

FLA

Coordinator

Florida's Newsletter for
Florida State Association of
Free Will Baptists
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Florida's Free Will Baptist Newsletter

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Feb / Mar 2009

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HOW CAN I LIFT HIM UP? Speakers for the State Meeting 2009



Will Beauchamp



Steve Berry



Tim Owen



Larry Clyatt

The Florida State Association will hold its 65th annual meeting at the Lake Mary Marriott on April 29 - May 2, 2009. The theme for this year's meeting is "Lift Him Up", which will be applied to several areas of our lives and expounded on by four different Florida preachers. Rev. Will Beauchamp will share with us during the Wednesday night service regarding "Lifting Him Up in our Personal Life." On Thursday morning, Rev. Tim Owen will provide insight on "Lifting Him Up in our Home Life" and Rev. Steve Berry will prompt us to "Lift Him Up in our Church Life." Rev. Larry Clyatt will preach during the final worship service on Thursday night as he reminds us to "Lift Him Up through the Great Commission."

Along with the preaching and worship services, our business sessions will contain reports from the Executive Office, each State Board, and several Committees. Representatives from several National departments will also be on hand to give greetings and share reports from their various ministries.

Florida Women Active for Christ will meet for their business session on Friday morning and will host a Mission Luncheon on Thursday. Events will wrap up with the Florida Youth Conference, which will take place on Friday afternoon, May 1st, and Saturday morning, May 2.

You may make reservations with the hotel by calling 407-995-7032 or 800-380-7729. You may also visit our website at www.flafwb.com and register on-line. This year's rate is \$85, but you must identify yourself with Florida Free Will Baptists in order to receive this special rate. Reservation deadline is April 8th.

This year's State Meeting promises to be a time of sweet fellowship, encouragement and challenge. Hope to see you there!



Rev. Randy Bryant

CONSIDERING A MIRACLE by randy bryant

The "Miracle on the Hudson" is how it was portrayed. Believers and non-believers alike described the water landing of the powerless U.S. Air Flight 1549 as nothing short of a miracle. Landing the plane in the middle of the Hudson River was amazing, but the true miracle was that not a single one of the 155 people on board lost their lives. None even faced life-threatening injuries. No wonder everyone - passengers, crew, news media and politicians - called it a miracle!

This caused me to think about what happens when a miracle occurs. What does a person think about after that? What runs through one's mind? Based on some of the interviews with passengers on the plane, and looking at some of the miracles in the life of Christ, I find three things:

People must think about **priorities**. While still on the plane, people had to determine their priorities. Was their life more of a priority than another person's? Were their personal belongings more important than their personal safety? What was their priority once on shore? Do you suppose living through such a miracle caused some of those people to reconsider their priorities in life?

No doubt many on that plane will also consider their **purpose**. Why did God bring me through that circumstance? Why am I still here? Why did God perform that miracle for me? Is there a specific purpose God has for me? What does He want me to do?

Unquestionably, the number one thought on the minds of people who benefit from a miracle should be that of **praise**. The recipient of a miracle must be thankful for the blessing God has provided. We heard many who survived Flight 1549 acknowledge the work of God. Many of those may not really commit their lives to Christ, but some may. Some may decide to give their life to the One who spared theirs. At the end of any miracle, God must be praised, for the very definition of a miracle is the intervention of God in the natural course of events. If you're a child of God, you've experienced such a miracle: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Praise God!

Executive Director's Schedule:

- March**
- 6 Central Association
- 25-27 Master's Men Golf Tournament
Ft. Gaines, GA
- 31 Palmer Leadership Institute
- April**
- 1-2 Palmer Leadership Institute
- 10 Salem Association
Traveler's Rest
- 18 Hispanic Association - Miami
- 25 Indian River Association
Titusville

April-27 through May 2 - State Meeting
Lake Mary, Florida

FLA Coordinator

The Coordinator is a ministry of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists. Our goal is to provide an informative newsletter that highlights the ministries of our state & your local church.

Published six times annually: Dec/Jan; Feb/Mar; Apr/May; June/July; Aug/Sep; Oct/Nov. Submission deadline is the 20th of the month prior to the issue (March 20 for Apr/May issue).

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Visit us on the Web!

The Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists has a new web address, www.FLAFWB.com. Bro. Mike Taggart has done a wonderful job in creating this website and making it as "user-friendly" as possible. Please take the time to visit the website and keep apprised of what is going on in our denomination and around the state.

