



MISSISSIPPI FREE WILL BAPTISTS



MESSENGER UPDATE

December 16, 2025

For Christ We Strive in 2025

THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

[Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists \(msfwb.org\)](http://msfwb.org)

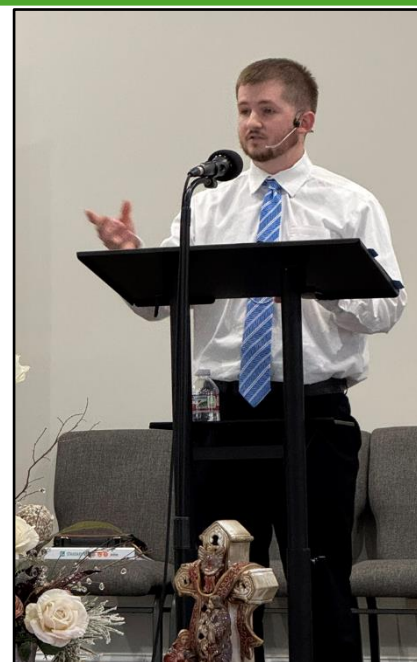
msafwb22@gmail.com text at (662)213-0231



CROSSWALK – NEW ALBANY:

Greetings to you from your state mission project at Crosswalk Free Will Baptist Church in New Albany, MS.

We were strengthened by a great message from Bro. Matthew Wilson this past Sunday morning. Bro. Matthew, Sis. Emilie and their children are a blessing to our church family. We thank the Lord for their faithfulness!



Following the morning service, we presented the Wilson family with a Christmas gift to express our gratitude and appreciation for their contributions to Crosswalk. God is good all the time!

We are looking forward to our Crosswalk church family Christmas dinner this weekend and Christmas celebration service this coming Sunday morning.

If you do not have a church home, we invite you worship with us. Service times Sunday mornings are Crosswalk Groups at 9:45 a.m.;



Donut & Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.; and Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Sunday evenings start at 5:00 p.m., and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support of Mississippi Missions and the New Albany Project!

Pastor Thomas and Lisa Loyd

HISPANIC MINISTRY- Rick Bowling

CONTINUE YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY GOD IS BLESSING. MISSISSIPPI FREE WILL BAPTIST committed to a PARTNERSHIP of support for Brother Rick Bowling and the Hispanic.



We encourage everyone to continue uplifting Brother Rick Bowling and the Hispanic Ministry in



prayer. This partnership is making a meaningful impact in the lives of many families, and your ongoing support is vital to its success. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to serving and spreading God's love within the Hispanic community in Mississippi.

Navy Chaplaincy Update: Brother Josh Hampton

We are excited to share a special milestone in ministry—this week, Colonel Terry Austin officially swore in our newest Navy Chaplain, Brother Josh Hampton.

We are excited to share an update regarding Brother Josh Hampton and his journey into Navy Chaplaincy. Brother Josh has answered the call to serve our nation and minister to service members, providing spiritual guidance and support wherever he is needed. This new chapter represents a powerful opportunity for him to impact lives and bring the light of Christ to those in the military.

Josh has previously served as a missionary in Colorado, working alongside his father, Clayton, and now he is preparing to embark on a new journey of service with the United States Navy.

Josh will begin Boot Camp in January, marking the start of this challenging and important chapter in his life. As he transitions into this role, we ask for continued prayers for Josh and his family. The support and encouragement of our Mississippi church family are vital as he takes on this responsibility and faces the opportunities and challenges ahead.



Thank you for your unwavering faithfulness and commitment to lifting up our brothers and sisters in prayer. Let us join together in asking for God's guidance, protection, and strength for Josh and his loved ones during this time of change. I am so thankful to be returning to Japan as a career missionary!! The Lord has been so faithful, and I can't wait to see all of the seeds He has planted. May His Name be praised throughout Japan! Thank you as well!!

I could not be here without you all. We are partners in bringing the gospel to the Japanese people! Your support through prayer and giving means so much. Please continue in your prayers for me as I raise funds to return! My current visa expires in October

of next year, so I would like to be back in Japan before then to make the renewal process much easier.

I would love to come share with your church all the things God has done and is continuing to do in Hokkaido!!



DR. GANN RETIRES AS LEAD PASTOR

Dr. Gerald Gann, had been pastor of Eggville Church for 43 years and 3 months.

