

# PROMOTER

January - February 2017

Volume 38 Number 1

## 2017 MINISTERS RETREAT MARCH 6-8

**Registration Information is on the back cover.**

*For God, who commanded the light to  
shine out of darkness, hath shined in our  
hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of  
the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*2 Cor. 4:6*

## Special Opportunity to Visit with the Torrison Family



The Steve and Lori Torrison family are back in Oklahoma for a brief stay. They were given the gift of being flown in for Christmas. They will be in Oklahoma for 2 months, during

the Uruguayan summer months, using this time to try to bolster their account financially. They arrived back in the USA on December 24th and will return to Uruguay on March 4th, 2017, in order to get back for the new school year.

Their schedule will fill up fast, but please let us know if you'd like to schedule them to come share their story and vision of what God can do through them in Uruguay. They'd be glad to meet with your church family during any church services/meetings/Senior Saints/WAC group meetings or even visit with you personally about the opportunity before them. You'll need to act fast since this visit is for such a short stay, but they hope to see you soon! Contact Steve or Lori Torrison direct through Facebook or contact the state mission board office at (405)912-9036. 

## Church Plant Updates



Grace City Church in Irvine California launched back in September. They have averaged 117 in attendance through the fall, not counting their large grand opening crowd. They have had multiple salvations and baptisms as well. Check out their Facebook page *Grace City Church* or their website [gracecityirvine.com](http://gracecityirvine.com) for up-to-date progress reports. Please pray for the Stephen Kimbrell family as they lead this plant and continue *Making Disciples that Make Disciples*.



Restoration Church in Granite City, Illinois moved into their new facilities in September. They have averaged 265 with several salvations and more than 30 baptisms this fall. Check out their Facebook page *Restoration Church Granite City* or their website [rchurchgc.com](http://rchurchgc.com) for more info on what God is doing in Granite City. Please pray for the Larry Lacefield family as they lead this plant to fulfill its mission to *Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ*. 

schedule your  
**paint party fundraiser**  
today!

Contact Lori Torrison to set up your paint party.

Dates available in January and February 2017.



- All supplies and instructions included!
- Participants take home a 16"x20" painting on real canvas!

For more information contact Lori Torrison via Facebook message, or email [storrison@fwbgo.com](mailto:storrison@fwbgo.com)

\*All proceeds will go toward the account of Steve and Lori Torrison, missionaries to Uruguay with Free Will Baptist International Missions. [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com)

## A Note from our Dean of Students

Every time I visit the people of downtown OKC, I witness a compassion that causes a lump to rise in my throat and tears to fill my eyes. I experience similar feelings when I see that the conditions of the people there are still the same. The nomads who occupy the tents and cardboard boxes near Sheridan and Western are plagued with mental illnesses, confined by addictions, consumed with hunger, and ultimately forgotten. This particular day was no exception.

On November 17<sup>th</sup> several students and I piled out of school vans and landed in the middle of what appeared to be the dump. A man and woman were screaming obscenities at each other as they attempted to climb out of their landfill to accept the coffee and breakfast we offered them. As we walked through a lot, that at first glance seemed vacant, we saw tents, tarps, boxes, sticks, and even an old McDonald's sign used to shelter these people from the devastations of life.

*Good morning. Would you like some coffee or orange juice?*

As the students dispersed in groups of three or more, I was comforted by their eagerness to deliver food, blankets and coats to these strangers.

*Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to...*

The song drew my attention across the lot where most of the students were gathered around a couple, singing "Happy Birthday," and bringing a smile to a man who might have otherwise not been recognized on such an important day. I also smiled and thought, *Isn't God good? Thank you, Lord, for bringing us here today.* And then it happened. The lump started to rise in my throat as I saw a student remove his jacket and hand it to the man next to him. It was a gift. A birthday gift. A gift given out of compelling compassion for the stranger he so desperately wanted to feel loved on his special day.

This was not the first time a student felt compelled to give in this way. A few years ago, I was driving downtown when one of my students said, *Pull over, Ms. Blackwell! That woman isn't wearing any shoes!*

To my left was a woman with a black eye, a bloody nose, and bare feet. The student grabbed the shoes her mother donated, jumped out of the van, and walked over to the stranger. She sat down next to the woman. They talked, laughed and cried together. And then it happened. My eyes filled with tears.

I was no longer able to swallow as I watched this student remove her own shoes and give them to the woman. Once she realized that the other shoes would not fit, she had so much compassion for this socially dejected woman that she handed over her own shoes before hugging her and skipping back to the van barefoot. She never considered that her own feet were now at risk. She wasn't bothered by the broken glass on the curb. She didn't even care about losing a pair of shoes she liked wearing. She was compelled to give a gift. It was a gift of compassion.



Possibly the most profound moment I have witnessed happened last year when a student removed his gloves and gave them to a man who was so cold he could barely move. It was freezing that day and the wind made being outside almost impossible. I heard the student say, *Man. I want to give that guy these gloves but my hands are like ice already.* He wasn't talking to me or anyone else for that matter. He was reasoning with the desire to give this stranger something he desperately needed himself. And then it happened. The lump rose in my throat as I saw the student walking towards the cold man. The look on the student's face said everything. He was trying to swallow the lump in his own throat. He was about to give a gift of compassion, a compassion so compelling that it can't be shaken.