¡HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL! (WE SPEAK SPANISH!) by Steve Berry

Seeking to be obedient to the Great Commission and having a desire to reach the Spanish-speaking population in the area, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Melbourne embarked on a new sphere of service last October when they began a Hispanic ministry under the direction of Yoan and Marylin Chirino.

While on a mission trip to Cuba during 2003, Steve Berry, Pastor of the First FWB Church of Melbourne, was able to attend Yoan Chirino's ordination service. Upon his graduation from Cedros Del Libano Free Will Baptist Seminary in Cuba, Yoan pastored the Matanzas Free Will Baptist Church for seven years before moving to Miami in 2008.

Upon Pastor Berry's return from a mission trip to Cuba on October 10, 2008, the Chirino family loaded their few belongings into the Melbourne Church van and left Miami, answering the Lord's call, and following Him to the First FWB Church in Melbourne. God has opened many doors in a short amount of time. The church was able to acquire not only a rental house for the Chirino's, but also a reliable vehicle. Almost all of the household items needed to begin this new life and ministry were donated to the Chirino family. Most astonishing, in a time when work is hard to find, God has supplied Yoan with a job in a nursing home to assist him financially as a bi-vocational pastor.

Since Pastor Yoan's arrival, the church has remodeled and converted their teen classroom into a chapel to host the new Hispanic church. Currently, services are being held in the new chapel on Sundays mornings and Wednesday evenings. As a testament to the blessings of God on this new venture, 23 Hispanic individuals attended Melbourne's annual Fall Festival last October and many new families are present at the church services each week. The Chirino's have made many contacts and are excited about their new ministry.

Knowing Pastor Berry's heart for Hispanic missions, over the last six years, the Melbourne church has faithfully supported their pastor through eight mission trips to both Cuba and Mexico. Perhaps the greatest joy for these church members is the realization that God is leading them through doors of ministry that had not even been previously contemplated. It's wonderful to watch God work in and through His church!



CALVARY CHAPEL GROUNDBREAKING by Lee Frye

Calvary Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Hollywood, Florida celebrated the groundbreaking for its new Community Outreach Facility on January 25, 2009. The event began with a message from Pastor Lee Frye, followed by shouts of "Hallelujah!" as the actual breaking of ground commenced on the church campus. After the ceremony, attendees enjoyed a time of fellowship with a BBQ lunch and plenty of activities for the kids. It was a wonderful day, filled with celebrating God's faithfulness.

2009 Ministers' Retreat by Paul Smith

On January 19, 2009, pastors from all over Florida joined together for a time of fun, relaxation, fellowship, and learning at the annual State Ministers' Retreat in beautiful St. Augustine Beach.

Each night, attendees benefited from the wisdom of Dr. Eddie Moody, author, counselor, professor, and pastor, who shared with the group regarding the best way to help people who are hurting. He shared God's Word and showed us where to search in the Bible for information that will help families in need. Dr. Moody also explained to attendees what they can do for others when they actually don't know what to do and he showed pastors how to protect themselves as well as those they are leading.

Those who were unable to attend this year's Ministers' Retreat missed a great opportunity to benefit both themselves and their churches. Please make plans to attend next year's retreat - you won't want to miss it!

Churches Seeking Pastors

First FWB – Chipley
Contact Donna Kay Clark
850-638-0598
dkclark51@gmail.com

Faith FWB – Orlando
Contact Herman Marcum
407-381-1050

Soul's Harbor – Pensacola
Contact Rod Johnson
850-471-3411
rod_frankie@bellsouth.net

First FWB – Malone
Contact Jesse Hart
850-569-5006

Abigail FWB – Vernon
Contact John Cook
850-535-2426

Smyrna FWB Church
386-428-4741

Zion FWB – Sanford
Contact Doc or Aggie Freeman
407-321-5974

Directory Update

Chad Kivette
Beulah FWB Church
Pensacola, FL

EDGMON UPDATE



During January, we enjoyed welcoming a new missionary family to Spain, the Donahue's. Mick and Rachel, along with their small son, Keith, will be working with José Manuel, the pastor of the Esperanza (Hope) Church. Please pray for the Donahue's as they venture out on this new journey.

Despite its share of difficulties, our young church here in Alpedrete just celebrated its third anniversary! And despite 2-1/2" of snow, 32 of us were able to gather at the church in celebration. We marked this date with a delicious fellowship breakfast followed by a powerful worship service led by Jeff Turnbough.

