His Word in our hearts, and reaching out to all nations to share the gospel.

In Remembrance of Nancy Mungia



We remember her smile, her love for her Lord, and her love for His work, especially with His children. She will be greatly missed. Heaven is blessed.



From Texas...

Randall & Collette Wright
McKinney, Texas



We are excited to say that Clearview Free Will Baptist Church is now a reality in our lives and in the city of McKinney!

The last several weeks have gone by so fast and so much has happened. We would like to share a few of these things with you. First of all, we were approved through McKinney ISD to hold services in two local elementary schools. The more we prayed about which location to use; the more we felt led to hold two preview services at each school. We have been really encouraged by our first two services!

We sent out almost 7000 invitations to surrounding neighborhoods and made several hundred personal contacts. At our first service we had 43 people in attendance! It was a great day! Our launch team did a great job at setting up and making people feel welcomed. There was a great spirit in the service and it also provided a great foundation to build upon.

We are gearing up for our next two preview services which will be Sept 18 & 25th. Our plans



Home Missions' Accounts in Red

Dear Friends of Home Missions,

Would you please make this a matter of pray for Home Missions financial needs. We have (15) fifteen of our missionaries accounts in the deficit at \$85,000.00 These missionary/church planters are doing a great job winning families to Christ.

Please share with your church and consider a gift to deficit accounts and we will apply every dollar to their accounts. We would greatly appreciate your help.

Thanks
Brother Larry

Larry A. Powell
Home Missions North America
National Association of Free Will Baptists



are to determine a permanent location and launch into weekly services in October. Please pray for God's leadership and blessings as we prepare for this event.

We want to thank you for your continued financial and prayer support for your McKinney Missionaries! If you would like more information you can check us out on the web at clearviewfwb.com, or you can email us at randall@clearviewfwb.com or info@clearviewfwb.com.

To the uttermost parts of the earth

Anthony & Lea Edgmon

Villalba, Spain

Greetings to you all.

FAMILY: This past week Emily had to get some blood work done and have a consultation with the anesthesiologist to prepare for her knee surgery coming up in September. We don't have the date yet. The surgery should be a simple one, in which the surgeon will simply remove the two screws that were put in her knee last November. Emily has been doing great since the last surgery. The rest of us are all doing fine health wise. By the way, Emily turned 9 years old on Aug. 9th. Hard to believe she is getting so big!

We ask you to pray for Anthony's Uncle Gary. He has received one or two chemo treatments, but they had to stop that because he has become pretty sick. At the end of last week they hospitalized him with a couple of different infections, pneumonia, low blood pressure, etc. Pray for him please.

After much hassle and three hours at an Immigration Office in Madrid last Thursday, I was able to turn in Lea's paperwork AGAIN. It has now been renewed. Huge praise to the Lord!

IN THE NEWS: Yesterday began the events of the World Youth Day for Catholics. It is being hosted in Madrid this year. Youth and young adults from all over the world have come. Yesterday the highest ranking Catholic official of Spain spoke to thousands and thousands who made the pilgrimage to Madrid. It is a HUGE news item. Lately the stock markets and currency exchange rates have been experiencing some tumultuous times. The sovereign debt is a big issue in many countries in Europe. Spain has been especially hit hard. Unemployment is still at 21%! After lowering to \$1.41 last week, today the exchange rate is at 1 euro = \$1.45.

CHURCH / MINISTRY: It is obviously still summer time here. We are thankful for some great things happening in the church though. We are preparing for our VBS which will be Sept. 5-9. Last Sunday a 30 year old man from our church spoke. This coming Sunday I will finish up our series on Elijah, speaking from 1 Kings 19.

May God bless you all!

Hola, Texans!

We are busily preparing for a move to the mountains of North Carolina to attend the Center for Intercultural Training with our teammates, Jenny Stogsdill and Heath and Joni Hubbard (and Baby Eli!) Why do we need intercultural training you may ask? Let me explain with an excellent illustration from one of the textbooks we are reading in preparation for class: after a typhoon, a monkey spots a fish swimming against the current. Assuming that he is in trouble, the monkey bravely rescues him to the safety of dry ground. When the fish settles down restfully, the monkey congratulates himself for helping someone else. (*Duane Elmer, Cross-Cultural Connections, 14.*)