At the end of the year, he is stepping down as Senior Pastor and will assume the paid position as Pastor Emeritus beginning January 2026 and will be working with Bro. Michael Hutton, who will then be Senior Pastor.

"Many thanks to the wonderful people of the Eggville congregation for their love and support throughout all these years."

Dr. Gann was saved in 1975 at Guin First Free Will Baptist Church - Guin, AL. He went to Welch College - 1977 - graduated in 1980 - B.A. then to Wesley Biblical Seminary - 1980 - graduated in 1982 - Master of Arts in Theology. He was ordained in the Northeast Free Will Baptist Association and served as Pastor of Eggville.

He went to Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburg, Indiana - and received Doctor's degree in 2008.

During his tenure, Dr. Gann has led countless initiatives that have strengthened both the church and its outreach within the community. Under his guidance, Eggville Church has experienced significant growth and has remained steadfast in its mission. His dedication and compassion have been evident in every aspect of his ministry, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

Dr. Gann and his wife Brenda are living in a home they purchased about 3 years ago. It was formally known as the "Christmas Tree Farm." It is about three miles from the church.

Dr. Gann responded to a question posed by Messenger Editor Dennis Kizzire about being available to preach when needed, *"Yes, I will be available to schedule preaching appointments. Of course, if we are having something where it is necessary for me to be at Eggville I would have to fulfill that responsibility."*



- **PREACHER FELLOWSHIP** – Monday, January 5th @ 10:30 AM at Beech Springs FWB Church.
 - **Pontotoc Area Master's Men** will meet at Bethlehem FWB Church on January 12th at 7:00 PM.
 - **Northeast MS Association of FWB** will meet on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Springdale FWB Church. Dr. Rich Dilling is host Pastor.
 - **THE NEMSFWB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – meets Monday, February 9, 2026 @ 6:30 PM at Beech Springs FWB Church.
 - **MSAFWB GENERAL BOARD MEETING** – Tuesday, February 10, 2026 @ 9:30AM @ Beech Springs FWB Church
 - **SOUTH MS ASSOCIATION MEETING** – JANUARY 17, 2026
 - **SANCITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY** – JANUARY 18, 2026
 - **Little Brown Creek FWB Assn.** – February 28, 2026 hosted by Iuka FWB Church.
 - **2026 MSAFWB ANNUAL MEETING** will be held April 17 & 18, 2026. The meeting will be hosted by the Beech Springs Free Will Baptist Church at Tupelo.
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1. Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church (South MS Association) 2626 Union Road Richton, MS 39476 Contact Justin Walley 803 Umpqua Road Richton MS 39476 (601) 525-6357
2. ethlehem Free Will Baptist Church - Pontotoc, MS, looking for bi-vocational Youth Pastor- Contact Pastor Mike Ratliff @ 662-871-

8791

3. Bethel Free Will Baptist Church 200 Freewill Church Rd, Richton, MS 39476 (South Mississippi FWB Association) Contact: Brother Joel Garner 62 Phillips Nursery Rd. Richton, MS 39476 Ph. 601 964-0049
4. Antioch Free Will Baptist Church (Little Brown Creek Association) – Brother Russell Clouse is serving as interim Pastor.
5. White Hill Free Will Baptist Church (NE MS Assn.) 3702 Clarkston Rd. Eupora, MS 38744– contact: Donna Fowler @ (662) 263-7809 Mahler Resigns as Welch CFO



MORGANWOOD YOUTH CAMP

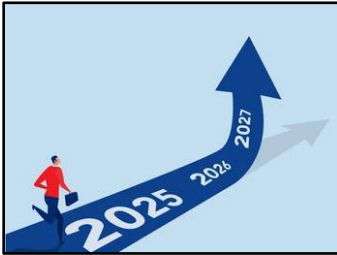
[Morganwood Youth Camp \(morganwoodcamp.org\)](http://morganwoodcamp.org)-

QUESTIONS? CALL 209-380-0505

Email: pepsidude22@gmail.com

SEND SUPPORT TO MORGANWOOD YOUTH CAMP –

385 County Road 1371 Booneville, MS 38829



We always look to the readers of the MESSENGER to join in and give us a “Slogan” for the year. **2026** is upon us and we need a new slogan. Send an email to msafwb22@gmail.com or text it to 662-213-0231. Our Executive Board will choose the slogan and a gift card will be awarded to the person who’s slogan was selected.

We would like to share your event in the UPDATE! Send information to:

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