

Happy New Year!

The Michigan Free Will Baptist

MENORAH

January A Monthly Publication of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists **2007**

24 Attend FWBBC Fall 'Senior Days'

NASHVILLE, TN—Twenty-four students from eight states participated in fall 2007 Senior Days activities at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. Seven students attended the November 1-3 session and 17 attended the November 29-December 1 session.

Pastor Thomas Ballard from Pryor, Oklahoma, whose son participated in one of the Senior Days, said, "I wanted you to know that FWBBC was a very positive experience for Jonathan. If he could choose today, the college of all our choices would be FWBBC."

While on campus for Senior Days, the students met with advisors, attended chapel and class, had lunch with President Matt Pinson, and went bowling or ice skating. Senior Days is a time for high school seniors to get acquainted with Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Two spring 2008 Senior Days events are scheduled for January 24-26 and February 14-16. The larger Welcome Days event for high school students is set for March 27-29 and is expected to attract 150 participants.

Home!

Hola!

Today's GOOD NEWS is that we are safely in the States after a LONG, LONG journey. It was even longer than usual because of bad weather in Europe. We were delayed and ended up spending Saturday night in Germany. We were rebooked onto a flight that arrived in Detroit Sunday afternoon. We got to Tim's parents' house with just enough time to open our suitcases in the living room floor and pull out some (CLEAN!) clothes to wear to church last night for their Christmas program. The church welcomed us with a special

Christmas basket full of gift cards to gas stations, restaurants, and stores. It's really nice to be "home for Christmas", especially after many delays and hours waiting in various airports trying to make it here.

The photo below is our family in the Madrid airport before we left.



¡FELIZ NAVIDAD and we hope to see you soon!
Tim, Kristi, Alejandro, and Ana

Nichols Take Leave of Absence

Antioch, TN—The Free Will Baptist International Missions Board approved a one-year leave-of-absence for veteran missionaries Darrel and Lila Nichols. The couple will use this time to seek the Lord's direction for their future ministry.

Darrel and Lila were appointed in May 1982 as church-planting missionaries in the country of Côte d'Ivoire. Unrest forced a reduction in missionary presence in the West African nation, and the Nichols were reassigned to Panama in 2003.

The Nichols have served as Missionaries-in-Residence at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore,

Okalahoma, since the fall of 2006. Immediate plans are for Darrel to continue serving Hillsdale and for Lila to complete her degree in elementary education at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Steve Lytle, director of field operations, encourages, "Please pray for Darrel and Lila as they seek His direction for the future."



2008 Calendar

January 18-19: SnowBlast!

January 27-30: Minister's/Laymen Retreat

February 1: Fellowship District Association, 7:00 p.m.

February 2: Fellowship District Association, 9:30 a.m.

February 2: Liberty District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the Rouge Free Will Baptist Church

February 2: West Michigan District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Benton Harbor

February 22: Spring Breakout! [Lock-in]

February 29-March 1: Kirby Student's Disciple Now

March: Matthew 25 Project

March 8: New Hope District Association, 9:00 a.m., convenes with the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church

March 8: Wolverine District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the Stony Creek Free Will Baptist Church

April 12: Matthew 25 Project Gathering

May 2, 7:00 p.m. - 3, 9:30 a.m.: Fellowship District Association

May 3: Liberty District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Monroe

May 3: West Michigan District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the Berea Free Will Baptist Church

May 15, 10:00 a.m. – Master's Men Golf Tournament, Grand Rapids

May 15, 6:00 p.m. – Michigan General Board Meeting, Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel

May 16 [10:00 a.m.] – 17 [9:00 a.m.]: Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists, Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel

May 16 – 17: Michigan Youth Conference, Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel

June 7: New Hope District Association, 9:00 a.m., convenes with the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church

June 14: Wolverine District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the West Wayne Free Will Baptist Church

July 19: IMPACT! Charleston

July 20-23: National Association of Free Will Baptists

July 20-23: National Youth Conference

July 21-22: Women Nationally Active for Christ

August 1 [7:00 p.m.] – 2 [9:30 a.m.]: Fellowship District Association

August 2: Liberty District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the Memorial Free Will Baptist Church

August 2: West Michigan District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Comstock

September 13: New Hope District Association, 9:00 a.m., convenes with the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church

September 13: Wolverine District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the Central Free Will Baptist Church

September 21-23: Fall Minister's Seminar

October 11: TEAM Church Michigan!

October 17-18: THE SUMMIT!!!

October 31: Fellowship District Association, 7:00 p.m.

November 1: Fellowship District Association, 9:30 a.m.

November 1: Liberty District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the North Warren Free Will Baptist Church

November 1: West Michigan District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the South Haven Community Free Will Baptist Church

December 13: New Hope District Association, 9:00 a.m., convenes with the Heritage Free Will Baptist Church

December 13: Wolverine District Association, 9:30 a.m., convenes with the Crossroads Free Will Baptist Church

These are the dates that I have. Please report all activities to be announced in the *Menorah* and the website.

