

PROMOTER

July - August 2019

Volume 40 Number 4



**The National Convention
Cincinnati, OH
July 21-24, 2019**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

UPDATES FROM JAPAN

Thank You from the Rusty and Brenda Carney Family



Thank you TSP for the huge role you are playing in the ministry in Japan! Not only have you helped us get through language school and get the cultural acquisition to learn how to minister to the Japanese people, but you have allowed us to be able to pour into the lives of many Japanese people through the years - and lives are being changed as a result!!!! While we have been in the States, we have been sharing the stories of how some of our Japanese friends accepted Christ over this past term! In a country where missionaries have remained faithful for many, many years to preach the Word, live out their Christian faith, plant seeds of the kingdom and water those seeds without seeing many results, it appears as if there has been a shift and we are entering into a new era! We have noticed this change even within our 10 years of ministry in Japan. There is now an openness to the gospel that we have never seen before. People are realizing their inability to cope with the stresses of the Japanese life in their own strength and seeking true help. We are excited about this new era and all that the Lord has in store! Much of the rest of the world has experienced great revival at one point in history, and we are praying that Japan will see its day - where the Spirit of God will be so strong that

it will break generational curses, hearts of stone, and deep pride, as people bow their knees in repentance to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ!

We are excited to return to Japan and start a new journey in a new city! We will be living just outside of Tokyo in Saitama prefecture helping to lead the Good News Chapel. While this church currently has a small congregation, its influence is far reaching through English classes, gospel music workshops, and outreaches. One thing the Lord has put on our hearts is to not completely abandon our current Japanese churches, but seek change through church revitalization. Encouraging personal growth in Christ through connecting with God in prayer—teaching them to be mighty in prayer! E. M. Bounds said: “The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men...The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men - men of prayer.” May ministry become a natural overspill of our relationship with Christ.

In a city where one of the main causes of train delays is “passenger injury” (meaning someone has jumped out in front of one of the trains to end their life), the Lord has given us a vision is to see countless Japanese live a life free of hopelessness, anxiety, and fear through the abundant life that only comes from Jesus Christ! God gave us an idea to record many Japanese people’s testimonies of what a difference Jesus has made in their lives and put them on YouTube. As a way of doing abundant gospel sowing, we would like to pass out cards at train stations that will lead people to this YouTube channel of hope. Pray that God uses this effort to turn hearts to the hope found in Christ! Thank you for partnering with us to make these efforts possible!

(Continued on next page)

Update on the Hope Alive Church Plant in Japan



Hope Alive church launched January 13, 2019. A group from We Start Churches was there for the launch and helped kick off the church launch with a concert and other outreach events. God has been

moving in huge ways at Hope Alive church. We are overwhelmed to see the movement of God at work in so many ways. As many of you know, just like in America, so many people in Japan deal with mental health issues. We just finished a mental health series here in Japan helping people to find freedom, purpose, and fulfillment in Jesus Christ - and often also helping them get counseling. We have seen regular attenders at our church introduce other attenders to mental health counselors and hospitals. We have seen people getting help for many different problems, but more than all, we have seen people finding help in Jesus Christ.

We have had many outreaches at our church and our goal is to engage as many people as possible with a hearing of the gospel. We will do anything short of sinning for people to hear the gospel. Through these efforts and most of all the leading and moving of God, we have seen 25 first time guests at our church in the last three weeks. Many of these people are hearing the gospel for the first time. We are praying for a baptism every month this year. We have seen two people baptized and we have four more who have indicated they are ready for baptism over the next few months. In a place where the gospel is rarely heard or responded to, it is refreshing to see the Lord at work. To give Bibles to people who have never had a Bible, to share the gospel for the first time with people who have never heard, and to see 15 people raise their hand indicating that they want to begin a relationship with Jesus Christ - we can say nothing except look at what God has done! Look at how He is at work and we give Him all the glory. We recognize our inability to change lives and we are reminded

over and over again and that God is moving and working and changing lives.

"God's kingdom is full of joy and peace and I want my life to be full of joy and peace." That is how Rihoko recently described her relationship with God in her testimony before baptism last week. We are thankful for these kinds of testimonies and are praying for more changed lives.

Thank you for your support and partnership to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard before. You are a huge part of what God is doing at Hope Alive. Please continue to pray that God would be glorified, that His name would be praised, and that He would get all the glory as the gospel goes forward in Japan. ■

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Class of 2019

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, we had 43 students graduate from Randall University. Nine of these graduated with their Master of Public Administration, 22 with their Baccalaureate Degree, and twelve with their Associate in Arts Degree. Five of these graduates are from the School of Christian Ministry, and all were prepared to serve the Lord Jesus Christ both in the church and in society at large. We are proud of our Randall graduates, and you should be too. Through your generous support, you have made this possible for all 43 students. As we look to the next 60 years, we trust that God's people will be faithful in supporting the mission of Randall University. Your support will directly help and make a difference for our students. We ask that you pray and give, as we continue this ministry.



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Commencement Ceremony 2019

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- Fill out the online application for Professional Studies at www.ru.edu/apply
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- Two reference letters
- Statement of Purpose

COMING FALL 2019... WORSHIP STUDIES

CTS State Competition was held on May 4th on the campus of Randall University where there were over 200 entries. It was our joy to see so many young people use their gifts to honor the Lord. Congratulations to everyone moving on to represent Oklahoma at the National Convention in Cincinnati!! We will make sure to post the national results in the next Promoter. Our board prides itself on serving local FWB's churches and helping you train up the next generation of church leaders. We sincerely look forward to next year of CTS and wish all of our national competitors the best of luck!

It's not too late to sign up for Encounter Kids Camp!

