

The Michigan Free Will Baptist

MENORAH

April Published Monthly by the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists 2008

Stateside Assignment

We're often asked the question, "What do you DO while you're home on Stateside Assignment?" So we thought some of you out there might be interested in the answer.

- **We visit churches to share about the ministry in Spain.** Each week we try to be in at least two (sometimes three) different churches. We have a PowerPoint presentation that helps us describe more vividly the Church and Outreach Center in Alpedrete. Sometimes our kids sing in Spanish during the services. And sometimes we help with Sunday School classes or Children's Church.
- **We speak at ladies' WAC meetings** (local, district, and state). This gives us an opportunity to be with many ladies that are consistently praying and working for missions. We enjoy these times and are always willing to go wherever we are asked.
- **Tim attends prayer breakfasts** to have fellowship with local pastors here in South Carolina.
- **We try to be involved as much as possible in our home churches** (Westside FWB in South Carolina and North Warren FWB in Michigan). This spring our kids are excited about participating in an Easter Program at Westside and they have weekly practices. We also attend their ladies' and men's meetings when we are in town.
- **We stay connected with the work in Spain.** Daily e-mails from our teammates keep us "in the know" about the work. We are also pleasantly surprised to be able to talk to many of our Spanish contacts and friends via the Internet and e-mails. Our spring Field Council meeting

will be March 25-26 and we will be working this month to get reports and presentations ready for the meeting.

- **During the week, we keep busy** preparing lessons, sermons, hand-outs, and PowerPoint presentations for our various meetings. We have our day-to-day influx of e-mails and correspondence. And, of course, we have our daily activities with Alejandro and Ana.
- We also try to make **spending time with our families** a priority when we are home. After three years of being away from their grandparents, it's always good for our kids to see them and get to know them better.

So, there you have it! We hope this will enlighten you a little more about what missionaries do while they are back in the States.

Tim, Kristi, Alejandro, and Ana

Carol Reid Named to ABHE Office

NASHVILLE, TN—Mrs. Carol Reid, librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College, was named secretary of the prestigious Commission on Accreditation during the annual meeting of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) in Orlando, Florida, February 21-23. Both Mrs. Reid and FWBBC's vice president for institutional planning, Dr. Milton Fields, are members-at-large on the Commission on Accreditation.

ABHE is the accrediting association for Bible colleges in the United States and Canada. The Commission on Accreditation is the accrediting authority within ABHE, and is recognized as such by the Council for Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education. Mrs. Reid is one of 12 elected

Commission members, and also serves on the Committee on Applicant and Candidate Status.

In her role as Commission secretary, she will function as secretary for the meeting of the entire Commission and will be responsible for placing final minutes for all committees and Commission deliberations in the custody of the executive director.

Mrs. Reid said, "I am honored to serve in any way I can. This is an opportunity to learn from other colleges and to better understand the processes involved in accreditation and reputable higher education. The secretary work will be demanding, but I will use the templates of many well-qualified persons who served ahead of me."

Reid has been a member of the FWBBC faculty since 1988.

Herman Hersey With The Lord



Herman was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 1, 1926. He accepted Christ at age five, preached his first sermon at thirteen, was ordained in 1949, and served as Minister of the Gospel for 58 years.

He became an accomplished classical and sacred concert pianist, but in 1945 God led him into full-time ministry rather than a musical career. He graduated from Bob Jones University in 1949.

He was instrumental in organizing the Fifth Avenue Free Will Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC. He helped reopen and reorganize the First FWB Church, Raleigh, NC. Under his leadership a Free Will Baptist Church was established in Garner, Micro and Cary, North Carolina.

In 1962, Herman and Brother Bill Gardner presented concerts and evangelistic services. In 1965 Herman

accepted the pastorate at Garner Free Will Baptist Church, North Carolina. During this time, Herman was elected to the Sunday School Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

In 1967, he was elected to the North Carolina Free Will Baptist State Board of Superannuation. He, along with Board members and others prepared a retirement plan for pastors. It was adopted by the North Carolina Association. In 1969 the National Association adopted it as the National Department of Retirement and Insurance. Herman was chosen as the General Director.

