

# FLA

## Coordinator

Florida's Newsletter for  
Florida State Association of  
Free Will Baptists  
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Mar/Apr 2010

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## 2010 FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS ANNUAL MEETING

"Encouragement to the Heart" will serve as the theme for the 66th Annual Session of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists. The meeting will be held April 28-May 1, 2010 at the Lake Mary Marriott in Lake Mary, Florida. Hotel registration deadline is April 7th and reservations can be made by visiting their website at <http://cwp.marriott.com/mcom1/flstateassnofreewillbapt/> or by calling (407) 995-7032. To receive the special hotel rate of \$85, make sure to identify yourself with the Florida Free Will Baptist group. The gathering will again be a joint meeting of the Florida State Association, Florida Women Active for Christ and the State Youth Conference.

Dr. H.B. London, Vice President of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries for Focus on the Family will be this year's featured speaker (see more information about Dr. London elsewhere in this issue). Dr. London will speak during our Wednesday evening worship service, twice on Thursday morning and again during the Thursday evening service. The schedule of events is as follows:



<b>Tuesday, April 27</b>	1:30 State Business Session
9:00 State Planning Committee Mtg.	7:00 Dr. H.B. London
1:00 Budget Committee Mtg.	<b>Friday, April 30</b>
7:00 Mission Board Mtg.	9:00 FWAC Business Session
<b>Wednesday, April 28</b>	9:00 State Business Convenes
9:00 Executive Committee Mtg.	11:00 Mission Service
3:00 Registration Opens	2:00 Registration
7:00 Worship Service	3:00 SYC Judges & Coaches Meeting
Mass Choir Rehearsal	4:00 Competition Begins
9:00 Reception for Ministers	6:00 Youth Rally
<b>Thursday, April 29</b>	<b>Saturday, May 1</b>
7:30 FWBBC Friends Breakfast	7:00 SYC Judges Breakfast
9:00 Dr. H. B. London	8:00 Competition Resumes
10:00 Coffee Break	11:00 Awards Ceremony
10:30 Dr. H.B. London	
12:00 FWAC Mission Luncheon	

## DEFENDING THE DISTRICT by randy bryant



Rev. Randy Bryant

### Executive Director's Schedule:

#### March

- 7-10 Bible Conference, FWBBC
- 23-26 Master's Men Golf Tournament  
Ft. Gaines, GA
- 27 South Florida Assoc. Mtg.

#### April

- 9 Salem Association
- 22 Hispanic Association
- 24 Indian River Assoc. - Auburndale
- 27-May1 Florida State Mtg. - Lake Mary

Remember Sunday School attendance awards? You were awarded a pin for perfect attendance, and then got pieces to add on for each additional year you made it to church every Sunday. I may be in the running if there's a contest for attending the most district association meetings! Sometimes I leave thinking, "Now what exactly did we just accomplish?" while some cause me to say, "Now that is what district meetings are all about!" In some areas, participation has diminished to only the district's officers, its pastors, and a few faithful people. I constantly hear comments regarding these meetings such as "the district doesn't do anything" or "they take two hours to do fifteen minutes of business," or "what has the association ever done for me?" Some of these comments may be true, but the district association has long been a very viable link in the ministry of Free Will Baptists.

While many of our district meetings need to be reevaluated and need to consider their real purpose, I want to offer a defense of district associations and the need for our involvement. As Free Will Baptists, we understand that to be a part of the National Association, a church is first a member of a district, which is a member of a state. When you are part of a group, one can expect to give some time to that organization. Any organization, to be able to function and carry out its objectives, needs participation.

While I recognize that many of our district association meetings are struggling and need to be energized, I believe our districts can still be relevant and have a distinct ministry. It provides fellowship with other Free Will Baptists, for some the only time they get to spend with others of like faith. It can provide opportunities to work with others in furthering the kingdom of God through financially cooperative efforts such as missions, seminars, youth camps, or in offering scholarships. Through the efforts of our various boards and presbyteries, district associations provide a degree of accountability and discipline that may not otherwise be found. The district level can be the first place a struggling church goes for advice or help and it can also provide 'hands on' training for young people by placing them on boards and in positions where they can 'get their feet wet' in areas of ministry.