The D6 Conference is now in Orlando FL and the OK State CE Board has 10 scholarships available for any pastors or staff of a Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma. D6 makes it their mission to help churches minister to the whole family. This year's theme is "Recalibrate" and as always they offer an amazing line up of speakers from across the country. Please let Daniel Sweet know ASAP if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity. First come first serve.



Encounter Kids 1 July 7-10
Encounter Kids 2 July 10-13

Location: Oakridge Christian Camp Anadarko, OK



**Speaker
Kolby King**

For more info

Daniel Sweet 405.655.9468 or daniel.sweet42@gmail.com or visit okstatece.com



**2019 National
Convention
Services to be
Streamed Live
July 21-24**

The National Association will have live streaming of all services. Please note that the service time will be 7:00 pm (EDT) eastern daylight time each evening. In addition to live streaming of worship services, the Media Commission has created an online archive of previous convention services dating to 2009.

The files are available for download at www.nafwb.org/media. The free archive replaces onsite CD and DVD sales at the convention. ■

Honor to Whom Honor...

Garland Davidson

October 1, 1937 – April 10, 2019



Rev. Garland Davidson and his wife Sue Ann (Moses) Davidson were married for 62 years. They served our Free Will Baptist community throughout their marriage. Brother Garland pastored churches in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and New Mexico. He was gifted in many areas including farming, ranching, tractor mechanic, produce manager, farm equipment, insurance, auto sales and even an ONG line repairman. He cherished being a bi-vocational pastor, Husband, Dad and Papa. Brother Garland was a friend to all, a counselor to many, a helping hand to those in need, and a respected member of the community wherever he lived. He was actively

pastoring up to the week of his death. He will be greatly missed. ■

ACROSS THE STATE...



On February 24th the Allen FWB Church in Sapulpa conducted a service to honor their longtime pastor, Rev. Johnny Bilby and wife Barbara. He and Sister Barbara served the church for 39 years. Brother Johnny has had a very fruitful ministry and though retired from the pastorate he is available for pulpit supply. Thank you, Brother Johnny and Sister Barbara for your past and future ministry. In appreciation the church gave Johnny and Barbara a new vehicle. ■



Job Opening at Randall University

Randall University seeks a Professor of Business with a Christian worldview who is also called to lead a growing undergraduate business program. The undergraduate program is among the largest at our institution, so the candidate should expect to interact with numerous diverse students and faculty. This non-tenure track renewable position begins Fall 2019. Master's degree in Business Administration, Management, Finance or similar from an accredited institution. Experience in higher education is preferred, but not required.

For additional information go to higheredjobs.com and search for Randall University, business director OR contact Brent Sykes, Randall University Academic Dean at bsykes@ru.edu OR 405-912-9018. Please submit a resume or curriculum vitae. ■

I BELIEVE GOD

A couple of weeks ago I heard an excellent sermon preached from a passage in Acts 27. As he was working through the passage, he told how an angel had told Paul during the stormy night that though the ship they were on would be lost, no lives would be lost. When he came to verse 25 Paul is speaking to all on the ship and says, "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

During these past weeks Paul's words have come to me again and again. "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me". Let me share with you a few of those thoughts.

When my life is full of anxiety and turmoil let me be reminded of Jesus words, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" In that moment may Paul's words be mine. I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

When I am overwhelmed, discouraged and exhausted, may these words come to mind, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". And may my response be I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

As followers of Jesus there may be times when we feel we are abandoned and alone. Perhaps even those close to us have forsaken us. Remember these words found in Hebrews 13:5 for he hath

said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. May we be encouraged and declare, I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

When we feel the task given us in Christ's great commission seems far too great for us to accomplish, let us remember that Jesus concludes the commission with "lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen". His promise to his followers was, " I will make you fishers of men" Should we not accept those words also? In the work of evangelism let me proclaim: I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

If Satan bombards our hearts with doubts and fears let us remember these words, I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. May we stand unafraid and respond: I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

In the midst of all of life's circumstances I am confident that a Biblical truth will apply to our situation. I want to stand in every instance and declare with a heart of faith: I BELIEVE GOD, THAT IT SHALL BE EVEN AS IT WAS TOLD ME! ■



Bro. Mike

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

Promoter

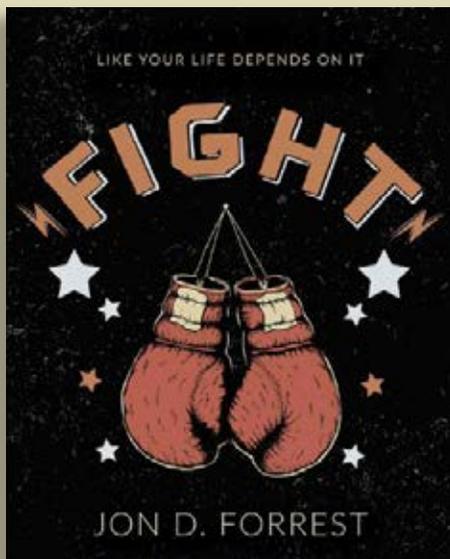
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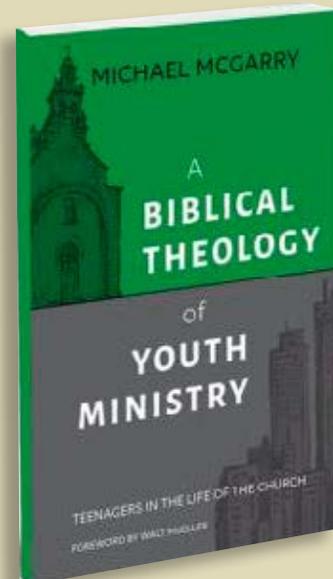
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