In 1980, the Free Will Baptist Foundation was established. Herman served as the Executive Secretary (General Director) until his retirement in 1993. After retiring from the Board of Retirement and the Foundation, Herman worked with the Executive Office writing and compiling a comprehensive Stewardship Manual.

God continued to use Herman's musical talent in furthering his ministry. He continued to present sacred concerts. However, Herman was first and always a preacher of the Gospel. He considered that his greatest privilege in life. In August 2006, Herman stepped down from his last pastorate, the Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee. He preached in every state except three.

During his years in the ministry, God gave Herman many opportunities to serve with a host of Free Will Baptist believers as starters of ministries. He always had a special love for those who preached the Gospel and was ever concerned for their welfare. He never expressed a word of doubt in God's promise to build and provide for His church and extended ministries.

Herman died at home January 24, 2008, faithful in the Lord and he now rests from his earthly ministry. He is survived by his wife Vernie Hood Hersey, one daughter Pat Lewelling and husband James of Jackson, TN, brother Fred Hersey and wife June of Dothan, Alabama.

2007 Gifts to National Ministries

Executive Office.....	\$ 9,537.52
Free Will Baptist Bible College	17,924.62
Free Will Baptist Foundation	724.04
Home Missions.....	150,813.74
International Missions	187,375.93
Master's Men	2,696.30
Retirement & Insurance	1,629.19
Women Nationally Active for Christ	3,549.00
Commission for Theological Integrity	52.29
Historical Commission.....	56.48

Media Commission.....56.52
 Music Commission.....56.71
Totals\$ 374,472.34



Over 500 churches are participating



Michigan FWB Junior Camp

June 23 - 27 2008

**Tyrone Valley Camp & Conf. Center
 Fenton, Michigan**

Creating lasting memories, fun-filled activities and a great week of God's teachings. These are just a few reasons to attend the Michigan Free Will Baptist Junior Camp! Get ready to come west with us, pack your bags and pick your cabin buddies. **Michigan Junior Camp (MJC) 2008** is nearly here! Michigan Junior Camp is for children ages 7 to 13 years old. This year we are going to Tyrone Valley Conference Center and

Campgrounds in Fenton, Michigan and plan to have a better camp than ever! A fun-filled week is in store where we can have a blast with old and new friends. We also get to learn more about how awesome God is and what wonderful things He has planned for us. Everything is scheduled for **June 23- 27**. MJC gives you the chance to get together with old friends, make some new ones and let God speak to your heart and challenge you to make a difference for Him. So don't **DELAY!!!** Start saving your money and send your registration in **ASAP!!!** Remember it's a first come-first serve basis, so make your plans early to be there!

See your Pastor or Youth Leader for Registration Materials and more information or call Steve Conner, Camp Director, at 248 583 9739.

Support our Home Missionaries

Thanks for your response to the financial needs of our Home Missionaries. Please continue to support them with your prayers and finances.

Rev. Rigoberto Lumbreras\$ 7,000.55
Rev. Jeff Isaacs.....\$ -5,171.57-
Rev. Greg Floars.....\$ -1,800.78-

Our missionaries are facing difficult and discouraging times and situations. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

Dr. Grady McMurtry is Coming! May 11-14, 2008



Stony Creek Free Will Baptist Church
8735 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Telephone: 734/484-0077

Rev. Wayne Jacobs, Pastor

Telephone: 734/439-8228

Dr. McMurtry will meet with the preachers and any other interested laymen at the *Ponderosa Restaurant*, Van Born Road at Southfield in Dearborn Heights on Monday, May 12 at 11:30 a.m.

ANDERSON UPDATE

Contact Verlin or Debbie at BP 607, Bondoukou, Côte d'Ivoire **E-mail:** vanderson@fwbgo.com **Phone:** +011 (225) 35.91.57.07. Send donations to Free Will Baptist International Missions, Verlin Anderson account P.O. Box 5002 Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,
Kolo sat on our front porch and sighed. "Sorry I'm late bringing in the lessons. My wife got into a fight with our neighbor, and it took all my time this morning. The neighbor is from a tribe that we have an alliance with, and we are not supposed to fight. I need a CHE lesson about how to avoid fights!"

