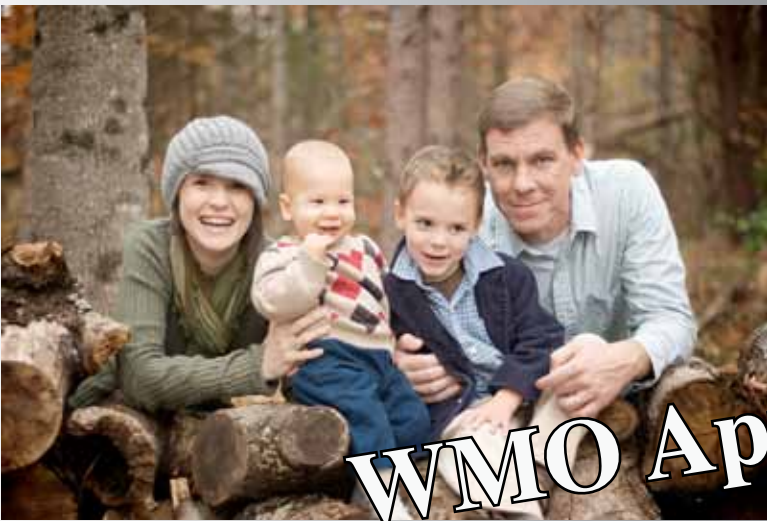


THE TEXAS CHALLENGE



Missions is not a program of the church;
it is the **PURPOSE** of the church

WMO April 30th, 2011
= Missionaries Back On the Field!





Pressing on to the Goal

Currently, 281 churches are listed as supporting the WMO. With your continued efforts, we can reach our goal of 650 churches by February 28. Keep checking the WMO website for updates on your state's progress.

<http://www.fwbgo.com/funding/wmo/>

Email Rebekah (rebekah@fwbgo) with missing church information, and include the church's city, state, pastor's name, and pastor's email. If we can answer questions, or help you in any way, please contact us. We thank you for your continued efforts and willingness to serve!

Free Will Baptist International Missions | P.O. Box 5002 | Antioch, TN 37011-5002
www.fwbgo.com | 877-767-77736 | kiley@fwbgo.com

IM Year-End Financial Picture

Antioch, TN—Although the audit for fiscal year 2011 has not occurred, unaudited numbers drawn from financial reports have been released by Rob Conley, chief financial officer for International Missions. Money sent to the Mission as undesignated funds provided \$1,670,149.26 for underfunded missionary accounts, field projects, and field ministries. “What a blessing that so many donors have transitioned their giving to the general fund” General Director Clint Morgan stated appreciatively. “Individuals, churches, and associations giving undesignated funds to International Missions made it possible for all missionaries to end the year without carrying the burden of a deficit account over into the new fiscal year.”

Designated money entered accounts as designated throughout the year. At year-end, three accounts were over-funded and contributed \$34,770.76 to the \$1.67 million that flowed out of the general fund to subsidize underfunded accounts. The accounts of two retired missionary families contributed \$24,715.63 to the general fund. One career couple who has yet to deploy to their field of service added \$10,055.13 to the general fund. “Please note,” emphasized Rob Conley, “that no career missionaries with overseas service had overfunded accounts. Yet, *because many donors have given undesignated*, the funds to supplement underfunded accounts were available. Kudos to our donors!”

Conley also indicated that though undesignated funds greatly benefited missionary ministries, the unaudited numbers indicate the Mission ended the 2011 financial year with a deficit of \$443,748.91. “We absolutely do not have funds in reserve to sustain another year of financial losses,” explained Conley. “Rebuilding those cash reserves is the goal of every missionary currently on stateside assignment. Substantial one-time gifts and a tremendous World Missions Offering will encourage Mission personnel and strengthen the bottom line. However consistent, systematic support through monthly faith-promise giving, church budget giving or tithing, and consistent giving through existing channels and programs is necessary to build the cash reserves. I truly thank God for those who have taken that step of faith.”

Change of Plans

By Clint Morgan

Most of the time, when missionaries return to the States they have a pretty good idea of the date and time they will return to their ministry overseas. As that time nears, an overwhelming excitement stirs in missionary hearts. They are going home! For that is how they feel about their host country.

But, sometimes, circumstances simply don't pay attention to the timelines we have drawn. Recently, 23 of our IM missionaries were told they must remain stateside until our financial situation becomes more stable.

How do missionaries feel when told they can't return to their host country as scheduled?

Sad.

Mad.

Confused.

Shocked.

Let down.

Angry.

Disappointed.

Betrayed.

And, a whole gamut of other emotions.

News like this knocks them off center for a while, leaving them in an emotional upheaval from which it takes time to recover.

But, the situation demands they get back out there and tell the story of God's hand at work in their area. They love to tell what He is doing. They are passionate about what God has called them do and they want to be at the task. Their ongoing heart's desire is to be overseas, telling the Good News.

But the reality is, as of the FWBIM board meeting on December 12, 2011, many of our Free Will Baptist missionaries are not returning to their fields of ministry as originally planned. They want to be overseas. They need to be telling of salvation in Christ to those who've never heard His name.

For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? Romans 10:13-15a

What can we do to send these witnesses of the Word?



Reaching Faster Alone or Reaching Farther Together?

Over the past few weeks, news has been pouring in of local pastors taking up the mantle to promote International Missions in their local areas. Two pastors in particular have begun to inspire our denomination to take personal ownership of International Missions. While one pastor has challenged his church to give \$100,000, another has set a personal goal to influence 100 people to begin partnering with IM. This is exactly what the header of this email means - Everyone: Reaching Farther Together.

As of today, we have 254 churches signed up to partner with us through the WMO. Let's keep working and praising the Lord for His provision!

Meet Our New WMO Intern!



Ms. Rebekah Ayers, from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, is a senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College studying Music Education. Rebekah has been helping our team by compiling participating churches, publishing up-to-date numbers on our website, and communicating with our entire

WMO team.

If you have any churches who wish to join our WMO efforts, please send the church name, city and state, pastor's name, and email to rebekah@fwbgo.com, and she will make sure they are added to our list.