We certainly don't want to act like that monkey! Cross-cultural training prepares and informs us in ways that will minimize damaging behavior that may result from acting out of ignorance. As one lady shared with us recently after hearing Mick teach a seminar on contextualization issues: "I always thought you just go tell 'em about Jesus the way we do here. I see now that it doesn't really work that way!" If we ever hope to share Christ, we must first gain trust and discover how to best communicate His message. Differences in cultures account for a great number of conflicts that arise, both here in the U.S. and overseas. Training will give us both realistic expectations and tools to equip us to study our host culture. Duane Elmer summarizes well the very reason we even bother with training: We bother because we do not want to be "monkeys." Because the eternity of people is at stake, we want to be the best possible representatives of Christ. If people refuse to become followers of Jesus, we hope it will not be because we were obnoxious, reckless, sloppy, irresponsible, ill-prepared—or because we were well-meaning but badly informed "monkeys." We can do better. (Elmer, 15-16)

I concur. We can do better. With God's help, we will bridge the cultural gap, becoming warm, open, relevant, and assimilated 150% people, so that the nations may know Him.

Please pray for our boys as we adjust to the training schedule and then make the move to Spain. Our biggest concerns with the upcoming transitions revolve around these two precious little people.



Professor, Leroy Forlines, Passes Systematic Theology Torch

NASHVILLE, TN—Reverend Leroy Forlines, Systematic Theology professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College for almost six decades, informed the administration that effective fall 2011 he believes the time is right to pass responsibility for teaching the denomination-shaping course to others. A theological icon among Free Will Baptists and the broader community of Christian scholars, Reverend Forlines has taught Systematic Theology at FWBBC since 1954, except two years when he pursued graduate studies and one semester while on a mission in Russia.

Dr. Kevin Hester, a 1993 FWBBC graduate who chairs the Theological Studies Department, will teach the fall semester of Systematic Theology. The spring semester will be taught by Reverend Matthew McAfee, Biblical and Theological Studies coordinator and a 1999 FWBBC graduate completing doctoral studies at the University of Chicago. Both men are former students of Professor Forlines.

Provost Greg Kettman said, “Brother Forlines has devoted his life to teaching theology and helping others understand it as he does. Here at FWBBC, we are well aware of what he has accomplished in the field of theology and the weight of this responsibility he is passing to younger men. The same passion that drives him to teach Free Will Baptist theology is evident in the lives of Dr. Hester and Mr. McAfee.”

Forlines will continue as Professor Emeritus at FWBBC, teach Eschatology, and serve as occasional guest lecturer in Systematic Theology. His major goal this year is to complete a book manuscript on secularism in America.

“I feel confident knowing that Systematic Theology at FWBBC will be in good hands,” Forlines said. “I think the course will be enriched by this transfer of responsibilities to Dr. Hester and Mr. McAfee. Both understand my approach to theology, plus they both furthered their education in other theological institutions. I hope their names will be mentioned with favor as theology instructors in the Free Will Baptist denomination.”

In addition to teaching at FWBBC, Forlines has been a member of the denomination’s Commission for Theological Integrity since 1962, serving as chairman most of that time. He has written six books, including the highly regarded theological works *The Quest for Truth* and *Classical Arminianism*, as well as *Romans*, the first volume in the Randall House Bible Commentary, and *Biblical Ethics*.

Dr. Kevin Hester reflected, “It was as I sat in Brother Forlines’ Systematics courses in 1992 that my love for theology blossomed. He is primarily responsible for my continued interest in the subject. As I consider the daunting task of teaching a section of his Systematics class, I am comforted to know that his door is always open, and he remains my teacher, my mentor, and my friend.”

FWBBC named its premier theological emphasis the “Forlines Lecture Series,” a tribute to the man who taught Systematic Theology for more than half a century and was designated “Professor Emeritus” by the Board of Trustees in 1992.

Reverend Matthew McAfee said, “I am deeply appreciative for the theological heritage Brother Forlines worked so hard to establish, and I consider it one of life’s greatest honors as this important transition takes place. This remarkable man is handing over a sacred trust rooted in the distant past of our movement and grounded in the scriptures. Whatever I do will be greatly influenced by what he has already done.”

Leroy Forlines, 84-year-old systematic theology architect, began life on an eastern North Carolina tobacco farm outside Winterville. He was converted during a revival in October 1944, answered the call to preach in 1946, and graduated from FWBBC in 1952.

President Matt Pinson considers Forlines his mentor and friend: “I never wanted this day to arrive—when Brother Forlines would lay aside his incredible legacy as Systematic Theology professor at FWBBC. But we are here in God’s timing and in His will. This man’s teachings and writings shaped the denomination I love. He influenced me as an FWBBC student and as president. Brother Forlines has a number of important projects to complete, and we wish him well. And like him, I can’t think of two better successors than Kevin Hester and Matthew McAfee.”

