

# THE MESSENGER

a publication of the wv state association of free will baptists  
www.wvfwb.org | the.messenger@wvfwb.org



Fall 2011  
Volume 11 Number 3

## WV WAC RETREAT “Treasures in Earthen Jugs” “Dry, Cracked Souls”

September 9 - 10 | Central Free Will Baptist Church, Huntington, WV

# E-TEAM applications for 2012 accepted through October 1.

Call International Missions (877-767-7736) for an application or download from our website, [www.fwbgo.com/go](http://www.fwbgo.com/go).



*The one page for every age*

*Are you looking for just one simple resource to help you lead your family spiritually each week?*

**Home Connection** is really as simple as read, pray, do. There are so many things fighting for the attention of parents today. Dads and moms can use a simple resource that will help them lead their families spiritually each week.

**Home Connection** is a one-stop resource for connecting the entire family based on the D6 Curriculum theme of the week.

*This simple, downloadable page will give parents:*

- ✿ A weekly Scripture to **read** together as a family
- ✿ Suggested items that you can **pray** about together as a family
- ✿ Suggested activities you can **do** to put your faith in action as individuals...or as a family
- ✿ An easy tool for parents to implement faith at home
- ✿ An encouraging resource to help make that heart connection with your child/teen

✿ **A free resource!**



D6 curriculum

Another meaningful **free** resource for families from Randall House!

[D6family.com/HomeConnection](http://D6family.com/HomeConnection)

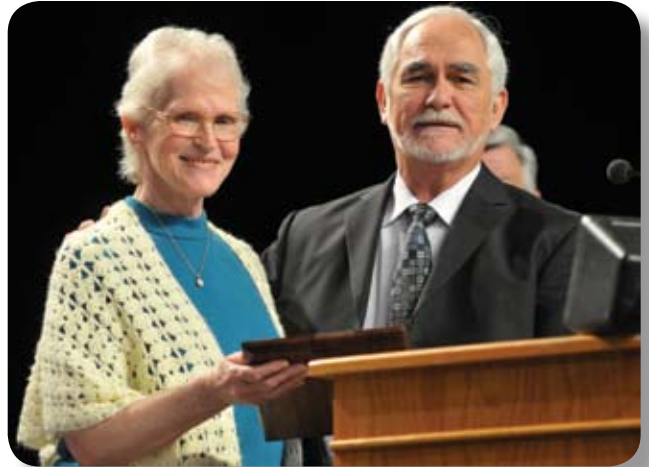
READ

PRAY

DO

# MISSION NEWS

## thank you



ALICE SMITH with FWBIM Interim Director CLINT MORGAN  
*National Convention 2011*

My dear friends,

This morning, I greet you in the lovely name of the Lord Jesus and bring you greetings from our Christian brothers and sisters in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), West Africa.

In Psalm 9, David wrote: 1) "I will praise (thank) thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works. 2) I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High."

I've often asked the Lord to help me to not be ungrateful, especially since I have so much for which to be thankful. Just a few days ago, I was reading Free Will Baptist pastor and author, Robert J. Morgan's book, *My All in All*. In his May 27th devotional he wrote, "the temperature of our spiritual health is measured on the thermometer of thanksgiving". May my degree of gratitude indicate that I'm spiritually well.

For just a few minutes, let me thank and praise the Lord for His omniscience . . . He knows everything!

- He knew that I'd be born into the Smith family at Winifrede, WV on May 30, 1946.
- He placed me where He knew that I'd be able to hear and believe the Gospel at the Winifrede (Old Glory) Free Will Baptist Church.
- He knew that I'd be born into the Family of God on June 4, 1961 (50 years ago!). Being saved, born again is the most wonderful thing that has ever happened to me!
- He knew that He would call me to be a missionary and that I'd fall in love with the people of Ivory Coast, West Africa. This call included His faithfulness in qualifying me, equipping me, and providing all that I'd need for following Him.

