

Florida Coordinator
 Florida's Newsletter for
 Florida State Association of
 Free Will Baptists
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FLORIDA Coordinator

JANUARY FEBRUARY 2011



Florida Coordinator has a New Look



UPCOMING EVENTS



- April 27-30, 2011**
 Florida State Association
 Jacksonville Marriott
- August 19-20, 2011**
 Mission Shares Golf Tournament
 Plantation Inn at Crystal River
- September 16-17, 2011**
 Orlando Christian Workers' Conference
- October 14-15, 2011**
 Palmer Leadership Institute
 Courtyard by Marriott in Jacksonville
- November 4-5, 2011**
 Destin Christian Workers' Conference

For more information visit the State Website
FLAfwb.com

Destin Christian Workers' Conference

The Embassy Suites in Destin served as the host for this year's Christian Workers' Conference on November 5 and 6. Approximately 90 people gathered to hear Dr. David Gibbs III from the Christian Law Association share various legal issues regarding the church and Christians in today's society. The group was both informed and challenged as Dr. Gibbs spoke about "The Legal State of Our Nation," "Issue of Life," "Protecting Your Church from Lawsuits," and "Estate Planning." One of the added benefits of the conference was the Christian Law Association's offer to supply every attendee with a free will. This provided a great opportunity for individuals to consider the Lord's work in their estate planning. Comments from the attendees ranged from "mesmerizing" to "challenging and informative." Participants left with a much better perspective on the areas of concern for individual citizens as well as our churches.

The Christian Workers' Conferences are sponsored by the Christian Ministries Board.



The 2011 State Meeting

Annual state meeting for the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists will be April 27-30, 2011. The featured guest speaker will be Dr. Randy Sawyer. He will conduct two workshops Thursday morning based upon his book entitled *Battling the Black Dog - Raw Confessions of Depression in Ministry*.



The theme for this year's state meeting will be "Does Jesus Care?" The location will be the Jacksonville Marriott. You can make your reservations online at cwp.marriott.com/jaxfl/freewillbaptists2011. For more information visit the state web site at FLAfwb.com.

Face-Lift! Beginning in 2011

The Coordinator will have a new format. Check out our new four-page spread, chocked full of vital information from around the state, keeping you abreast of the latest happenings and event deadlines to help keep you plugged in. And to keep you informed about our missionaries, their field updates will now be available on-line at www.fwbgo.com. Thank you for your continued interest in Free Will Baptist happenings around Florida and please continue to send information on your church events and ministries to weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com.

Bridal Preparations

by Dennis Owen

The church prepares for Jesus' return as a bride for her groom. It is a union ordained of God. Preparing for that special day, tradition had my bride looking for four things: something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue. This tradition is not from Scripture; however, it can be used to show an incredible change in Florida missions. We enter this change with something old, something new, nothing borrowed, and never "blue."

SOMETHING OLD: What we have from the "old days" is an active participation in God's Mission in Florida and abroad. About 10% of Florida churches have

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Bridal Preparation -

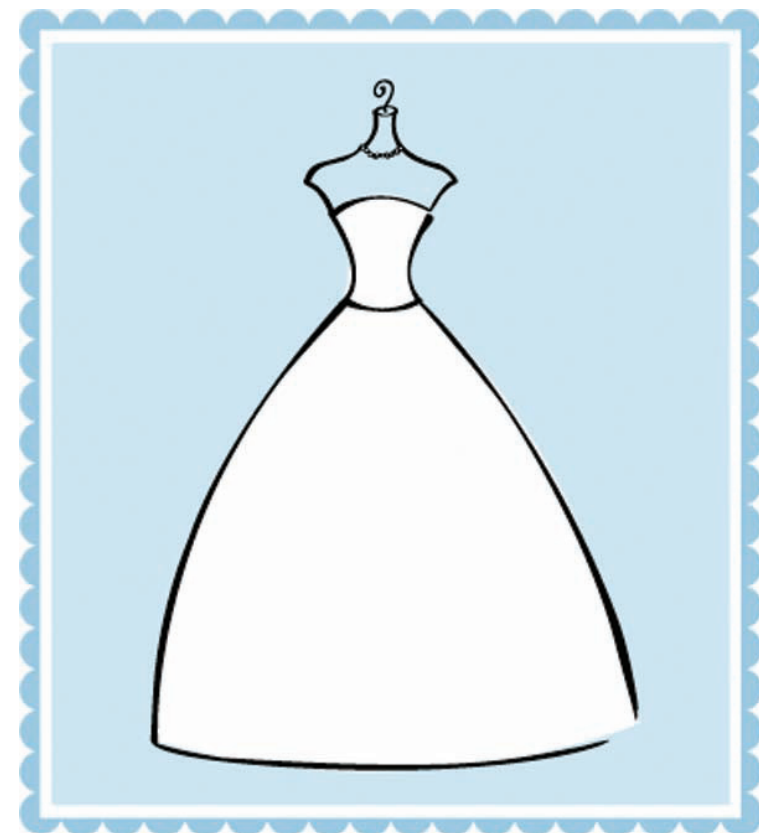
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consistently supported the financial missions system; about 50-90% has nominally supported Florida mission shares and approximately 10% of our Florida churches have not participated at all. What has taken place in the last generation is that the opposition to missions has faded and the Scriptural message of the gospel in a world-wide setting is firmly and widely accepted. An accepted "old" message is the best thing for us because it means we are on the same Scriptural wave-length as God.

