

PROMOTER

January - February 2012

Volume 33 Number 1



2012 Ministers Retreat

**March 5 – 7 • Western Hills Guest Lodge
Lake Ft. Gibson • Wagoner, Oklahoma**

Registration Information on the back cover

The Witness of Interstate 35



Just a short time ago, one could drive down I-35 through Norman and Moore, Oklahoma and not see a single Free Will Baptist Church. Population has soared in these two suburbs and now has reached almost 163,000 people.

Although the State Office and Hillsdale stand proudly on the interstate service road on the dividing line of these two growing cities, no churches existed on this busy thoroughfare. Today three Free Will Baptist Churches grace this busy passageway starting from the south at I-35 and Robinson. ECHO FWB CHURCH was launched on October 16, 2011 by Pastor Phil Scowden and a team of eager volunteers. 165 people gathered for the first service and discussions are already underway for the brand new church to launch a second service in the near future. Just six weeks earlier Steven Earp and his team launched ELEVATE FWB CHURCH just north of Indian Hills Road at the Hillsdale Barber Center. Over 200 people have gathered



each week (based on a 6 week average) and decisions to follow Christ have been made each of the six weeks the church has existed. Less than two years prior, ONE FWB CHURCH launched and is now located at I-35 between N. 12th and 4th Streets in Moore. Scott Berglan pastors this growing congregation of approximately 150 people. (Note: At the time of writing this article, One Church baptized 7 people just last week!) All three of these churches are exciting and on any one given Sunday almost 500 people gather to worship God in one of these exciting church plants. The men leading these congregations are committed. Their volunteers are faithful and dozens of souls have already been saved as a result of this new generation of Free Will Baptists. I-35 has never looked better and the witness of a few miles along this busy road is encouraging for the future of Free Will Baptists!✠



Time Flies!

A reflection of my first 5 years in the State Office. A Personal Note from Director, Brad Ransom



As the saying goes, “Time flies when you’re having fun!” Just a few years ago I was pastoring a great church planning my next ten years there and looking forward to retiring as the longest reigning pastor in that church’s history. I never considered leaving the pastorate or working at any capacity at the state office or any denominational level. I am a pastor and feel called to pastor. Evidently, God had other plans. On January 1, 2007 I became the State Mission Director for Oklahoma Free Will Baptists. Although I’m humbled and honored that this responsibility was entrusted to me, I am always mindful of my calling as a pastor. I hope that someday God will allow me to serve in a local church, but for now, I have no doubt I am where God has placed me to be.

Over these past 5 years I have learned some important things. 1: God sometimes places us in ministries that we never plan to do. If we are faithful and obedient, God will bless us and equip us to do the work He has called us to do. 2: Oklahoma has a bunch of great Free Will Baptist people. By and large our people are committed to the task and ready and willing to serve God. Our Pastors are serious about the work and preach with honesty and power. 3: Our

missionaries are some of the best in the denomination. Missionaries have always been my heroes. They do the hard work. My hat goes off to all those who answer the call and leave the comfort and security of home to travel across the state, North America or the world to go where God has called them to go. 4: Oklahoma has the best funding program in our denomination. To my knowledge, nine states in our denomination have funding programs similar to TSP but none are as comprehensive and functional as TSP. God directed our state leaders in years past to formulate a great funding program that works. 5: The Oklahoma State Mission Board is God-led and ready and willing to step out on faith and do new things. They have been a blessing to work for and a joy to follow. 6: A great legacy has been left for us to follow. I am thankful for those who blazed the trail before me and am always encouraged by our former leaders. None of us are perfect and have undoubtedly made some mistakes, but most are gracious and understanding and look past our mistakes to see our hearts.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Oklahoma Free Will Baptists. It has been a challenge and a joy to serve these past five years. I don’t know how long God will have me stay in the State Mission Office, but as long as He keeps me here, I will do my best to follow His leadership and do the best I can.✠

REACHING THE UNREACHED

According to the Joshua Project (www.joshuaproject.net) there are approximately 16,704 people groups in the world. It is estimated that 6,913 of these groups are considered unreached. This means that there are less than 2% of evangelical Christians in any of these people groups. This is translated to mean that there are approximately 2.83 billion unreached people in the world.