Debbie had no lesson on fighting to give him. Instead, she shared with him several verses from Ephesians 4. After reflecting, he noted how hard it is to apologize and be willing to forgive. Yes, she agreed, but we do it, not because the other person deserves it, or

because it is easy, but because Christ has forgiven us our many sins.

There is a story behind this story. Several months ago, Kolo showed up to talk with Verlin, a complete stranger, discouraged, barely speaking to his newlywed, pregnant wife, and not having received a salary from his government job for months. He had no money to buy food, and he and his wife constantly fought. We gave them a meal, but also learning that Kolo spoke English well, we encouraged him to try translating some CHE lessons.

Since that week, he has brought a steady stream of lessons to our door, which helps feed his family. He shares the content of the lessons with his wife, and she sits close by and looks up words for him as he translates, bringing them together in a loving, productive effort. According to his testimony, beginning to apply the lessons has transformed his life and helped renew their relationship.

A second endeavor besides CHE consumes a huge amount of our time these days. On March 22, the day before Easter, our churches and the mission are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Free Will Baptist missionaries in Cote d'Ivoire. The morning-long gathering and meal will take place here in Bondoukou, and much work remains. Alice Smith and we are preparing to feed 25 people in our homes for 5 days (in addition to many other responsibilities), as former missionaries and personnel from International Missions in Nashville will come for the occasion. Please pray for strength to complete all the tasks, and for a memorable day honoring Jesus Christ.

Continue to pray for Mai, the convert from a Muslim family. She was able to sneak by our house on Monday for 15 minutes. We had not seen her since mid-December, because her mother still refuses to let her go to church. Debbie prayed with her and gave her an "Our Daily Bread" devotional that Mai hid in a sack, handling it as if it were gold.

In February, The Hanna Project ministered at the Doropo clinic for the third year. Praise the Lord, there were over 130 decisions for Christ, and many people were blessed by the surgeries, village evangelism, renovated elementary school, and construction of a sports terrain for the whole town. Our Cara served on the team this year. It was a wonderful experience for her, and the CHE team was glad to feed the 50-member convoy again as they passed through Bondoukou, coming and going. Verlin helped in additional, unexpected ways.

At the end of this email is a list of upcoming activities and their dates for the next 2 months. How we need your prayers! We hope this format will make it easy for you to print out and pray for the events as they occur.

Thank you more than we can say for being a part of all this. How could we be here, if we were not sent? And how could we be sent, if we did not have partners who pray and give? As we all work together, God is moving in the lives of people in Cote d'Ivoire.

Gladly serving Him here,
Verlin, Debbie, Cara, and Corbin

Anderson Prayer Points

- March 9: Verlin preaches in Tanda (40 minutes south), and we have the opportunity to visit with Pastor Theophile and his family.
- March 11-12: A CHE school health screening will occur in Karako, with 200 children to evaluate.
- March 13: Debbie's mother, Sandra Payne, and her sister, Laura Stafford, fly into Abidjan. Yippee! Also, Debbie and Alice must "shop until they drop" to prepare for the 50th. Abidjan is a 7-hour trip south.
- March 22: The 50th Celebration takes place in an old, deserted soccer stadium across from the Bondoukou FWB Church.
- March 26: Our beloved senior missionaries Jerry and Carol Pinkerton will leave Cote d'Ivoire, after 37 years of faithful service to the Lord. They will retire from International Missions in 2009 after some months of travel to thank supporters. We will miss them terribly! Pray for special grace as they say good-bye to a country and people who have become dearer than life.
- April 7: Grandma Payne returns to the USA.
- April 11-13: A CHE Vision Seminar is scheduled in Nassian (3 hours northwest).
- April 23-26: A CHE West Africa Regional Meeting will happen in Abidjan. Verlin has spent hours (and will spend many more) helping coordinate this meeting with LifeWind coordinators living in Nigeria and Togo.