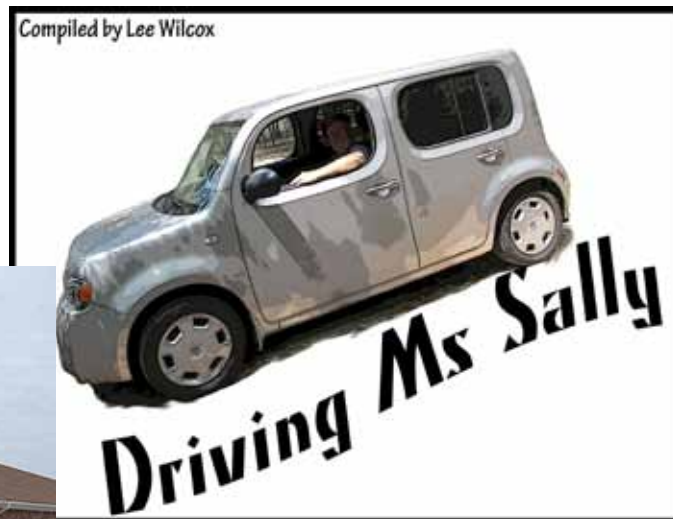
Remember, our goal is 650 participants on the website by February 29! Thanks, Rebekah.

Pine Prairie - Huntsville

Meet Pastor Brandon Snowder

by Lee Wilcox

Today we visited Pine Prairie Free Will Baptist Church in the Huntsville area. To say we did a double-take would be a big understatement. I think the last time we visited the area was about 2007 and it was in a white wooden building across the road from a fairly new parsonage. The wooden building was pretty old. In fact the this summer.



hundredth anniversary of the church will be

There isn't much left of that building. The church has moved across the road to an attractive structure that is modern without the urban look that has captured so many churches. The people and the building are very friendly and inviting. If you are thinking of Pine Prairie as a little country church you can forget it. Yes, it is rural and yes, I have been in larger churches. But Pine Prairie is a modern church that would fit in any surrounding and be inviting and warm.

The Pastor is Brandon Snowder. He is a graduate of FWBBC in Nashville and this is his first church. He was born on March Air Force Base outside Riverside California and was raised as a military brat. He was working in business in the Murfreesboro area when he was called by Pine Prairie.

Brandon is proof that sometimes the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree no matter how hard it tries to roll. Brandon knew he was to go to the bible college and transferred there in 1995. After a semester he joined the Air Force. Sometimes you just cannot escape Gods plan for you but you think that you just have to try. After two years in the Air Force he knew he had to return to Gods plan and in 2000 he did. After graduation he waited for his wife to graduate. The tree the fruit fell from is this. Brandon is a fourth generation pastor.



Brandon met his wife, Elle in college. They have been married since 2004 and have a daughter Kaley who is now 5 years old. Before coming to Pine Prairie, Brandon worked with the youth at the church of Dr. Outlaw.

Sometimes things just work out right. Sometimes we just prove that we should set back and do what God tells us. Today we watched and listened as an energetic young pastor communicated well with his church. One of the members told me that you don't have time to doze off when Brandon is preaching because you are going to miss a lot.

Brandon sees the future of his church in outreach to the community. The building has given them room to grow. He sees his church as traditional and himself as the tool God uses to communicate with them. That means, to him, that he must communicate in a traditional manner. I can tell you, however, that manner is going to include teaching as well as preaching. That's what we heard today. He feels his church is packed with good people who are willing and able to export that friendliness and faith to those in the community. He sees that as their mission.

The address is 77 Phil Wood Rd. if you would like to visit. The phone is 936-291-2678. You can find photographs of this visit at <http://www.ramblingwithus.blogspot.com/2011/12/pine-prairie-church-huntsville-tx.html>

If you visit, expect to meet a congregation that is warm and friendly. Be prepared to see and hear a minister who is bright, energetic, and wants to share his faith and knowledge with you. All told, expect to have a very pleasant experience that you will want to repeat. *(More photos at ramblingwithus.blogspot.com)*

Dr. James Richard Adams with the Lord



Richard Adams, Retired Director of Development with the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department died unexpectedly at his home on Friday, March 2, 2012. He was 72 years of age.

After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Dr. Adams pastored churches in North Carolina and Tennessee. He remained in the pastorate at East Side FWB Church in Elizabethton, Tennessee, for twenty years. He was fondly referred to as “Preacher Adams,” a mountain preacher.

In January of 1990, the Adams family moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where Richard became the director of development with the Home Missions Department. For 18 years, he directed the Church Extension Loan Fund (CELF) which enabled church planters to buy land and build facilities all across North America. Richard and Carolyn traveled around the world representing the cause of Christ and Home Missions. Brother Adams ministered in preaching and Carolyn sang for the Lord.

Richard worked tirelessly with the Build My Church Campaign, raising a total of two million dollars, one million for the Build My Church Fund and one million

for the Dr. Roy Thomas Endowment. In honor of Richard’s tireless work, the Home Mission Board re-named the Build My Church Fund - The Richard and Carolyn Adams Endowment.

He didn’t stop there but continued to raise money to help the work of the department. There is no doubt that Richard Adams’ heart beat for winning the lost to Christ. He reached the people through telephone calls, letters, golf tournaments, and heritage tours, just to name a few. He saw the importance of sharing the early days of Free Will Baptists through these tours. He promoted the Benjamin Randall Offering, held each November, (currently named Mission: North America). Brother Richard did much to raise the awareness of the Free Will Baptist people to the cause of Home Missions.

Richard never met a stranger. He always asked everyone he met if they were on their way to Heaven, and if not, could he show them the way. There was never a doubt that he was striving to do what he felt the Lord would have him do.

Dr. Adams made a tremendous impact for the cause of Christ and for Free Will Baptists everywhere. He will be greatly missed, not only by family, but also by literally hundreds of friends across our nation.

Richard and Carolyn had two children, the late James Mark Adams and Bethany Adams Walser. Bethany, Randy, and their daughter, Alana Karel, currently reside in Nashville, Tennessee where Lani is a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Brother Richard was preceded in death by his wife Carolyn.