And knowing these things, He gave me folks like you. You've so graciously opened your hearts and homes to me. You've partnered with me these 36 years that I've served as a missionary. Oh how faithful you've been to pray and give. What an honor it has been to be introduced as "our missionary". I thank and praise Him for YOU!

My heart's desire is that you continue to support your denomination's efforts to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. May you adopt other Free Will Baptist missionaries and learn to love them as you have loved me. God bless and keep you!



# News around the state

## New Life Free Will Baptist Church; Glenville, WV

An Update From Home Missionaries, Rev. Kenneth & Shirley Cooper

Hello to all our friends in West Virginia. We had a great time at the National Convention. The nightly services were uplifting and the singing was beautiful. When we returned to our home, we were faced with a lot of canning and other house work to get caught up on. Kenneth and a young man began assembling our metal storage building. We're not quite finished, but we have a good start. We recently welcomed some new faces into the church who said they enjoyed the services. Please help us pray they will return.

Old Glory Church in Winifrede, WV, brought their youth to the church for a few nights. Although they had to sleep on the floor at the church, they still had a great time. While visiting, they went to the French Creek Game Reserve, swimming and paddle boat riding at Cedar Creek State Park. Kenneth and Pastor Tim Cooper took them fishing one night. Brother Tim and his grandson Zack spent the last day working on the church van. We thank God for folks like Tim and Gwen who work with the youth. It's a joy to see kids having good, clean fun.



Because *You*  
Give ...



*Souls*  
are Saved!

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**NORTH AMERICA** 

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Please continue to support the Ministries of the  
Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department  
by giving to the  
**Mission: North America Offering**  
on November 20, 2011.

## Slaughter's Creek Pastor Passes Torch



After 34 years, Pastor John Hudson retires from Slaughters Creek Memorial Free Will Baptist Church. Pastor John and wife Gretta have been faithful servants to the church as well as the surrounding community. The Hudsons are now attending their home church, Loudendale Free Will Baptist. The people of Slaughter's Creek wish to thank them for their service and dedication to the church and the community for the past 34 years!

Assistant Pastor Gary Smith took the reins as Pastor on July 31st. Brother Gary, wife Lynn and three children, Coty, Kyle, and Faith, have been members of the church since 1997. Gary was ordained as deacon in November of 2000 and called to preach and ordained in February of 2008. The church is excited to have Gary as Pastor and looking forward to what God has in plan for them as they move forward working for the Lord and seeing souls saved.



## Fayette Conference News

At its July meeting, the Fayette Conference voted to renovate its youth camp in Bradley, WV. Youth Camp Director Alan Terry said "this is the perfect time to begin renovations. We want to take the camp to the next level and these renovations will allow us to use the camp all year long." The Fayette Youth Camp hosts Junior Camp each year during the week prior to Father's Day. Teen Camp is the week following Father's Day.

### **The following is an excerpt from the 2011 State Association meeting minutes:**

*Rev. Luther Morgan reported that the National Association has increased the National Church Dues from \$100.00 to \$150.00 effective in 2012. Concerns were raised that this may present hardship on some of the small churches with few members. It was mentioned that hopefully the local Conference could help pay the increased costs if a church cannot afford to pay. If the local Conference cannot help, the general consensus was the State Association should help those who cannot afford to pay the increase. We do not want to see anyone drop out of the National Association since many benefits and legal protection is provided to those associated with the National Association.*

**The 2012 WV State Association Meeting will be June 8th and 9th, and will be hosted by the Victory FWB Church in Pecks Mill, WV.**

**The 2013 WV State Association Meeting will be June 7th and 8th, and will be hosted by the Parsley Bottom FWB Church in Lenore, WV.**

***Have an address change for The Messenger?  
Tell us about it at: [the.messenger@wvfwb.org](mailto:the.messenger@wvfwb.org)***



**WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST**

**RETREAT | SEPTEMBER 9 - 10, 2011 | CENTRAL FREE WILL BAPTIST | HUNTINGTON, WV**

**THEME: "DRY, CRACKED SOULS" AND "TREASURES IN EARTHEN JUGS"**

**MISSION PROJECT: OFFERING FOR BEREIA MINISTRIES IN MEXICO**

**SPEAKER: KYLA ROWLAND**

# HARVEST JARS by Sheila K. Nelson

## Bringing All the Love of the Lord

The inspiration of Hunter Viars sparked a desire to help missions. Hunter is the son of one of my coworkers. After learning how he was inspired by a Christian TV program to help missions, I gave him a coin bank to help him save money for missions. I then challenged the youth Sunday school class at my church (Hillcrest Free Will Baptist Chapel) to do the same. I distributed “ball” canning jars to each student which we referred to as “harvest jars.” After giving a brief comparison of the jars to our missionaries, the students soon learned that our mission workers live in countries without the luxuries we take for granted. They also learned that “ball” stood for “Bringing All the Love of the Lord.” Similar to the canning jars, the lives of our missionaries are not fancy.

Nine children (including Hunter) participated. In one month, each student returned their harvest jar. One child brought \$64 and another brought \$40. In total, we raised \$310 for missions! This showed us

that God can take one idea and turn it into a blessing.

Since our initial collection, we have collected more funds on a monthly basis to benefit other projects. Some of the projects we’ve sponsored are: our church Youth League - \$570 and March of Dimes - \$210. Our students are currently collecting for Vacation Bible School.



**Beckley:** November 4 & 5

**Brotherhood:** October 8

**Christian Fellowship:** Oct. 22

**Eastern Panhandle:** Nov. 12

**Elk River:** November 19

**Fayette:** October 22

**Freedom:** October 15

**Greenbrier County:** October 8

**Greenbrier Nicholas:** Oct. 22

**Guyan Valley:** November 19

**Huff Creek:** November 19

**Kanawha:** November 18 & 19

**Liberty:** October 28 & 29

**Logan:** November 5

**Mingo #1:** September 10

**Trinity:** November 4 & 5

**Tug River:** November 12

**Unity:** October 22

**Upper Ohio Valley:** October 22

**Wayne:** November 12

**Wyoming:** November 4 & 5

*upcoming conference dates*

# Why Christian Education?

By Pastor Thomas "Huff" Hoffmaster

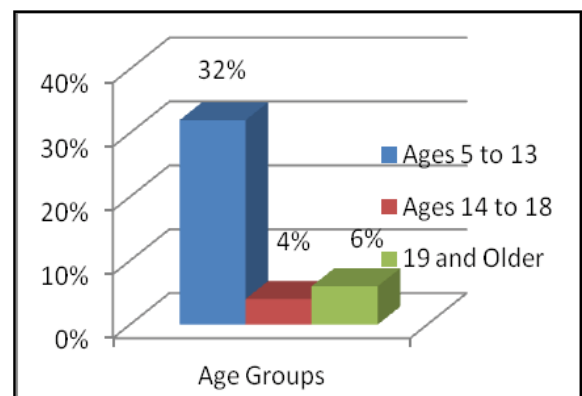


I was recently asked if our school was making a profit and I just smiled. Finally the gentleman who asked the question asked again and this time I responded with a question for him "when you send money to a missionary to help fund their work, do you make a profit"? He smiled back and said I see your point. Please realize I have a great relationship with this gentleman and felt I had the liberty to challenge him without offending him. You see what he was really asking was if his church was to venture into Christian education as a ministry in their church what could he expect, it's much easier to lead a church into this direction if there is no risk. I know you want to know the answer to his question and I will answer that question but let me lay some ground work first.

To consider Christian education as a ministry you first have to ask yourself whether or not you really have a passion for the youth. Do you see your youth as a mission field worthy of your sweat, tears, strength, energy, prayers and finances. If you go to a foreign country you will have to learn a different language and culture and with youth, it's no different. They have a different way of communicating and their culture is different. To effectively reach them and educate them you will have to immerse yourself into their way of understanding. Before a mission work is started a study is usually done to see if the need is present in the "area considered" also the possibility of success is taken into account. With 100% assurance, I can tell you that the need is present. The possibilities for success are greater than you can imagine for developing young minds academically with a heart for Christ.

