

# THE TEXAS CHALLENGE

Winter 2012-2013

*The New Generation of FWBs*





# The New Generation of FWBs

*There is a new generation coming along, hearing the call of God, taking up the torch, marching to the beat of their generation, and many sharing the Gospel in a unique way. This issue is to recognize them and to encourage those who have been around a lot longer. By no means is this exhaustive of all who are even in Texas! We are surrounded by witnesses, seen and unseen! We are not alone.*

*Some of the articles appearing in this issue were written by the young people, and some are written as a result of meeting them and realizing the joy they have to be chosen of God to carry out the mission. Space does not allow us to tell it all, but many of the stories you will find at [www.meetingth-etexaschallenge.com](http://www.meetingth-etexaschallenge.com), and certainly more photos. Please enjoy their stories, and pray for them as they work as Free Will Baptists in a world speeding to end times.*

Sally Wilcox

## Alex Dickey

by Sharon Dickey

Douglas Alexander Dickey "Alex" was born in Florence, AL, where his father

Doug Dickey was born. He started life head strong and he has continued to be headstrong, but that has worked in his character to make him determined and self-reliant

Alex has always enjoyed sports. Hand him a ball and he can do anything with it. He is very athletic and competitive. He was awarded all-tournament player in Conroe tournament. At the end of the season, he received the "David" award. This award was

for playing with people that were twice his size and not backing down.

Alex's salvation experience happened at home right at bedtime. He was about 5 years old, and I was putting him to bed. When he started asking a lot of questions about Jesus. I told Doug that he needed to go in and talk to him. And when he did Alex asked Jesus in his heart and was saved. It was so precious! Alex then prayed a 20-minute sermon. For a five year old he was so smart and knowledgeable. Since that day, he has grown in the Lord so much.

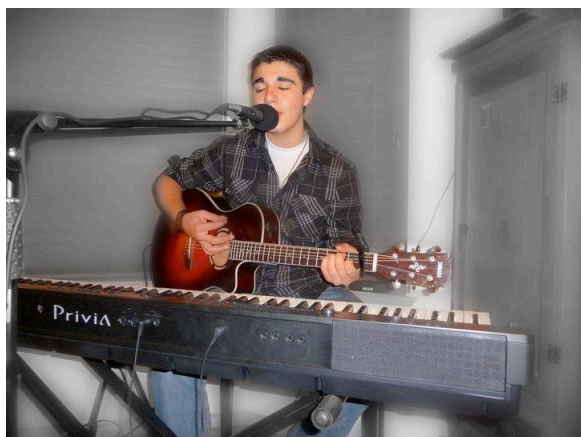
After moving to Texas, he really got involved with the happenings at church. He does the sound and PowerPoint. He helps with children's church and the Wednesday night class. He also helps in the nursery and he is really good with kids. Speaking of kids, Alex has two sisters, Danielle and Lizzie Beth, who he gets to take care of sometimes.

Also, Alex has gotten involved in competition (National Youth Competition). His first year he competed in PowerPoint and drama. He placed third at nationals in PowerPoint with "What Free Will Baptist mean to me." This last year he competed in PowerPoint, drama, and Truth Quest (Bible competition). He placed second with his PowerPoint "No Other Name". We are so blessed that God has given him to us. I am really looking forward to seeing how God is going to continue to work in his life.

## Gregory Yacobian

"Hi, my name is Gregory Blake Yacobian. As of September 21 of this year, I am 18 years old. I was born in the historic city of Plymouth, MA, which maybe explains why I love history so much. I was born into a Christian home; actually I am a PK (Christian slang for "Pastor's Kid"). Baptized at the age of five, I went to church to every service, event and ministry. When I was seven years old, my parents sold my home, my toys, and our business and said good-bye to my known world. We moved to San Antonio Tlayacapan, Jalisco, Mexico to open a church and become missionaries. There I helped my parents by running the children's ministry. From the time I was nine, I started "teaching"





Sunday school to the children of our church because my Mom was busy translating my father's

preaching. Something that has contributed to my personality greatly is that for as long as I can remember, we have always have people over our house that needed to be ministered to: financially, spiritually, or both.

In 2007, just after my thirteenth birthday we moved back to the USA. Although I was excited to move back to my home country, since I am half Mexican, I was not too happy to leave my native home-land, or leave behind the life and friends I had grown to love.

This time we settled close to the Mexican border in the city of McAllen, TX. My parents continued with the Lord's work by establishing Bible studies at our home and in 2011 we started our mission church. However, my personal commitment to the Lord is actually somewhat recent. My personal testimony is long, and I could not possibly put it in a small page; the change from a life of selfishness, rebellion, deceit, and hopelessness - by God's grace my life has been changed to one of happiness, forgiveness, and an ever-constant goal of Christ-likeness. Jesus Christ is my best friend and my Savior who has been there through good and bad times, He is my ever constant friend.

Presently I lead worship at our church "Light of Life" (LOL) Free Will Baptist Church. I play piano, guitar, and sing. I love both the old hymns of the faith and contemporary songs of praise, and I help with songs of worship during the chapel hour of a local Christian private school. I would love to put together a Christian band someday.

