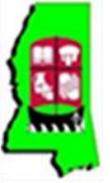




MISSISSIPPI FREE WILL BAPTISTS



MESSENGER UPDATE

February 24, 2026

"Called to Love, Sent to Serve"

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 are thankful for the nine quests that attended our services last Sunday!

We are preparing for upcoming opportunities including Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and our annual Family/Friends Day. Please pray with us that we will be able to reach as many people as we possibly can with the Gospel.

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

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support of Mississippi Missions!

Pastor Thomas and Lisa Loyd



HANNAH IN HOKKAIDO

Hannah Goucher

Sorry I have not posted recently, the last couple of weeks have been crazy! I will have a more in-depth update tomorrow, so stay tuned!!

I wanted to let you know that I will be attending the As You Go missions conference March 9th-12th! If you plan be there, please let me know! I would love to chat. 😊

HISPANIC MINISTRY- Rick Bowling



The first District Meeting of the NAM District Association has just had their first meeting in Morelos Mexico. I will give more details next week but wanted to emphasize the need for prayers for our brothers and sisters that are a part of the association and live in this area! This is the area where today the people are under the orders of the government to stay in place because there is a cartel war taking place and where the cartel lord has just been killed. This is the Jalisco cartel gang! This is very dangerous!

It is the grace of God that we are able live in a law-abiding state of Mississippi where we are free from such pressures of lawlessness! Please pray for those who do not have this



liberty!! Brother Rick Bowling and the Hispanic Ministry. Mississippi Free Will Baptist's partnership is positively impacting many families. Our continued involvement is essential to its success and service within the Hispanic community.



God's Man Conference - Hamilton FWB Church - Hamilton, Alabama.

March 6th-7th, 2026



PREACHER FELLOWSHIP

MONDAY, March 2nd
@ 10:30 AM
BEECH SPRINGS FREE
WILL BAPTIST
Devotion - Pastor
John Johnson
Prayer
Lunch at local
restaurant

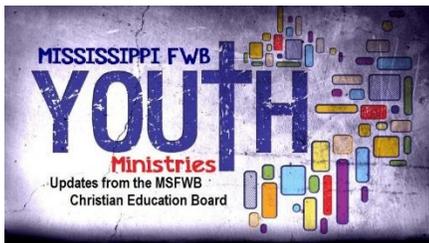
- **LITTLE BROWN CREEK FWB ASSN.** – February 28, 2026 hosted by Iuka FWB Church
- **PREACHER FELLOWSHIP** – Monday, March 2nd @ 10:30 AM at Beech Springs FWB Church. Pastor Leonard Ball will bring our devotion.
- **NORTHEAST MS ASSOCIATION OF FWB** will meet on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Springdale FWB Church. Dr. Rich Dilling is host Pastor.

6th Annual Donut Dash Saturday March 7, 2026

Proceeds go to the Free Will Baptist Children’s Home of

AL. For more info, registration, or on how to become a sponsor visit the news section of fwbhome.org or contact Mandy Mitchell at 205-924-9751/ amanda@fwbhome.org
Race will be held on the Children’s Home campus at 86 Academy Dr, Eldridge, AL.
5k starts at 8:00am ;Fun Run at 9:00am;Donuts at the finish!!!!
Medals for Overall winners and top 3 male and female for each age division.

- **PONTOTOC AREA MASTER’S MEN MEETING** – Monday, March 9th @ 7:00 PM. Hosted by the New Life FWB Church.
- **SOUTH MS ASSOCIATION MEETING** was rescheduled – **March 21, 2026** @ Gulf Coast FWB Church- meal will be served.



State Youth Competition will be held at Beech Springs Free Will Baptist Church April 11th at 9am.

