

ECHO

Published by the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists

TENNESSEE
Free Will Baptists
UNITED IN MINISTRY



A Very Special Sunday

Steve & Becky Riggs, Châteaubriant, France

This is a story of some of the most beautiful people this world has ever known. It's a story of love, obedience, and generosity. A story of good, hard-working, Christ-centered people who love their country, but who also have let Christ's love fill their hearts for people they most likely will never meet in this life. It's a story of a pastor who gives his life every day for his congregation and through personal example and teaching encourages them to love God and love the world. It's an ongoing story, and yesterday I got to be part of it...

I guess you could say my day was special: I attended Good Springs Church in Pleasant View, TN. My day started sitting in the adult Sunday School class. The lesson was from one of the "imprecatory" psalms in the Bible. You know, those psalms where the writer seems to call down God's wrath on those who have mistreated him. Not necessarily an easy subject. I sat and listened as individual Christians discussed and shared their viewpoints about how we are to handle these kinds of psalms. What struck me most was the message of grace, compassion, forgiveness, and trust in God to do what is right. Their comments caused me to evaluate my own heart, and I was stunned by the work of God's Spirit in their hearts and lives. I thought about how God transforms our hearts and fills it with His love.

Then I listened as some former colleagues of mine, Jerry & Barb Gibbs, spoke in the worship service. Barb shared a story of some of the early missionaries sent to India by the Free Will Baptist

movement in the late 1800s. A challenge was given to churches to support, and they did. And a work for Christ was begun in India. Jerry challenged us all as we live in a world that is increasingly rejecting God, not to give up, not to give in, but to show to others around us there is a better way to live: Christ really makes the difference in our lives.

In the evening, some of the church family gathered for supper and fellowship. I gave a brief report about the ministry in Châteaubriant, and then I was given a check. It was the offering the church had taken that morning. It included a gift for the World Missions Offering (distributed to different ministries) and a gift for the building project in Châteaubriant.



As I opened the envelope, I was once again stunned by the work of God's grace in the lives of this beautiful congregation. The gift they made for a church to be built in Châteaubriant was for \$44,834.

I guess you could say my Sunday was very special indeed! And it's all part of a very big story of how God loves the world and wants all people to know His love and redemption. Thank you, Good Springs Church! And thank all of you who give and pray for our ministry and for many others! The story goes on...



As I See It by Glenn Poston

Do you like television commercials? If you are like me, you probably do not. Sometimes commercials are downright irritating.

Sometimes, I just don't get it. For old guys like me, sometimes I scratch my head and wonder on what planet the guy who created the commercial was born. For sure, there are a lot of twisted minds in the advertising industry. Why would someone pay \$5 million for a 30 second commercial during the Super Bowl? Obviously, they must be effective.

Every now and then, there are some good commercials. I tend to like commercials insurance companies make. I like the Allstate commercial featuring "Mayhem." You know, the guy who is your lost phone between the seat of your car and he causes "mayhem" when he cause the driver to run into the back of a stopped car. I like the Farm Bureau commercial that features Farmer Charlie as he leaves a waitress (who's having a hard time) a huge tip to teach his son that generosity and kindness comes back to us in time. And one of my all-time favorites is the one by Farmer's Insurance where the moose gets his antlers caught in the swing set and the old guy explains to the younger guy, "We know a thing or two, because we've seen a thing or two."

This brings me to my point. Many times older people don't feel valued by the younger generation. Now I realize as well that sometimes younger people often feel ignored by older folks-- like their opinions don't really matter. As I see it, healthy churches need to be filled with both young and old. I love the younger folks who fill the churches in our state. I especially appreciate our younger preachers. They are the hope of our future and we have some great younger preachers. Thank God for both the young and the old. But may I say something to those who are coming along and replacing those who will soon finish their journey? "Be respectful to your elders. We know a thing or two because we've seen a thing or two."



Historic Head's Church Moves Into New Building

Head's Free Will Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in the Cumberland Association and in our state, had their first service in their new building on Sunday, June 3. The congregation began the special day in the old church building with a closing ceremony. They then locked the doors, and moved to the new building about a mile up the road where they celebrated God's greatness and goodness. Congratulations to Pastor Billy Ellis and the congregation on a great victory! Many years of planning have gone into the process. A local flash flood a year or so ago nearly destroyed part of their old building and perhaps gave the congregation an incentive to speed up the process.