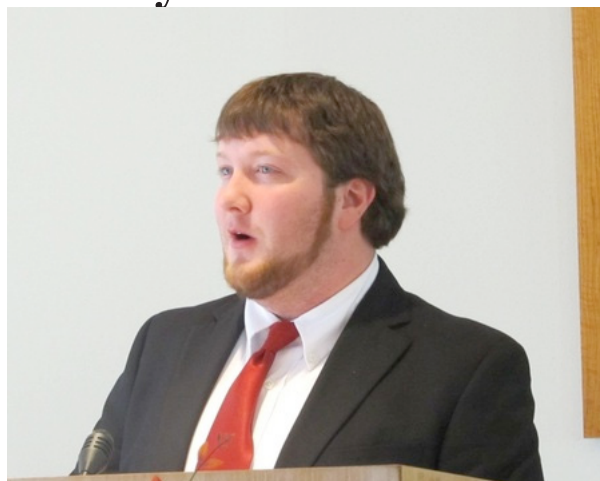
I have been given the privilege and opportunity to play with our denomination's National Youth Evangelistic Team, also known as YET. It is a group of young high-school students who are both a worship band and a ministry team. We tour for a couple of weeks in a few

states in the summer, and then lead the teen worship at the National Youth Conference. I am honored and excited to be able to honor God this way, and I constantly thank him for this opportunity to use my talents for him. This tour will be expensive, however, and to help pay for this, I will soon be releasing a music CD of my piano/guitar/vocal repertoire, solos, and original pieces of Christian music. If you are interested in donating money in exchange for a CD, please contact us through our web site ([www.lightoflifemcallen.org](http://www.lightoflifemcallen.org))

God-willing, music will be my ever-constant dream and source of income — with cooking on the side. Of course, I only want my life and work to honor God.

Don't forget to look me up on Facebook if you have one! Just look up my name! "Gregory Yacobian."

## M. Grady Calhoun



I was born and raised in Colquitt, GA and attended Colquitt Free Will since I was twelve. I went to Welch College from fall '08 to spring '12 when I graduated with a B.S. in Pastoral ministries. I am an adoption advocate, a whovian (Doctor Who fan), guitar player, flannel enthusiast, and film lover.

As pastor, I hope to aid Bright Light in growing our desires for Christ and being an church actively spreading the Gospel throughout the Byran/College Station area.

## **M. Grady Calhoun** *(cont'd)*

Matt attended community college in Bainbridge, GA then graduated from Welch College. He comes highly recommended and I can see why. We actually first met Matt at the Central District Meeting. He is a young man with obvious intelligence and a self-deprecating sense of humor. He told us that Bright Light was going to be holding a three-day revival and invited us to attend.

Matt has a refreshing delivery that wouldn't work for everyone but does for him. This is his first job as a pastor but you wouldn't think so from listening to him. He had three main points and a challenge for the attendees. He did a great job of making his points and expressing his vision.

Bright Light Church is a country church. I think this small town pastor has found a good fit. It appears that he has a gift and it further appears that his congregation appreciates it. Fact is that Bryan is growing in the direction of Bright Light. I think the church and the pastor will be ready when it gets there.

## **Brandon Snowder**



Brandon Snowder is a graduate of FWBBC (now Welch College) in Nashville and Pine Prairie in

Huntsville is his first pastorate. He was born at March Air Force Base outside Riverside California and was raised as a "military brat." He was working in business in Murfreesboro and helping with the youth at Dr. Outlaw's church 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 is a fourth-generation pastor. Brandon knew he was to go to the Bible college and transferred there in 1995. After a semester he jumped the rails and joined the Air Force. You just cannot escape God's plan for you, but sometimes apparently we feel that we just have to try. After two years in the Air Force, he knew he had to return to God's plan, and in 2000 he did. After graduation he waited for his wife to graduate.

Brandon met his wife Elle in college. They have been married since 2004 and have a daughter Kaley who is now 5 years old.

Sometimes things just work out right. Sometimes we just prove that we should sit 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 something important.

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. 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.

## **John Collier**

In the process of doing these articles we have had the pleasure of interviewing pastors in the age range of perhaps 30 to over 90. Lately we have had a number that are quite young. I didn't ask John how old he was but his father is slightly younger than us. One thing I can say with dead certainty: The lack of years does not detract from the conviction and effectiveness of this young man. I think the senior generation is leaving the care of the flocks in very good hands.





John's wife Cathy is a nurse who came from Canada to Beeville, TX in response to an ad in a newspaper.

Warner is the oldest son and in a high school that offers dual credit courses with local colleges. Aaron is in intermediate and Jacob is in middle school. Aaron tried to pass himself off as "Ishmael" which certainly shows some knowledge of the Bible (and/or *Moby Dick*). The afternoon was a pleasure as we had a chance to get to know this refreshing family better.

We had met John Collier before we visited him at New Beginnings in College Station. We had spoken with him in person at the anniversary of Pine Prairie in Huntsville. His dad has been the "temporary" pastor for several years at North Zulch FWB. He also served as a stint in Pine Prairie. Preaching runs in the family.