While we may need to rethink how we function, and sometimes the way we meet, let's not give up on our district associations. Let's make them work for us. Remember, you will never effect change by staying away.

Continued on page 6

# 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).

Mail articles & announcements to:

#### Coordinator

4820 Meadow Green Road  
Mims, FL 32754

Email: [weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com](mailto:weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com)

#### Editor of Coordinator

Chrissy Kinney  
(321) 385-3525

Email: [weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com](mailto:weathershieldgutters@cfl.rr.com)

#### State Executive Director

Randy Bryant  
toll free 800-805-8797  
fax 772-567-2338  
Email: [bryantfwb@bellsouth.net](mailto:bryantfwb@bellsouth.net)

#### Layout & Design Artist

Ron Hunter Jr.

#### Visit us on the Web!

The Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists has a new web address, [www.FLAFWB.com](http://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.

## LET ME INTRODUCE YOU...



Please welcome our newest ministry addition to the State Mission Board, Yoan and Marylin Chirino. This dynamic team was hired as a joint missionary with the First FWB Church in Melbourne and the State Mission Board during October of last year.

Yoan was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba where he later gave his life to God on October 22, 1991 at the age of fifteen. He answered the call to preach the gospel when he was only nineteen years old and in 1998, Yoan felt that God was calling him to Bible College. He entered the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary where he graduated in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Theology. After graduation, Yoan followed the call of God to the Free Will Baptist Church in Matanzas, Cuba where he served as pastor for the next six years. During this time, and with the Lord's help, the congregation grew from only ten people to approximately forty people. Also during this time, the Free Will Baptist Denomination in Cuba called on both him and Marylin to become the directors of the Department of Married Couples. And finally, in 2005, he became a member of the Board of Directors for the Free Will Baptist Convention in Cuba.

At the request of his father who had been petitioning the U.S. government for their resident visas over the last twelve years, Yoan and Marylin were finally blessed with the opportunity to move to the United States during July of 2008. In October of that same year, Yoan was hired by the First Free Will Baptist Church of Melbourne to begin a Hispanic Church. Yoan and Marylin are working hard to plant a self-supporting Free Will Baptist Church in the Melbourne area and are in need of your prayers and encouragement.

## Goodbye Nashville...Hello Greeneville!



After nearly eight years of service to Randall House, Clarence Lewis is accepting a position at Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greeneville, Tennessee. Having served as Randall House's Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer for nearly eight years, Clarence heads to assume similar duties with the children's home. A native of Arkansas, Clarence has had two tenures at Randall House: nine years

under Roger Reeds and over seven years under Ron Hunter. Prior to returning to Randall House in the fall of 2002, Clarence was a partner in Lewis Letterworks, a local printing company.

When addressing the Randall House team, Clarence said, "Sometimes we need to take inventory of our lives and get out of our comfort zones. I feel I have prepared Randall House for my departure with nearly eight years of helping implement policies and procedures to carry it forward. I am not leaving Randall House, I am going to the children's home."

Ron Hunter, who hired Clarence soon after becoming Executive Director remarked, "Clarence is a valuable friend and professional colleague. We cannot stand in the way when God moves someone to a new ministry. Clarence loves challenges and has helped us solve numerous ones here. I will miss him and so will the Randall House family." Ron asked Clarence to provide his insight in key areas for the remainder of the year. Clarence will remain on staff until the new accounting software implementation is completed around the middle of May.

When asked about the replacement plans for Assistant Director and COO, Ron replied, "We have asked our team of employees to stretch these past two years, now it is time for our leadership to stretch. We plan to absorb these duties among existing leaders who are very capable. At Randall House, we continue to develop our leadership and believe this to be the best stewardship of funds regardless of the current economy. When someone leaves Randall House we never assume we need to continue that position as it was, we always examine creative new ways to continue ministry."