2018 STATE CTS EXPO



The 2018 Tennessee State CTS Expo was held Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28, at Welch College, in Gallatin, Tennessee. This year's competition had 139 entries featuring students from across the state. Congratulations to everyone who competed, and especially those who will go on to the 2018 Vertical 3 conference / National CTS Expo in Little Rock, Arkansas, July 22-25.



175th Anniversary Celebration

CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

OCTOBER 20, 2018

1843 marked the halfway point of tenth president of the United States John Tyler's term and there were 26 states in the Union. Ulysses S. Grant graduated 21st in a class of 39 from the United States Military Academy at West Point and Charles Dickens published his now famous story, A Christmas Carol.

October 1843 is important for another reason. It marked the beginning of a long and rich history for Free Will Baptists in middle Tennessee with the birth of the Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists at Heads Meeting House in Robertson County. Elder WILLIAM BARTON delivered the sermon from Acts 10:34-35. William Barton was elected moderator and Wilson L. Gower was elected clerk. The offering for the day was \$7.32 (\$206 in today's money.)

The Cumberland Association has impacted Free Will Baptists on local, state and national levels and in a variety of ways. The association was a force for higher Christian education and at the forefront of the dream and later reality of Welch College. Its' churches have been a strong underpinning of support for Northern American Missions, International Missions and all National Association of Free Will Baptists ministries throughout its 175 year history.

The Cumberland has also been a strong believer and participant in the Tennessee Free Will Baptist State work from the beginning and continues to eagerly support the Tennessee State Office. The Cumberland Association will celebrate its 175th anniversary on October 20, 2018. The theme for the meeting is *The Cumberland Association: Past, Present, and Future*. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting should be finished by 12:30 p.m. with lunch to follow.

Welch College, 1045 Bison Trail, Gallatin TN 37066, will be hosting the event in appreciation for the Cumberland's strong support for the college from the college's beginning. *Dr. Robert Picirilli will be speaking on the Subject: The Cumberland Association: A Rich Past and Relevant Today.*

Historical artifacts, both personal and denominational, will be on display during the meeting. A book, highlighting the rich heritage of the Cumberland Association, will be presented to all Cumberland Association ministers as a gift and will also be available for purchase. A special memento gift celebrating the occasion will be given to each family represented at the meeting. Please join us for this momentous occasion as we celebrate 175 years of Cumberland Association history, service and fellowship.

Dr. Roy Harris, Moderator

FRANK WOODS Announces Retirement



Executive Director of Free Will Baptists Family Ministries, Frank Woods, has announced he will step down from his current position as chief executive officer of the ministry. The ministry has grown exponentially under his tenure as Executive Director. In his statement to the FWBFM Board of Trustees, Woods stated it had been a great honor and privilege to serve Family Ministries since 2005 to the present, previously serving as the Vice President of Financial Development before being appointed to his current position. "I thank God for the many people that Shirley and I have met all across our denomination, as well as other churches and pastors. God has been so faithful to us. I can't imagine a greater ministry than Family Ministries. If God permits, I still desire to be involved in some capacity. I hope to spend more time with our family. And did I mention, I am not as young as I used to be? A special thanks to the Tennessee State Association of FWB and the FWBFM Board of Trustees for the opportunity to serve."

Cumberland Association
celebrating
175



North American Ministries Fourth Annual POWER CONFERENCE

"North American Ministries Fourth Annual Power Conference is in the books, and it was, by far, the most successful one yet," according to conference planner and promoter Jim McComas. "A record crowd of more than 500 attended over the course of the two day conference. Denominational leaders, church planters, pastors and their families, and Free Will Baptist laity from 15 different states enjoyed sermons, songs and seminars from a dozen speakers and singing groups. The response has been nothing short of overwhelming." Mark your calendar for the next conference in Branson, Missouri, May 27-28, 2019.



With The Lord

Absent from the body, present with the Lord!



Glenn L. Hoilman, 78, Watauga, died on Sunday, May 13, 2018 after an extended illness. A native of Burnsville, North Carolina, Rev. Hoilman had served as a pastor for over 42 years. He pastored The Y Free Will Baptist Church for 30 years. Survivors include his wife: Janette West Hoilman, a son & daughter-in-law: Dexter & Tammy Hoilman, Watauga, two daughters & sons-in-law: Connie & Frank Higgins, Elizabethton and Lisa & Donnie Bare, Watauga and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



George Johnson, 81, of Warren, Michigan, passed away on March 31 in Troy Beaumont Hospital after a short battle with cancer. He married Mary Glenn on February 15, 1957. Ordained in 1965, he served as pastor of Free Will Baptist churches in both Tennessee and Michigan for over 50 years. At the time of his death, he was faithfully pastoring at North Warren FWB Church in Warren, where he had served for 47 years. George is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James Harold Johnson. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Glenn Johnson and three sons: David (Diane) Johnson, Ron Johnson, and Tim (Kristi) Johnson. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.