John spent several years in Beeville in south Texas. His dad recently retired from the state corrections department there.

We can promise you one thing. When you speak to John about any of "his" subjects, you will find a young man with an educated answer. He does book reviews online and is very well read. He is very hospitable and a pleasure to visit with.

## Mark Headrick



Mark was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri. He met Vickie in church there, and they were married in 1996.

God called Mark as a youth but like many youths, Mark could not hear. God, however, is someone who cannot be easily ignored. He saw others accept the call but he had become complacent. A message by Chuck Swindoll was the straw that broke the camel's back or, at least, the backbone of his complacency. Vickie finally told him that he should quit talking and worrying about it and just go ahead and accept. Mark then attended Welch College.

As he was finishing Bible College, he had no destination. He had two opportunities but the whole family wanted to come to Texas. Therefore, he answered the call to come preach at Henderson. He preached twice and the church offered the job. It seems to have been an excellent choice on both sides.

His favorite Bible verse is "my heart cries out for Moab" (Isaiah 15:5). He feels this verse expresses the attitude his church needs to have. He describes them as friendly, expectant, faithful, and giving. His goal, he feels, is to try to get folks to recognize the burden that God has placed on their individual hearts. Glory to God is the most important thing. They are active participants in the Henderson Inter-church Ministry.

# Jezer Ureña

We first met Jezer when he was 19 years old. He was studying with his Dad (Brother Dino Urena) and Brother Bobby Ferguson. Our pastor at North Point



was Jarvis Reed. At the time Jarvis was out in the FWB community attempting to gain support for his ministry. Brother Bobby was asked for a

replacement to preach one Sunday. He sent Jezer.

Sally and I were pretty impressed with the kid and asked him out to our home for the afternoon. The day had seemed to take a lot out of him and he needed to rest before the evening service. While he was at our home, he confided that it was the first sermon he had ever delivered outside of his own church.

Liberation FWB Church has a bit of history attached to it. It is located in the smaller of two chapels that are attached by a connecting building. The other chapel is the worship place for Iglesia Bautista Libre. The pastor is Brother Dino Urena.

Brother Bobby essentially sponsored Iglesia Bautista Libre and placed it in that smaller chapel. Actually, if memory serves me correctly they met in classrooms and that was followed by some construction that resulted in the second chapel. As the demographics in the area (close to Houston Veterans Cemetery) began to shift, the Hispanic church began to outgrow the Anglo church. They then swapped chapels and the Anglo church (First FWB, Houston) took up residency in the smaller of the two.

Things change and then they change some more. Whether due to movement of church members or the desire to plant a new church I do not know. The reasons don't really matter but Brother Bobby moved to Tomball and opened Free Will Baptist Church, Tomball. Obviously that left a vacuum.

Brother Jezer stepped into this vacuum on January 1, 2006, and we stepped into his church for the first

time on September 9, 2012. Too long you say. Well I certainly agree and am somewhat chagrined that we waited so long. We came in during Adult Sunday School (late, as usual) and he stopped and introduced us. Then he continued with an excellent lesson.

What we were not prepared for was the talent and enthusiasm displayed by the pastor and by his flock. Brother Jezer challenges his group, and we think it would be very difficult to attend his church and just warm a pew. He preaches with fire and conviction, and I think you would have to be pretty determined to just sit there and ignore the message.



We are rejoicing in the fact that Jezer, like most young pastors, has his eyes on the youth. To that end, he has Rolando, a young man who meets with 15-20 young people every Friday night. Here comes some more of the new generation of Free Will Baptists! Watch for them in the next state competition!

It is likely that in that particular area of town the larger church will remain the Hispanic church. That does not in any way detract from what Brother Jezer is doing. He is also working in public education, and I have no doubt he will do well there as well.

We are reminded that nothing will diminish the reinforcement of a very simple truth. Things do change and young people will generally surprise you if you challenge them and give them the opportunity to grow.

## The Greatest Gift

Soon churches all over will be performing their annual “Christmas Programs.” Living Christmas Trees and Live Nativities will remind hundreds of thousands of the Greatest Gift – the Christ Child! What gift could possibly be greater than Him?



This year before your Church family goes out and spends far too much on those who have far too much, will you consider asking them to think of those who have very little? Would you consider receiving an offering for Family Ministries this Christmas to help us continue to provide for those who are truly in need?

You may think your church couldn't possibly make a difference. On the contrary, your offering will allow us to continue providing a place where young ladies can get the help and encouragement they need to give the gift of life to their babies. We are on track to see over 100 babies born through the help of the Hope Center. Your offering will allow us to continue directing children, who may have started on the wrong path in life, to Christ, the giver of Life! Over 100 saved each year for the last 13 years!

There are children that will hit our campuses in Tennessee and Arkansas in 2013 that will be the beneficiary of your church's Christmas gift to Family Ministries this year. Your gift this year just may be the one that helps provide the Greatest Gift – Salvation – to those the Lord allows us to serve. We are counting on you!

Mark your gifts “Christmas Appeal” and mail to Family Ministries, 90 Stanley Lane, Greeneville, TN 37743, or go to our website at [www.fwb\\_fm.com](http://www.fwb_fm.com) to make you credit card donation.