FWBBC Rises in U.S. News & World Report's Top College Rankings

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College received notification that the institution ranks 35th among “Best Regional Colleges” (South Region) in U.S. News & World Report’s 2012 edition of America’s Best Colleges guidebook. The numerical ranking of 35th in the 2012 South Region indicates a rise of almost 20 places above the 2011 edition ranking of 54th. This year’s higher ranking was driven by excellent faculty/student ratios, higher peer assessment scores, and strong alumni giving.

President Matt Pinson said, “We are so pleased that FWBBC is not only ranked again among America’s best colleges but is moving up in the rankings. It’s another reminder to prospective students and their parents that FWBBC remains a top quality institution of higher learning that delivers on their educational investment.”

The “Best Regional Colleges” category where FWBBC is ranked includes 371 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. Colleges in this category are ranked within four geographic regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

U.S. News rankings offer opportunity to judge the relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, financial resources, alumni giving, and more.

FWBBC received especially high marks in four strategic areas—percent of classes with under 20 students (92%), student/faculty ratio (10/1), freshman retention rate (65%), and graduation rate (48%).

Provost Greg Kettelman said, “I’m delighted to share the good news that for the fifth time FWBBC has been included in U.S. News’ list of best colleges. Along with the college’s accreditation reaffirmation this summer, this is a testimony to the hard work our faculty and staff pour into the college. Their commitment to excellence is paying off in national recognition among professional educators that FWBBC provides a rigorous collegiate academic setting for serious students. I’m honored to be part of the FWBBC team, and I hope every Free Will Baptist student will look at FWBBC first when considering a college.”

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The Free Will Baptist Logo And What It Means to Me

The following is taken from a power point developed by Alex Dickey, son of Doug and Sharon Dickey who pastor Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan, TX. Alex developed and presented the power point at the Texas FWB Youth Competition and won first place. He shares the FWB official meaning of our logo and then follows up with his own perspective. He went on to Nationals in Charlotte, NC and placed third in the country! We are very proud to claim you in Texas, Alex.

The SHIP symbolizes the Church and represents all the members pulling in one direction, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Seeking to fulfill Christ's last command to the Church, Free Will Baptists unite in one purpose with one priority to proclaim the good news of the gospel throughout the world.

Alex: I would like to compare the ship to a Christian caravan, picking up anyone willing to put their trust in Jesus to lead them to heaven. Jesus' final commandment to the church was to spread the gospel around the world to bring others to Christ. I've been blessed with many good examples of witnessing to others.

The Fish: The Fish was a symbol of the early Christians to represent their faith. It may also represent "Fishers of men" as it says in Matthew 4:18-19, "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you Fishers of men."

Alex: The Fish was a symbol of the early Christians to represent their faith. It may also represent "Fishers of men" as it says in Matthew 4:18-19, "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you Fishers of men."

The Anchor on the bow of the ship symbolizes the Christian hope of salvation, "the sure, strong and steadfast anchor of the soul."

Alex: The Anchor on a ship is used for stability and strength; stability to pass by the winds of this life and the attacks of the Devil, and strength to stand up to the waves of sin.



The Cross forms the emblem in the mast of the ship. It is the most familiar symbol in the history of the world. It is an instrument of execution and death turned into a worldwide emblem of hope and love by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible has always been at the heart of our life as Free Will Baptists, the centrality of the scriptures. We adopt the Word of God as our only rule of faith and practice. We believe the scriptures to be inspired, inerrant, infallible and immutable.

Alex: The Bible is the word of God, written by some 40 inspired writers such as David, Moses, John and Paul. The Bible helps me with questions I may ask God. God also guides me through the bible when I need to make choices.

Alex: The Loaf & Cup represent communion. I have been participating in it since I was 5, that's when I got saved. My parents said I preached a sermon of about 30 minutes that night.

The Basin & Towel historically symbolize the service and outreach of the church, but for us it has an added significance of representing our practice of washing the saints' feet.

The Basin and the Towel represents foot washing. I've had the privilege to participate in it many times, and the first time I did it in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, where my dad was pastor.

The Clapsed Hands symbolize many things to us: fellowship, brotherhood and the warmth of our faith. Perhaps the most important thing symbolized by the clasped hands is our commitment to reach out to people around the world with the good news.

