

PROMOTER

September - October 2011

Volume 32 Number 5

Ps 107:29

*He maketh the storm a calm, so
that the waves thereof are still.*

KJV

2011 State Meeting Theme to Emphasize Church Planting

The Executive committee has set the theme of the upcoming Oklahoma Free Will Baptist State Meeting set for October 10-12. "For Such a Time As This" taken from Ruth 4:12-17 will be the foundational Scriptural reference with speakers building the theme around the church planting efforts in the state. The state officers allowed State Mission Director Brad Ransom and State Mission Board Chairman Jim Harris to have input into choosing the theme and speakers for this year's meeting. Harris explained, "We've outlined four aspects of this theme for the four state association worship services. These will serve as preaching themes. They emphasize the need to: (1) Look out. The Jews were in danger and in need of salvation. Our communities are filled with individuals and families in danger and in need of salvation. Just because we find ourselves feeling safe behind the protected walls of our churches, doesn't mean that we shouldn't see the needs of others or care about the destruction of lives and families. We need to look out and see the need. (2) Look Up. Mordecai reminded Esther that God would provide a plan of salvation and deliverance for the people. God could be trusted to work on their behalf. The issue was one of seeking His help, being willing to partner with Him, and allowing Him to work through her. We recognize that God has already provided the means of salvation through Jesus Christ. He is the answer for the danger and destruction of individuals and families in our communities.

He is more than capable of accomplishing all He wants to do through us. We simply need to look up to Him, seek His help, partner with Him, and allow Him to work through us. (3) Look Around. Esther was uniquely positioned by God in a way that allowed her to be used by God to help rescue her community. The Christ-followers in our churches, each of our local churches, and our state association of churches are all uniquely positioned by God to serve and help rescue our communities in a way that no one else can. Look around and see the opportunity given to you by God and go for it! (4) Look Ahead. After all the discussion, there was a time for action. This was that time. Esther became willing to take a risk and go forward, if the people would join her in prayer and fasting. Of course, salvation and deliverance was ultimately granted by God to the people. Today is no different than then. Now is the time for action. Jesus offers salvation and hope for the hurting in our communities. But He desires to use us to take the Good News of salvation to them. Our response of action is needed today."

Wednesday afternoon's State Mission Conference will reinforce the earlier theme with practical sessions to help mobilize the local church and its members. Speakers for this year's event will include church planters and former church planters, Sam Smith, Buddy Drake, Dennis Cariker and Scott Berglan. ✠

Focus on Piedmont



Epic FWB Church started as a long time dream of the First Oklahoma District Mission Board. After partnering with the district, the State Mission Board hired church planter Zack Archer and launched the joint project in January 2009. For two

and a half years the work has met in two different public school buildings, averages 35 in worship and has seen 3 salvations and several rededications. The church has focused on community involvement and working with the local school system. Many outreach activities have been done in Piedmont and community involvement is a priority to Archer and the mission. In a recent report, Archer said, "Our goal from day one is to be a life changing church and a church that the community knows about because of our service. That has been evident in all our work." He went on to say, "We have not gained people from other churches. We have had people come that were not attending or are new to church." Epic FWB Church owns 15 acres of land for a future building but is not at the point



necessary to begin construction. One of the greatest challenges the mission faces is attracting visitors. Meeting in a rented facility is challenging because the rooms used by the church are school classrooms during the week. It is challenging to



transform a school classroom to a comfortable and attractive worship facility. One special project the church is working on is to purchase some pipe and drape systems that will hide the clutter and decorations of the classroom and set a more focused and worshipful atmosphere for a church service. The approximate cost for this project is \$1200. If you, your Sunday School class, women's group or church would like to help with this special project, please send your special donation to the state office earmarked "Epic project." Additional thanks to Oak Hills (David Archer), Mt. View (Rick Morris) and Solace (Matt Blair) and others who have partnered with us to plant a strong church in Piedmont. ✠

International Missions Adjusts New Funding Strategy

January 2010 ushered in a new funding strategy for FWB International Missions embracing undesignated giving and establishing Strategic Ministry Partnerships. After significant concerns were expressed by the denomination, the International Mission board in Nashville has tweaked the new funding system to look much like it did before the strategy change. One major adjustment of the new system is to abolish the Strategic Ministry Partnerships (SMP). Interim General Director, Clint Morgan said during the 2010 National Convention that the SMPs were confusing and did not serve the needs of the denomination.