Season's Greetings  
from the Staff and Children at  
FWB Family Ministries

## Panama Poised to Write New Chapter

Antioch, TN—Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough enthusiastically endorsed Panamanians' announcement in early October that they are ready to write the next chapter in the book of Free Will Baptist history in Panama. “We needed to work through a host of details and insure Mission personnel and Panamanian leaders were on the same page,” Jeff said, “but we are setting the stage for a strategic and historic changing of the guard in Panama.”

Turnbough visited Panama September 25-October 4, 2012, at the invitation of Rolando Delgado, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City and chairman of the missions board of Panamanian Free Will Baptists. The Cuban émigré and Turnbough visited many of the mission works of the FWB churches in Panama. “Each established church is involved in planting at least one other church,” Turnbough explained. “Several of the churches have multiple mission works for which they are responsible.” Following the three-day tour, they joined pastors, seminary students, missionaries, and others for the annual missions conference held at the Chame Bible institute.

During the missions conference, which featured a presentation by Jeff highlighting Free Will Baptist works worldwide, Delgado responded, “I feel compelled to say this. We love, appreciate, and are eternally grateful for our brothers from the United States. But we don't need more missionaries in Panama. We should carry on the ministry in Panama ourselves. We are all starting new churches and we are ready to send missionaries to the nations!”

“What an exciting pronouncement,” Jeff said. “However, I had to talk with other Panamanian leaders, missionaries, and Mission personnel and be sure everyone was ready to move ahead.” Turnbough talked with various leaders who expressed sentiments similar to Delgado's, emphasizing a desire to continue to work together but being willing and capable of moving forward with the work in Panama.

It is a good time to work in Panama, to see pastors and laymen able and ready to take on the task here and contribute to missionary work around the world.

Mission leadership has agreed to keep missionaries in Panama until January 2015. According to General Director Clint Morgan, “At that time, during the annual national convention, the Mission will officially hand over the work to the national church.”



# From Texas...

## Clearview FWB Mission Celebrates 1st Year Anniversary

On November 4th Clearview Free Will Baptist church celebrated one year of ministry in McKinney, TX. Just a little over a year ago Randall Wright and his family moved to McKinney and began making plans to start the only Free Will Baptist Church in the city and the second one in the county. (Collin County)

Over the past year God has brought together a solid group of people to do the “work of the ministry” here in McKinney. This year has been a very good year as we have attempted to meet and reach people in various venues and through multiple efforts. Let me share a few things that Clearview has done this year.

- We have mailed thousands of post cards.
- We have connected to city sponsored events as a form of outreach and exposure
- We have sponsored a Family Fun Day at a local elementary school.
- We have partnered with the elementary school where we meet in several events to connect with families.
- We have helped sponsor a single mother’s free oil change event.
- We have stood on street corners and passed out water bottles with invitations to our church.
- We have passed out popsicles in local parks to children.
- We have offered free family portraits to those who attended on Mother’s Day.
- We have connected with the Chamber of Commerce to improve our exposure

Through these events we have met hundreds of people and we have had many of them visit and begin to attend Clearview Church. Over the past year we have had almost 200 first-time visitors! While many of these were out of town guests and family members, there were also many who are local families that we have reached and continue to try to reach.

When Clearview began there were 12 people who were a part of the team who helped with the weekly ministries of the church. Over the past year that number has grown until we have now have approximately 22 people



who are involved in the weekly ministry team. Weekly attendance at Clearview has grown from the mid 20’s to a high attendance of 82, and we were excited to celebrate our one-year anniversary with 62! Even more important than the numbers is that each week there is a wonderful spirit in our services and the Holy Spirit is at work in people’s lives.

Clearview is currently trying to find land or a building in order to have a permanent place of worship, where we can begin to focus on expanding our ministry efforts and opportunities. As you would imagine, land and buildings are very expensive in the North Dallas area. We would like to ask the wonderful people and churches in Texas if you would consider receiving a special offering or consider directing any year-end donations toward our land fund to help us be more prepared when we find a location.

Thank you for your continued partnership.  
Your McKinney Missionaries,  
Randall, Collette, Joshua, Rebekah, and Leah Wright



# To the uttermost parts of the earth



## **Anthony & Lea Edgmon** **Alpedrete, Spain**

**FAMILY:** We are doing well. Emily is playing the violin in a juvenile orchestra this year. She is getting ready to participate in her first concert on Dec. 15th. Both she and Marc are doing well. We are thankful that God has put both of them in our lives. They are growing spiritually, physically and emotionally. They are a blessing. Anthony's dad is having a heart cauterization tomorrow, December 6th. We would appreciate your prayers for him. Hopefully, this will help him get to the place where he begins to feel better.

**WEATHER:** We have had some cold days lately, even a few snow flurries last week. There is snow in the mountains just a little to the north of us. Highs for the next 7 days are forecasted to be in the mid 40s and lows in the mid-20s.

