

The TEXAS CHALLENGE

Published by the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists

Sally Wilcox Retires After 15 Years

“Graphics and layout is my passion and my talent, my gift from God. He placed in me the desire to see things on a page in a way that appeals to the reader. I love art.” Those are the words of Sally Wilcox, beloved editor of *The Texas Challenge*, who has said goodbye after 15 years of service. Due to repeated illness, Sally has resigned as editor and turned over the duties to Bro. Mark Headrick this issue. “I am sure he will have wonderful new ideas, and it is in good hands,” she said.

Sally’s graphics career began in advertising at The Conroe Courier in the 1980’s. It started with manual layout, but she quickly adapted to the industry’s use of computer graphics.

A few years later, while living in El Paso, Sally and her husband Lee, began publishing a newspaper for high school students called *Peer Pressure*. “We bought a Compu-graphic computer and set up a light table in our kitchen.”

After moving back to Conroe, Dwayne Crosby, who pastored NorthPointe church at the time, found Sally at PrintMax, in the shopping center where Brother Dwayne had moved his growing church. “He wanted a logo, and I created it.”

Sally joined NorthPointe church, and in 1999, Bro. Dwayne, the new editor of *The Texas Challenge*, asked her to do the layout.

Sally received plenty of advice from former editor Thurmon Murphy, and she continued to work for Dwayne and then Rhonda Ferguson. Eventually, she was promoted to editor.

“Keith Woody, [former] State Moderator, was my cheerleader and my counselor. He loves *The Texas Challenge* and sees it much as I do - a vehicle to reach the Free Will Baptists in the great and large state of Texas and unite the work.” Concerned about the hundreds of miles that separate the churches of our association, Sally desperately wanted them to know, “You’re not alone!”

Sally soon tired of waiting for news to come to her, so she went to it! “My willing husband drove me all over Texas! When people asked who he was, he would tell them, ‘Oh, I’m driving Ms. Sally.’” Thus were born the “Driving Ms. Sally” articles.

Sally and Lee learned a lot in their travels. “To some extent we saw success in uniting the churches and informing the masses. We got to meet pastors we would never have known, and to meet their con-

gregations! We heard sermons from different perspectives, saw all types of outreach at work, encouraged new mission churches, interviewed missionaries home on leave, and just had a ball! That was the best part.”

Recently they created a website devoted to their travels called meetingthetexaschallenge.com, where you can access their articles more quickly. “You can find many articles and lots of photos there. Probably something on your church!”

Texas Free Will Baptists have truly been blessed by Sally’s work these last fifteen years. “Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and my time as editor is over. My hope is to bring glory to God through the written word. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve you. God bless you all!”



BREWER'S BEAT



Marcus Brewer
State Office Coordinator

I hope you are enjoying the New Year and that your churches are doing well. Here are some noteworthy updates we want to make you aware of.

Light of Life FWB Church is a self-supported FWB Mission in McAllen, Texas (where Larry Powell once planted a church near the Mexico border). The church is in need of willing and able servants who would like to come and help with distributing door-hanger flyers or with going to area parks and inviting families to their Wednesday night AWANA club. Light of Life celebrated three years in January and they are looking to expand their outreach in their community. There is much to be done! If your church is interested in a short-term mission trips please contact Pastor Greg or Sister Ana Yacobian at 956-630-6639, e-mail lightoflifefwb@yahoo.com, or visit their website at www.lightoflifemcallen.org.

Planning has begun in earnest for the 2014 National Convention. Over the next few months we will be sharing opportunities for our churches, WAC chapters, and others to support the activities at the

convention. Opportunities are already available or will be available to help with the National Youth Competition, hospitality and information, serving as ushers in the convention worship and business sessions, helping with service projects, and covering the convention in prayer. We will be sharing more details as we continue planning, but if you have questions about how you can get involved, please contact the State Office.