Reaching the Unreached is a new initiative of the Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Mission Department to partner with individuals and churches to sponsor an indigenous church planter in an unreached people group. For just \$150 per month, an indigenous church planter can work to evangelize an unreached people group. One unreached people group is the Lobi Tribe of Cote d’Ivoire, Africa. We have already identified at least 5 Lobi pastors who are trained and ready to plant churches. All they need is sponsors who will help them go. These church planters are another layer to what we can do to help spread the Gospel around the world. This initiative is in no way intended to



replace traditional missionaries. These trained Lobi church planters were trained by our missionaries in most cases and both have vital impacts in their areas of ministry.

The Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Mission Department is partnering with other organizations that already have relationships with indigenous church planters such as FWB International Missions. They are helping us by providing connections with unreached people groups and church planters and the national church. They also help provide accountability making sure that the church planter is a real person, planting a real church among unreached people groups. This initiative is not sponsored by TSP and no TSP funds have been allocated for this project. If you or your church are interested in giving support above their regular TSP support and sponsoring a church planter to an unreached people group, please visit our website at www.okfwbmissions.com and click on the “Reaching the Unreached” tab and sign up or contact our office at (405) 912-9036.✠

RECONNECTING

Bob Thompson
V.P. Institutional Advancement



Personal contact has been replaced by a text, email, or Skype. We no longer get to speak in person to others face to face. Technology has replaced the touch. Even in the workforce we do not need to see our fellow workers.

We live in an age where friendships are began and renewed on Facebook. In fact, through Facebook, I have over 300 friends that I never communicate with in person. The only investment into our friendship is the time necessary to read their posts. There are times that we share our concerns but honestly, we are able to send a message and we are done. We are even prompted about each others' birthdays. We can click the button and the wish has been sent. We only had to think about them for a few seconds, but we hope they think that we truly thought of them.

Through technology we are able to talk to the masses but I have been thinking about the ONE - the OTHER that has been left alone. They are hurting and need to be reminded that we still do care. If we are not careful, we can overlook the ONE—the OTHER that needs our help.

Since I work for Hillsdale I will take a little license and suggest that at times Hillsdale is the ONE - the OTHER. It's easy to hear about us; to talk about us; to write us with your concern, but we need you to become personally involved. We cannot become a distant memory; we need to remain a present reality. We need to become a part of your prayer life and we need to become a part of your giving. We need you to become personally involved in our hurts and needs.

Just like the hurting need you to do more than send a message on Facebook, Hillsdale needs our Alumni and Friends to get personally involved. I am praying that 2012 is the year where many of our friends reconnect to Hillsdale. ☒

HILLSDALE FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLEGE WORSHIP MUSIC STUDIES

For more info:

www.hc.edu or lbraisher@hc.edu

Scholarships available by audition
For information contact

Lyndsey Braisher at 405.912.9007



Established in 1959

2012 Campus Days: January 27 - 28

Campus Days is designed exclusively for juniors and seniors in high school who are wanting to take a look at Hillsdale as their potential college.

The cost is \$10 per student...this pays for food, admission to the Men's and Women's Basketball games, a t-shirt, and a night of fun-filled activities.

Register online at www.hc.edu or call Lyndsey Braisher at 405.912.9007 if you have any questions.



Hillsdale Business Department Offers Community Tax Assistance and Financial Class

Free Tax Preparation in 2012

Volunteer tax preparation services will soon be available at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore starting in late January 2012. Volunteers, who are Hillsdale College Business students and trained by the Internal Revenue Service, will be helping people whose incomes are \$50,000 or less to prepare and electronically file their federal tax returns. Mrs. Frances Wade, Hillsdale Business Department Director stated, "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to gain financial experience and minister to our community at the same time." For more information contact Frances Wade at 405.912.9023 or by email at fwade@hc.edu.

