

# PROMOTER

May - June 2016

Volume 37 Number 3

*Which by his strength  
setteth fast the mountains;  
being girded with power.*

*Psalm 65:6*

# Share Your Story

*“That’s what we need...another church in Mustang.”* These sarcastic words were spoken by a well-intended older gentleman when I introduced myself as the new church planter in our community. Mustang had more than 20 churches in the twelve square miles of the city limits. While his comment wasn’t intended to be hurtful, this gentleman certainly spoke what many others had to be thinking. Why did Mustang need another church? Recently, I reminded that gentleman of his first words to me 20 years ago. He was slightly embarrassed and told me that he was now thankful that Clear Springs was an active part of the community.

His sentiment is shared by many. Why do we want to plant more churches - especially in Oklahoma - in the heart of the Bible Belt where you often find existing churches saturating the communities? Granted, there are parts of the U.S., in particular urban areas, that are often void of a gospel witness. We desperately need to take the gospel to them and plant churches in these communities. But what about these neighborhoods of ours across the state, the communities of our Oklahoma friends and family? What impact can our church plants make there? They may not appear to be world-changers, but they can impact eternity.

In 1977, my family moved to Enid, Oklahoma. About a year prior to our arrival, Buddy Drake, was sent by the Oklahoma FWB State Mission Board to plant a church in Enid. My family was blessed to find this Free Will Baptist mission work underway upon our arrival. My parents joined the effort and helped plant that Free Will Baptist

Church in Enid. One summer night in 1978, I gave my life to Christ, influenced greatly by that local church plant family. Later, at the ripe ol’ age of 10 years old, I answered the call to preach the gospel - and that church planting pastor, Bro. Buddy, helped me get started preaching God’s Word. A few years later my family moved to Texas and a few years ago that Free Will Baptist church in Enid closed its doors. What was accomplished in the life-span of that planted church? How do you quantify its value? I can’t answer that question objectively. But I can tell you that God used that church plant, planter, and Oklahoma Free Will Baptists to radically change my life.

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***“That’s what we need...another church in Mustang.”***

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And I know I’m not the only one. Countless others were impacted by the sharing of the Good News story there. Many gave their lives to Christ and saw their families changed forever. Some went on to a life of vocational ministry. All impacted by that one church planting effort - the willingness of one church planter to go and the support of Oklahoma FWBs who sent him and his family. Even as that church closed its doors, it helped plant another Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Church as the proceeds from that property were used to purchase the facilities of Foundation FWB Church in Grove, Oklahoma. There, many more are currently being impacted by the Good News message shared by another FWB church planter/

pastor, Sam Smith, sent there by Oklahoma Free Will Baptists.

That’s my story - my Oklahoma FWB church planting story. It may not be the most glamorous story you’ve ever read. Maybe my story hasn’t impacted yours. But I believe there are countless stories like mine. Stories of lives changed and eternity being impacted; individuals, families, even communities forever transformed by an Oklahoma Free Will Baptist church planting story. What’s your story? I’d love to hear it. I’d love to share it with others who would be blessed by your testimony of God’s grace - displayed and delivered through the planting of an Oklahoma FWB church. What’s the story of your church? I wouldn’t be surprised if you discovered there’s quite a story in the planting of your church in days gone by. I encourage you to tell your Oklahoma FWB church planting story. Let’s realize the impact that church planting has had on Oklahoma FWBs. Let’s remember and be grateful for those courageous church planters who launched new outposts of God’s grace and helped change our lives. Then, let’s prayerfully ask God for courage and take the initiative to create new FWB church planting stories in the days ahead by joining together, planting new churches, and reaching our friends, family, and neighbors for Christ. Share your story! ✝

**Jim Harris**  
**Oklahoma FWB State**  
**Mission Board, Chairman**  
**Share your story with me!**  
**(405) 627-3161**  
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**KIDS**  
CAMP2016

**Kids speakers:**  
**Kenny Myers & Zack Archer...**  
**Kenny is July 6-9 & July 10-13;**  
**Zack is July 13-16 & July 17-20**



teen band...  
**Kris and Lisa Leininger**



teen speaker...  
**Mike Trimble**



**Kenny Myers**

teen entertainment...  
**Byron Trimble**



**Zack Archer**

**2016  
State Camps**

2016 Camp	Early-Bird Rate & Date	Regular Rate & Date	Late Rate & Date	Sponsor Rate	Pre-Camper
<b>Encounter KBA 1 June 12-17</b>	\$120 by May 9 <sup>th</sup> registration is closed	\$130 by May 23 <sup>rd</sup> registration is closed	\$150 after May 23 <sup>rd</sup> registration is closed	\$120	\$70
<b>Encounter KBA 2 June 26-July 1</b>	\$120 by May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$130 by June 6 <sup>th</sup>	\$150 after June 6 <sup>th</sup>	\$120	\$70
<b>Kids Victory 1 July 6-9</b>	\$150 registration is closed	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
<b>Kids Victory 2 July 10-13</b>	\$150 registration is closed	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
<b>Kids Victory 3 July 13-16</b>	\$150 registration is closed	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
<b>Kids Victory 4 July 17-20</b>	\$150 space is limited must register by July 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150

\*Registration must be POSTMARKED by the given dates.