Regardless of whether you are able to help out with one or more of the volunteer opportunities at the State Meeting or the National Convention, I urge you to set aside the time to attend, particularly if you have not recently attended either or both of these meetings. These are great opportunities to see what our state and national ministries are doing, meet new people, get reacquainted with old friends, and fellowship with (at the National) thousands of other Free Will Baptists.

The State Association is now on Facebook. With all of our upcoming activities for the State Meeting and National Convention, in addition to all of our ongoing activities, this will be another way that we can communicate with our churches and members more easily and more timely. The URL is www.facebook.com/TexasFWB if you want to find us and "like" us.

The State Office has recently received an inquiry from a man who is looking for pastoral opportunities. I will be willing to pass along his information to any church that is looking to fill an opening. However, I often do not have the latest details on which churches are looking for pastors, so I also encourage you to keep me updated on pastoral changes as they occur.

Similarly, it is important that we keep our directory current, so if you

have changes in mailing addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, or websites, please contact me or State Clerk Doug Dickey so that we can keep our contacts up-to-date.

Finally, here are some important dates and events you should put on your calendars. Please be in prayer for all of our Texas Free Will Baptists who are involved in these and other ministry events, and make plans to attend!

- Texas FWB Youth Retreat - May 2-4
- Texas FWB Youth CTS Competition (Bible, Music, and Arts) - May 17
- 100th Annual State Meeting - June 11-13 at Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan
- 78th Annual National Association of FWB - July 27-30 at the Ft. Worth Convention Center
- Texas FWB Women's Retreat - September 26-27
- Texas FWB Men's Retreat - December 5-6

If we can be of any assistance at the State Office, please feel free to contact us.

The Texas Challenge is published online quarterly by the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists. It can be viewed at:

www.texasfwb.org/challenge
Mail comments and articles to:
501 Russell St.
Henderson, TX 75654
903-646-6038
fwbtxaschallenge@gmail.com

The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit any articles submitted for publication. All articles represent the personal views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policy or positions of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Bright Light Ordains Pastor

The historic Bright Light church in College Station celebrated another milestone in their ministry with an ordination service for Pastor M. Grady (Matthew) Calhoun. Pastor Calhoun was called to Bright Light in October 2012, after graduating from Welch College. It didn't take long for him to feel at home in the Central District. "They welcomed this Goober from Georgia as if I was one of their own and I am very appreciative of their kindness," he said.

Ken Mayo (Eastside, Houston), who serves on the ordaining council, delivered the charge to the pastor. "Brother Ken has expressed his desire to support me in any way in which he was capable on several occasions," Brother Matthew said.

John Collier (New Beginnings, Bryan) delivered the charge to the congregation. "Brother John has not only made it a point to meet with me weekly, but he has offered himself and his family to be available for any need I may have. He is a good friend."

Zach Maloney (Minister of Education, Tippet's Chapel, Clayton, NC) delivered the exhortation. Preaching from Acts 1:1-11, he reminded Brother Matthew and all of us what is the message and the ministry of the pastor and congregation. The choice of Brother Maloney to preach was a personal one for Pastor Calhoun. "Zach graduated with me and has since our first year together at Welch been one of my dearest and most true friends. On more than one occasion Zach has had to sit me down and tell me something I didn't want to hear, but he has always done so humbly and as a true friend would."



Looking ahead to the future, Brother Matthew says, "My desire is for Bright Light to continue to grow into a healthy church. A healthy church will be a grace-saturated community, a group concerned with justice and the well-being of all men, an evangelistic body of believers, and a home for all who are weak and weary to find rest in the person and work of Jesus Christ."

Weslaco Welcomes Newest Member

On January the 3rd, Itziar "Itzi" Thebeau was born. She was 7 lbs. 12 oz. and 21 1/4 inches long. "We hope that she is just the beginning of our family," said daddy Pastor Faron (Primera, Weslaco). The birth of his daughter is one more lesson that what God gives you is worth waiting for.