Financial Peace University

Hillsdale College will be offering its first Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Course beginning Tuesday nights, January 31, 2012 at 6:30pm. Each class will begin at 6:30pm until 8:30pm every Tuesday night through May. 8th. (No class during Spring Break). It is open to the community and everyone is invited to a 30 minute class preview Monday, January 30th. at 6:30pm at the Barber Center. President Eaton has approved this course for two college credit hours and it will be listed as BUSN: Financial Peace University. The course is open to all Hillsdale students and the community. Childcare will be provided at no charge.

The class is led by Carl Rose who is a Certified Dave Ramsey Financial Coach. Rose has earned his Master degree in Leadership and is a new Adjunct Professor at Hillsdale. He has organized and managed seven FPU classes and has led over 200 people to financial freedom. He has a passion for financial counseling as a ministry in our community. Make this the year you DON'T stress about your finances and learn to manage God's money in a practical, biblical, fun and relevant way. Rose encourages all participants to "Be Weird and Break the Chains of Debt!" Enroll today and set yourself on a track for success and on a path that will provide you with the tools to plan, build wealth and to be a generation of givers. Contact Lyndsey Braisher, Admissions Counselor, at 405.912.9007 or by email at lbraisher@hc.edu. ☒

Senior Adult Retreat REGISTRATION FORM

March 26-28, 2012 at Western Hills Guest Ranch • Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner, OK
www.okstatece.com • Fax 918.479.2617

Please submit completed form and payment to: OK State CE Board, P.O. Box 183, Locust Grove, OK 74352

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell _____
E-Mail Address _____
Church Affiliation _____
By check
Make checks payable to: STATE CE BOARD
By credit card (Visa or Mastercard)
Name on card _____
Card number _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

Cost: One person, **\$110** (with a roommate)

Roommate's Name: _____

If no roommate is designated, we will assign one for you.

___ One person, **\$160** (staying alone)

___ One couple, **\$220** (staying in same room)

Registration Deadline: March 17, 2012

Please indicate other preferences below:

___ I prefer a king-size bed (based on availability)

___ I prefer two beds (based on availability)

___ I will stay in a cottage (if all hotel rooms are booked)

___ I am unable to walk long distances

___ Need a handicap accessible room

For more information, contact:

Delbert Akin at delakin@sbcglobal.net, 405-850-3986

Curt Gwartney at 4gwartney@sttelco.com, 918-857-1150

Registration begins on Monday, March 26, at 2:00 PM, and the retreat will end on Wednesday morning, March 28, 2012. Includes your registration, lodging for two nights, and five meals (Monday and Tuesday dinner, Tuesday and Wednesday breakfast, and Tuesday lunch.) Rooms are **NOT** available on Monday before 2:00 PM,

so if you arrive early, please be patient with us as we wait for the rooms to become available. We will be taking a special offering to benefit Hillsdale FWB College and the Oklahoma TSP Missions program. For more go to www.okstatece.com



Speaker: Melvin Moon, Pastor of the First FWB Church, Hartville, MO



Music by: The Calvarymen Quartet, Hartville, MO

LAYMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Western Hills Guest Ranch • February 24th and 25th, 2012

Sponsored by the Oklahoma Master's Men

SPEAKERS: Bro. Roy Smith and Bro. Danny Phillips

FRIDAY EVENING:	6:00 - 7:00 Dinner	SATURDAY MORNING:	7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast
	7:00 - 8:00 Session 1		8:30 - 9:30 Session 3
	8:00 - 8:15 Break		9:30 - 9:45 Break
	8:15 - 9:15 Session 2		9:45 - 10:45 Session 4
	9:15 - Fun, Fellowship, Refreshments		10:45 Dismissal

COST: Only \$60.00 per person and includes one nights lodging, the conference, and 2 meals.

SEND RESERVATIONS TO: OKLAHOMA MASTER'S MEN
C/O Roy Dale Smith • 3110 S. 65 W Ave. • Tulsa, OK 74107

REGISTRATION:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Church: _____

Roommate (If a preference) _____

Must have Reservation Fees by February 17th to reserve your room.