Mail to:  
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Moore, OK 73153

Daniel Sweet – [sweetman\\_42@hotmail.com](mailto:sweetman_42@hotmail.com) - 405-655-9468 – [okstatece.com](http://okstatece.com)



## Meet Lillie...

Tim and Jennifer Gillespie recently welcomed their latest addition, Lillie, into their home. At the time of this writing Lillie is sixteen weeks old and a beautiful bundle of love.

The Gillespie's are the recipients of an ARMS of COMPASSION Adoption Grant. Thanks to your generous giving ARMS of COMPASSION has helped over 50 children from the US and around the world find loving homes. ✨

Thank you for caring...



# 2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The annual Free Will Baptist National Convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 17-20, 2016. For more information please go to their website at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org)

# With the Lord



## **Rev. Connie Dearl Cariker**

November 15, 1935- February 21, 2016

Brother Connie married Wanda Glo Gideon in November 1954 in Hoyt, Oklahoma. Connie answered the call to preach and in January of 1962 became the pastor of the West Tulsa FWB Church. He served the church for the next 21 years and served on the National FWB Sunday School Board. In 1983 he accepted a position with the National Home Missions Department. Brother Connie was elected to serve as Executive Director for Oklahoma Free Will Baptists and came to the office in January of 1986. He returned to the pastorate of the West Tulsa FWB Church in 1994 and served until his retirement. Throughout his ministry, Brother Connie was in much demand to preach Revivals and conferences. He reached many with the Gospel through his preaching and his personal evangelism efforts.



## **Rev. Allen Alford Moore**

July 5, 1929- March 18, 2016

Brother Allen married Vivian Ella Brown in August 1947. He served our country honorably in the Korean Conflict as a United States Marine. He was ordained to the Free Will Baptist ministry in May of 1955. Ministry for Christ was his daily passion. He served our denomination by serving on various boards and committees including the Oklahoma Executive Board. He served for a time as Promotional Director for the Texas State Association of FWBs. His ministry spanned 61 years. He is known for his loving spirit and his common sense wisdom.



## **Rev. Troy Staires**

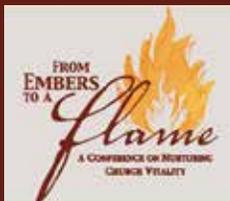
August 17, 1930- March 11, 2016

Brother Troy and his twin brother Roy were nephews of the Rev. Harry Staires. Troy served our country in the U.S. Navy. He and wife Joann were married for 63 years. Sister Joann passed away one week after Brother Troy. He answered the call to preach in 1958. He pastored the Cincinnati FWB Church for 7 years then the Lewis Ave FWB Church for 25 years and the Broken Arrow First FWB Church for 3 years. This precious saint served the Lord and our denomination in various capacities including Moderator of some of our associations and as chairman of credential boards.

## **Church Revitalization**

### ***Embers to a Flame Conference***

An Embers to a Flame Conference with Brother Harry Reeder will be held at the Generations Free Will Baptist Church in Joplin, MO on September 8-10. This conference focuses on Scriptural principles of Church Health. Pastors are encouraged to enlist at least one lay leader to attend with them. The cost of the conference is \$195.00 per person. (A \$100.00 scholarship to the conference is being offered for all Oklahoma FWB ministers who are currently serving a church as pastor) Register online at [www.emberstoafame.org](http://www.emberstoafame.org)



## **2016 Ministers Retreat**

*Once again a good number of ministers gathered for our annual retreat. Pastor and author Rob Morgan blessed all who attended. Home missionary, Marshall Boney also did a wonderful job speaking at one of our sessions.*



# How Great Thou Art

The greatness of our God is hard to comprehend. Isaiah describes Him as one who can measure the waters of the earth in the hollow of His hand and measures the heavens with the span. That is mindboggling.

In Robert J. Morgan's book, *Then Sings My Soul*, he tells the stories behind many of our beloved hymns. As he relates the story of the beautiful song, *How Great Thou Art*, he mentions that the song came to the attention of song producer Tim Spencer who found the author and copyrighted and produced the song. Some of the older readers might remember a western singing group called The Sons of the Pioneers. They were famous in the 1950's. Tim Spencer was a member of that group. He lived what many would call a 'wild' life for many years until eventually he found Christ as Savior. His life was forever changed. His family was forever changed.

I did not know until recently that Tim Spencer had any involvement in producing *How Great Thou Art*, however, I was somewhat acquainted with the story of Tim Spencer. He is my wife's great uncle, the brother of her paternal grandmother.

The beautiful song that he helped to bring to the attention of America has blessed my soul on more than one occasion.

Recently, it seems that my family has faced one crisis after another. To be honest, moving from one difficulty to another can become extremely

draining emotionally, physically and even spiritually. The third verse of this song never fails to lift my spirits. *And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art.*

At this year's Ministers Retreat, Robert Morgan reminded those present of several of God's great promises to those who could use some extra strength. He shared from Isaiah that our great and incomprehensible God is our source of strength.



*"Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the*

*faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Isaiah 40:28-29.*

It is astounding to me that the great Creator sees and provides what we need just when we need it.

**Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art!!!!** ✠



*Bro. Mike*

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

# Promoter

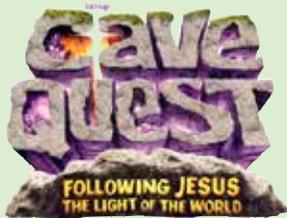
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