**IN THE NEWS:** The euro exchange rate is at \$1.30 today. The economy is not showing much improvements here. Forecasts are saying that unemployment will probably reach 27% during 2013. Spanish banks have received some bailout funds, but part of the conditions include downsizing. That means that around the country several thousand people who work in these banks that have received bailout funds will lose their jobs. We would really appreciate your prayers for Spain in this economic crisis. It seems that strikes are getting more frequent. This last week doctors employed under the social medicine system were on

strike. Pray that the Spanish government at every level will be able to make wise decisions. Pray also that the evangelical churches and its congregants will be able to respond in such a way that will effectively minister to the many families that are struggling and may be more open to their spiritual need as well.

**CHURCH / MINISTRY:** Last Sunday, Tim preached the last message of our series on "The Last Days." This coming Sunday Pedro, a layman in our church will be preaching the first sermon of a series we will do on the songs of Christmas found in Scripture. His will be Mary's song. Last Sunday evening we had an Open House for the Outreach Center. We had a great crowd of 57 people - half of which were people from our community, but not from our church. We are thankful for the continued opportunities that we have to rub shoulders with the people of our community and be a witness to them. Last Sunday was also our last Sunday for Operation Christmas Child. Between people from our church, some who attend outreach center activities and some from a neighboring town where some of our church members promoted it, we collected 49 boxes to be sent as a part of the Spanish Operation Christmas Child. Boxes collected from Spain will go to Ecuatorial Guinea and some refugee camps in the Sahara region. Our church's Christmas program will be December 23. Please be praying for it. Thank you for your regular prayers for us and the ministry here in Spain.

Anthony & Lea Edgmon

The common tongue-in-cheek saying is that “youth is wasted on the young”. I guess that’s related to another saying I’ve heard: “by the time you know it all, you can’t do it anymore”. Where I fall on that spectrum is increasingly debatable; even though my age still starts with a “3”, I’m resigned to the fact that there are virtually no longer any active professional ballplayers older than me. In our office we have student workers that were just being born when I was their age now; in some ways that keeps you young, and in others it reminds you that time marches on. One of the responsibilities we have in our office with regard to student workers is training them how to do many of the tasks we need to complete. Especially for students who have plans to continue their engineering education and enter full-time research, it’s important for us to train them on proper research methods, professional conduct, and engineering ethics. At some point, those students will enter the work force and will need to be prepared to step into roles of responsibility, and if we do not begin training them now, they will not be ready when the time comes.

We have a similar responsibility in the church. Our churches and associations have long been blessed by men and women who have served God faithfully for decades, and we should not fail to show them our appreciation. However, those faithful servants will not be able to continue in their long-time roles forever. As a result, new people need to be not only trained in how to accomplish the various tasks in ministry (e.g., preaching, teaching, music, witnessing, church administration), but also trained in why it is important that they do so. There are many people out there with the skills, talents, and abilities to serve God in a variety of ways, but they either don’t realize that what they can do is important to the church, or they do not believe that supporting the church is important to them. We need to instill in our younger generations, as well as new believers in Christ of all ages, how important it is that they develop their God-given gifts to serve Him and find a place in His work to use those gifts.

Church attendance is the bare minimum of the necessary training. Sunday school, midweek Bible classes, VBS, youth camp, age-focused Bible competitive activities, mission trips, attendance at associational meetings, and leadership conferences

are all supplements to church attendance and are tools that are at our disposal. Too many times we limit our youth by creating a mind-set that a certain activity or ministry opportunity is “for the grown-ups”; how will they ever make

the transition from youth to adult if they are not exposed to “what the adults do”? Of course, that means that we have to live our lives as an example of what we want our younger generations to do in the future, which means we may have to get more involved in some of the things we have been “letting the grownups do” for a long time.

In engineering, a large number of experienced practitioners and professors are reaching retirement age, and much of their experience is retiring with them. In order to maintain the profession, new practitioners and professors must be trained and encouraged to continue where their predecessors leave off. In God’s work, we see a similar demographic pattern, but we are not necessarily focusing on identifying those who will come behind us and “pick up the mantle” as Elisha did in 2 Kings 2:13. In many ways, a key component of our ministry should be on “training our replacements”, so that the work can continue long after we are unable to perform it ourselves. As we read about our younger and developing leaders in this issue, let us not allow the “youth to be wasted on the young”; let’s do what we can to ensure that our young people now, and generations from now, have the skills and attitude they need to accomplish the work of God.

*Marcus Brewer, 38, is moderator and state office coordinator for the Texas State Association. A member of Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan, Texas, he serves as worship leader, treasurer, Trustee Board chairman, and Sunday School teacher. In addition, he is an associate research engineer for the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Among his interests are amateur photography, watching Major League Baseball, and cheering for Kansas Jayhawks men’s basketball.*





# Eagleton Named Regional Director

December 7th, 2012

Antioch, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions voted to appoint Kenneth Eagleton as regional director for Latin America during the December 4-7, 2012 meeting. The position was vacated when Stan Bunch resigned from missionary service in Panama in February of this year to take on the role of Executive Director of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist Churches.

Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough commended Eagleton to the board citing his extensive intercultural service in both Côte d'Ivoire and Brazil, love of preparing others to lead, and vast training in biblical, intercultural, and medical studies. Turnbough stated, "Extended conversations with Kenneth have given me great confidence of his ability to fulfill this position with humility, grace, and expertise."