Oklahoma FWB Disaster Relief

A big part of ACM's outreach is our disaster relief ministry. Over the past few years we have brought relief to victims of disaster in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, and as far away as Japan. We have responded to ice storms, tornados, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, and wildfires. Our primary focus in these responses has been the placement and servicing of generators in the homes of those most in need and without power. We also respond financially and in different manners as God opens doors. We currently have three trailers loaded with generators located strategically throughout Oklahoma. ACM is partnered in this endeavor by Step Into The Water and Bridge Builders ministries. We respond upon request and in conjunction with other volunteer agencies around the state and nation. If you are affected by a natural disaster, please contact the state office or ACM and we will respond as opportunity and resources permit. You can support this ministry by designating your checks to ACM Disaster Relief. You can donate through the state office or directly to ACM. ☒



John Hewett

Director
Arms of Compassion
A ministry of Oklahoma
Free Will Baptists



THANK YOU SO MUCH
for your kindness. You
are truly a God SEND.
I cannot express how much
we appreciate all you have
done for the people of Japan.
Good luck to all of you in
your ministry.

*The Robersons
Patsy + Jimmy*

This was a note we found on one of the generators as we picked them up in Japan.

OKLAHOMA WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST 2012 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

www.OKWAC.blogspot.com

We're thrilled about our 2012 Conference to be held on April 20 & 21 at the Doubletree Hotel at Warren Place on 61st & Yale in Tulsa.

Award winning singer, Joani Tabor, will be our speaker this year. She gained national recognition with an impressive "Female Vocalist of the Year" and Gold Cross award-winning musical career. Joani sings for the Lord, forever embracing her motto, "**Nothing's Gonna Steal My Joy**", which will be the theme of our conference. Joani celebrates life through her music, spreading her message of hope and encouragement.

Don't forget to bring your craft and silent auction donations. Proceeds will be divided between our four state projects & our retreat fund.

Registration Information

Please submit one form per church and include the contact person's name, phone number, mailing and email address (if available). List any special requests - handicap room, staying an additional night, sharing room with another church, etc. All rooms will be booked with double beds unless specifically requested as king beds. Double connecting rooms are available. Registration is non-refundable, but is transferable to another person.

Missionaries: Registration fee of \$50 is waived, but you will need to reserve and pay for your room.

Room rate will be **\$96.00** maximum of 4 people per room. Registration is **\$50.00** per person and includes a buffet dinner on Friday night. All registrations must be postmarked by **March 1, 2012**. If postmarked after March 1, the fee will be \$60.00. Please divide your group according to how many rooms you want with each group dividing the cost of the rooms among themselves. Submit names of **all** women attending including women not staying at the hotel, noted as "Day Attendee".

Registration will begin at **1:00 PM** on Friday, April 20. Friday afternoon session begins at 2:00 PM. Evening session and dinner begins at 6:30 PM. Saturday morning session begins at 9:00 AM. Nametags must be worn to all services. Room check in will be after the 2:00 PM session.

Send one check per church for the hotel and registration fees made payable to:

OWAC or Oklahoma Women Active For Christ

Mail registrations to: Shelia Rooker
2512 SW "A" Avenue Lawton, OK 73505
Email: srooker@fidnet.com
Phone: 580-357-8755 or 580-585-0902 cell

REMINDER: OWAC Scholarship applications are due by April 15. Contact the Hillsdale financial office or Tracy Payne (405-620-3162 or email at tipok1960@yahoo.com) for more info.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – APRIL 20 & 21, 2012 CHURCH REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Church Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____
 Contact Name: _____ Email Address: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Special Requests: _____

Room # 1	Names	Room # 3	Names
1	_____	1	_____
2	_____	2	_____
3	_____	3	_____
4	_____	4	_____
Room # 2	Names	Room # 4	Names
1	_____	1	_____
2	_____	2	_____
3	_____	3	_____
4	_____	4	_____

Total # of rooms requested	@ \$96.00 each	\$ _____
Total # of people registered	@ \$50.00 each	\$ _____
Total # of late fees	@ \$10.00 each	\$ _____
Check #	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK	\$ _____

Dress for the Occasion, It's Cold Out There

Could someone please tell me why it is that so many girls cannot anticipate cold weather?