As in the past, these funding changes that come down from the national office does NOT impact TSP or our commitment to fund our Oklahoma missionaries. Since the inception of TSP it has always been best for Oklahoma FWB churches to give their support for International, Home and State missions through our state plan. By doing so, all our Oklahoma missionaries are best served and supported. Please continue to give your support through the state office designated to TSP. ✠



Connect with us on Face Book. Log on to Facebook.com and search for "Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Missions."



Message From President Timothy Eaton Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

I have lived my life in ‘Tornado Alley,’ most of that time I have lived between Oklahoma City and St. Louis within spitting distance of Interstate 44. When I was born my hometown was one of the stops along old Route 66, but lately it has been made famous by the EF-5 tornado that opened a wound six miles long and half a mile wide through its heart. Before the tornado Dennis Weaver (Chester on Gun Smoke) was Joplin’s claim to fame, well that and Mickey Mantle played short stop (yes, I said short stop) for the Joplin Miners’ Baseball Team. Even ‘The Mick’ is not bigger than a tornado.

I have seen tornadoes since I was a little kid, standing in the yard holding my Dad’s hand or swirling across the field at my Grandparent’s farm. I have seen them hanging from angry clouds and on the television, with Gary England telling anyone who will listen to take cover.

I have experienced tornadoes. When I was eighteen I walked out of a meat cooler in Joplin, only to realize that the roof, ceiling, and windows were all gone from the grocery store where I worked. In Ardmore a few years later, Milburn Wilson sent me up on the roof to watch and wait for the tornado while everyone else sang and prayed. I have been through both the EF-5 tornadoes that went through Moore in the last twelve years. I was there when the Hillsdale Gym was a shelter to over 200 people and we fed them out of the old cafeteria.

With the Joplin tornado, I need to tell some things that happened. My Aunt Bobbie heard the Joplin storm sirens, headed for the closet in the middle of her house, grabbed her favorite picture of Jesus off the wall, got in the closet and waited for the storm to pass by. When Bobbie came out she and Jesus were just fine! Her house was gone, the Church building where she is a charter member (my home Church) was gone, and six other families in the Church lost their houses. However, I worshipped with the members of Generations FWB Church on the last Sunday of May 2011 and all were present and accounted for. Even the 20 plus people who were at church for choir practice when the tornado hit the building were there rejoicing with me.

I have learned from tornadoes. I was reminded that people are more important than things. People still need the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because he is the way of forgiveness. The ministry and mission of Christ is not about buildings, it is about men, women, boys and girls being obedient to the commands and commission of Christ. *I have renewed my commitment to make Hillsdale a place that exalts Christ and challenges this generation to serve Christ and make a difference in His Church and our communities.*

Will you join me in doing the same through your prayers, your financial gifts, and your referral of potential students? ☒

Timothy W. Eaton

This Fall Hillsdale will be offering a new Christian Ministry degree. Worship and Music Studies is designed to equip the student for worship leading and local church ministry while training them for vocal and instrumental (guitar or keyboard) proficiency. As the degree builds it will allow a student to specialize in worship leadership, youth ministry, missions, pastoral ministry or even a cross discipline such as business.

Not only will the student learn in the classroom but he will participate in music ministry teams, chapel band, and music groups like the college’s Concert Chorale. The degree will offer internship opportunities in local churches to better prepare the graduate for worship and music ministries.

For more information concerning the degree you can contact:

Jeff Sloan, CMIN Director @ jsloan@hc.edu
David Flores @ gtar.flores@yahoo.com
Mike Lewis @ mlewis@crosspointe.tv

*“For the want of a nail, the shoe was lost
For the want of a shoe, the horse was lost
For the want of a horse, the rider was lost
For the want of a rider, the message was lost
For the want of a message, the battle was lost
For the want of a battle, the war was lost
For the want of a war, the kingdom was lost”*



The earliest version of this rhyme was found in England in 1390. It was to encourage children to apply logical progression to the consequences of their actions.

As adults, we have learned that there are always consequences that follow a thoughtless act. Everyone has experienced the danger of neglect and its tragic results. What happens when you don’t do what you know you must do – a bill goes unpaid; an engine is damaged; a relationship is severed; or one’s health is diminished? The Bible says that neglect can even effect eternity - “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”

We cannot put the need to train young men and women on the same plane as that of neglecting one’s salvation. But, what happens to a generation that isn’t given the opportunity to prepare themselves to face the battles of the 21st century? Where will our churches be without men trained and prepared to proclaim the gospel? If the secular universities become the only voice of education, then what will become of our society? We need young men and women trained with a Christ-view of the world and not a humanistic view.