Initially appointed as associate medical missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire in 1984, the Eagletons worked for a year at Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire, before going to France in 1986 for tropical medicine and language study. In January 1988, they returned to Doropo where Dr. Kenneth treated patients, served as hospital administrator, and preached in area churches. In May 1998, a milestone was reached when the administration of the Doropo hospital was turned over to African Christians.

For the next four years, Kenneth was involved in various levels of leadership training, including director of the Bible institute in Bouna. The Eagletons evacuated from Côte d'Ivoire with other missionaries in October 2002 as a result of an attempted coup d'état on September 19, 2002, and the resulting civil war.

"Kenneth and I worked closely together in Ivory Coast," shared General Director Clint Morgan. "I heartily endorse his selection as RD and am certain he will do an excellent job."

After 18 years of ministry in Côte d'Ivoire, in April 2003, Kenneth and Rejane received permission to transfer to Brazil. In March of 2004 they relocated to Belo Horizonte, Brazil, to work in the mission church during Jim and Vicki Sturgill's stateside assignment. Kenneth was also involved in training pastors and other church leaders through Bible institute classes. In 2006, they relocated to Campinas, São Paulo, where they continue to serve.

Kenneth is the son of Ken and Marvis Eagleton, pioneer missionaries to Brazil. Kenneth received his medical training in Brazil and served as a doctor in a hospital for about three and a half years before pursuing missionary service. His wife Rejane is Brazilian and was saved as a result of Free Will Baptist missionary work. Married for 37 years, the couple has four sons and five grandchildren.

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I received a letter from President Hilarino Gonzalez, president of Seminary Biblico La Cruz. (our seminary in Reynosa, Mexico) of an urgent need. He asked me to pass the need on to our leaders.

The seminary is training young men and women for the ministry in Mexico and in my opinion doing a good job.

Brother "Lalo" says the buildings are in much need of repair. The Mexican Free Will Baptist are doing what they can but are asking for our help. The men's dorm has termites in the walls and need to be replaced with block. The rest room/showers are really needing repairs with tiles and fixtures. The ladies dorms need cosmetics work. The kitchen has worn out equipment. Around the roof, a lot of the wood is rotting. Brother Gonzalez says they will do all the work. They need about \$5,000 for materials. If you can send an offering, wonderful! Send it to Home Missions earmarked (designated) Mexico Seminary and we will send it all to them. Thanks for your help.

Brother Larry

Rev. Larry A. Powell  
General Director  
Home Missions North America



# Faithful For Twenty-five Years

## John Drullinger

Faith FWB, Wichita Falls

**I am blessed.**

I decided to see how long I can

go without missing, so I went to Sunday School, Worship, Sunday night services, Wednesday night Bible study, Men's Bible study, Master's Men for 2 1/2 years without missing any. Some days I didn't feel like going, but I would not feel any better staying home. My pastor calls me "Old Faithful." All the members were proud of me when I got two years. I have been going to this Freewill Baptist Church for almost 25 years. I am an all-weather Baptist.

*John Drullinger*

**You are special...** John Drullinger is very special to us and to our church. We have a lot of love and respect for John. He is very open about his younger days, knowing that this shows others how a person's life can change and one can become devout Christian. He truly is a child of God and good example. John has a great sense of humor and though he has many health problems, he always has a smile on his face no matter how he feels. He is a loving family man and shows this love toward his sweet wife Doris and family members and to his church family.

*John and Dorothy VanDunk*

**John is a blessing** to everyone who knows him! He is a devoted, dedicated, devout Christian. He loves the Lord very much; it shows in how he treats everyone! It's a blessing to me and makes me want to be more like him! God will bless him always I hope.

*Sherria*

**So glad** John has had the health to be here without missing for 2 1/2 years. I am so proud of him. He makes me feel guilty when I am not always here. May God bless him for many years to come. We love him.

*Ken & Diann*

**John is very dedicated.** When he accepted the Lord into his life, he meant all the way. Tithes, time, and talents and serving in all ways.

*Jo Perkins*

**Every pastor needs members like John.** I call him "Old Faithful." For 2 1/2 years he has supported me and the church. He is faithful, encouraging and fun-spirited attendance. Thank you, John, for your love and encouragement.

*Pastor Richard*

**We are so proud** of John Drullinger for not missing any church for two and a half years. He loves his church, the people, the fellowship. He goes out of his way to give anyone a ride to church he can. He is a very good man, and husband, and loves his family. Thank you for being my daddy. We love you! God bless...

*Billy and Dana Pierce*

**One day John said** "I think I will see how long I can go to church without missing a day. What do you think about that?" I said "This is great but you know, I never know how I'm going to feel!" I'm proud of him for making two and half years so far and all of our family is too. I just wish I could have been by his side. He watches the Jewish preacher after he gets home from church on Sunday, and I do too. I think he's the one that inspired him to do this.