Brother Faron was a single pastor in Missouri ten years before moving to Texas, where he remained single nearly another ten. "I suppose that I've never prayed for anything as often and as desperately in my life as I prayed for a wife and family," Brother Faron said.

He had almost given up when he met Abigail Cura, "a young, beautiful, Christian hispanic girl," in Faron's words. They married after eleven months of dating, and Itzi followed quickly after!

Brother Faron says God has taught him a lot over the past year. "I felt like I had prayed for so long without an answer, but when the answer came, it came strong and fast. I hope that I have learned to trust Him more than I ever have before."

Brother Faron does have one word of warning however. "To any of you that are parents of young male children, be careful if they come around my sweet daughter. The eyes of this particular Texan are indeed upon you."



Skilled Workers Needed For Building Project



By Don Bailey
(North Oaks, San Antonio)

As the apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:8-10, we have felt troubled, perplexed, and cast down on many occasions. As we have battled and fought on every side (with the city of San Antonio), the enemy has continued to make it difficult, but we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

We are so thankful for each of you who have stood with us over these last several years with your prayers and financial support. It is because of your prayers, encouragement and support that we know the Lord will build his church in Northeast San Antonio. Hopefully by the time you read this our water and sewer connections to our church will be complete. We will then be very close to the completion of our building.

A few days ago, I read in Exodus 31, where the Lord spoke to Moses and told him he had called a man Bezalel and also a man named Aholiab (v. 6). These men were Godly and filled with God's Spirit, they were gifted to do all manner of workmanship. God spoke to me and impressed on me that he had people gifted to help North Oaks complete our building for His glory.

So I write today asking for those people to step forward and let God use you and your gifts. Our needs are in the area of irrigation, landscaping and concrete from city approved plans. I trust the Lord to send the people gifted in these areas, or you may know someone who can meet these needs. Please feel free to contact me for more details on our needs. God has laid on my heart to trust him and turn to God's people to help meet these needs.

We don't understand the many delays we have experienced, but we know that God is in control and we trust his timing to see us through to establishing his church in Northeast San Antonio. Thank you again for your continued prayers, encouragement and support!

Texas Teens To Participate In Summer Ministries

- **Alex Dickey** (Fellowship, Bryan) with Truth & Peace Leadership Conference. This is Alex's second year.
- **Warner Collier** (New Beginnings, Bryan) with Truth & Peace Leadership Conference. This is Warner's second year.
- **Jacob Voltz** (Woodforest, Magnolia) to South Korea with FWBIM's College Mission Program (CMP). Jacob has been to Chicago, Japan and Kazakhstan with E-Team.
- **Joshua Wright** (Clearview, McKinney) with Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. This is Joshua's third year. Joshua will also going to Japan with E-Team.
- **Rebekah Wright** (Clearview, McKinney) with Truth & Peace Leadership Conference. This is Rebekah's second year.

Fundraising efforts have already begun. Contact their churches for information on how to donate. Pray for their success this summer.

KETTEMAN
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

FEBRUARY 23, 2014

Equipping students to *change the world*



Clearview Could Have Building By June

*By Randall Wright
(Clearview, McKinney)*

These are exciting days here in McKinney! We have closed the loan, approved the plans, broken ground, started roughing in the plumbing, and now we are waiting on the concrete to begin being poured. When this building is finished in June (projected time), we will have our first and very own church building. It will be complete with a small auditorium with about a 120 seating capacity, restrooms, two nurseries, a small kitchen area, a small office, and three class rooms that will double as a fellowship hall.

We are not only excited about the new space; we are excited about the opportunity that it provides. We will be moving to a new section of

McKinney (about three miles from our current location), and our new neighborhood offers an opportunity to reach out to lots of new people and increase our ministries. There are approximately 19,000 people living within just a two mile radius of our church and very few if any churches. We are the only Free Will Baptist church in this area and in McKinney!