So what would happen to Free Will Baptists without Christian Education? We don’t fully know, but we definitely know that we don’t want to find out. We need not neglect the God-given opportunity to train and prepare this generation. We must never neglect the things of God or the opportunities to do great things for God. We believe Hillsdale is a place where great things for God are being accomplished and servants are being equipped to make a difference. Hillsdale needs your prayers and financial gifts so as not to neglect her mission. Contact Rev. Bob Thompson at 405.912.9453 or bthompson@hc.edu to learn more about how your gifts can equip servants to make a difference or you can give online by going to our website www.hc.edu and following the giving link at the bottom of the homepage. ☒

2011 State Camp Report

Our State Camps continue to be a great blessing to our local churches' Student and Children's Ministries. At this year's three camps, we saw scores of students and children trust Christ for salvation, hundreds recommitted their hearts to Christ and dozens said, "Yes" to God's call on their lives.

The State CE Board spent many hours planning and praying over our camps and God certainly rewarded their efforts! We want to acknowledge the Hillsdale REC Team and their leader, Sammie McCrary, for their contribution to the success of each camp. We certainly could not operate out camps without their help!

Attendance by camp:

Kids Camp	933
Encounter (KBA)	842
Encounter (ALVA)	405
TOTAL	2180

Next year's camp dates are:

Kids Camp at KBA	- June 11-15, 2012
Encounter (KBA)	- June 17-22, 2012
Encounter (ALVA)	- June 24-29, 2012



Oklahoma Winners & Placers at the 2011 National Youth Conference

NAME	CHURCH	CATEGORY	AGE GROUP	PLACE
Karley Stem	Community	0.03 - Bible Memorization	A - Grades 1-3	Second
Seth Humble	Ada First	0.04 - Bible Memorization	B - Grades 4-6	Third
Kenzy Plank	Mineral Springs	0.05 - Bible Memorization	B - Grades 4-6	Second
Brynn Jones	Rejoice	0.06 - Bible Memorization	B - Grades 4-6	Second
Antonio Macareno	Clarksville	0.12 - Bible Memorization	D - Grades 10-12	Second
Rejoice Group Mem.	Rejoice	0.26 - Group Memorization	B - Grades 4-6	First
Clarksville Group Mem.	Clarksville	0.31 - Group Memorization	D - Grades 10-12	Second
Korry Burr	Rejoice	0.66 - Bible Sword Drill	B - Grades 4-6	Second
Lane Murphy	Muskogee First	6.11 - Individual Sign Language	D - Grades 10-12	Second
Lane & Bradley	Muskogee First	6.12 - Group Sign Language	D - Grades 10-12	First
Lie Detector	Rejoice	6.43 - Group Drama	C - Grades 7-9	Second
Clarksville Puppets	Clarksville	6.51 - Live Puppetry	B - Grades 4-6	First
Westside Puppets	Westside Pryor	6.51 - Live Puppetry	D - Grades 10-12	Third
Ten Hands Up For Christ	Greenbrier	6.52 - Recorded Puppetry	C - Grades 7-9	Second
Sarah Vaughn	Greenbrier	7.10 - Painting	D - Grades 10-12	Second
Jenna Avery	Greenbrier	7.20 - Drawings	A - Grades 1-3	Second
Molly Cherry	Mineral Springs	7.30 - Mixed Media	B - Grades 4-6	First
Brynn Jones	Rejoice	7.51 - Single Photo	B - Grades 4-6	Third
Zoe Robb	Greenbrier	7.52 - Photo Essay	A - Grades 1-3	Second
Justina Rhodes	Greenbrier	7.61 - Banners	A - Grades 1-3	First
Remington Breeden	Greenbrier	7.80 - Conceptual Art	B - Grades 4-6	Second

The rest of the story...



Most Oklahoma FWB's know about the Disaster Relief and Global outreaches of Arms of Compassion. Over the past year we have provided generators to tornado victims in Tupelo and Joplin, and financial support to Tsunami victims in Japan. We have also given approximately \$20,000 toward our partner ministries in the US, Brazil, Romania, and Mexico, providing untold relief to children and families in need. Most of you know that we also help fund adoptions, domestic and international. This past year, two precious children were brought home from Uganda, primarily through giving through ACM. These are the activities that receive all the recognition, but as Paul Harvey would say, "Here's the rest of the story..."