When I was a dating teenager, I remember picking some young lady up to attend a football game in late November only to watch in dismay as they would leave their houses in light sweaters. What I had learned from experience is that before halftime they would be freezing and being the gentleman that I was, I would be offering up my coat to allow them to be comfortable and then freeze myself throughout the second half. In my senior year of High School, I asked a young lady named Jeannene out. When I picked her up she left her house with a warm looking coat across her arm. I am pretty sure that it was then and there that I fell madly and hopelessly in love. I had found a beautiful young lady who actually had the good sense to anticipate that later in the evening she would need a coat. I was actually able to enjoy my time with her rather than freeze. She is the love of my life to this very day and this year we will celebrate our 40th year of marriage.

Now most people that I come in contact with have given at least some thought to getting dressed for the day. They have put both thought and effort into being dressed properly. In most cases that involves several different articles of clothing. If I were to show up at an event fully attired but missing my shirt, I am confident that all would notice that something was missing. I would be embarrassed and everyone else would be embarrassed for me.

Colossians 3 verses 12-14 mention several articles of spiritual clothing that we as believers are to 'put on'. They are compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness. If you are like me, I have never forgotten to put my shirt on when

getting ready for church, but I am afraid that I have occasionally failed to wear patience or forgiveness or humility. I don't notice it so much when I fail to get dressed properly, but I sure do notice when others have not put on compassion or meekness or kindness. Shouldn't we who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ be even more embarrassed by our missing spiritual clothing than we would be of mismatched socks or a forgotten belt.

I especially love verse 14, it says "and above all these things put on charity". In other words, we are to put love over all the other articles mentioned. Last fall I conducted a funeral service. The service was held in a funeral home and then we went immediately to the graveside. I was dressed in suit and tie. During the inside portion of the service a cold front came through our area. When we arrived at the graveside, I knew that I had made a huge error by not bringing my overcoat. I was freezing.

Is it necessary to remind anyone that we live in a cold, cold world? Don't forget to dress properly. Never get up without putting on compassion, kindness, meekness, humility, patience and forgiveness. There are far too many folks who fail to put these on. Above all, over all these please do not forget to put on love. It will help you keep warm in a cold world and may be able to warm up some others around you as well. ☒



Bro. Mike

*Written by Mike Wade,
Executive Director for
Oklahoma Free Will Baptists*

Promoter

Oklahoma State Assoc.
of Free Will Baptist
P.O. Box 7527
Moore, Oklahoma 73153

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2012 Oklahoma Ministers Retreat Speakers

*Pre-Register Online
for the*

2012 OKLAHOMA MINISTERS RETREAT *Western Hills Guest Lodge - Lake Ft. Gibson - Wagoner, Oklahoma*

If you would like to pre-register online for the Ministers Retreat,
go to www.okfwb.org.

Click on State Events and then click on Ministers Retreat. Here
you will find a registration form to fill out.

Please mail your payment to the address listed in the box below.

Pre-registration must be sent in by February 24, 2012.

If you have any questions, please call the FWB State Office at
405-912-9400.



H.B. London



Will Harmon

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

I Prefer to room with: _____

Preregistration by February 24, 2012 of \$160.00 includes:

Registration, two nights lodging and five meals. (Late registration \$175.00)

Mail to: P.O. Box 7527 - Moore, Oklahoma 73153

Make check payable to: Oklahoma State Association

(Thanks for your continued support)

Monday March 5
3:00 p.m. Check In & Register
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:30 p.m. Session #1
7:30p.m. Session #2

Tuesday March 6
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Session # 3
10:30 a.m. Session #4
12:00 Noon Lunch
Golf Tournament/Free Time
6:15 Supper
7:15 p.m. Session #5

Wednesday March 7
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Session #6