During the service, we enjoyed a video presentation encompassing our entire church family. It was a great day and we are thankful for our teammates, the Johnson's, who are faithfully serving with us here in Spain. Every day we are reminded of the ways in which God has blessed this work.

We find in Jeremiah 33:3 that God tells us to, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." We ask you to call upon the Lord, on our behalf, concerning these three requests:

- Please pray that the Lord continues to bless our church here in Alpedrete with many more memorable moments, especially as it relates to reaching people for Christ and training-up leaders;
- Pray for the leaders of our other churches, Jhon Fredy in Villalba; Juan Carlos in Colmenar Viejo; and José Manuel in Alaclá;
- Pray for God's provision concerning the funding of our deficit account.

Thank you for all that you do!
Anthony and Lea Edgmon



McVAY UPDATE

¡FELIZ AÑO NUEVO! HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope you are enjoying 2009 and we pray that it will be a great year for you, your families and your ministries.

Thanks to your hospitality, prayers and your gifts to our mission account, we had another good financial report during December. We ended 2008 in the black! We are continuing to trust the Lord in believing that we will be fully funded upon our return to Spain. We leave the States on March 16th and we can hardly contain our excitement as we make preparations to return to the work that God has called us to in Spain!

Please help us in welcoming a new missionary family to Spain, Mick and Rachel Donahue, and their son, Keith. The Donahue's will be working with José Manuel, in the Esperanza church. Please pray for them as they adjust to the Spanish culture and language.

We know that God did not promise us problem-free lives but He did promise us that He would be with us through everything. Please be in prayer for José Manuel as he was laid off from his secular job a few months ago and has been unable to secure a new one. Jhon Fredy, in Villalba, is also experiencing financial troubles as his business is slow and is not producing sufficient work to sustain his family. Juan Carlos, in Colmenar Viejo, is struggling with his wife's health. She was recently diagnosed with cancer and is having a difficult time with chemotherapy. Please lift these men up in prayer as they have committed their lives to serving the Lord and are doing a great job despite their challenges.

We're counting down the days until we are in Ft. Myers for the birth of our first grandchild, Elijah Adam Owen. This is certainly an exciting time for our family and we are so thankful that we are able to be here for his birth. "Mommy" Suzanne and "Daddy" Jonathan are doing well and are anxiously awaiting their little one's arrival!

As we close, be assured that you are in our prayers and thoughts and we are so thankful for your partnership with us in taking the Gospel to Spain. As always, we appreciate your faithfulness in your prayers and support. May God add to His "church" abundantly this next year.

Your missionaries to Spain,
Sam and June McVay

ANDERSON UPDATE

Priorities. That's what the last two months have been about. What must be done, and what can be left unfinished, to speed our return to ministry in West Africa. Despite the hectic schedules and unexpected challenges, we are confident in knowing that as we plan, the Lord directs our steps.

Since mid-September, we've followed a plan to minimize expenses while sharing in churches. Verlin travels to a region, and then stays there for three to six weeks while Debbie travels once or twice per month as the family and home-schooling schedule allows. Over the last 12 weeks, Verlin has shared in 33 church services, ten Sunday school classes, five Bible studies, two prayer breakfasts, three youth meetings, and four District Association meetings. During that same time, Debbie was given the opportunity to speak at six different venues and, back at home, she was delighted to host friends, ministry partners, and potential missionary co-workers. It is a great encouragement to see the excitement you share with us regarding the CHE work advancing in Africa!

While these duties occur in the United States, we have continued to stay in contact with the servants who are the "boots on the ground" in West Africa. Every week brings more leadership and financial issues to handle. This week, Verlin forwarded the second half of a 170-page CHE Operations Guide, which will assist French-speaking African nationals in independently managing Community Health Evangelism (CHE) programs. Additionally, we have helped Ivorians prepare budgets for the Bible Institute in Bouna, as well as gave direction for the management of funds in building churches in Abidjan. All from the United States!

Financially, our account is approximately \$12,000.00 in the red. Continue to pray with us that people will see the need and give sacrificially to help erase this deficit. The new monthly commitments of \$3,500 are slow in coming, still we rest in the fact that while we share consistently, it is the Lord who provides for His kingdom work to be done.

Sharing the Treasure more precious than gold,
Verlin and Debbie Anderson with
Corbin, Cason and Cara

Going Once... Going Twice... IRA Silent Auction Fundraiser

The Indian River Association will hold its biennial Silent Auction Fundraiser on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 6 pm at the First FWB Church of Melbourne. Admission is only \$10 and this event will benefit the young men and women in our association who either currently attend a Bible college or will be attending one in the future.