Roy Lee Lester, Jr., 67, Kingsport, TN, went home to be with the Lord on May 8, 2018, after a lingering illness. Roy, a native of West Virginia served in the ministry beginning in 1970, pastoring full time in churches in Virginia, West Virginia, Michigan and Tennessee. Roy Lee is survived by his wife of 43 years, Ernestine Kay Carter Lester; a son, Joshua Andrew Lester and wife, Melanie; and two grandchildren, Andrew Carter Lester and Mattie Alexa Lester. His funeral was officiated by his good friend, Rev. David Reece. Rev. Lester was buried in Kingsport, TN. Before poor health forced him to retire, Roy was pastoring the Doran Addition FWB Church.



Delois Loveless, 80, of Columbus, Ohio was called home to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, April 20, 2018 while at Grant Medical Center. Delois was a member of Canaan Land FWB Church in Grove City, Ohio. Delois served in many capacities with her husband of 60 years, Alton Loveless, who was the CEO of Randall House Publications in Nashville. She was also very active for many years with the National Free Will Baptist Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) and spoke at various women groups across the country in women's conventions of many denominations and to numerous foreign countries as guest speaker in missionary retreats.



WELCH COLLEGE GRADUATES 56 in Commencement Exercises

Welch College conferred degrees on 56 students in its first commencement exercises on the new campus in Gallatin, TN, according to Provost Matthew McAfee. Commencement exercises were held in the Student Activities Center, its construction having been completed during the fall 2017 semester. The gymnasium space was converted into an auditorium with more than 700 seats for the Baccalaureate service on Thursday evening, May 10, and the Commencement ceremony on Friday morning, May 11. The college awarded degrees in multiple programs, including two-year associate's degrees, four-year bachelor's degrees, and the new Master of Arts degree in Theology and Ministry. Forty-four percent of the class graduated with honors.

Dr. Claude O. Pressnell, Jr., president of Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association, delivered the commencement address. He challenged graduates to pursue Christ's call to glorify Him in their vocations and to transform the world for His kingdom. Dr. Robert Picirilli, professor emeritus of Welch College, presented Thursday evening's baccalaureate sermon. He urged this year's graduating class to consider how they will finish their course of life, drawing their attention to the words of Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

On Thursday afternoon, May 10, Welch's second class of graduate students received the M.A. in Theology and Ministry and participated in the hooding ceremony, held in the Presidents Dining Room of Celorio Hall. Dr. Kevin Hester, dean of the School of Theology, charged these graduates regarding the importance of maintaining appropriate emphasis on both theological study and its application to life and ministry. A reception followed for graduates and their families.

President Matt Pinson also recognized Physical Plant Director Bruce Bilbrey on his retirement for forty years of faithful service to Welch College. "His life of service showcases the call to glorify Christ in one's vocation with excellence and hard work," Pinson said. Mike Anderson, also a member of the maintenance department, was recognized for 25 years of faithful service to the college and Michael Oliver, program coordinator for Psychology and major gifts officer, was recognized for ten years of faithful service. President Pinson also honored Mr. Gary Turner on his retirement as Athletic Director and Program Coordinator for Exercise Science. Dr. Ron Callaway, Program Coordinator of Intercultural Studies, was named Academic Advisor of the Year.



Family Ministries seeking a new CEO/Executive Director

The Board of Trustees of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries (FWBFM) is seeking to fill the position of CEO/Executive Director. The CEO/Executive Director is the key management leader of FWBFM. They are responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of the organization. Other key duties include budgeting, fundraising, marketing, and community outreach. The position reports directly to the Board of Directors. If interested or want more information about job duties and qualifications, contact Board Secretary Chris Castle at 423-502-8847.

Tennessee Women's
Active for Christ

The next TWAC Retreat is scheduled for
September 19 – 21, 2019
and the hotel will be the
Country Cascades in Pigeon Forge.