*Doris Drullinger*

**I would like to acknowledge** my grandpa John Drullinger for going to Faith Free Will Baptist Church for 2 1/2 years in a row. He has not missed Sunday morning, Sunday night service, or Wednesday service. Even at times he didn't feel good, he still went. He is strong and determined in his faith of Christ. He doesn't let life get him down. He is always smiling and telling jokes. He is a great family man and I love him very much.

*Greg and Kristi Bussey*



**I have known John** for only a few years, since I joined our church with my late husband. However, I can honestly say that John Drullinger is one of the most dedicated Christian men I have ever met. It is very obvious from his constant happy and jovial nature, that he has not missed a service for 2 1/2 years because he sincerely loves being there. He loves the Lord and also the people that surround him. Anyone who knows John could say he is a prime example of what God can do in a person's life with no more effort on our part but to open our heart and let him in.

*Kathy Whitstone*

**I am so proud of John!** He loves the Lord so much and it shows! He read his Bible every day and asked lots of questions about things he reads. He comes in smiling every service. I really look forward to seeing him. He is so caring and shares his heart with us. He always says "I can feel just as bad at home, so why not go to church and feel better because I always learn something."

*Thanks,*

*Kareen*

**Thought and thought** what to do for John since we already gave him that plaque. Was brain-dead. Asked Bosco if he had any ideas. First thing he said "Ham!" That could be one solution... but if that was the case, would we want to smoke one or give them one for ham and eggs? When it comes to John, you can be sure ham would never hurt his feelings!

*Onabeth Boswell*

Impact is a one-day event where Free Will Baptist from across the denomination comes together on Saturday before our National Convention begins to help area churches with things like service projects, door-to-door evangelism, or community outreach.



You will find information on our website about available projects as soon as they are finalized. If you pre-register, you will receive a FREE Impact t-shirt.

Compiled by Lee Wilcox



## The list keeps growing!

We visit a lot of churches. We develop the stories for The Texas Challenge from those visits. Our website contains these same stories with considerably more pictures. As of this date, the following is the list of stories on the site at: [www.meetingthetexaschallenge.com](http://www.meetingthetexaschallenge.com)

- Fellowship Church, Bryan
- Free Will Baptist Church, Tomball, Bobby Ferguson
- Rio Grande Valley Trip
- Bud and Ruth Bivens
- Light of Life, McAllen, the Yacobians
- One of a Kind, Faron Thebeau, FFWB Weslaco
- Meeting the Brazilian Challenge, Kenneth Eagleton
- Mark Headrick, Henderson FFWB
- Iglesia Bautista Libre, Eastside
- Eagle Heights Church
- Don Ellis, Standing in the Gap
- Dr. Thomas Marberry
- Icon - Herbert Richards
- Jezer Ureña - Liberation
- John Collier, New Beginnings
- M. Grady Calhoun, Bright Light
- Clearview 1st Anniversary
- Pine Prairie, House That God Built
- Brandon Snowder
- Keith Woody, Lakehills FWB
- Magnolia FWB Homecoming
- Clearview 1st Anniversary video
- Ned Graham
- Iglesia Bautista Libre 30 years
- FWB Hispanic Ministries
- New Generation of FWB's

Dear Friends,

October 23, 2012

We got back from Oklahoma Sunday night, after a busy 10 days or so on the road. On the 10th we gave everyone at the Getsemani Children's Home a "good-night/good-bye" hug and early the next morning we headed out. We were on our way to the Texas Women State Retreat, but I was so tired I just could not make it the whole way that day. So, we stopped in north Houston for the night and went on to Huntsville on Friday. The retreat was in a beautiful lodge at Forest Glen Campground, 20 or so miles SE of Huntsville in the tall pines. It is a beautiful area, and certainly a change from the high desert of Northern Mexico where we have been lately. Since Bud was traveling with me and needed a place to stay for the night, we were blessed with a little log cabin just across the road from the lodge. I gave many thanks for that!

By the time we got moved into the cabin, I got back to the lodge just as the "Get Acquainted" activity began. I spoke to the ladies Friday night and Saturday morning on the subject of "What is your legacy?" The scripture text I was given was the whole book of Ruth! I am usually given a theme and a couple of verses and develop my lessons from that resource. This was really a challenge, but, a sweet one. It was a special blessing to me to see ladies from across the state that I had met in years past. And, to have time to sit and visit with some who have been friends for a long time.

Saturday afternoon we drove to Plano, TX, and spent the night with Pastor Robert Posner from the Collin Creek Church. We were with them Sunday morning and evening, and, for a change, had a chance to sit and be taught. That is another refreshing blessing in our lives.

And, it is rare. Bud spoke to a group from the church who is making plans to visit the Children's home in November. And, then he spoke to the whole congregation during a pot-luck supper in the evening. After service that night we drove to Blanchard, OK, where Brother Mark Cole and his dear wife Brenda leave a door open for us when we are headed that direction.

From the 15-17th we attended the Oklahoma State Association on the Hillsdale College campus. Once again we were blessed to hear some fine preaching and get to see many dear friends. On Thursday the 18th, we drove to Pryor where we had a brief visit with my family and spent some time visiting my mother on Friday. Saturday we were loaded up and headed back this direction.