This year has been a great year for us! We have seen our average worship attendance increase this year by 15%. Our ministry team has increased by 25% and our small group Bible studies have doubled! However, we need your help now more than ever! This building is certainly a step of faith for us and we believe that God is going to do

amazing things this year for our church.

We have a great opportunity for our Texas friends and churches to help us this year. Our building is going to cost us approximately \$150.00 a square foot. I would like to ask the great people, families, and churches of Texas to consider partnering with us and purchase a square foot or two this year. The Texas Home Missions Board has extended a matching grant of \$45,000 dollars to us. For every dollar that we receive toward our building this year, they will match it up to \$45,000.00. Every foot will become two! Two feet will become four and five square feet will become ten. Can you help us? Will you help us?

Invite Randall Wright to Share With Your Church

We would love the opportunity to come to your church on a Sunday night or Wednesday evening to share more about the work. As a pastor let me share a couple of things that I would like for you to keep in mind.

1. Don't let attendance be a factor. As a mission pastor I am accustomed to talking with small groups.
2. You or your church are not obligated to any type of financial commitment. A love offering is not even necessary. It would be appreciated, but not necessary.
3. I would just like to share our story thus far and our future and immediate needs to gain prayer support and share how churches can partner with us to establish the church here in McKinney.

As we begin the building phase, we are trying to find ways to save money on the construction. There may be people in our Texas churches that are able and willing to help us in this area. Would you consider if you have men or women in your congregations who have their own companies or skill set that could help us potentially save some money on our finish out? Services such as licensed electricians, heat and air technicians, sheet rock, painting, flooring, plumbing, lighting, and sound. Both material and labor are areas that would allow us to save money.

I really appreciate your prayers and partnership with Clearview, and I look forward to strengthening our relationship as we serve Christ together here in Texas.





A Legacy of Faithfulness

Excavating for Texas trivia in a box of old state documents revealed Texas treasures! The Texas State Woman's Auxiliary Convention organization meeting occurred at the Free Will Baptist Encampment at Pineywoods, August 15, 1950. Officers elected were President Mrs. A.F. Halbrook, Vice President Mrs. Ruby Gary, 2nd VP Mrs. Bill Berry, 3rd VP Mrs. Noah Tuttle, 4th VP Mrs. Ruby Withers, 5thVP Mrs. V.B. Stone, Sec./Treas. Mrs. H. Ray Berry, Field Worker Rev. Mrs. Lizzie McAdams. What a heritage! These documents also revealed a legacy of faithfulness, missionary emphasis, leadership, presence, and perseverance!

TWAC Convention Theme Set

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” "Find Us Faithful", Hebrews 12:1-3, will be the TWAC theme on June 12, 2014, as part of the 100th Texas Free Will Baptist State Association Meeting at Fellowship in Bryan, TX. Bettie Ferguson, Charlene Denman, and Ruth Richards will share some memories, insight, and words of encouragement for the future. Bro. Don Bailey (North Oaks, San Antonio, below) will be speaking for the joint worship service at 11:00 a.m., with Carra Bailey Greer (right) as the music worship leader. Ana Yacobian (Light of Life, McAllen) will be highlighting the faithful churches across Texas, so please email her a picture of your church with Pastor and congregation to lightoflifefwbc@yahoo.com. Plan to be a part of this historic occasion, June 11th-13th, 2014!



Fall State Retreat Scheduled

Take one more trail ride to Forest Glen Camps, Huntsville, TX, on September 26th-27th, 2014, for the TWAC sponsored Ladies Retreat. "Faithful, It's Required," 1 Cor-inthians 4:2, will be our focus. Kim Gott, who was raised in a Korean orphanage, will share her testimony of rescue, salvation and ministry. Project Parachutes will be the craft initiative this year. More detailed information will be shared as plans are finalized, but mark your calendars now.

NAFWB 2014 Convention, Texas Style!