Eighty-Second National Association of Free Will Baptists

Little Rock, Arkansas
JULY 22-25, 2018

The annual convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists will return to Little Rock, Arkansas, for the first time since July, 2007. The Statehouse Convention Center (SHCC) and the Little Rock Marriott Hotel will serve as the locations for registration, business sessions and adult, preschool, children's and 456 worship services. The Double Tree Hotel and Robinson Center will be the sites of the CTS Expo and V3 teen worship services. Convention services will be streamed online at nafwb.org courtesy of the Media Commission.

2018 CONVENTION THEME



2 Timothy 1:9a "Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling ... "



SUNDAY SCHOOL - RANDALL HOUSE CURRICULUM
Jeff Crabtree (CAN)



SUNDAY MORNING - CALLED TO SALVATION
Josh Baer (NC)

Romans 8:30 "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. "



SUNDAY EVENING - CALLED TO HOLINESS
Ben Gibson (AR)

1 Thessalonians 4:7 "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."



MONDAY EVENING - CALLED TO UNITY
Lazaro Riesgo (TN)

Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;"



TUESDAY EVENING - CALLED TO SUFFER
Mike Cousineau (OK)

Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."
1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: "



WEDNESDAY EVENING - CALLED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL
David Crowe (TN)

Acts 16:10 "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."

Note: For more information, click www.nafwb.org

Tennessee State Association • March 1, 2018 - May 31, 2018

INCOME

Appalachian Association

Appalachian Association	\$370.00
Doran Addition FWB Church	360.00
First FWB Church - Elizabethton	750.00
First FWB Church - Johnson City	3,148.00
Grace FWB - Johnson City	800.00
Liberty Fellowship - Johnson City	600.00
Marbleton FWB - Unicoi	2,510.00
Watauga Valley	125.00

Cumberland Association

180 FWB Church - Clarksville	\$727.10
Ashland City	4,062.00
Bethel	12,304.72
Bethlehem	7,703.00
Brandon's Chapel	1,962.00
Cane Ridge FWB Church - Nashville	7,195.53
Cofer's Chapel	16,423.47
Corner Stone FWB - Murfreesboro	1,483.80
Cross Roads FWB Church - Lawrenceburg	600.00
Cross Timbers	4,687.38
Covenant FWB Church - Southside	958.00
Cumberland Association - Dickson	335.48
Donelson	35,029.75
Faith FWB - Columbia	233.00
First FWB - Dickson	5,782.00
First FWB - McEwen	150.00
First FWB - Springfield	592.80
Five Points Fellowship - Nashville	750.00
Good Springs	5,110.91
Heads	4,898.00
Hendersonville	4,400.69
Hurricane Chapel FWB Church - Dickson	2,669.95

LaVergne FWB Church	2,166.00
Loyal Chapel	900.00
Miller's Chapel	1,259.00
New Hope	36,649.91
Oak Grove FWB - Charlotte	289.00
Oakwood	2,030.00
Olivet FWB Church - Clarksville	1,543.20
Pleasant Hill FWB Church - Dover	2,301.00
Rejoice FWB - Nashville	1,835.00
Richland	2,063.36
Shady Grove FWB - Clarksville	383.96
Stoney Point FWB - Vanleer	350.00
United FWB - Dickson	4,333.81
Victory FWB Church - Springfield	1,386.00

Liberty Association

Cookeville FWB Church	\$3,250.00
Crossville 1st FWB	2,822.13
Smithville FWB	5,134.00

Mountain Empire Fellowship

Fellowship FWB - Kingsport	\$7,299.00
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Smoky Mountains

Hardin Valley FWB - Knoxville	\$60.00
Valley View FWB - Loudon	6,151.12
Wooddale FWB - Knoxville	856.12

Toe River Association

Friendship FWB - Hampton	\$75.00
Morgan Chapel FWB - Hampton	450.00

Union Association

Union Association - Church Hill	\$9,208.00
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1st FWB - Church Hill	400.00
Community Chapel	150.00
Fellowship FWB Church - Limestone	203.00
First FWB Church - Surgoinsville	1,016.00
Harris Memorial FWB - Greeneville	1,570.00
Jackson Chapel FWB Church - Mosheim	300.00
Limestone	375.00
Oak Grove FWB Church - Greeneville	5,462.71
Peace FWB - Morristown	2,505.00
Unicoi FWB	60.00
Union Chapel FWB - Chuckey	600.00
West Greene FWB - Greenville	777.45