As I reflect on these memories I am thankful for the opportunity to serve people in this way. I am overwhelmed by the lessons The Lord has taught me through these students. And I am struck by the compassion God has for me, my students, and the social outcasts of the tent district in downtown OKC. He saw mankind lost in the landfill of sin we have created and chose to give a gift of compassion. He didn't step out of a van to deliver the gift. God stepped down from His throne to become the gift we desperately needed. He gave us a Savior. And as the lump rises in my throat and my eyes fill with tears, I begin to hum a song and consider my Friend, my Teacher, my Savior, my Lord.

*Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday dear Jesus. Happy Birthday to you. I love you. ☐*

**Jody Blackwell**  
Dean of Students

**Converge** is March 25-26.  
**Campus Days** is March 26-27.  
**Auction** is April 8.  
(see our website for more info.)

# 2017 Senior Adult Retreat Registration Form

March 20-22, at Western Hills Guest Ranch • Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner, OK  
[www.okstatece.com](http://www.okstatece.com) • Fax 405.912.9297

Please submit completed form and payment to: OK State CE Board, P.O. Box 7527, Moore, OK 73153

## Registration form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: OK State CE Board**

### Credit card info (Visa or Mastercard)

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost: \$110** per person (with roommate)

Roommate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$160** per person (staying alone)

**\$220** per couple (sharing a room)

*For more information, contact Daniel Sweet at:  
[sweetman\\_42@hotmail.com](mailto:sweetman_42@hotmail.com), 405-655-9468*

Registration begins on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM, and the retreat will end on Wednesday morning, March 22, 2017. Includes your registration, lodging for 2 nights, and 5 meals. 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 Randall University. Remember NO outside food or drinks are allowed in the dining area. For more info go to [www.okstatece.com](http://www.okstatece.com)

## SPEAKERS:



Lenny Pirtle



Mike King

## MUSIC:

Ada 1st FWB Church

## 2017 STATE CAMPS

2017 CAMPS	Early-bird Rate & Date	Regular Rate & Date	Late Rate & Date	Sponsor Rate	Pre-Camper Rate
ENCOUNTER1 June 11-16	2017: \$130 By May 15	2017: \$150 After May 15	2017: \$150 After May 15	2017: \$130	2017: \$70
ENCOUNTER2 June 25-30	2017: \$130 By May 22	2017: \$150 After May 22	2017: \$150 After May 22	2017: \$130	2017: \$70
VICTORY 1 July 12-15	2017: \$160 By May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$160	2017: N/A
VICTORY 2 July 16-19	2017: \$160 By May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$160	2017: N/A
VICTORY 3 July 19-22	2017: \$160 By May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$160	2017: N/A
VICTORY 4 July 23-26	2017: \$160 By May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$160	2017: N/A
VICTORY 5 July 26-29	2017: \$160 By May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$170 After May 31	2017: \$160	2017: N/A

ALL Registration will be done online at [www.okstatece.com](http://www.okstatece.com).

Registration will open on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.



# OKLAHOMA WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST 2017 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - PRAISE HIM - PSALM 150

We're looking forward our 2017 Conference to be held on April 21 & 22. We'll be at the Crowne Plaza - Southern Hills located at 7902 S Lewis Avenue in Tulsa.

We are excited to have a brand new speaker, Penny Turner, the First Lady of Northeastern State University. She's a former Women Active for Christ leader, an outstanding ministry wife & leader of integrity, humility & energy. You won't want to miss any of our **PRAISE HIM** sessions!

We will also have a "Ministry Wives" special feature this year. Please join us for this new event.

### Registration Information

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

Room rate will be **\$100** maximum of 4 people per room. Registration is **\$50** per person & includes a buffet dinner on Friday night. All registrations must be postmarked by **March 18, 2017**. If postmarked after March 19, the fee will be \$60. 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".

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

Registration will begin at **1:00 PM** on Friday, April 21. Friday afternoon session begins at 2:00 PM. Evening session & 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.

### Retreat Shirts

The t-shirts are available only when **prepaid** with registration. They will be sangria (pink with hint of purple) & have the theme scripture, Psalm 150 - Praise Him - on it. Cost will be **\$20** each available in women's shirt up to 2X or unisex up to 5X. Please list style & size of shirt beside each person's name who wants to order a shirt. If you would like to see a picture of the shirt, please view on our Facebook or contact Shelia Rooker to have it emailed to you.

Send one check per church for the hotel, registration fees & t-shirts 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](mailto:srooker@fidnet.com)  
Phone: 580-357-8755 or 580-585-0902 cell

**REMINDER:** OWAC Scholarship applications are due by April 15. Contact the Randall financial office or Tracy Payne (405-620-3162 or email at [tlpok1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tlpok1960@yahoo.com)) for more info.