## Churches Seeking Pastors

### Marvin Chapel FWB – Marianna

Contact Bill Sellers  
850-482-5221

### First FWB – Malone

Contact Jesse Hart  
850-569-5006

## Directory Update

No Updates

## EDGMON UPDATE



### Super Sunday

February 7, 2010 was a Super Sunday for more than one reason. While football fans across the U.S. had their eyes fixed on a battle between the two best teams of the season in the Super Bowl, New Orleans wasn't the only city whose Saints were celebrating a historic moment. The "saints" in Alpedrete, Spain celebrated this Super Sunday also, marking the 4th anniversary for this faithful church. That first Sunday we were eighteen strong. Today, the church is averaging around 50 people. We praise the Lord for the help we have received from Free Will Baptists across the U.S. and we are encouraged that several of our new believers have "tackled" the responsibility of ministry in both children's church and in the praise group. Please pray that we will continue to see more leadership from among the "saints" here in Alpedrete.

### The Huddle

Just a couple of weeks ago the Alpedrete church hosted a women's meeting. Twenty-seven women, representing three of our churches, "huddled" around tables to share refreshment and testimonies. This was a great time of fellowship for all of the ladies involved.

Each Wednesday evening several of the ladies from the church "huddle" around a table during Bible study which offers those in attendance some tremendous opportunities to share their hearts as they study various women of the Bible. Every Thursday evening a group of men from the church "huddle", while various numbers are called out, although these numbers are not plays - they are scripture references regarding the doctrine of salvation.

### Special Teams

Fellow Spain missionaries, Sam & June McVay and Mick & Rachel Donahue, made a long return back to the U.S. for a "special teams" play. They will be traveling

across the country and through our denomination to help raise funds during these difficult economic times. We appreciate their efforts for the team of International Missions and we pray for safety and strength during this demanding assignment. Thanks to all of you who have been praying for us during the financial crisis that our denomination is experiencing. We also appreciate those churches and individuals who have been able to give special gifts to keep missionaries on the field and ministries funded. You are keeping the Gospel in play!

### 4th Quarter

We don't really know when the final whistle will be blown on The Game of Life. This fact should motivate us with a sense of urgency to take the Gospel to, not only those in Spain, but also to the lost around the world. We need your prayers to empower the ministry here through the working of the Holy Spirit so that lives will be transformed by the Gospel. Pray that the current climate around the globe will open people's hearts and eyes to the existence of the spiritual battle that is raging all around them.

Thank you for your support!

Anthony and Lea Edgmon



## VERLIN AND DEBBIE ANDERSON



Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,  
"God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). Do you remember the day when the glory of the Lord's salvation in Christ became real to you? His death for our life. His salvation for our condemnation. His hope for our despair. His truth for our lies. His purity for our perversion. His will for our selfish ambition. Oh, what joy

when His glory fills a heart, a home, a church, and a nation! Suddenly, our "clay pot" lives became vessels to pour His inestimably precious glory into someone else's life.

It is the desire of every member of the Free Will Baptist International Mission team, both at home and overseas, to "declare his glory among the heathen; his marvelous works among all nations" (1 Chronicles 16:24). Nevertheless, an enormous obstacle stands in our way. International Missions has asked us to inform you of the critical financial need we face together. Will you please, carefully and prayerfully consider the information they have provided at <http://fwbgo.com/about/crisis.html> and, like us, ask, "Lord, what would You have me do?"

Thank you ahead of time for what you do, have done, and will continue to do - not for us, or International Missions, but for the sake of sharing Jesus where His glory is not known. We proclaim with David in Psalm 72:19, "...let the whole earth be filled with His glory!"