West Tennessee Association

Faith FWB - Oakland	\$300.00
Victory	2,370.00

Other Churches

Firstst FWB - McMinnville	\$1,099.40
Grace For The World - Dickson	9,150.00

Miscellaneous

Individuals	\$7,906.00
Re-imburement	505.58
TN International Missions	3,600.00

Total Income **\$257,868.33**

Total Expenditures **\$295,107.40**

Thank you for your gifts to support the State Association work. All checks should be made payable to **Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists** and sent to D. Ray Lewis, 4132 Highlander Court, Antioch, TN 37013

The Unified Ministry Plan of Support • March 1, 2018 - May 31, 2018

INCOME

Appalachian Association	\$170.00
Bethlehem FWB Church - Ashland City	1,494.00
Brandon's Chapel FWB Church - Bumpus Mills	740.00
Cane Ridge FWB Church - Nashville	1,624.28
Cofer's Chapel FWB Church - Nashville	2,375.00
Corner Stone FWB Church - Murfreesboro	290.00
Covenant FWB Church - Southside	888.00
Cross Roads FWB Church - Leoma	600.00
Cross Timbers FWB Church - Nashville	215.02
Donelson Fellowship - Nashville	3,914.50
Faith FWB Church - Columbia	233.00
Faith FWB Church - Oakland	300.00
Fellowship FWB Church - Kingsport	150.00
First FWB Church - Elizabethton	750.00
First FWB Church - Surgoinsville	150.00
Five Points Fellowship - Nashville	750.00
Friendship FWB Church - Hampton	75.00
Good Springs FWB Church - Pleasant View	2,814.06
Hardin Valley FWB Church - Knoxville	60.00

Hurricane Chapel FWB Church - McEwen	2,669.95
Individuals	750.00
Jackson Chapel FWB Church - Mosheim	300.00
Liberty Fellowship - Johnson City	600.00
Limestone FWB Church	375.00
Loyal Chapel FWB Church - Columbia	900.00
New Hope FWB Church - Joelton	2,118.75
Oak Grove FWB Church - Charlotte	289.00
Oak Grove FWB Church - Greeneville	125.00
Rejoice FWB Church - Antioch	330.00
Richland FWB Church - Nashville	1,064.31
Union Chapel FWB Church - Chuckey	600.00
United FWB Church - Dickson	3,577.81
Valley View FWB Church - Loudon	699.61
Victory FWB Church - Jackson	570.00
West Greene FWB Church - Greeneville	567.45
Wooddale FWB Church - Knoxville	856.12

TOTAL INCOME **\$33,985.86**

DISTRIBUTIONS:

State Office	\$12,603.56
Scholarship Fund	1,359.43
Minister's Retirement Fund	1,699.30
TN Home Missions	2,549.01
TN International Missions	424.93
Family Ministries	3,823.51
TN Christian Education	934.72
TWAC	339.87
TN Master's Men	339.87
National Together Way	7,816.72
International Fellowship	85.09
National Convention Fund	679.71
Appalachian Association	45.60
Cumberland Association	806.63
Smoky Mountain Association	48.47
Union Association	63.48
West Tennessee Association	26.10
Church Revitalization Fund	339.86

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS **\$33,985.86**

This report includes only gifts sent to the Tennessee state treasurer, Ray Lewis - Gifts sent directly to other departments are not reflected in this report.
All checks should be made payable to TN State Association of Free Will Baptists and sent to: D. Ray Lewis - 4132 Highlander Court - Antioch, TN 37013

Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists

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Dates To Remember

NAFWB Conventions

Little Rock, AR

July 22-25

D-6 Conference

Sheraton Greensboro, NC

September 19-21

TN State Youth Retreat

Pigeon Forge

November 9-11

TN State Association

Pigeon Forge

November 12-14

National Leadership Conference

Marriott, Nashville

December 3-4

CHURCH + HOME



Lee Strobel
The Case for Christ



Ron Hunter
CEO & Cofounder of D6 Conference



Sadie Robertson
Live Original



Richard Ross
Author & Speaker



Leneita Fix
Frontline Urban Ministry



Dannah Gresh
Secret Keeper Girls



Jeff Wallace
The Lift Tour & Youth Pastor Summit



Scott Turansky
National Center for Biblical Parenting



Robby Gallaty
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Meredith Andrews
Worship



Jim Wideman
NextGen Staff Solutions



Brian Haynes
The Legacy Path



Kyle Idleman
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