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - APRIL 21 & 22, 2017 CHURCH REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Room # 1	Names / Shirt Size & Style (W / U)
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
Room # 2	
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____

Room # 3	Names / Shirt Size & Style (W / U)
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
Room # 4	
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____

Total # of rooms requested _____	@ \$100.00 each \$ _____
Total # of people registered _____	@ \$50.00 each \$ _____
Total # of late fees _____	@ \$10.00 each \$ _____
Total # of T-shirts _____	@ \$20.00 each \$ _____
Check # _____	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK \$ _____</b>

# Soldiers of the Cross

Just yesterday I attended the funeral of another of our faithful ministers, Brother James Murray. As I listened to the speakers and especially those of his family (sons in law and grandsons), I was reminded of the importance of passing the faith along to those who remain after we have gone on. Brother James was not only an important influence for Christ in his own family but was faithful to the end of his life in impacting those around him for the Lord's sake. During 2016, several of our faithful ministers went to their eternal reward. Men such as Allen Moore, Arty Hearod, Keith Woody, Daniel Parker, Larry Tuttle, Troy Staires, Connie Cariker, Carroll Milner, Ernest Harrison and most recently Brother James. To me there is a very real sense of personal loss as so many of these men have been very important influences in my life. I do not

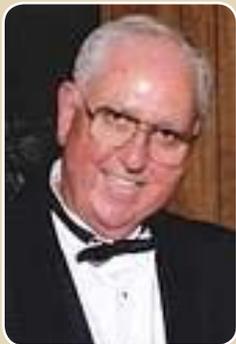
have any idea what the new year holds but it is my prayer that those of us who remain will not only be faithful to the end of our lives but that we will be faithful mentors to others. I pray also that we might be able to be persistent witnesses to all we meet until we leave this world behind. Could 2017 be the year of our Lord's return? Are you ready?

May God's richest blessings be yours throughout this coming year. ☐



*Bro. Mike*

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



**Rev. James Edward Murray**  
**Nov. 12, 1933 – Nov. 25, 2016**

Brother James was born in Konawa, OK to James and Stella Murray. James and Marie his wife of 60 years were married in 1951. They pastored the Cedar Grove FWB Church before relocating to Clinton, OK in

1956 where they started the Clinton FWB Church. Later they labored in Seminole and Henrietta before moving to the Northwest FWB Church in OKC where they ministered successfully for 23 years. He then pastored the Wilson FWB Church and later the Yukon FWB Church. Brother James was a State and National leader and was a successful insurance executive. He was a tremendous influence on many younger pastors and his legacy continues through their work. He will be much missed. ☐

## *Dear Compassionate Friends,*



I thank you so much for your support of Arms of Compassion for the past twelve years. During that time much has been done for glory of God's kingdom and for the benefit of the most needy of society. Your compassion and God's Light has reached across this country and onto five continents. Your giving has been in

the 100's of thousands of dollars. Multitudes of orphaned children have found forever homes thanks to God's grace and your giving.

I have been blessed to be your servant and the coordinator of this awesome ministry during this time. Due to health reasons and for the progress of the ministry I am now stepping down. Thank you for your trust and this wonderful opportunity given me.

I am truly excited about the future of Arms of Compassion. Today I passed the torch per se over to the worthy hands of Jim Benedict. Jim has been a long time supporter of the ministry and has served as promotional

director for the past year or so. Jim brings to ACM not only a heart of compassion but a gift of organization that is sure to bring us to the next level and allow Arms of Compassion to touch many more needy lives.

When asked what interested him in Arms of Compassion, Jim responded, "As a child that has faced abuse and was kicked from home to home until no one would take me anymore. Finally to end up in a Christian orphans home I understand the great importance of this ministry and how much every child really just wants someone to love them and care for them!!!"

Jim has a big heart and a great vision for Arms of Compassion. I hope you will support his vision as you have supported mine. More than anything I hope you will continue to follow God's vision and call to care for the needy.

The address for Arms of Compassion has changed to: 11947 NS 3520 RD, Earsboro OK, 74840. Please send all correspondence to this address.

Thank you once again for your trust of me and your compassionate heart. ☐

**John M Hewett**

# Promoter

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Permit No. 305

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

## 2017 OKLAHOMA MINISTERS RETREAT

If you would like to pre-register online for the Ministers Retreat, go to [www.okfwb.org](http://www.okfwb.org).

Click on Calendar and then 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 17, 2017.

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

### SPEAKERS:



**Dr. Aill Harris Jr.**



**Jim McComas**

### Monday March 6

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

### Tuesday March 7

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 p.m. Dinner  
7:15 p.m. Session #5

### Pre-Register Online for the 2017 Oklahoma Ministers Retreat

Western Hills Guest Lodge - Lake Ft. Gibson - Wagoner, Oklahoma

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

With roommate (\$185) \_\_\_\_\_ Staying alone (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_

I Prefer to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending the Conference (without lodging) (\$85) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Pre-registration by February 17, 2017 includes:

Registration, two nights lodging and five meals. (Late registration \$200.00)

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

Make check payable to: Oklahoma State Association

(Thanks for your continued support)

### Wednesday March 8

8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Session #6