We really do so much more. We travel the state promoting and encouraging compassion in the local church. We receive numerous calls and emails each year seeking advice and encouragement concerning adoption and foster care. We give bibles and care kits, among other need provisions, to needy children around our state and around the world. Just recently we helped a young immigrant girl obtain eyeglasses and two others get their physicals so they can play sports. On a personal level, I am able to provide counseling to individuals and families that would likely do without were it not for the support I receive through ACM. As a special needs family, we also find the occasional opportunity to travel around encouraging families going through circumstances similar to ours. Just a

few weeks ago we traveled to Edmond and encouraged a FWB family going through amputation much like our Hannah. Her and little Caleb are pictured.

As you can see there is so much compassion Oklahoma FWB's extend through the ministries of Arms of Compassion. The need is so much greater though. We are limited only by the support we receive. Please consider putting ACM in your individual, church, or associational budget. We are your state compassion ministry! May God bless your compassion...✠



John Hewett
Director
Arms of Compassion
A ministry of Oklahoma
Free Will Baptists

Foundation Stones

By J. Mark Vandivort

July 10th was my brother Ben's birthday. I decided to sit down and turn in my Bible to Psalm 10 to see what God had to say to my brother (and me). While turning the pages my eyes caught the words:

"If the foundations are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:4, NKJV).

A chain of thoughts snapped into place. Newspaper, TV, and internet headlines had been boldly declaring that moral foundation stones of civilization, as we know it, are being blown apart. Where can an unyielding righteous person find solid foundation stones upon which to build his or her life? One reliable source is the Bible itself.

While thinking of foundation stones, I thought of my New Hampshire boss, Zeke, who enjoyed the art of building walls and foundations of carefully selected stones. His expert workmanship, without the use of cement, could stand the test of time.

On one occasion, I helped him build a bridge over a small clear-water stream for a client. Zeke waded water down the stream searching for just the right foundation stones. I followed him driving his front-end loader on steel caterpillar

tracks. First he selected some greyish, granite stones that were about four-feet in diameter. When those stones were in place he selected smaller stones of various sizes in order to form a tightly-locked rock wall forming foundations for the bridge abutments.

Some years later, I learned that a destructive flash food had raced down the valley where Zeke had built the bridge. The next time my family and I toured the area, we drove by Zeke's bridge. It was standing strong.

Let's let the Master Designer, Jesus Christ, select foundation stones upon which to build our homes that will stand the test of time:

"And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning *'made them male and female,'* and said, *'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?*" So then they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:4-6, NKJV).

Can you improve upon His home-building blueprint? ✠

2011 Oklahoma State Association Meeting Schedule



October 10-12 • Rejoice FWB Church, Owasso, OK

Monday

Refreshments & Fellowship 9:00 – 9:30 am
Minister's Conference 9:00 – 11:00 am
Lunch 12:00 – 1:30 pm
General Board Meeting 1:30 pm
OWAC
Registration – 12:30 pm
Session Begins – 1:00 pm
Worship – 2:30 pm
Speakers – Dana Brown, Tulsa, OK
Master's Men – 7:00 pm
Speaker – Lance Rogers

Tuesday

Clerk calls State Meeting into session
Business session 9:00 – 11:00 am
Morning Worship – Sam Smith
Lunch 12:00 – 1:30 pm
Business 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Evening Service – 7:00 pm – Dennis Cariker

Wednesday

Business Session – 9:00 – 11:00 am
Morning Worship – Buddy Drake
Lunch 12:00 – 1:30 pm

2011 State Mission Conference 1:30-4:30pm

Special emphasis on local church ministry. Practical ideas on how the State Mission Department can help the local church train leaders, activate their congregations, and plant churches.

Evening Service – 7:00 pm – Scott Berglan



Dennis Cariker



Sam Smith



Scott Berglan



Buddy Drake

Hotel Information

Be sure to tell the clerk when you are making reservations that you would like the Rejoice rate.

Hampton Inn & Suites

(Rejoice rate \$89, includes breakfast, pool, 1 ½ miles from Rejoice North)
9009 N. 121st East Ave.
Owasso, OK 74055
918-609-6700
www.owassosuites.hamptoninn.com

Towne Place Suites, by Marriott

(Rejoice rate \$89, includes breakfast, pool, 1 ½ miles from Rejoice North)
9355 N. Owasso Expressway
Owasso, OK 74055
918-376-4400
www.marriott.com/tulno

Each one of these has a kitchenette, suite style rooms with only one queen in each room and a pull out sofa bed in the living area.