A memorial service for Dr. Adams was held on Sunday, March 4, at Cofer’s Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. A funeral service was held on Monday, March 5, at East Side Free Will Baptist Church in Elizabethton, Tennessee, with burial on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.



ICON *by Lee Wilcox*

Herbert Richards is an icon. He is the preacher that many of us who are no longer young had growing up. This writer is pre-boomer. I was born in 1943, and when I was born Brother Richards was already hard at work serving his country.

Brother Herbert was born 92 years ago in Edge, Texas. This is a community that he describes as being 20 miles from Bryan and probably named after the Edge families who resided there at the time of his youth. When he was seven, his family moved to Steep Hollow. Brother Herbert was born in the family home, not a hospital. His family consisted of father, mother, five boys and two girls. His two sisters are still living.

Brother Herbert and Sister Margaret were married 72 years ago. She had taken a job at Texas A&M and rented a room from Herbert's brother. Herbert says that it's obvious that God was the matchmaker. He says it was love at first sight, but she says she was mean at the first until she was sure. Knowing her, it's tough to believe she was very mean.

During the depression Herbert found work with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and was hard at work when World War II interrupted things. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the CCC, it was a government organization (part of the new deal) that put people to work. They did a lot of work throughout the state. If you have visited any Texas state park you may have slept in a lodge or trod a path that was constructed by them.

Herbert joined the Navy as he felt it was inevitable that he was going to be drafted by the Army. He asked to become a radarman as there was a radarman school at Texas A & M. The Navy complied with his wishes to be a radarman but sent him to Hawaii for school.

Herbert made it to his ship in time to participate in the invasion of Guam and Leyte Gulf. He finished his battles in Okinawa. Herbert's resumé of the period is a record of one who did what he must and then did what he could. Herbert left the Navy on December 22, 1945.

I asked him how God called him. That is a question that brings a lot of different and interesting answers. Herbert said that he stood in for his pastor when that pastor developed tonsillitis. When he started the



Herbert in 1960

sermon he asked God to just get him through that one. God did, and then he wouldn't let go of his heart. Herbert began teaching at an informal Bible study at Peach Creek and only stopped so he could go to Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville.

What with the depression, the war, and supporting his family, Herbert never quite finished high school. That really never came up until he was well underway at the College. He got his GED from Vanderbilt University and just continued with his college. Those of us who have been part of the educational scene more recently may find it tough to believe that a college ever showed that much common sense. It is obvious that the college was following behavior patterns of a different and much better time.

Herbert continued his education at Howard Payne University.

While there he pastored at the nearby FWB church at Comanche, Texas. When he graduated he was called to preach at Denton, Texas, and stayed there for two years. He was called to Huntsville by Miss Lizzie McAdams who is also a FWB icon.

Brother Herbert then preached at Corpus Christi for 14 years.

Howard Payne University had prepared him to teach and he did for 30 years. His preferred church would always be a small one and he would support himself by teaching while preaching. The list of churches over the 46 years has included: Comanche,



70th Wedding Anniversary!



Daughter Marilu Richards McDonald in 1982



Herbert & Margaret in 1982



Son Gene Richards, now pastor of Wildwood FWB in Porter, with wife Ruth taken in 1969

Denton, Blue Lake, Evergreen, Huntsville, Cross, Bright Light, and, North Zulch.

Brother Herbert taught for 30 years, and he says he taught everything (even girls' basketball one year) but preferred to teach the 5th and 6th grades. The last 14 years that he preached were at Bright Light and he had already retired when he agreed to take that.

Herbert and Margaret had two children. Those children became Dr. Gene Richards who is the pastor at Wildwood FWB church in Porter, Texas, and Marilu Richards McDonald, Educational Diagnostician for Humble ISD. If one were to be bold, one could suggest that the fruit, once again, did not fall far from the tree.

Isaac Newton is credited with the quote: "If I have seen further, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of Giants." I don't think we give nearly enough credit to those giants. Here's to you, Brother Herbert.



Oil for the Soul

By Clint Morgan

The blanket of night dropped from the sky, covering the earth with a welcomed coolness—a coveted contrast to the scorching, African sun of the day. I sat on the porch enjoying the reprieve and listening to the sounds of the night: the rhythmic whistle of nocturnal birds, the shrill blast of fire crickets, and frogs calling for rain. Gradually, the irregular clanging and clacking of a ten-ton truck taking on the merciless washboard road in front of our home overrode the pleasant sounds. The noise of the neglected engine quickly dominated the night. Pistons slapped the walls of the engine block, but gained no relief. These metal prisoners clanged loudly against their confining spheres as they rebelled against neglect. They seemed to beg for just one drop of oil.

The driver kept plugging along, apparently oblivious to the cry of the engine. Didn't he care? Perhaps, he was so accustomed to the noise that he could no longer hear it? Possibly, the truck belonged to someone else and the upkeep was not his responsibility. Or, maybe, he simply could not afford to buy oil. Didn't he know that one of the essentials of engine life is oil? Was he not aware that the end result of negligence was certain death to his motor?

The bangs and rattles faded off into the night. I guess he just drove on and on, until the engine involuntarily cried out, "Enough!" It probably shut down, leaving him without his noisy ride. Maybe, then, he realized that an engine really does need oil.

Sometimes, I feel we are like that truck and driver. We drudge along life's grueling highway without the oil of the Holy Spirit to keep us going. I am convinced this is one of the biggest mistakes we make as believers: thinking we can face all the challenges of life's highway without His help. Big, big mistake! Perhaps the pistons of your soul are crying out for a drop of holy oil.

We face many challenges these days at International Missions. We need to stop and make sure we are taking care of our souls. Will you pray that we will take the time each day to resource ourselves for the tasks before us?

Harold Ray Teague - 1937 - 2012

Another old soldier has gone home to be with the Lord. Harold was born in the hills of East Tennessee, in Newport, on November 30, 1937 to Horace and Beulah Teague. Since his father was a Free Will Baptist minister and traveled a lot, Harold and his brother Jim stayed with their grandmother often. Harold told many times about his grandmother teaching him the Bible and her influence on his life.