May activities

- Possibly teach two more CHE training seminars (dates TBA later)
 - Provide our CHE team lessons needed during our one-year absence
 - Pack up our belongings in barrels for our stateside assignment
 - Help our daughter say goodbye to Africa as she finishes high school
 - Begin contacting pastors to schedule services in churches for summer/fall 2008
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Hear Rev. Tim York!

Rev. Tim York, Moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, will be preaching three times at the *Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists*, May 16-17, 2008 at the Hilton Grand Rapids Hotel.

Golf Tournament

May 15, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

THORNAPPLE POINTE

4747 Champions Circle SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49512

www.thornapplepointe.com

A VOTE FOR THE STATE MEETING by Randy Bryant

At the very outset of my pastoral ministry, I determined to participate in district and state association meetings. During the past 29 years of pastoral ministry, I have made it a point to attend the annual meeting of whatever state I happened to be serving. Thankfully the last 25 of these have been in Florida! Why would make such a determination and why is it important for pastors to participate in and attend their State Meetings?

My commitment to attend was based on my desire to see things from a larger perspective and get a view of the "big picture." Participating in the State Meeting broadens my vision and keeps my focus on more than just my individual ministry and church. Being a part of the State Meeting also provides an opportunity to support state ministries financially and philosophically, and I need to be at its meetings to offer my thoughts and to give my church a voice in its plans and decision-making process. It enables me to buy into the vision and direction of the larger body.

Since those early days of attending state meetings, I have discovered other benefits I personally gain from participating. One is fellowship. Meeting pastors and people from all across the state, and having the opportunity to fellowship with them from one year to the next are priceless and it fills a need in my life.

Encouragement is also a side benefit. You never know how God is going to speak to you. Sometimes it's through the keynote speaker, sometimes a fellow pastor or missionary, other times it's through listening to the young people compete in their respective events. However it happens, more often than not I leave encouraged.

Florida's State Association Meeting is unique in that it offers something for everyone. For the pastor, deacon, church worker and delegate, there are worship services, business sessions, Missions luncheons, and fellowship

time. Women will enjoy the Florida Women Active for Christ sessions, the Missions luncheon, an evening reception, and their mission-themed service. For our youth, there are the competitive activities and youth rallies. These are beneficial for our young people whether they compete in events, participate in the services, or just observe and have a good time with Christian friends. Even in the business sessions, people can hear from God and be moved to a greater commitment.

Can I count on you to join me this year in Lake Mary? I hope so! See you there!

Copied with permission by Rev. Randy Bryant



Alejandro and Ana Johnson back in Michigan

Leadership in the National Association of Free Will Baptists: An Historical Perspective

By Jack Williams

Twenty-nine years ago, Dr. L.C. Johnson was in the final months of his presidency at Free Will Baptist Bible College where (except for three years when he returned to the pastorate) he had served since 1942.

He agreed to write a five-part series for *Contact* titled “Over My Shoulder,” retracing his steps and the events surrounding FWBBC since 1935. Those five one-page articles were published in the January, February, March, April, and May 1979 issues.

The articles were titled “Pre-Bible College Days” (January), “Road to the Beginning” (February), “The War Years” (March), “Laying a Firm Foundation” (April), and “A New Beginning” (May). They were classic journalism in which he described the denomination’s struggle to rise above despondency in the years after the 1911 merger with Northern Baptists and the educational failures in the early 20th century.

Each article was a stand-alone piece, distinctive and crafted to capture an untold moment from the misty landscape of yesterday in Free Will Baptist history.

Of course, if Dr. Johnson were here and heard me describe those five brief articles this way, he would tell me to take two aspirins and get some rest. While he didn’t consider himself a journalist, when he put pen to paper, he could write and write well.

Which is why I call your attention to a statement he made in the second article, “Road to the Beginning.” Nothing better captures the attitude of early Free Will Baptists toward denominational leadership. Here’s what he said about a meeting with the Board of Education in 1942 when they pulled him aside after the National Association had approved a recommendation to establish FWBBC and wanted him to be the school’s first president:

“I shall never forget these brethren calling me—a young man 28 years old—into a room and telling me they were convinced that I should head the movement. Even though I had no convictions of my own that I should undertake such a task...I felt I could not question the judgment of these godly men, even though I could not understand how they could come to this conclusion.”