His clay pot servants in Cote d'Ivoire,  
Verlin, Debbie, and Corbin Anderson



## McVAY UPDATE

Hopefully, you received our urgent e-mail recently about the financial crisis of our mission. Thank you for your prayers during this critical situation we are facing. We know that there are many of you facing the same situation in your personal finances, and we pray that God will provide for all of our needs. For those of you who are able to give a special gift, it would be most appreciated. For those of you who cannot, we hope your prayers will be even greater for the needs of the world.

Because of this critical situation, the mission has asked us to return to the States to travel and help raise funds. We became stateside on January 25th and because of residency renewal obligations, we will need to return to Spain in about six months. While we are in the U.S., we will spend most of the time traveling to help raise awareness of the financial crisis of the mission, and to help raise



funds so that other missionaries can stay on the field where they are working and not have to worry about funding.

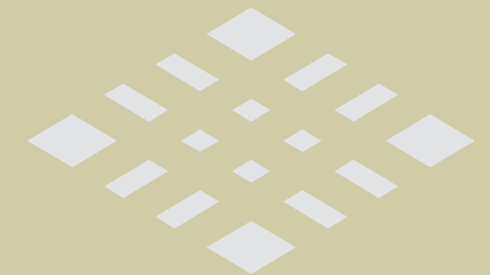
Our

services will be planned and coordinated with the mission office, so if you'd like for us to come to your church, please let us know. Or, if you'd like to meet with us while we are here, we'd be more than happy to do so. In our monthly updates, we will let you know where we will be having services, so hopefully, if we will be in your area, you can come see us. We'd love to see as many of you as possible and we would appreciate your prayers while we are here in the States for this special assignment.

With our leaving, we have had to discontinue the Bible studies that we had recently begun, as well as postpone another study that we were about to commence. Please pray with us for all of the works in Spain, especially for our three faithful pastors and pray that their churches will flourish and reach many for Christ during these difficult economic days. Pray also for the believers in these churches, that they will share their "good news" with their friends and family members. We will miss our friends while we are gone.

May each of you have a year filled with the blessings of God.

Sam and June McVay



Continued from page 1

The meeting provides plenty of opportunity for fellowship, worship, business, and of course, eating together. Attendees are invited to participate in the Annual Missions Luncheon Thursday at noon, sponsored by the Florida Women Active for Christ and you won't want to miss the Missions Service on Friday morning. The women conduct their business on Friday morning as well. State Association business, gavelled by State Moderator Rev. Tim Owen, will be conducted by delegates on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

The State Youth Conference will begin on Friday afternoon and will conclude Saturday by noon. Young people will have the opportunity to worship together and to compete in Music and Arts and Bible competition. Everyone is invited to attend these sessions and encourage the young people in their efforts.

This year's meeting promises to be one of the best ever - you will not want to miss it!



### Rev. H.B. London, Jr.

H.B. London, Jr. is vice president of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries for Focus on the Family. A fourth generation minister, Rev. London pastored for 31 years prior to joining Focus. He has hosted a daily radio program for 20 years while pastoring and also had a weekly television program, "A New Way to Live," in Portland, Oregon.

After serving three decades in pastoral ministry, H.B. accepted the invitation to become assistant to the president for Focus on the Family. His assignment as vice president of Ministry Outreach/Pastoral Ministries is to serve as liaison to pastors and churches - a kind of "pastor to pastors." Since joining forces with Focus, H.B. has directed the development of ministries to pastors and their spouses, and given oversight to ministries affecting physicians, youth culture, the inner city, missionaries, chaplains and basketball camps for the children of single parents in many cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

He communicates with thousands of pastors and church leaders each week through "The Pastor's Weekly Briefing" (a fax network) and produces a bimonthly Pastor to Pastor cassette and newsletter. Dr. London has authored two books and co-authored nine books with Neil Wiseman.