Harold accepted Christ as his Savior around nine years of age and then answered the call to preach at seventeen. So he made a bargain with his Dad and went to Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville for one year. He stuck it out and graduated in 1959, then began preaching in Ashland City, TN, in a mission church. Harold had met his first love Norma June Travis at Youth Camp but they met again at Bible College. Since their names were both in the T's they sat together in chapel for four years. They were married August 20, 1959.

In 1961, they moved to Greenville, TN, to work at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, and while there Harold pastored the Harris Memorial Church. In 1967, the Teagues moved to Texas to pastor the First Church, Henderson. While in Henderson, Harold led the church in many mission endeavors of supporting the missionaries and their accounts, and providing homes for furloughing missionaries. In 1979, the Teagues moved to Longview, TX, to start a mission work there. Then in 1986, they began pastoring the Union Arbor Church at Beckville, TX, and were there until 1999. About this time Harold's health began to be a problem. Then in 2001 they returned to First Church, Henderson and this time he was able to serve the church as a full-time pastor, still his emphasis was on missions. After Norma's death in 2007 Harold retired and moved close to his son Mike and family in the Gilmer area.

Last year God gave Harold another bonus in that he met and married a lovely woman named Joyce Wright. They only lacked five days of reaching their first anniversary. She was a true caregiver to Harold, a beautiful woman of God.

Harold was called home to be with his Lord on January 2, 2012. His son, Mike Teague, is also a minister and he conducted an outstanding memorial service for his Dad. He sang "A Trophy of Grace", a song written by Harold several years ago. Harold was a member of the Senior Choir and they sang "How Great Thou Art" for his service.

I Tim. 4:7 - "I have fought a good fight..." describes Harold's journey here on earth and his dedication to the Lord. Harold was an encourager, an optimist, a truly happy person, dedicated to sharing his Good News with everyone.

Camp Sunshine Transformation



(Above) There is a lot more work to be done, but the dining hall is coming along nicely. We are adding windows to the long wall, with curtains and valances.

(Below) The chapel is undergoing some changes as well. Wainscoting will be added around all the walls and the stage is in progress!



Camp Sonshine Report

Camp Sonshine hosted the first session of the “Texas Leaders for Christ” training session. This group is sponsored by the State Christian Education Board, and is not limited to members of our district. We are primarily interested in helping spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, and equipping people to lead His Church. The Christian Education Board, made up of Ken Austin, Kyle Howell, Allen King, Marilu McDonald, and Teressa Voltz, along with some of us who are interested in Youth Camps, put on the leadership training session on December 29 and 30, 2011. The goal was to help people ages of 14 and up develop their leadership skills, soul-winning ability, and team-building skills in order to be more effective in whatever ministry or service they pursue. The workshop was intended for Camp Counselors, Youth Pastors, Sunday School Teachers, and others who work with people in God’s service. A total of 21 people attended, and everyone appeared to gain a great deal from this important course.

Plans are underway to expand the dining hall building to include a pantry and evangelist’s quarters. There is sufficient money in the bank to complete the project. The slab has been poured and Bro. Chuck Topping is serving as building superintendent for the addition, so it should be ready for Youth Camps this summer. We are asking that whoever can help out (even for a day or two) come to Camp Sonshine and help with this project. If you don’t have special construction skills, but are willing to help, you can play a part. If you can operate a hammer and saw, that is great, but if all you can



do is carry boards, pass out water, or make sandwiches, those skills can be very useful.

The Camp Board is always interested in having the camp property used by any and all churches in the district for retreats, family reunions, training

sessions, or any activity that honors our Lord and Savior.

Youth Camps are scheduled for this summer with a little different approach. Girls ages 6-16 will have camp the week of June 17. Sis. Sally Wilcox (WIL13293@aol.com) will direct this camp. Boys, ages 6-16, will have camp the week of June 24. Bro. Topping (toplegacy1@yahoo.com) will direct the boys’ camp. Both directors can use workers to fill a variety of jobs, so contact them if you are able to help. Registration forms and more information will be available at <http://www.texasfwb.org/sonshine> and at the May District Association meeting, and may be requested by email to jd@nodial.net.

AWAKEN - Camp Sonshine Theme for Girls’ Camp June 17-22, 2012

On a daily basis we experience an “awakening moment.” Some mornings we leap out of bed ready to face a much-anticipated day. Other mornings we struggle to simply open our eyes much less actually arise from our bed. Much like our daily habits of waking up, our spiritual lives can carry many ups and downs. An understanding of how Christ opens our eyes to spiritual matters is both a blessing and a struggle at times. The importance of following Christ’s example cannot be overemphasized. When we wake up in Christ, He is ready is to reset our paths for His glory and for our good.

Session 1: Wake-Up!

Students will understand the need to be awakened from sleep, from darkness, and from laziness in their own lives while learning from Saul’s “Wake Up” experience.

Session 2: Reset!

Students will gain an understanding of how to reset their path to a new life, new desires, and a new purpose.

Session 3: Get Dressed!

Students will learn the importance of being “clothed” in a new image, new attitude, and with new relationships.

Session 4: Refresh!

Students will understand the need we have and the importance of being spiritually refreshed and will study how to refresh their minds, hearts, and lifestyles based on God’s Word.

Session 5: Rejoice!

Students will express joy and gratitude while learning the following promises:

- *God is in control.*
- *God is worthy of praise.*
- *God is worthy of living for.*

From Texas...

Jeff & Sondra Cates
Canyon, Texas

Hi from the Cates,

How do we tell about everything God has blessed so greatly at our church? The Lord is moving in mighty way. We praise God that we had 4 who followed the Lord in baptism this past Sunday. Praise God for souls being saved! Our children's church is growing so fast we are having trouble keeping up, but God is blessing there also. We had several women and men volunteer to help with our children's ministry this past Sunday at a meeting, so not only is God blessing with many children, he is also blessing with workers.

