

PROMOTER

July - August 2018

Volume 39 Number 4



The National Convention –
Little Rock, AR • July 22-25, 2018



We were thankful for the opportunity to bring in Ed Stetzer to encourage our churches and leadership at the 2018 State Convention.
What a day it was!
#pioneering change

At the Minister's Conference, Ed Stetzer gave Biblical and practical guidance for *How to Break the 200 Barrier*.



Fun event at Calvary Church, enjoying food trucks and hearing from Stetzer as he challenged us towards Engaging All of God's People on Mission.



We concluded the day back at Randall with worship and prayer as Stetzer reminded us that:

We are Sent
To All Kinds of People
With the Good News Message
Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

May God help us do this for His Glory!





INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2018!



Randall University's graduating class of 2018 walked across the stage on May 12, 2018. While in school, these 34 graduates gained instruction that has prepared them to make a difference in this world. They were challenged to go and make an impact in the local church and to share Christ with a lost world. Exactly what they will accomplish remains a mystery, but one thing is true, at Randall they have all been equipped with important tools and a desire to be different.

Reverend Frederick W. Robertson once said, "In-

struction ends in the school-
room, but education ends only
with life. A child is given to
the universe to be educated."

ends only with life. A child is given to the universe to be educated." In the spiritual world, the process of learning never ends. In fact, Matthew 11:28-29 reveals the command to come and take the yoke of Christ and to learn from Him. The classroom lessons have ended, but the spiritual lessons are only beginning.

This graduating class has the potential to impact the world. They have a solid background in Biblical truths and a passion to remain faithful to these truths. Randall University honors this class for their excellent academic achievements and the outstanding spiritual lives they are living. ■

CTS State Competition was held on May 5th on the campus of Randall University where there were nearly 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 Little Rock!! 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!



encounter
kids



Encounter Kids 1 July 15-18
Encounter Kids 2 July 18-21

Location: Oakridge Christian Camp Anadarko, OK

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

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2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION SERVICES TO BE STREAMED LIVE JULY 22-25

The National Association will have live streaming of all services as well as business reports. Please note that times will be (CDT) central standard time.

They will also offer a stream of the worship services in Spanish for those interested.

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. ■

Across the State...



Stratford Free Will Baptist Church honored Rev. Lewis Perry and wife Kathleen for 30 years of service to the church. The church is a healthy and growing congregation ministering to the Stratford community. The love of the congregation for Bro. Lewis and Sis. Kathleen was evident throughout the celebration. ■

Congratulations to Rev. Stan Konopinski and wife Sherry who serve the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Brother Stan has served in ministry for 50 years and has served the Trinity Church for 25 of those years. Congratulations, Stan, and keep up the good work!! ■

Bethany honors Robert and Judy Bryan.

On Sunday June 10th a celebration was held to celebrate 50 years of missionary service for Robert and Judy Bryan.

They will be retiring from IM at the end of this year. Robert and Judy have been faithful servants for the Lord and Free Will Baptists.

We are proud of their faithful service and know that more fruitful ministry is before them in this new chapter of life. ■

2018 State Meeting



Our State Meeting was held on May 3-5. While attendance at our business sessions was basically unchanged, we did see an increase in overall attendance during the Thursday-Saturday meeting.

Over 450 people attended services or sessions with Friday night's youth emphasis service having nearly 300

in attendance. Then more than 360 people were present on Saturday for the State Youth Competition.

During the three days of events more than 800 Free Will Baptists were present. May we see even greater interest next year on May 2-4, 2019. ■



BELIEF

and

TRUTH



While watching an episode of Laramie (a western series which ran from 1959 to 1963), I was confronted with the profound discrepancy between belief and truth. A friend of Jess Harper (one of the regulars) was charged with murder. The circumstantial evidence caused a group of the victim's friends to capture and lynch him. A mock trial was quickly assembled and before Jess could get back with the real killer, they had hanged an innocent man. You see, the judge, the jury and the executioner all sincerely believed their captured man was guilty, but what they wholeheartedly believed simply was not true.

Just a couple of days ago I came across an article about a man who says he sincerely believes that the earth is flat and to prove it he made a homemade rocket and launched himself to have a look for himself. His rocket did not take him far enough up to have a definitive look but he somehow survived the adventure and is still convinced that the earth is flat not round. While I am convinced that the earth is indeed round, I have never been into space myself to confirm my belief. I am trusting that the pictures taken from our space program and satellites are accurate. I am trusting the individuals who have orbited the earth and been to the moon are faithful witnesses of its roundness. Here is the point, the truth about this question is reality. The earth is round or it is not. My belief has absolutely no bearing on whether it is round or not. Rocket man's belief that the earth is flat has absolutely no bearing on whether it is flat or not. Both cannot be truth. Because someone believes something to be true does not make it to be true.

I meet folks occasionally who sincerely believe that there is no hell. I tell them that there is indeed a place of eternal punishment which is called hell. The normal response to me is always, "your belief

that there is a hell does not make it true" to which I reply, "that is exactly right. My belief has absolutely no bearing on its reality". Then I continue, "your sincere belief that it does not exist also has no bearing on its existence". You see, hell either exists or it doesn't. Your belief or unbelief does not change what is true. My belief doesn't make it true and the unbelievers unbelief does not make it untrue.

I encounter people regularly who are convinced that what they believe is truth. There are people who believe wholeheartedly that there is no God. Sadly, it is my understanding that atheism is growing rapidly among our nations young. God's existence is not changed by belief nor by unbelief. There is a widely held belief that there is a heaven and that all will go there. I ask does their sincere belief make it true. What you believe will definitely impact how you will live in this life. I decided many years ago to trust the authority of the Word of God. While I am fully cognizant that my belief has no bearing on whether it is true or not, I am willing to risk my eternal existence on its message of salvation through faith in Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by me."

Please know and understand, truth is not dependent upon our belief.

JESUS IS TRUTH. Belief and unbelief are the choices before each of us. I implore you to 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ'. He is Lord whether He is your Lord or not. ■



Bro. Mike

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

Promoter

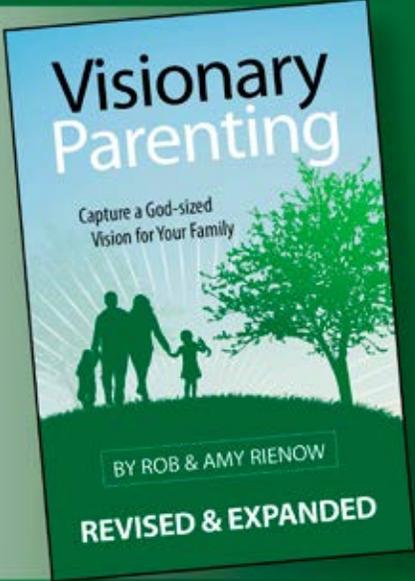
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