Other young men like L.C. Johnson would be called unexpectedly into meetings by committees over the next 65 years and be told by their peers and their elders that the Free Will Baptist people needed them.

Legacy of the Founders (1935-1945)

The National Association of Free Will Baptists is 72 years old and has seen hundreds of leaders rise to prominence in the seven decades since it was organized on November 5, 1935, here in Nashville at Cofer’s Chapel FWB Church. No generation has done more than *The Founders* to bring together a scattered and divided constituency.

Men and women from 12 states representing the Eastern General Conference and the CO-operative General Association searched for ways to come together for the greater good rather than looking for reasons to stay separate. They understood the dangers of fragmentation and isolationism. There had already been unsuccessful attempts to form a national organization in 1918 and other times.

The point being that there would be no *now and us* with what we enjoy as a denomination had there not been a *there and them* in 1935. They had every excuse to not unite in 1935, but they pushed aside suspicions and reached across state lines to trust God and fellow Free Will Baptists.

Here's how serious they were about uniting. As you can probably guess, the deal-breaker to unification would be agreeing on a *Treatise* expressing doctrinal positions. On that Thursday morning in 1935, delegates held their collective breaths as the *Treatise Revision Committee* prepared to make its report. Then the unheard of happened. Someone stood and made a motion that the report be accepted *without a public reading*. And it passed!

The motion was made by a 51-year-old woman...a woman preacher...a woman preacher from Texas who had been born and raised in Alabama, and who conducted huge revival meetings among North Carolina Free Will Baptists in tents that attracted more than 5,000 people. Her name was Lizzie McAdams, and she would later serve on the Home Missions Board. Unless they redecorated recently, you can see Sister Lizzie's picture hanging on the conference room wall at the Home Missions Department.

Oh, sure, the *Treatise Revision Committee* report was read publicly later in the conference, but that was *after* the vote to approve it had already been taken. Can you imagine what would happen today if we tried that with a report of such sweeping importance? But perhaps that was the only way to get it done. It was a matter of trust and people being weary with no national organization.

Maybe that's why back in 1930, R.F. Pittman, moderator of the General Conference, had admonished his people to "lay aside selfishness and look beyond our Association and Conferences, into a National view."

You'll be interested in the officers elected at that first session. Tennessee's John L Welch from the General Conference was elected moderator; Missouri's Winford Davis from the CO-operative Association was elected assistant moderator; North Carolina's I.J. Blackwelder from the General Conference was elected secretary-treasurer; Oklahoma's B.F. Rogers from the CO-operative Association was elected assistant secretary-treasurer. Looks like the brethren got it right.

When the historic three-day session ended on November 7, 1935, the founders went home satisfied with the knowledge that because of what they had accomplished in Nashville, there were now 80,000 members and 1,100 churches marching arm-in-arm under a new banner: *The National Association of Free Will Baptists*.

There were no unimportant people at the organizational meeting in 1935. Everybody seemed to have a specific purpose for being present...from Lizzie

McAdams who made that incredible motion to 24-year-old Ralph Staten from Arkansas who was unexpectedly appointed as an advisory member of the *Treatise Revision Committee* to Thomas Willey (soon to be renown in international missions) who was appointed to the *Publicity Committee* to Missouri's James F. Miller who was destined to be elected moderator seven times...well, you get the idea. Divine Providence gathered Free Will Baptists from the east and west, the north and the south and made them *one* in a way they had never been one before. It was a day of miracles.

John L Welch—The First Moderator

One of those important men at the 1935 organization was 46-year-old Tennessee-born John L Welch, the man whose middle name was "L" with no period. He was the eighth of 11 children and explained, "The first seven children had middle names—I guess my parents gave out of middle names—mine is not an abbreviation, and the others just got *one*." The last three children were named were James, Sam, and Frank Welch with no middle names and no middle initials.