Alex: The Clapsed Hands means prayer to me. Prayer has helped me numerous times in various situations. When I'm scared or in pain I pray and by God's help everything bad seems to go away.

I am proud to be a Free Will Baptist!

Lakehills 20th Anniversary Celebration

by Pastor Keith Woody

The vision for a church in the Austin area began with the Texas State Mission Board. The original plans were to start a church in the San Antonio area since there was some money available from the sale of property from a church started by H Ray Berry that had closed. The plans for a church changed to Austin when Keith and Neva Woody expressed a burden to build a church in the Austin area.



The Woodys along with a young couple, Wes and Marsha Hood, moved to Austin at the end of August in 1991 and moved into an apartment on north Lamar street. The first service for the new work was held in the apartment of Wes and Marsha on a Wednesday evening. The first Sunday service was held in the apartment of the Woodys with eight in attendance but two of them were out of town guests.

A building was rented on north Research Blvd. and much work went into remodeling it and getting it ready to have services. In many of the first services there would be only four people, the Woodys and the Hoods. But God loved the new work and began to bless it with new people. In 1993, church property was purchased in the Cedar Park area of north Austin and in August of 1994, the first building began four years after the start of the work. The church went self-supporting in 1995 and the new building was finished and dedicated to the Lord with 71 charter members uniting with the church at that time.

Since those early days, the church has experienced steady growth but not without the attack of Satan, some disappointments and many victories along the way. Many people have been saved or have rededicated their lives to the Lord during those years and many continue to be baptized in the church. Preachers and missionaries have been called into the work of the harvest through the ministry of the church. One thing that has remained constant has been the teaching and preaching of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the lost. The church has been since its inception a Free will Bap-



tist Church preaching Free Will Baptist doctrine without apology and is a member of the National Association of Free will Baptists.

The church today has a vibrant children's ministry, youth ministry, woman's group and men's group as well as an excellent Mothers Day Out program reaching out to young families in the area. The church is strong numerically, financially and spiritually and the future is bright for the Church. The church has a full time pastor and associate pastor, and 6 others who are on staff in the church or Mothers Day Out program.



On Sunday, October 30th the church will celebrate 20 years of ministry to the

north Austin area with a celebration of God's goodness and blessing upon the Church. Everyone is invited to come and worship with us. There will be good congregational and special singing and Alan Barus, a young pastor who is a product of the Lakehills Church will come back home to speak for us. Alan is presently pastoring a church in Emporia, Kansas, where God is using him to build a good work. After the service on Sunday morning there will be a catered meal and everyone is invited to eat with us. It will be a great time of worship and fellowship when we give thanks to God that He has used the Lakehills Church in the furtherance of His Kingdom. It will also be a time when we thank the many who have contributed to the building of a great church for God's glory.

Psalm 55:14 "We took sweet counsel together and walked unto the house of God in company."

A Man after God's own Heart

Remembering Dr. LaVerne Miley

by Don Robirds

Although the Scriptures attribute this title to the life of King David, I believe the words appropriately reflect the life of Dr. LaVerne Miley.

His mild manner, servant spirit, genuine humility, loving heart, deep faith, strong character, and total commitment to the Lord seem to validate the observation above. I have never met a man who garnered the deep respect and admiration of everyone, as he did. Through his faith he exalted the Lord without calling attention to himself. His son, Lynn, noted during the memorial service at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville, Tennessee, he had never heard his father raise his voice, speak ill of someone, get angry or argue.

Since his childhood conversion at age 10, LaVerne Miley marched to the beat of a different drummer. Though brilliant—finishing high school at age 14 while ranking third in a class of 124*—he never abused his obvious gifts. After earning a B.S. degree at age 18 he yielded his life to the Lord, answered the call to preach, and sensed God leading him to enroll at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tenn.

Following his studies in Nashville—where he met and married Lorene Norris—LaVerne felt God leading him to obtain further training at Northern Baptist Seminary. Upon completion of his studies he returned to FWBBC as a professor of Greek and science. During this five-year stint God dealt with LaVerne about becoming a medical missionary, and he immediately began to prepare.

Medical school took a leap of faith since, by then, he had a family to support. LaVerne listened to the Lord and obeyed, simply believing God would supply. And He did! He even sent a former medical missionary to supply medical school expenses. With medical school and internship behind him, the doctor launched out by faith to find the spot in the northeast corner of Ivory Coast, West Africa, where he believed God wanted him to serve. The Lobi people of Doropo gripped his heart, and soon he grabbed theirs. A tribute to his faithfulness and his concern for these people, a hospital still func-



tions to meet their physical needs. At least eight churches in that area owe their existence to the initial efforts of LaVerne and his family.