We had a great afternoon of repairing bicycles and just enjoying one another's company. We have a family in our church who is adopting a little boy and they received him from a Christian based children's home outside of Amarillo. We are assisting the home in their ministry, first by repairing and fixing up many of their old bikes that had flats, missing chains, pedals, etc. The kids had a ball helping. They washed every one of the bikes, so they would be clean and ready to ride when they were returned to the children's home. We were able to repair about 35 bikes and we know this will help the kids have many wonderful hours of riding and enjoying being outside. We are going to help them soon with a yard sale to help raise money, so that they can do some much needed repairs on several of their buildings.

We are now having children's sermons every Sunday. All the little ones go down front and listen to a short sermon and sing a song. We started with just a few children and this past Sunday we had 15 little ones down front. This does not include our 10 and older group of kids. What a great thing to have in your church, a big group of young families with kids and babies. We are truly blessed. Please help us continue to pray as we raise funds for our children's wing. We are starting it soon and we hope to be in it by Easter.

We want you to know how much we truly appreciate all you do to help with our work here in Canyon. We know that without your support, prayers, and the blessing of the Lord our church would not be growing like it is and all we do would not be possible. Thank you so much again for everything and please keep us in your prayers as we labor here and strive to do what the Lord has called us to do.

Riding for Christ in Canyon, Texas
Jeff and Sondra Cates

**Kenneth & Rejane
Eagleton**

New Church Plant in Brazil

Winning souls, discipling them, planting churches and training leaders is what we are all about at FWB International Missions. Thank the Lord for the churches that have already been planted in Brazil and for the Brazilian pastors that are now leading almost all of them. Most of the FWB churches that currently exist were planted by initiative of the Mission. This is now changing.

The most recent ones in Campinas (3) and Uberlândia (2) were started as outreaches of existing FWB churches. Our role as missionaries is to encourage the Brazilian Church to think outwardly and take the initiative of strategic, continued, and expansive church planting. Currently FWB only have churches in 2 out of 26 states.

To accomplish this task, International Missions is partnering with the Brazilian Church to facilitate a new model of church planting. This year we are just initiating our first project. We have created a partnership between the Association of FWB Churches in the Campinas area, the First FWB Church of Campinas, the S. José FWB Church (Campinas) and IM. Pastor Walter and his family moved from another state, along with his wife Gilka and sons Hattus and Heber, to be our church planter.

The city of Sumaré (pop. 241,000 people), in the metropolitan area of Campinas, has been chosen. Pastor Walter will seek interested people from the Campinas churches to help them. They will start meeting people and witnessing to them with the goal of starting a small group, disciple them, and plant a church. Pray for this new church plant.



To the uttermost parts of the earth



Anthony & Lea Edgmon

Alperete, Spain

Dear Texas Free Will Baptists,

I imagine that anyone living in Texas for any length of time knows something about the six flags that have flown over Texas. Can you name them all? And in order?

From what I understand the first flag to fly over Texas was Spain's flag. The first period of time it flew over Texas was 1519-1685, until the French took it over for a short-lived five-year period of time. Then Spain took over Texas again in 1690, until Mexico became independent of Spain and flew their flag over this territory in 1821.

Spain's presence in the state left its mark. Many of the names of places and rivers in Texas come from the Spanish language. The Spanish built missions in San Antonio for the purpose of converting Indians to Catholicism. These missions are now landmarks in San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Interestingly enough Texas, in a way, is now leaving its mark in Spain. Texas Free Will Baptists have been helping to support our family as we work

to plant churches in Spain. Texas FWBs have also helped support the Donahues who hopefully in the near future will be able to begin work in a new effort in Southern Spain. Spain may have started some missions in Texas, but Texas has helped start the first evangelical church in Alpedrete, Spain. The church is growing and its members are ministering to people in neighboring towns as well. We pray that with the partnership of FWBs in Texas and the rest of the denomination we will be able to leave a legacy for the name of Christ in the country of Spain.

We would like to encourage your churches to join the denomination-wide effort to raise funds for FWB International Missions' World Missions Offering. Many churches' names have already been added to the list of those participating in this year's WMO (<http://www.fwbgo.com/funding/wmo/>). Why don't you consider contacting the International Missions Office for information and/or to add your church's name to the list on the webpage. Thank you for all you do to spread the Gospel and wave high the banner of His love amongst the peoples of the earth.

Anthony & Lea Edgmon

Beginning In Russia

Free Will Baptists' involvement in Russia began in 1995. We soon became involved with training and educating pastors and church leaders. During the 70-plus years of Communism, Christians were not allowed to progress beyond the level of high school in their education. Free Will Baptists' role was to work with Russian believers to establish a Bible institute in Chelyabinsk. Dr. Garnett Reid from Free Will Baptist Bible College was the first professor to share his scholarship with our Russian brothers. Since then many other scholars have followed. As a result, 72 students have graduated with the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in pastoral or missionary studies. Graduates from the institute are spreading the gospel throughout Siberia.

In 2003, our Free Will Baptist missionaries moved to the southern Russian city of Krasnodar to work with church planters. In 2007, Free Will Baptists helped Russian Baptists purchase buildings at an abandoned labor camp. Formerly used to house enlisted soldiers, students, and homeless people, the grounds now serve as a campground and training center for spreading the gospel.

Hello everyone! I hope your new year is off to a good start. There are a number of items from the 2012 Texas State All Boards Meeting that meeting that you will find of interest. First of all, the tentative program for the 2012 State Meeting has been set; you can find the information on that elsewhere in this issue.