Put on your boots and bandanas, and let's hit the trail to Fort Worth, Texas, July 27th-30th, 2014, for the National Association of Free Will Baptist Convention! What an honor for Texas to host our brothers and sisters in Christ in our own backyard! Check out the latest ONE Magazine for pre-registration and convention hotels. Cowboy boots, pictures of your local ladies, and volunteers for the Texas Welcome are still needed, so contact Mitzi Burks, 903-646-1667, mburks@eastex.net. If you've never been before, now is the time! "Everything is bigger in Texas!" May our presence at the national this year be no exception!!



A Strong Turnout At The Men's Retreat

By John Collier (Christian Education Board)

They came from all over the state of Texas. They came to fellowship, be encouraged, and explore this year's retreat theme of "Strong Men...Strong Churches". I am talking about men, real men. The annual Texas Free Will Baptist Men's Retreat was held December 6-7, 2013 at Camp of the Hills, just outside Marble Falls. This great facility in the beautiful Texas Hill Country provided the perfect backdrop for the men to gather.

This was the largest retreat in recent memory with 31 attending. The ice-storm that covered the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex prevented at least 10 more from attending. While it was cold outside, the atmosphere inside was warm as men gathered to play games, enjoy excellent food, and sit under the teaching of Jeff Cates. Jeff is the church planter and pastor of Canyon Country Church in Canyon, Texas. He did an excellent job of defining and describing what it means to be a strong man, how that translates into building a strong church, and providing examples of how to put those things into practice. In addition to the sessions Jeff led, the men played pool and ping-pong; unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with outdoor plans.

One of our goals was to host a retreat with a practical value for the men. During the retreat, gifts and prizes valued at over \$1000 were given to the men who attended; no one went home empty-handed. Randall House Publications generously donated books to give to everyone in attendance. Welch College and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College also provided gifts for the men.

Plans are already underway for the 2014 retreat. Mark your calendars now for December 5-6, 2014. The men's retreat is open to all men, including young men in high school and older. The location and other information will be announced no later than the Texas State Association Meeting this summer.

The men's retreat is sponsored by the Christian Education Board of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists. It is our goal to provide opportunities for education, discipleship, and fellowship for our member churches and those who attend them. We also sponsor the annual youth retreat, the youth competition, and provide youth activities during the Texas State Association Meeting.

"Jeff Cates did a great job challenging us to be men. He laid out the characteristics of a man and explained that is how God intended for us to be, and it is important for us to serve God as men and not be ashamed of our manliness. Jeff challenged the churches to focus on reaching the men in their community, and he shared how they do that in Canyon. The retreat was a great encouragement to the men of our church and has helped get our men's ministry more active and involved." -Jeremy Lightsey (CrossLife, San Antonio)



Edgmons Complete Stateside Journey

*By Anthony Edgmon
(Alpedrete, Spain)*

Travel writer Tim Cahill observed, "A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles." Our journey around the U.S. while on Stateside Assignment yielded many friends and partners in ministry. We are so thankful for each of you who loved on our children as they visited in your classes, made us feel welcome in your churches and homes, and prayerfully considered the role God would have you to play in expanding His kingdom around the world. It is almost impossible for us to quantify this journey by the number of relationships we were able to establish or rekindle. The miles are a little easier to track though. During our time in the US, we...

- Shared what God is doing around the world through IM in 43 churches.
- Participated in the National Association of FWB in Tampa, FL.
- Spoke in 5 District or State Meetings.
- Shared in 5 Women's/Men's meetings and Retreats.
- Held 19 other meetings.
- Traveled some 36,000 miles by car and 15,000 by air.

Inspirational writer Marjorie Holmes once penned this sentiment, "At Christmas, all roads lead home." This Christmas we had the privilege of celebrating

with our families in Tennessee. Memories were made as we gave gifts, celebrated our Savior's birth, sang together, played together and laughed...a LOT! A few days after Christmas we made our way across the ocean to our home in Alpedrete.