I left Bud down on the border this morning and he took a bus from Reynosa to Altamira. He called me to say that he had made it without problems. This Friday, Saturday and Sunday we will be hosting three or four pastors from Alabama for the annual Pastor's Conference. I will be flying down tomorrow, thanks to Alabama State Free Will Baptists. Bud will not let me travel on the bus since I can't grow a beard. The danger in Mexico seems to just be getting worse. You can see that we are as busy as can be. We so appreciate your prayer.

Bud & Ruth Bivens

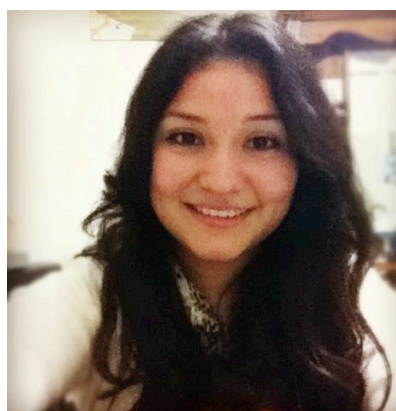
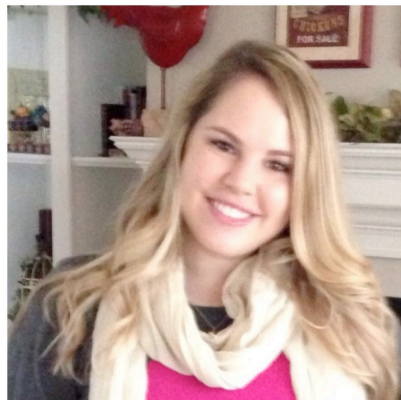




# YWAC Forming in the Central District

It is with awe and joy I write this to tell you of some young people who have won my heart! I hardly know where to begin...

**Morgan Stark** from Fellowship FWB in Bryan along with **Elle Snowden** from Pine Prairie and **Dina Ureña** from Iglesia Bautista Libre in Houston are doing the planning and expect to get the group underway in January of 2013. They will meet once a month and each meeting will be in a different church facilitating the attendance of teens from many different churches in the Central District. (It is certainly not limited to the Central District. All are welcome!)

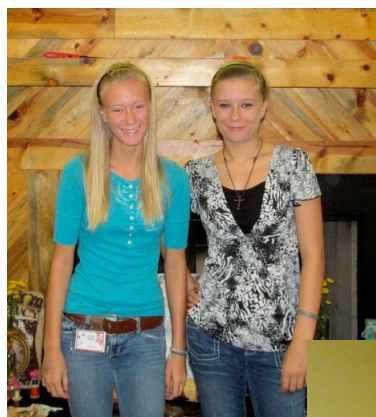


The teens are excited to be able to spend time with their sisters from other churches more often than once a year at camp. Pictured at left is Diana Cinco who leads worship at Liberation FWB Church in Houston. Diana, at 17 years old, is a leader in her church, teacher, and song writer. She has recently started a group page on Facebook called "Christianity 101." Very inspirational.



Lydia and Lizzie Topping proved invaluable at summer camp. Always upbeat, and always glorifying the Lord. They lead singing with their father at Eastside FWB. Their dear

friend Hannah Davis (left) is in Thomaston FWB near Victoria. Hanna is going to E-TEAM Chicago this next summer.



Ashley and Allison lead singing, teach Sunday School and Junior Church at Magnolia FWB. They are working toward competing in the state and national in 2013.

Ashton Hood was born at Lakehills FWB in Austin. She competes in singing at the nationals and has a beautiful voice. She is considering attending Hillsdale FWB College upon graduation from high school. Meanwhile she is teaching youth, singing, and working wherever she's needed at her home church.



WNAC provides monthly lessons which can be downloaded and printed out at no cost. You can find them under [wnac.org/resources](http://wnac.org/resources). I would like to encourage you if you are in another district to consider starting something along this line. Often our teens are alone or perhaps just one other young lady in their church. We need to encourage them to remain faithful through their topsy turvy teen years.

Please pray for Morgan, Elle and Dina as they venture into brand new territory for the Lord. And please contact them via Facebook if you need more information for teens at your church. There will be exciting times for our young ladies as Young Women Active for Christ (YWAC) begins in January. These are tomorrow's leaders already leading today!

**Texas State FWB Association  
13293 Tommy Smith  
Conroe, TX 77306**

## **The Church That God Built**

Pine Prairie is unique. It is a church that can trace its roots back over 100 years. Many of the members can trace their membership back to their childhood. The last time we attended church there we heard another story from a church member that, to me, made it even more unique.

We have seen drives for church building funds take all sorts of shapes. The Pine Prairie story is different. Every time a need would be identified someone would pop up with a unique method of solving that need. The congregation is very proud of the church but I have met nobody that will take the credit for building it. They all give the credit to God.

Find the story with all its pictures at [meetingthetexaschallenge.com](http://meetingthetexaschallenge.com). Pine Prairie, the Church that God Built. It is written by two of the church members.



### **Upcoming Events for Texans**

**All Boards Meeting**  
January 24-26, 2013

### **Editor, Layout, Design – Sally Wilcox**

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