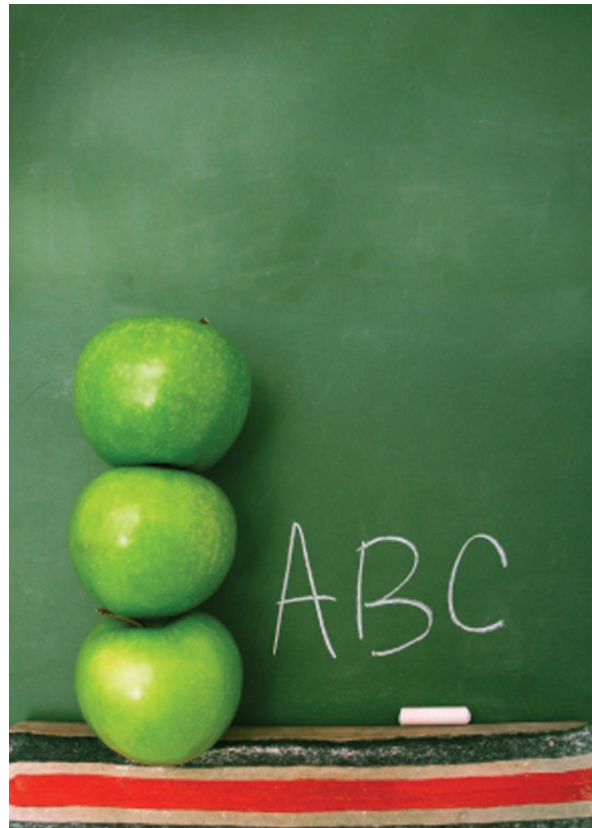


Come hungry and arrive just in time for our backyard BBQ! Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, corn-on-the-cob, and delicious desserts will tempt even the skinniest of you! For all you natives of the Appalachian Mountains, enjoy the delightful sounds of authentic bluegrass music throughout the evening.

In addition to the silent auction portion of the evening, a live auction will also be conducted with some of our more popular auction items, which have been donated by businesses throughout Florida.

However, every year it seems that our local churches donate some of the hottest items of the evening! So what's up for auction this year? The auction block will include a great variety of items, including several pieces of jewelry, hotel stays, local attraction entrance tickets, golf clubs, furniture, and much more!

Our last auction was held during 2006 and due to the generosity of church members throughout the state, there were over 100 items available for purchase throughout the evening and we were able to raise over \$5,300! Would you be willing to participate again this year in making our fundraiser a success? If you have an item that you would like to donate to the silent auction or if you work for a company that would be willing to donate, please contact Chrissy Kinney at (321) 385-3525 or by email at weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com. We also invite you to attend the silent auction. We would love to see you! Your help would be greatly appreciated and you will be making life a little easier for our kids who attend Bible college.



65th Annual State Meeting "Lift Him Up" April 29 – May 2, 2009 Lake Mary Marriott

Call: 407-995-7032 or 800-380-7724

Or visit <http://cwp.marriott.com/mcoml/freewillbaptists>

Special Rate: \$85

(You must identify yourself with Florida Free Will Baptists)

Deadline for Room Reservations is April 8th

Speakers include:

Will Beauchamp, Steve Berry, Tim Owen, and Larry Clyatt

State Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 28

- 9:00 State Planning Committee Meeting
- 1:00 Budget Committee Meeting
- 7:00 Shares Promotional Committee/
Mission Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 29

- 9:00 Executive Committee Meeting
- 3:00 Registration Opens
- 7:00 "Lift Him Up in our Personal Life"
Will Beauchamp
Mass Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 30

- 7:30 FWBBC Friends Breakfast
- 8:30 "Lift Him Up in our Home Life"
Tim Owen
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:30 "Lift Him Up in our Church Life"
Steve Berry
- 12:00 FWAC Mission Luncheon
- 1:30 State Business Session
- 7:00 "Lift Him Up through the Great Commission"
Larry Clyatt



Lake Mary Marriott

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Friday, May 1

- 9:00 FWAC Business Session
- 9:00 State Business Convenes
- 11:00 Mission Service
- 2:00 Registration
- 3:00 SYC Judges & Coaches Meeting
- 4:00 Competition begins
- 6:00 Youth Rally

Saturday, May 2

- 7:00 SYC Judges Breakfast
- 8:00 Competition Resumes
- 11:00 Awards Ceremony