Our first Sunday in Spain we were thrilled to worship with our congregation. We were especially happy to watch a video of the Christmas program Sunday evening. We know many of you prayed as members of our congregation presented the gospel in the theater of a neighboring town (Collado Mediano). Around 130 people were present to celebrate the Light of the world who came to dwell among us. City officials that were present announced that we are welcome back any time. Praise God for an amazing outcome. Continue to pray for those who are mulling over the truths they heard that night.

Our festivities continued as we rang in the New Year with friends from church and celebrated Three Kings' Day. Emily and Marc have returned to school. We appreciate your prayers for them as they transition back into their classrooms here and pick back up with friends and teachers. Our hearts are full with all the blessings we have seen and the tremendous ways God has moved in 2013. We are looking forward to all He will do in Alpedrete, across Spain and around the world in 2014.

Hubbards Begin Second Year in Japan

*By Heath Hubbard
(Sapporo, Japan)*

We can't believe 2013 year has already ended and we are officially celebrating one full year in Japan! This first year has had it ups and downs, but we continue to see God showing signs of his faithfulness in bringing us here, keeping us here by your support and prayers, and sustaining us. We look forward to what this next year has in store.

Eli and Micah have begun their first week of pre-school! In an effort to help them begin learning some Japanese, they will be attending this pre-school a few days a week. While mom and dad were really nervous their first day, Eli and Micah did really well! We felt God's hand in this whole process. Prior to choosing this particular school, we prayed we could find a place where there was at least one person who spoke English and even prayed that there might be a Christian worker there - an almost impossible find in a place where 99.6% of people are not believers.

God answered beyond what we could imagine, and there is an English teacher at the school closest to our house who is Japanese but grew up in the States and is now back in Japan working as a church planter at a Jesus Life House Church here in Sapporo! God hears us when we call, and He cares about what we need! Pray Eli and Micah adjust well and are able to pick up on the language quickly.

Please pray for the financial state of our mission. FWBIM has a great need for continued monthly support. If you do not already, we would love for you to consider giving regularly to support the great commission.

Are you a preacher
available for
Pulpit Supply in Texas?

Send your name
and
phone number to:
fwbtexaschallenge@gmail.com

Are you a church
**Needing A
Pastor?**

Send your church name,
search chairman,
and phone number to:
fwbtexaschallenge@gmail.com

Bivens Share Mexico Work In Alabama

*By Ruth Bivens
(Altamira, Mexico)*

Greetings from the FWB Children's Home in Eldridge AL. Bud and I are resting between appointments in the annual Alabama Mission Conference. We left the children's home in Morelos and arrived in Northport. We attended a Mission Rally and banquet that evening in Northport, had service Sunday morning at Union Hill FWB out in the hills close to Reform. Pastor Kevin Taylor and his wife took us to a great Mexican restaurant for lunch where we met with Pastor Luke Bozeman, his family and their missionary for that morning, Brother Matt Price from France. We went home with the Bozemans and rested that afternoon before going to their church, Macedonia FWB that night. Their ladies served us a delicious home-cooked buffet supper after church. It was a precious day, meeting new people and seeing them get excited about the work in Mexico. From there we drove to Eldridge where Brother Dick was waiting to give us the key to one of the apartments in the "Bridge House."

Wednesday evening we had service at Mount Zion FWB. Brother Rick Cash printed off directions for us from Google, and our GPS did not agree with him at all. We followed his directions and finally got there. The folks almost fell down laughing when we told them about all the twists and turns down gravel roads we had taken to get there. Turns out there is a good paved road right in front of the church that hits HWY 171 and that takes us right in to Fayette. From there we knew the way, but the GPS argued with us almost the whole way.



Once again, the folks at Mount Zion and their pastor Brother Earl Johnson, received us warmly and were excited to hear about the Mexican work.