Next, there are a number of dates and events that you should be aware of, so that you can start planning your schedule and participate. The various boards in our State Association have scheduled or tentatively scheduled several events that you won't want to miss, along with other denominational events that will be of interest to you:

- April 27-29 – Texas State Annual Youth Retreat at Forest Glen Camp, Rosebud; the theme will be “Distraction”. The grade levels included will be 6-12. Cost will be approximately \$60.
- June 13-15 – Texas State FWB Convention, First FWB Church in Henderson. This year's theme will be “End-Time Absolutes: Agreements Without Controversy” (II Peter 3:1-12), and the Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Garnett Reid (see details in separate article).
- June 13-14 – Texas State WAC Convention, First FWB Church in Henderson. The theme will be “Body Building”, with Elizabeth Hodges (NWAC Exec Director) for the TWAC Joint Worship Service. Dinner for all at 6 PM.
- June 13-14 – Texas State Youth Conference, First FWB Church in Henderson: competitive activities, service project, recreational activities, State Meeting Thursday hamburger lunch
- July 15-18 – National Association of Free Will Baptists 76th Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN. Visit the NAFWB website (www.nafwb.org) for more details on registration and lodging.
- September 26-28 – D6 Conference, Frisco Convention Center and Embassy Suites. This year's theme is “Abide”. Visit www.d6conference.com for registration and speaker information.
- October 12 & 13 – TWAC State Women's Retreat at Forest Glen Camp @ Huntsville. The retreat theme is “What's Your Legacy?” It is a Mother-Daughter theme, to encourage more young people to attend. Ruth Bivens is the speaker. Cost will be \$61.00. Fashion Swap, facials, crafts and more details will be forthcoming.
- December 7-8 – Men's Retreat at Highland

Lakes Retreat Center (outside Austin on Lake Travis). Robert Posner is the scheduled speaker. Other details will be announced later

- *January 25-26, 2013 – Texas State All Boards Meeting, Fellowship FWB in Bryan
 - June 12-14, 2013 – Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists 99th Annual Meeting (location to be determined)
 - June 11-13, 2014 – Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists 100th Annual Meeting, Fellowship FWB in Bryan
 - July 27-30, 2014 – National Association of Free Will Baptists 78th Annual Meeting, Ft. Worth, TX.
- *tentative dates

As each year goes by, we get closer to 2014, when we will host the National Association Annual Meeting in Ft. Worth, and we will have our 100th Annual Session for our State Meeting in June. Special thanks to the Texas Women Active for Christ, who have made the 2014 National Convention expenses their State Project for 2012. They have set a goal of raising \$5,000 toward those expenses, going toward a total of \$15,000 in all. Overall, it is our goal to raise enough money to pay for the cost of the meeting space in Ft. Worth, approximately \$30,000, and this will be a tremendous boost to meeting that goal. Please consider how your church, district, or even household can help to support this effort.

The Executive Board has some ideas about plans for the special 100th Annual Meeting, but we want to get your input and your help. If you have ideas about how to highlight noteworthy events and people from the century of Texas Free Will Baptists, please let us know by contacting the State Office. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and we want to make the most of it.

The list above represents the information presented at the All Boards Meeting. It does not, of course, include information on the various youth camps in each district, or other events being planned in your churches and districts. So, make sure you spread the word about your events; let me know at the State Office, and also send the information as part of your church updates for the next issue of the Challenge.



State Meeting Program (Tentative)

2012 Texas State Association

98th Annual Session

Dates: June 13-15, 2012
Host: First FWB Church, Henderson, TX

THEME: “End-Time Absolutes: Agreements Without Controversy”
(II Peter 3:1-12)

WEDNESDAY EVENING: June 13, 2012

Scripture & Prayer: Don Ellis (First, Carthage)
Presiding: David Rudd (Good Hope, Henderson)
Keynote Speaker: Garnett Reid (FWB Bible College)
“The Return of the Lord” (Acts 1:9-11)

THURSDAY MORNING: June 14, 2012

8:30 AM - TWAC Business Meeting
9:30 AM - “Body Building” WAC Ladies with Sally Wilcox
11:00 AM - TWAC Joint Session - Speaker: Elizabeth Hodges

Scripture & Prayer: Chuck Vaughan (First, Houston)
PREACHING CONFERENCE – THEME: “End-Time Absolutes”
Presiding: Mark Headrick (First, Henderson)
Speaker: Garnett Reid (FWB Bible College)
First Sermon: “The Judgment” (Acts 17:21)
Second Sermon: “Everlasting Destiny” (Matt. 25:46)

THURSDAY EVENING: June 14, 2012

TWAC Dinner @ 6:00 PM Please RSVP to Mitzi Burks (mburks@eastex.net)
Scripture & Prayer: Marcus Brewer (Fellowship, Bryan)
Presiding: Clyde Tucker (Buncombe, Carthage)
Keynote Speaker: Garnett Reid (FWB Bible College)
“The Resurrection” (John 6:26-29)

FRIDAY MORNING: June 15, 2012
Scripture & Prayer: Josh Horton (First, Carthage)

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Allen King (First, Henderson)
INSTRUMENTALISTS: To be arranged by Music Director

When and Where Is the Texas State Convention?

The 98th Annual Session of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists will be meeting June 13-15, 2012, at the First FWB Church in Duncanville. Board meetings and youth competitive activities will begin on Wednesday morning June 13, and the formal opening of the Annual Session will begin with the Wednesday evening worship service. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Garnett Reid, Professor of Biblical Studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

We have made arrangements for lodging at this year's meeting with the Baymont Inn & Suites, located a short distance from the church on US-79.

Baymont Inn & Suites Henderson – (903) 657-7900

410 US Hwy 79 South-- Henderson, Texas, 75652

<http://www.baymontinns.com/hotels/texas/henderson/baymont-inn-and-suites-henderson/hotel-overview#>

Room Rates:

Single King – \$84.99 + tax

Double Queen – \$89.99 + tax

Single King Suite – \$99.95 + tax

Double King Suite – \$134.99 + tax

(Mention that you are with the Texas State Association of FWB)

Rate includes all standard amenities of the hotel, including:

--Free Hot Items Breakfast that includes sausage, eggs, biscuits and gravy, and hot waffles.

--Complimentary Wi-Fi internet, fitness room, and guest laundry.

Reservation deadline: May 11, 2012

As in years past, pre-registration available and encouraged for all attendees. You may register using one of the registration forms sent to your church, mailing it to the State Office, or you may register online at www.texasfwb.org. All pre-registration must be completed by May 15 to ensure that your information is compiled prior to the meeting. Onsite registration will also be available, but you are encouraged to pre-register if you know that you will attend. Pre-registration helps us to keep records more efficiently, and pre-registered attendees will have a pre-made nametag at the registration table.