Holiday Inn Express

(Rejoice rate \$75, includes breakfast, pool, 3 miles from Rejoice North)
7551 N. Owasso Expressway
Owasso, OK 74055
918-274-4100
www.holidayinnexpress.com

WINDS AND WAVES

In Matthew chapter 14 after Jesus had miraculously fed the five thousand, he sent his disciples out into the sea aboard their boat. Jesus then went up into the mountain to pray. While the disciples were crossing the sea a storm arose. The winds were blowing and the waves were boisterous. It must have been a frightening time especially for the disciples that were not fishermen and unaccustomed to being out on the water. I have never spent much time at sea but I did experience a frightening event many years ago in Corpus Christi, TX. At the time I was pastoring the Christ's Free Will Baptist Church in Corpus Christi. One of the men in the church was a tugboat captain named Benny Fitte (pronounced feet). He invited me to go fishing with him and I immediately accepted thinking we would probably take his tugboat out into the gulf. When I arrived, I discovered that we would be going in his 14 foot flat-bottomed aluminum boat which had a 30 hp motor in the back. I did my best not to reveal that I was a little disappointed that we were not taking a bigger boat and crawled in. I sat down at the front of the boat facing Brother Benny who was in the back by the motor. He and the motor outweighed me by 150 lbs. so as we moved away from land the bow of the boat where I was sitting rarely touched the water. We puttered out into the middle of Corpus Christi Bay and began to fish. When we headed out it was a beautiful day, but after about an hour of fishing some dark clouds appeared on the horizon. Captain Benny paid little attention to them. I, on the other hand, became increasingly concerned as it was clear that they were moving our way. Finally, when the gale force winds reached us, he calmly said, "Brother Mike, I think we might ought to head back in". I tried to act calm and told him that I thought it would probably be best. Within minutes swells of bay water were several feet high. They were probably only a few feet high, but to me they seemed enormous.

As we headed back to the shore and the swells grew larger, the winds increased and the rain fell in torrents. By this time I have a death grip on the flat little seat upon which I was perched. As the boat would rise to the top of the wave the front of the boat would extend over the wave until the weighted rear of the boat would pass over. Then as the rear of the little boat would ride the back side of the wave down, the front would free fall and splash down hard. At this point of the journey I was terrified. Brother Benny

calmly and without a hint of fear on his face says to me, "Brother Mike you better secure the fishing poles they may go overboard". I didn't say it, but I was thinking NO WAY! If I let go of this seat with either hand I will go overboard. Luckily, I was able to maneuver them with my feet until I had them under the middle seat. Since I am writing about this event these many years later, I am confident that you have figured out by now that I didn't die in the middle of the bay on that day. I will never forget the calm assurance I gained from watching Captain Benny's face for any sign of concern. He exhibited no concern whatsoever at any time. I had confidence that this man who was an expert on water in all types of conditions would get me safely back to shore. I was upset with myself for becoming so afraid. When we were safe, Brother Benny simply smiled and said, "You got a little pale out there are you okay?" I pulled myself together enough to answer, "I am now".

Jesus was fully aware that his disciples were in the midst of a storm and that they were frightened. He did not immediately calm their storm, but he came to them in the midst of it walking on the water. Soon they were safe and I can imagine that they wondered why they had been so concerned.

Recently, our nation barely escaped default, faced a drop in the credit rating for the first time, lost several of our most highly trained fighting men when a helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan, and has watched as the stock market has become a roller coaster ride. It would be easy to look upon these winds and waves and become terrified, but may we be reminded that our Lord is aware of the storms we face in this life. He still comes to us in the midst of our storms of life and not only takes us safely on, but beckons us to have the faith to come to Him upon the waters themselves. More than once when He has seen me safely to the shore, His words to Peter have come to my own mind. "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ❖



Bro. Mike

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

Promoter

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of Free Will Baptist
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Moore, Oklahoma 73153

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Mike Wade, Director • 405.912.9400 • Email: mwade@okfwb.org

PRE-REGISTER ONLINE for the 2011 Oklahoma State Meeting

If you would like to pre-register for the State Meeting, go to www.okfwb.org. Then under State Events – State Meeting, you will find a registration form to fill out. If you don't have access to a computer, please fill out the form below and mail it in.

Pre-registrations must be sent in by October 1, 2011.

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

OKLAHOMA FREE WILL BAPTIST REGISTRATION CARD

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

Church _____

Please check one:

- Minister Delegate
 Deacon Missionary
 Visitor