The chart (to the right) represents a study by the Barna research group on the "openness" of individuals to listen and respond to the gospel based on age. The young group ages 5 to 13 are the most responsive to listening and believing. So the old adage "get them

while their young" still holds true. The problem is that in public school they are listening and believing what their being told is truth. Evolutionary Theory alone can cast doubt on the Genesis account of creation to the point that the young minds will doubt the entire book as being the inspired and inerrant Word of God. Now add in other immoral teachings such as abortion, homosexuality, and a self serving world view and these young minds are taking in far more than we want to accept. Maybe some will come home and ask questions and have their minds set in the right direction but let's face it they really aren't. The average age of our congregations is increasing and these young folks are walking away from the church at an alarming rate. As our youth get older they are less willing to listen... looking at the chart the percentage drops drastically from 32% at age 13 to 4% at age 14.



*continued on page 7*

It was once thought that young adults were leaving as a result of college but the statistics show that young people are leaving the church much earlier in the heart they just have to wait till they are old enough to leave physically when they get out from under mom and dad's rule.

So to answer the question.... Eastern Panhandle Christian Academy rarely makes a profit but more often breaks close to even and has at times been in the red. It's a mission field and mission fields are not entered to reach financial profit they are entered in to reap eternal dividends which is a long term investment that we are committed to. In the 2009-2010 school year we switched from using ACE paper based curriculum to Alpha Omega Publications, an on-line computer based curriculum and in May of 2010 we received our Accreditation from the National Association of Private Schools. As if God hasn't already been good enough to us, this past year we were able to be involved with Nolan Free Will Baptist Church in starting their new school, Nolan Christian Academy. Nolan made a huge investment and walked out on faith and God has blessed them for their investment.

Our youth may have loud voices and get on our nerves but in our church board rooms they have no voice unless we stand up for them! IF you have a desire to start a school and are looking for support, please do not hesitate to call us. Our youth are NOT the church of tomorrow; they are the church of today!

**Some scary statistics:**

*Evangelical Teens (Study by Josh McDowell on Teens that go to church):*

- 63% Think all religions pray to the same God.
- 70% Say there is no absolute moral truth.
- 51% Do not believe in the resurrection of Christ.
- 65% Do not think the Devil is real.
- 68% Do not believe the Holy Spirit is a living entity.
- 46% Believe that Christ committed sin



## 17th Annual Missions Golf Tournament

September 24, 2011 - 9:00 am  
The Brier Patch Golf Links

Food - Prizes - Fellowship

**\$50 per person**

**For more info:**  
Missions Golf Tournament  
c/o Rickie Holstein  
PO Box 4624  
Charleston, WV 25364  
(304) 595-4246

**Funds raised will help West Virginia Missionaries**



# NEWS at FWBBC



Mr. Jeff Bennett, a fourth generation West Virginia Free Will Baptist, has accepted a full-time business associate position at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Tom

Sass, vice president for financial affairs. The 30-year-old Mount Hope resident begins his duties August 29.

“Jeff Bennett is a great fit for the college,” Mr. Sass said. “Not only is he skilled in the specific office and accounting procedures we need, but he has been active in local and state Free Will Baptist activities in West Virginia, and has a strong reputation in his home church. We welcome this warm, business professional to the college family and look forward to his interaction with FWBBC staff and students.”

Mr. Bennett brings a broad range of experience from the business community where he served 10 years with the West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority—five years as procurement officer and accountant (2006-2011) and five years as master control operator (2001-2006). He previously served three years in data processing with Appalachian Laboratories, Inc. His FWBBC responsibilities will include general ledger account reconciliation, preparation and distribution of monthly financial reports, accounting data entry, assisting with monthly payroll processing, preparing reports to external agencies, student-related projects, and other duties as necessary.