SOMETHING NEW: Mission programs always struggle financially. It is a given. The Lord superintended our state's financial circumstances to offer us a new advantage and place an important choice before us: We could either build two new churches and "live off" the monies available for several years, or we could use the money to periodically build one new church until Jesus returns. The mission board decided to pursue a church movement that will continually build churches around the state of Florida.

NOTHING BORROWED: One major reason to pursue this path is the need of the church to actively take part in Christ's Mission. Spiritually, we must not "live off" the monies generated and withdraw our active involvement in God's Mission. We continue the Shares Program for maintaining our present ministries and missionaries, but because we have been obedient to Scripture, the Lord has given us an opportunity to manage the financial direction for new churches. We call this fund the

"Good Steward's Fund". Approximately \$150,000 will be produced each year and this will allow us to direct the financial organization of new churches. The advantage to this new system is that it will remove a dependence on outside lenders and, at present, that translates into a new church facility every five years.



NEVER BLUE: Critics of this new system may say, "You will have problems with this," and true enough, we will. However, nothing ventured, nothing gained! One problem of the old operation was that the understanding of mission work and support was very difficult. Not many understand the full impact of how "blue" and depressing the ministry can become. However, this opportunity will allow us to move forward in visible ways. Never "blue" means knowing we are about a good task and that we are moving forward toward the day when we, as good stewards, will present ourselves to our Groom, the Lord Christ Jesus.

Be sure to visit our missionaries on-line at www.fwbgo.com. Field updates, prayer requests and contact information for each of our missionaries can be found on this website, which is packed with helpful and exciting information from around the globe.



Coordinator

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Under Control?

by Randy Bryant

As I'm writing this column, it's the last week of December. I have just covered my freeze-sensitive plants for the third time this year. "Winter" has just begun and already my part of south Florida experienced three nights of freezing weather. Prior to this winter, the last plant-damaging freeze we experienced was in 1989.

As I cope with this unusual weather, I keep asking "Who is in control of all this?" By nature (our fallen nature) man wants to control everything. He wants to call the shots and make everything serve him and answer to him. Politicians and media suggests man does control everything from climate changes to world peace. The fact is many things are out of our hands. Man cannot control the weather, the earth's rotation or when the sun sets. God reaffirmed His control in His discussion with Job in chapters 38-42. God says, "I've had things under control longer than you can imagine. Where were you when I formed the foundations of the earth? Where were you when I set the oceans in their place or put the constellations of stars in position?" Those questions cause Job to declare in 42:3, "I have spoken about things I don't understand; things that are too wonderful for me."

God, in His sovereignty, is still in control. The lesson we need to learn is that we are not wise enough, strong enough or charitable enough to be in control. We don't have to look very far to see how often we mess up the things we DO control. Contentment comes when we accept the fact that we are not in control, but can completely trust the One who is - even with our tomato plants!

Inauguration Day

by Gustavo Abreira

After seven years of waiting on the City of Miami to obtain the permits to begin construction on our new temple, we were finally able to commence construction during September of 2009. One year and one month later, on November 7, 2010, over 200 people came together to worship and to give thanks and glory to God during the inauguration service. The new temple for Iglesia Bautista Libre Renacer was inaugurated in the Southwest area of Miami. It has been dedicated and consecrated for the on-going work of our Lord and for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Executive Secretary's Schedule

February

- 4 West Florida Assoc. Meeting
- 5 Greater St. John's Assoc.
- 8-10 Executive Director's Meeting
Tampa
- 11-12 Central Assoc. Meeting
Tampa
- 25 Steering Committee Meeting
Jacksonville

March

- 6-10 Bible Conference; Nashville
- 22-25 Master's Men Golf Tourney;
Dothan