That he was elected the first moderator of the National Association says a great deal about the confidence and trust his peers had in him. He was one of two men in 72 years who would serve only one term as moderator of the National Association. (The other was F.B. Cherry in 1949.) However, in Brother Welch's case, his one-term was three years (1935-1938), since the new association planned to meet triennially.

When he died at age 94 in 1983, he had been a Free Will Baptist preacher 75 years, and had pastored one church 46 years—Cofer's Chapel FWB Church where the National Association held its first session and where he began pastoring in 1909. From time to time, he served as moderator of the Tennessee State Association, on the General Board of the National Association, and 12 years (1945-1957) on the Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees.

Brother Welch was known for short sermons, scriptural insight, and a sharp wit. When he was 91, I heard him preach on communion and feet washing from John 15:13-15. He started at 6:25 p.m. and finished at 6:48 p.m., just 23 minutes. As he concluded, Brother Welch said something about feet washing that stuck with me: "I am substituting for my Lord in His absence. I am doing what He would do if He were here tonight. I wash your feet in Jesus' stead."

Some of you here may remember Brother Welch's sermon at the 1961 national convention in Norfolk, Virginia, when down toward the end he commented, "Like the fat woman crawling through the barbed wire said, 'One more point and I'll be through.'"

Back in 1920 during a business meeting, Cofer's Chapel FWB Church voted to organize a young people's

***The Michigan State Association
of Free Will Baptists***
37838 Hayes Road
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Free Will Baptist Union. Brother Welch suggested that the Union be known as the *Free Will Baptist League*. Other groups adopted the League idea, and in time the National Association used the name until 1964 when it was changed to Church Training Service.

That was John L Welch—a man with his eye on what the Free Will Baptist denomination could become.

To be continued next month

Michigan State Association of
Free Will Baptists
May 16-17, 2008
The Hilton Airport Hotel
4747 28th Street, SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512
Telephone: 616-957-0100
Fax: 616-977-5632
Room rate: \$89.00 + tax

[Please state that you are with the Michigan Free Will Baptists when you call to make reservations.]

May 15: Michigan General Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Hotel [Wives are invited to eat with us, and then have a time of fellowship to get acquainted]

May 16 – 17: Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists, 10:00 a.m.

May 16 – 17: Michigan Youth Conference, 7:00 p.m. at the Hotel

FWBBC Receives \$20,000 Gift

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College

received a gift of common stock for the general fund from Mrs. Sarah K. Newberry of Tallahassee, Florida, according to Tom Sass, vice president for financial affairs. At the time of the gift, the stock was valued at approximately \$20,000. This is the fourth gift of common stock in recent years that Mrs. Newberry has made to the college.

President Matt Pinson said, “We are delighted to receive gifts in the form of stock from donors, as well as cash gifts or gifts of property. This is another way the Lord enables our friends to assist the college. We thank God for Sister Newberry and her generous gift.”

The Newberrys became friends with Pinson when he pastored Colquitt Free Will Baptist Church in Georgia before being named FWBBC president. Mrs. Newberry and her late husband Frank were members of New Salem Free Will Baptist Church. She has been active in local, district, and state Women Active for Christ outreach.

“I’m glad I can help support FWBBC,” Mrs. Newberry said. “God makes it possible for me to do this.”

President Pinson said, “Sarah Newberry is a friend and encourager, as well as a committed Christian who faithfully discharges her stewardship responsibilities. I hope her example inspires others to consider new ways they can support FWBBC.”

The **Michigan Free Will Baptist Menorah** is a monthly publication by the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists, Rev. Ron Helms, moderator; Mr. William Ferguson, treasurer; Rev. Steven Thrasher, assistant treasurer; Rev. Allen West, clerk; Rev. Jeff Isaacs, assistant clerk; Rev. Gene Norris, Promotional Secretary. News for publication should be received by the 25th of the month. Telephone: 586-994-8442; email: gnorris101@comcast.net; address: 37838 Hayes Road, Clinton Twp., MI 48038. Funds should be sent to Mr. Ferguson, 4253 Reflections Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48314.