One of my fondest memories takes me back to a short stay in the home of LaVerne and Lorene at Doropo in 1978 (their last year on the field). While there, I

was overcome by one of the most severe headaches I have ever experienced. Though greatly overextended by his around-the-clock hospital ministry, Dr. Miley took time to treat and comfort me without any outward sign of added stress.

When the Mileys felt the Lord leading them back to the United States, LaVerne again submitted himself to serve as a Bible college professor rather than enter the more lucrative field of medicine. During the next 18 years he touched the lives of hundreds of students, influencing many to consider ministry in world outreach.

The Free Will Baptist denomination owes a great debt of gratitude to this man even though he would not want it. Indeed, he was “a man after God's own heart.” It was my privilege to be the co-laborer and friend of such a man.

Don Robirds retired from the International Missions staff in December 2003. He served as director of public relations for 32 years and now does freelance editing, writing, layout, and design.

**Taken from the book I Looked for a Man and Found One by Lorene Miley, Randall House Publications, Nashville, Tenn., 1983.*

*Reprinted by permission from ONE Magazine:
www.onemag.org*



A note from Sally...

In my travels and visits to churches in our state I have found that several local WAC groups are not making use of a wonderful resource that is available to us all. It's called "Treasure." And it is just that!

In it you'll find monthly study guides for your ladies and wonderfully inspiring stories. Each one covers a 3-month period. The one pictured here takes us through November.

There is also a program guide available for your officers in your WAC. The theme for the next 12 months is "Body Building!" Ideas galore to build your spiritual body, your church's body and even your physical body! Our ladies at Wildwood are participating in a weight loss challenge! It gives you suggestions for each officer's participation in your WAC meetings. Our ladies have thoroughly enjoyed every one of them.

To get your copies of these two great resources, visit WNAC.org. You'll find posters, invitations, facilitators guides, and more!

We are not alone! We have a national organization behind us with women like our executive director Elizabeth Hodges, who are more than willing to share their ideas and leadership!

Fundraisers Are Fun at Faith FWB Church, Wichita Falls,

I asked everyone to go thru their clothes..jewelry... purses...shoes...bring them to me or I picked them up. I set a date and we had a great turn out. They were asked to donate things and if they took anything home they paid \$1.00 for each item. Ladies brought so much and many donated extra money.

It was so much fun!!!! Our ladies worked very hard to pack up and Sherry had us pack up her van and she took everything to a resale shop who bought more from us....then donated the rest to the womens shelter!!! So everything went to good use!!!

We will be using the money - over \$300 - for the state project - missionaries.

We will have another one in Oct. We will open it up to the public this time, after everyone gets finished shopping. Also, we are going to have a cookie exchange to raise money. We will bring a dozen cookies and share. If you want a recipe you buy it for a dollar. That will be fun also!

We are collecting SOCKS this Sunday for the churches in Mexico. UNDIES next week.

Toiletries - soap, tooth brushes.etc. the next week, and then last week TOYS!

We will bring our goodies to the retreat in September to share so they can take them to the children.



Get busy building bodies in your Women Active for Christ!

Texas State FWB Association
13293 Tommy Smith
Conroe, TX 77306

Turnboughs Return to States for Ministry

Antioch, TN—Clint Morgan, interim general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions, announced today that Jeff and Susan Turnbough will return to Nashville in early October of this year. Jeff and Susan have been with the Mission for 30 years, serving in Spain their entire career. In addition to their responsibilities in the greater Madrid area, in 2006 Jeff became the regional director for Europe and Russia. In 2008, he assumed the responsibility of deputy director of field operations. At that time, it was best to follow the example of many other evangelical mission agencies and have the Turnboughs remain in a cross-cultural environment to maintain an international perspective on Mission issues. Recent changes in the Mission led the leadership team to revisit this. “With his 30 years of experience, we believe Jeff can and will maintain that critical international perspective,” stated Clint.

“We also see immense benefit in Jeff working from the Antioch office, providing valuable input for new Mission leadership.”

Turnbough will continue to lead the field operations team, working shoulder to shoulder with the Mission’s new

leadership when selected. Clint stated, “We thank all our churches and supporters for their prayers for Jeff and Susan as they make this significant transition. We ask you to remain faithful to pray as they move state-side to continue in His service.”



Editor, Layout, Design – Sally Wilcox

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