Mr. Sass said, “This is an important hire for the college at this time. Jeff Bennett is coming on board with multiple skill levels, which means that we can now move forward with reorganizing the Business Office after a number of staffing adjustments the past two years due to retirements and a down economy.”

The son of a Free Will Baptist minister, Jeff was converted at age 11. He serves as youth director, outreach coordinator, and Teen Sunday School teacher at Kilsyth Free Will Baptist Church (Mount Hope). Well known for his leadership in state youth work and journalism, he also serves as interim design editor and publisher for *The Messenger*, quarterly publication of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptists, and administrator for the state association website. He is an advisory council board member with The Hanna Project and affiliated with Hospice of Southern West Virginia.

He graduated cum laude from Concord University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

“Growing up as a Free Will Baptist, I remember being awestruck when missionaries visited our church,” Jeff said, “thinking how amazing it would be to serve the Lord around the world and lead others to Christ. I’m eager to join the FWBBC college family and help send Free Will Baptist laborers into the harvest. I look forward to ministering alongside the college’s professional staff, and I can see the hand of God in this invitation.”

Mr. Bennett plans to live in nearby Cheatham County and become part of the Ashland City Free Will Baptist Church.



# NEWS around the nation

## Integrity Journal Issues Available

The Commission for Theological Integrity has back issues of the journal *Integrity* (volumes 2 through 5) and would like to make them available to our pastors for \$6 each (including postage). If you would like to purchase any of these, please send a check payable to the Commission and indicate which volume(s) you want.

Mail your payment to: National Association of Free Will Baptists, P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002, Attn. Melody Hood.

## Honoring Our Heritage DVD and Book



The Executive Office of the National Association of Free Will Baptists has produced two important commemorative items that were released at the 2011 National Convention in Charlotte, NC. *Honoring Our Heritage* is a stunning video documentary that takes viewers on an unforgettable trip through Free Will Baptist history, from the oppression faced by our English General Baptist forerunners in the 1600s and the early development of Free Will Baptists in America to the highlights of the 20th Century and the growth and development of a fledgling denomination.

*Convention Sermons* is a beautiful, hardbound book containing more than a thousand pages of sermons collected from 75 years of conventions. Timeless messages from men like LaVerne Miley, L.C. Johnson, and Robert Picirilli will encourage you, challenge you, inspire you, and give you a glimpse into Free Will Baptist life for three-quarters of a century.

To reserve your copy of both book and DVD, contact the Free Will Baptist Executive Office at 877-767-7659.

## National Convention Recap

Global finances may be in a tailspin, but when more than 6,000 Free Will Baptists met in the second-largest banking city in the nation July 17-20, it was clear to everyone that the Great Commission has not been rescinded by a struggling economy!

Delegates to the 75th Free Will Baptist national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, heard directors from each national agency sound the same note—belt-tightening fiscal responsibility, essential staff cuts, lower budgets, and hold-the-line adjustments—whatever it takes to win souls, build churches, educate tomorrow's leaders, and keep the gospel light shining into the dark places of the world.

Executive Secretary Keith Burden captured the spirit of the convention when he told delegates: "All of us are painfully aware of the obstacles we face due to a bad economy. In spite of the remarkable faithfulness of our supporters, dwindling resources force us to make difficult decisions. Nevertheless, we remain resolute in our commitment." And when the 75th session closed Wednesday evening, attendees left with a deep sense of mission, holy purpose, and a "we can do this" attitude.

The meeting marked the sixth time the National Association of Free Will Baptists has

convened in the Tar Heel State to conduct denominational business. The convention first met in North Carolina in 1945 as World War II drew to a close. They did not meet in a plush, modern convention center but in the Free Will Baptist Orphanage at Middlesex. More recently, the city of Charlotte has welcomed the National Association three times (1979, 1995, and 2011).

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