We have regular services, rallies, banquets, and breakfasts scheduled throughout the area. As usual nobody is having more fun than we are. Bud had bought two cases of Mexican Vanilla to give to the pastor's wives, but it got misplaced when he cleaned his office, and, out of sight, out of mind. We forgot it. So, we stopped at a Wal-Mart and I paid a visit to the Hispanic Foods section. I bought a case plus four more bottles of Mexican Hot Sauce. That is not exactly as welcome as the vanilla, but, the bottle is cute, and it will serve as a prayer reminder.

I have been battling a cold for a good three weeks now. With my suppressed immune system it is hard for me to throw things like that off, but, I am beginning to feel some better. My mother is back at the nursing home, but, she is not doing well at all. Please keep Mrs. Willie Gage in your prayers. And pray for us when we come to mind. We are so blessed to be used of the Lord in this way. But, we could not do it without your prayer and support.

New History Book From Alton Loveless

Memorials of Pioneer Ministers in America (The Free Will Baptist Denomination)

A large 8 1/2 x 11 book, three columns wide, containing 1825 ministers across this country from one of the oldest denominations in America. Dr. Alton E. Loveless took on the very formidable task of finding where these great Free Will Baptist saints have been buried to record for posterity their gravesites. The movement influenced the country through its many colleges and leaders. It is a must for reference, knowing the denominational movement, genealogists, and its church history.

In the northeast he followed the history of the first Baptist church in America started by Roger Williams, whose church was later pastored by ministers of the Randall movement, and a great number of his descendants were ministers of this Freewill Baptist organization. The history of these ministers in the north were strong absolutist and started some of the first colleges for the Freeman.

It contains sites from 40 states comprising those before and after the 1935 organization of our present movement. Also, a number of associations that were and continue to be independent with the same doctrines.

Dr. Loveless is one whose life has influenced so many pastors, laymen and the entire Free Will Baptist denomination. The brief bio's are fascinating reading and informative. He has recently reprinted nearly 50 rare and historical books of the non-existent Randall faction that merged with the Northern Baptist denomination in 1911 from his collection of antiquarian resources. They are located on the internet under Alton E. Loveless at www.amazon.com.

FWB Family Ministries Thankful For Triumphant Year

At Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, we want to start the year out by saying THANK YOU!! Ministries are driven by people and we know that Family Ministries would not be here if it weren't for people like you. And because so many of you are a part of this ministry, you too can rejoice with us as we celebrate what God has been doing through Family Ministries.

You can rejoice with us in that 87 young people made a decision for Christ in 2013. If anything should get Christian's excited, it should be hearing about others being saved, especially when your support helped make it possible! And for the last 14 years now, we have seen an average of 100 or more saved through this ministry.

You can rejoice with us in that the Hope Center (Crisis Pregnancy/Resource Center) saw 110 babies born to the ladies we served in 2013. If it were not for your support of Family Ministries, many of those babies would have become another number in the abortion statistics. You played a part in that!

You can rejoice with us in that we had 110 young people graduate from our Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Program. There is an epidemic of addiction among young people today, but you had a hand in helping these young people overcome this problem and know that they don't have to fight the fight alone... They can have Christ on their side!

So THANK YOU and praise God for His faithfulness!

Forum 14/Bible Conference To Address "The Gospel For Life"

Welch College will host its annual FORUM/Bible Conference March 9-11. The event will be held on the campus of Welch and will focus on the theme "The Gospel for Life." Through plenary and breakout sessions, speakers will address the implications of the gospel for evangelism, discipleship, Christian living, ministry, and public ethics.

The featured speakers this year will be Ajith Fernando and Dr. Russell Moore.

Ajith Fernando, internationally acclaimed speaker and author, is the teaching director of Youth for Christ in Sri Lanka. A graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary, he is a visiting lecturer at Colombo Theological Seminary and is the author of 15 books published in 20 languages, including *Jesus Driven Ministry* and *Sharing the Truth in Love: How to Relate to People of Other Faiths*. He is actively involved in a grassroots ministry to reach the urban poor in his area with the gospel.