All of the meeting information in this issue of the Challenge and more will be online at the State Association's website: www.texasfwb.org. Please make plans now to join us in Henderson, and feel free to contact the State Office if you have any questions.

NOTE:

Attendees should note that we have 40 rooms in our group for Wednesday and Thursday nights, out of 48 rooms in the entire hotel. So, we essentially have the run of the hotel during our peak nights, including all 26 of the "standard" rooms and all of the non-smoking rooms in the hotel. When the non-smoking "standard" rooms are reserved, there will only be suites and smoking rooms remaining. That means you need to be prompt in making your reservations; if you wait until the May 11 cutoff date, there may not be any of your preferred rooms available. Contact the State Office if you have any questions.

Mission Hires Mark McPeak Director of Advancement

Antioch, TN (On February 2, 2012, International Missions) General Director Clint Morgan announced to the Mission board, staff, and missionaries that Mark McPeak had accepted the offer to return to the Mission in the position of director of advancement.

For over a year, two major International Missions' posts were vacant: director of stateside operations and director of development. The Mission's leadership team and board sought to bolster these departments while facing budgetary constraints. Missionary Sam McVay admirably filled the director of development slot on an interim basis. However, he and June feel compelled to return to their ministry in Spain.

The leadership team surveyed missionaries, pastors, laymen, and state and national leaders seeking advice. As a result, and after prayerful consideration, many hours of dialogue, and counsel from many of you, Clint Morgan stated, "We determined it was wise to hire someone in a modified dual role to cover the two vacancies. The overwhelming choice for this role was Mark McPeak."

"Although some counselors expressed concern about a hire at this level while continuing to restrict the return of missionaries to their fields, it should be kept in mind that we did not keep missionaries stateside to cut expenses, but rather to generate income," affirmed CFO Rob Conley. "In reality, it is more expensive to keep some missionaries stateside than on the field. Hiring Mark and keeping missionaries stateside have precisely the same short- and long-term objectives of generating sustainable income."

The response from missionaries, board, and staff has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Board Chairman Danny Williams stated, "During his previous tenure with the Mission, I found myself impressed with Mark's insights and skills. However, his heart for reaching the world with the gospel of Christ is even more notable and inspiring."

Former director of field operations and veteran missionary Steve Lytle responded to the news with enthusiasm, "We rejoice that Mark is coming back home. We will pray that God will use him, and that together we'll see the Lord turn things around, even this year."

Tim and Kristi Johnson, missionaries to Spain, were among those heavily impacted by the need to increase cash reserves. "As a missionary who is currently stateside because of the financial crisis our Mission is facing," Kristi wrote, "I know the importance of finding someone to develop a solid strategy for a strong support base. I believe

Mark's proven passion for sharing the gospel and his amazing giftedness will be a vital part



of leading International Missions into the future, where missionaries will remain on their fields of service without fear of being called back to the States because of a lack of funds."

McPeak's role encompasses engaging the entire IM family in unified strategies and tasks; effectively communicating the purpose of IM; and developing and maintaining constituent relationships.

For more than nine months, the board grappled with the timing of implementing this vital position. In the December meeting, the board authorized hiring a director of advancement within the approved, reduced budgetary restrictions.

When informed of McPeak's employment, Keith Burden, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, responded, "Mark McPeak's personal integrity, people skills, and credibility among denominational leaders uniquely qualifies him to assist International Missions as they address present challenges and build a stronger, more effective outreach for Free Will Baptists."

"I am immensely grateful for the chance to return to International Missions. It's humbling to rejoin this dedicated team while some of our missionaries are being held at home." McPeak asked, "Please pray (and partner) with us as we seek the Lord's direction. We desire that our plans will be His plans. God's movement in our works around the world and the quality of those He has called to go through IM encourage me that our most fruitful days are still ahead!"

McPeak will transition to his new position immediately, assuming responsibilities on Monday, February 6. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or write the Mission office.

Bud & Ruth Bivens...still on the road!

The other day I went into the guest room and hauled the Webster's New World College Dictionary Fourth Edition down from the bookshelf. I wanted to find the word that would describe how I felt. I found just the right one. It was not really a lengthy search because I had a pretty good idea.

We left here (Pharr) on Thursday, January 5th, headed for the annual Alabama Free Will Baptist State Mission Conference. We spoke in 12 different churches in the northern part of the state; attended a banquet; a luncheon; and a breakfast; and were invited to dinner at the Executive Secretary's home; besides being well fed by each of the churches. Finishing up after the morning service on the 22nd in Madison, Alabama we headed for Tupelo, Mississippi. We had an evening service there at the Eggville Free Will Baptist church in a rural community near Tupelo.

The next morning, Monday the 23rd, we headed for Pryor, OK. We spent Tuesday visiting family and friends, and Wednesday we started back south. Late Thursday afternoon we pulled into our drive in Pharr, Texas. I was sick. I had started feeling some symptoms on Sunday and had just been getting worse since then. As soon as we got home I went to a family clinic near here that is open until 11:00. It was 9:30 p.m. when I drove out of the pharmacy parking lot with two prescriptions of antibiotics and headed home. I came in, climbed out of my clothes and into my PJs and into the bed, where I stayed for a while. When I finally got up and looked around, I could not believe my eyes. I wanted to run away and hide. The kitchen table top, and floor, was totally mounded with stuff. The living room only had a narrow trail across the floor and Bud had only unloaded the back part of the van. It was Monday before I was up to going out and finishing the unloading job. Then I went back to bed. The sorting and distributing job is still on my "things to do" list. Maybe I will get to that tomorrow.

Besides receiving financial support for the Bible Institute in Altamira Mexico, we had a wonderful time. The folks in Alabama are really Okies, they just don't know it. They are so gracious and warm, and do everything they can to take good care of us. Several had bags of things for us to bring back for the children's home. By the time we loaded the car to leave Alabama I was afraid we might have to tie our luggage on top, or ship it back by UPS. We have many precious friends in AL and treasure any time we get to spend there.