Focus on the Family's founding president, Dr. James C. Dobson, has always felt that the church represents the first line of defense for the family. He believes that the pastor and his family must remain strong if we are to successfully resist the downward moral trends which threaten the very foundation of our nation. Dr. Dobson has asked H.B. to represent Focus on the Family in standing behind the pastors of America. As first cousins who grew up more or less as brothers, it is a dream come true for them to have an opportunity to serve God in a joined ministry.

Rev. London's ministry continues to be people-centered. "When you find a need, you fill it," he says. He operates by the slogan: "God loves you as though you were the only one in all the world to love - and that makes you a very important person." H.B. and his wife, Beverly, have two married sons and four grandchildren.

## MILLARD SASSER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

On Sunday, January 10th, following his 70th birthday on January 9th, Millard Sasser, Pastor of the Sherwood Forest FWB Church, announced his retirement from his full-time pastorate position.

During his years of ministry, Rev. Sasser served in the pulpit of ten churches throughout the states of Florida, Missouri, Washington, and California. He also spent time as the Academic Dean of California Christian College in Fresno, California and as the Promotional Secretary for the State of Florida.

During his tenure, Rev. Sasser worked hard in both state and national ministries as well as the pastorate. Serving on various boards and as moderator of both the Missouri and California state associations, he has lent his competence and influence to Free Will Baptists for the strengthening of the whole body of believers. He has traveled to Russia several times in a teaching capacity on behalf of the International Missions Department and he has repeatedly been invited back by our Russian believers.

Rev. Sasser was ordained at the age of eighteen and has been in full-time ministry since that time. At the age of twenty, he married Margie Emmons and they celebrated their 50th anniversary on January 29th of this year. Their daughters, Joanna, Rhonda, and Felicia, are active in the ministry of the Clovis FWB Church in Clovis, California.

While he and Margie are retiring from a full-time pastorate position, they are not retiring from ministry. Rev. Sasser will be available for short-term ministry opportunities as well as pulpit supply when his schedule permits.

Having roots in Florida and daughters in California, they will spend time in both places after doing some traveling in their own "home on wheels." Please pray for Millard and Margie as they enter a new and different phase of ministry called Retirement.



## SEFFNER JAMAICAN MISSION TRIP

In June of 2007, the College and Career Sunday School Class chartered its first mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica. Through the leadership of Bro. Fabian Bronstroph, pastor and leader of the Merciful Shepherd Ministries International, the team was able to minister to nearly 2,000 people the first year.

Bro. Fabian and his wife Suzette arrange ministry opportunities to both public schools and orphanages and they organize street evangelism. This godly couple also houses, feeds, and provides transportation for the entire group throughout the trip.

Jamaica is a wonderful place to minister. There is no language barrier, it is a cost efficient trip, and the people are so spiritually needy. In ministering to these people, the team has been able to distribute Bibles, candy, gospel tracts, toys, shoes and clothing. It has been established that if a person's physical needs are being met they will be much more open to having their spiritual needs addressed as they are introduced to the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the last mission trip in July 2009, the Jamaica Mission Team was able to offer a medical clinic to the people of Jamaica. Several nursing students on the Mission Team had expressed an interest in providing care for the people of this country. The Jamaican people's physical ailments were treated, medications were dispensed and prayer was lifted up after each evaluation. Out of the 160 people treated during the clinic, 78 souls were saved. The team used Christ's approach: He would meet people's physical needs and then He would meet their spiritual needs.



The group also worked at The Anderson Children's Home and was able to build a room on a house for a man with cancer. The Canaan Land Free Will Baptist Church joined our mission group during this trip and, as a result, they developed a love for missions and will now be traveling on their own to minister to these same people. We are blessed to be worthy of this calling! Please pray for our upcoming trip in June of 2010.

# 5,000,000 Steps

to plant churches among unreached peoples.  
to challenge teens to greater commitment to missions.  
to celebrate the last 75 years of Free Will Baptist missionary efforts.  
to raise awareness in young people about the millions without Christ.

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\*Through the generosity of a \$500,000 matching gift.



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