The event will also feature Dr. Russell Moore, who will speak on Monday. Dr. Moore is President of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. Dr. Moore is the author or editor of five books, including *The Kingdom of Christ* and *Tempted and Tried*. Dr. Moore brings fresh, well-

informed perspective to the topic of the implications of the gospel.

Four outstanding Free Will Baptist ministers will also address conference attendees.

Dr. Jeff Manning (Unity, Greenville, NC) serves on the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions and also teaches as an adjunct faculty member in expository preaching at Welch College.

Jeff Nichols (Donelson Fellowship, Nashville, TN) serves as Executive Pastor.

Chris Talbot (Unity, Greenville, NC) serves as the Minister of Students and is a regular contributor to helwysocietyforum.com.

David Williford (Welch College) serves as Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

President Matt Pinson said, "This is shaping up to be one of our best conferences ever. We have an excellent slate of speakers on the most important topic we must consider: the gospel and its implications for private and public life. All are invited to come."



Mission Board Makes Difficult Decisions

In the context of several years of financial challenges, the board of Free Will Baptist International Missions reviewed facts about another challenging year. The expense budget for 2013 was set at \$6.7 million, yet the total income for the year is projected at only \$6.0 million. The board approved a budget of just over \$5.8 million for fiscal year 2014.

“As you can imagine, cutting nearly \$1 million is very painful,” said Clint Morgan, general director. “Almost every part of our organization will feel this pain.”

- The IM home office vacated the position of stateside administrator for The Hanna Project, Darren Portell.
- Total reductions in the home office equal more than \$250,000.
- Most partnership budgets with Russia, Cuba, Central Asia, and more were cut by 50%.
- Japan missionaries lost \$88,000.
- Uruguay missionaries saw a reduction of \$45,000.
- India ministry budgets were cut by \$41,000.
- The work in France will operate with \$32,000 less.
- One missionary from the team in France, veteran missionary Cathy Crawford, was brought home.
- Veteran missionary to Uruguay, Molly Barker, chose to retire after 50 years of faithful service.

Reiterated Clint Morgan. “Our board valiantly led us to seek a realistic, balanced budget, making the deep, but necessary cuts, to ensure that Free Will Baptist International Missions will continue to send Light into the darkness and Hope to the hopeless for years to come.”



give to the **Wm** 
4.27.2014

Forlines To Speak at Japanese FWB Convention

Leroy Forlines, professor emeritus of Welch College, has been invited to speak at the Japanese Free Will Baptist National Convention set to take place in Spring 2014. While many details are still to be finalized, Forlines and his wife Fay will travel to Japan where he will speak three times to convention attendees.



This invitation comes directly from Japanese Free Will Baptists who have also expressed interest in having Forlines' books translated.

The Forlineses request your prayers for health and strength for the lengthy trip and that the Holy Spirit will prepare the hearts of the Japanese Free Will Baptists and others who will be in attendance.



The Texas Challenge
501 Russell St.
Henderson, TX 75654
fwbtxaschallenge@gmail.com

Welcome To The New Texas Challenge

It has certainly been a pleasure putting together this latest issue of The Texas Challenge for you. Sally left some big shoes to fill. I would like to thank her for the standard she set with this publication and for handpicking me as her successor.

Some things are like riding a bike: you never forget how. Before I answered God's call to preach, I had spent a decade as a graphic designer. The bulk of that was spent designing lapel pins and patches, but I also did my fair share of catalogs, newsletters, and advertisements.



I never did think becoming a pastor would mean abandoning the talent God had given me, so it is a joy to be able to put on my artist's hat and do it for the glory of God. I hope you like what you see here.

Bear with me for the next couple issues as I play around with different fonts and logos until I'm finally satisfied. I welcome your feedback at fwbtxaschallenge@gmail.com.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

In order to put the newsletter out in a timely and consistent manner, please observe the following submission deadlines for future issues.

Spring Issue

March 25

Summer Issue

July 1

Fall Issue

October 1

Winter Issue

January 7