So, here I am, still in recovery mode, looking at the bountiful blessings of a very successful trip. It was all pure, sweet blessings. I will get around to getting things picked up and put away before long. What was the word I found? "Overwhelmed." Overwhelm is defined as follows: *1. To pour down upon and cover over or bury beneath. 2. To make helpless, as with greater force or deep emotion; overcome; crush; overpower.* Yep, that's how I have felt lately. But, thankfully, I am on the mend. I will get this mess straightened out one of these days. And, that will last until our next cross-country trip. Prayer appreciated.

Ruth

Make me a blessing to someone today.

D6 DAYS

Have you ever wanted to get a taste of the D6 Conference, but haven't had the chance to actually attend in person? We're excited to introduce you to D6 Days—a way for you to experience D6 from your computer, iPad, or tablet for FREE at D6Conference.com/D6Days.

We've invited Brian Haynes, Michelle Anthony, Kurt Bruner, and a few other family ministry enthusiasts to give live, fresh content just for this event. We'll also be streaming full length past D6 Conference sessions from Doug Fields, Darren Whitehead, Rob Rienow, Fred Stoeker, Richard Ross, Jay Strother, and others! On top of that, we're also giving away 15 mp3s from some of our most talked about previous conference labs. All free!

There are three different D6 Days in 2012: February 21, April 17, and July 24. D6 Days content will be available for up to two weeks after the listed dates. For a more detailed schedule, visit D6Conference.com/D6Days.

You don't have to do anything to receive this content. No sign up, no registration fee, nothing. Just go to D6Conference.com/D6Days on the dates listed above and learn from some incredible leaders.

Be sure to tell your friends!

To register for the D6 Conference, go to D6Conference.com.

Thank you!
@TheD6Conference

A note from Sally...

Our TWAC State Convention

promises to be a “Convention to Remember!” Our main speaker will be Elizabeth Hodges, National Executive Director of WNAC. She’ll be speaking on our theme for this year - Body Building. No, you do not have to wear sweats!

Whether you are following the *Treasure* in your WAC meetings or not, I know all of you are concerned about building up the Body of Christ! And health concerns are always present. NWAC has combined efforts to address these ever pressing issues as our theme for 2012.

Elizabeth will also answer your questions about what happens to the funds we collect so diligently and turn over to WNAC. She will be speaking at our Joint Session at 11:00 AM Thursday, June 14th.

Our first session at 9:00 AM, following the business meeting, will bring us together in mind, spirit and body. God has designed this meeting, and you won’t want to miss it! It is unlike any other you have ever attended at a state convention. I promise.

We will serve dinner on Thursday evening at 6:00 PM. Send RSVP’s to our church phone 903/657-5763 or Bro. Mark’s email – markalope@suddenlink.net by May 30th!! Everyone is welcome!!!

All of this will be at First FWB Church in Henderson. The pastor there is Mark Headrick. The church phone number is 903-657-5763. More information regarding hotel accommodations, schedules, etc. can be found throughout this issue of *The Texas Challenge*.

State Retreat in October

Our 2012 TWAC State Retreat will be on October 12 & 13; that’s a Friday and Saturday. We have chosen the beautiful campgrounds of Forest Glen just outside Huntsville, TX, for our site. We have reserved a lovely, 2-story lodge called the Matthew Lodge.

Our speaker will be the one and only Ruth Bivens (see article on preceding page). Ruth and her husband Bud oversee, direct and teach at the seminary in Altamira, Mexico. She will be speaking on our theme for this year: “What is Your Legacy?” We are hoping to see as many of your daughters (14 years old and up) and



mothers as possible. Even if it’s someone who is “like a mother to you” or “like a daughter,” bring them and let them get a taste of Texas Free Will Baptist love!

We will have a craft time starting at 2:00 PM on Friday - making scarves from T-shirts with Karen Rust.



Following that, at 6 PM it’s supertime! Ruth will be speaking at the 7:00 PM (Fri.) and 11:00 AM (Sat.) services. We’ll do facials Friday evening and learn how to make our own cremes from ingredients in your own kitchen!

Dig through your stuff and bring donations for our Fashion Swap! Everything donated will be sold for a dollar!!! And stick around after lunch for canoe race on lovely Lake Grace.

All this - one night stay and 3 meals included - for only \$61.00 each. You can’t beat that with a stick! So get your reservation in early! Let us know how many in your room (up to 6). Email Lillian Pritchard at lillian55@consolidated.net.

Texas State FWB Association
13293 Tommy Smith
Conroe, TX 77306

As I See It *by Glenn Poston*

I recently received a letter from a pastor who was once a part of Free Will Baptists but now pastors an independent church. He had inquired about a meeting we were having and he wanted to know if it was alright for him to attend. I assured him we would love to have him at this meeting or any meeting we sponsored. He wrote me back this note. (Used by Permission) "Thank you for following up with me and for extending the invitation. It means a lot to know I am welcome to attend events of the group I was a part of for over three decades. For all those pastors that think being independent is all grand and glorious, I would recommend they rethink their position. After being a part of FWB for 30 plus years and then going to an independent church, it often feels like you are cut off from any support systems." I have thought a lot about his statement in light of so many today who seem to want to go their own way. What does belonging to an association do for me? Let me give you a few suggestions. (These are not original with me.) Affiliation gives me a sense

of belonging. Free Will Baptists are my family and these are my brothers and sisters in Christ. Affiliation gives me encouragement. Not only do my brothers and sister encourage me but I like to think I am an encouragement to them as well. Affiliation gives me identity. I know my true identity is found in Christ, but by affiliating with others who interpret the Bible the way I do, I am not stuck out here on my own. Affiliation helps multiply our efforts. You've heard it said, "We can do more together than we could ever do alone." I believe that statement is true. Affiliation helps me to be accountable. I am first of all accountable to God, but others can help us stay on the right path. Affiliation makes me stronger. A single cord is easily broken but when I'm united with many others, we all are stronger. Friends, let's not cut ourselves off from our support systems. We need each other. I need you and you need me. Humbling, I know, but none the less, true. I hope to see you around.

Glenn Poston, Promotional Director Echo Help

Editor, Layout, Design – Sally Wilcox

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