- Registration Deadline is March 15th.
- Please Mail Entry forms from this link ([<https://msfwb.org/syc>] and mail to the following address by March 15th:
 - MSFWB CE Board
 - 8515 MS-363, Mantachie, MS 38855

- **2026 MSAFWB ANNUAL MEETING** will be held April 17 & 18, 2026. will be held at Beech Springs Free Will Baptist Church

MORGANWOOD YOUTH CAMPS:

- **Teen Week** – May 30th – June 5th
- **Junior Week-** June 7- 12th
- **Elementary Week** – June 14th – 17th
- **June One-Day Camp** June 18 or 19





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. Bethlehem 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
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Greetings From Your Mississippi State Mission Board

As you know, March is on the way. The new month brings our annual *“March for Mississippi Missions.”* This is our annual emphasis on mission work in Mississippi. This is an important opportunity for fulfilling our responsibility to support missions in our state.

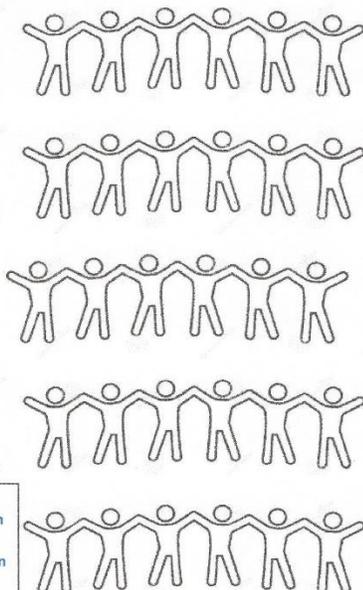
The Mission Board understands its responsibility to our state.

We want to have success in our mission work. We are trying to do our part. We also need our people to gather around and help with the work. Every church helps make a difference. Every person can contribute to the work.

We hope, when you receive your poster, that you will put it in a prominent place where the congregation can not only see it, but can also see the progress you are making as you fill in the “marching soldiers.” Each soldier is worth \$20.00 in offering. Thank you in advance for your help. May the Lord bless you for your generosity and consideration.

Mississippi State Mission Board

Marching for Mississippi Missions
Marching Together – “Hand and Heart”

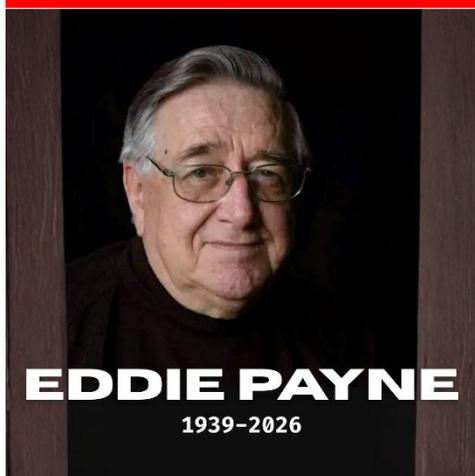


Please place the poster where all can see it and your progress as you fill in the characters.

For each \$20.00 offering, one character should be filled in and your progress celebrated.

Ecclesiastes 4:9

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.”



EDDIE PAYNE WITH THE LORD

Since Eddie Payne’s conversion at the young age of 13, he wanted to preach and dedicated his life to fulfilling his calling.

Eddie graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1962. He and his wife served faithfully in the Ivory Coast for 25 years!

During his time on the field, Eddie took on the ministry of translating the books of the Bible into the Lobi tribal language and recorded them on audio cassettes. He influenced many to consider the call to missions in the late 90s through ETEAM and CMP.

On February 23, he was called to his heavenly home. We remember his legacy and dedication to sharing the Gospel with as many people as he could. Read more about his life and ministry here: <https://bit.ly/2zXJah8>



From The Editor:

I have included news of the passing of Missionary Eddie Payne in this issue. I could not close this issue without mentioning my Brother and friend in the ministry, Rev. James Willard Pless. A native North Carolinian, he was led by the Lord to Alabama and we became acquainted in the 1970s where he served the Lord in several pastorates. His wife Pat, ministered tirelessly until her death several years ago.

He was ushered into the presence of Jesus on Monday, February 23, 2026 to join Pat and many others who have gone one before him.

We would like to share your event in the UPDATE!

Send information to:



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