Hubbard to Lead FWBBC Recruitment

NASHVILLE, TN—Heath Hubbard, a 2006 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, has been named director of recruitment, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. The 23-year-old minister from Hot Springs, Arkansas, begins his new role in January 2008. He succeeds Ryan Lewis who previously served in the position.

Mr. Caudill said, “We’re excited to have Heath join the Enrollment Management Team (EMT). His energy and creativity will be an asset in our recruitment efforts. He already has a taste of the work ahead; he served two years as a student recruiter while enrolled at FWBBC, traveling to cities and sponsored events to recruit.”

In his new role, Hubbard will be the *face* of FWBBC recruitment efforts as he works closely with the director of enrollment services. He will supervise the EMT staff, travel to retreats, camps, Christian schools, and other venues as chief recruiter, oversee the EMT booth at the national convention, and schedule campus tours. Major areas of responsibility will include Welcome Days, Senior Days, summer visit days, call center, and summer travel.

Heath answered the call to preach at age 15. He graduated from FWBBC with a B.S. degree in Bible with minors in missions and business. While a student, he was president of the freshman and sophomore classes, and president of the Alpha Chi Omega Society. He served on the Student Council and played four years on the Flames basketball team. He was listed in *Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

A motivated self-starter, Heath served six months (2006-2007) with Free Will Baptist International Missions (FWBIM), teaching English as a second language in Kazakhstan. He worked nine weeks in 2004

with the FWBIM Overseas Apprentice Program in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan teaching English and assisting with sports and music camps for teens.

Heath married Joni Thomas in November 2007. Joni serves as student mission coordinator and mobilization assistant with FWBIM.

Snowblast

January 18-19, 2008

Fa Ho Lo (Grass Lake, MI)

Theme: *Finishing Strong*

Speaker: Allen Pointer

**Cost: \$70 / student (includes t-shirt!)
before Jan. 7th**

**\$85 / student (includes t-shirt!) after Jan.
7th**

**Download extra brochures from
www.kirbychurch.com**

IM Board Meets

Antioch, TN— The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met December 5-6, 2007, in the Mission office in Antioch, Tennessee.

The two-day meeting yielded the following actions:

Cathy Crawford (France), Matt and Cristina Price (France), and Tim and Kristi Johnson (Spain) were reappointed for another term on their fields of service.

A one-year leave of absence was granted to Darrel and Lila Nichols (Panama) to begin January 1, 2008.

Cameron Lane (AR) and Mark McPeak (TN) were reelected for three-year terms on The Hanna Project board.

The 2008 World Missions Offering goal was set at \$750,000. The Board voted to utilize the WMO to **Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists**

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continue to fund Bible institutes in Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, Russia, and India; more than double the amount allocated to missionary accounts from the WMO; support research into the founding of an international missions agency to facilitate cross-cultural ministry through those answering the call to missions from our mission fields; fund the work of the office; and determine the allocation of any funds raised over and above the goal after the fact.

Bill Evans (TN) was appointed to a two-year term on the Mission's Advisory Council.

The 2008 VISION projects budget was amended to include a \$500,000 non-governmental organization project for an orphanage in Tajikistan.

The Candidate Committee interviewed four couples. Four candidates received preliminary approval; two candidates who received preliminary approval in April 2007 were given permission to proceed for final approval in April 2008; and two candidates were approved as affiliates. Damon and Kim Cagle received approval as professional servants (affiliates) seconded to ELIC.

Board members participating were: Nelson Henderson (AR); Sherwood Lee (SC); Jeff Manning (NC); Tom McCullough (MI), secretary; Jerry Norris (MO); Bill Van Winkle (TX); Danny Williams (AL), chairman; David Williford (TN); and Randy Wilson (OK), vice-chairman.

A Letter from an Appreciative Daughter

Dad:

For Christmas I wanted to get you something that represented what you have been doing for many years, and might think it goes unappreciated.

Dad, you have been a great man for many years. You are a loving and caring father and husband. You have

been serving God for about 47 years, helping the lost, the sick, the poor, and making churches grow, weddings to start families hoping they make it through the good and the bad, and funerals hoping they knew God before they left this world.

In spite of all the adversity in the world, you always find the good in people and rarely think bad about anyone.

I know it could not have been easy to raise a family and balance all of the above. But when you and mom get to heaven you will have a special place for all the great things you both have done together.

So your special gift is Purpose and Gold for royalty. P. S. I ordered a brick of God and a Purpose Rock, but my checking account was in the red and they wouldn't deliver it. I was so sad.

[This letter was written by a Michigan pastor's daughter.]

MY DREAM FOR MICHIGAN

I DREAM of Michigan churches where the hurting, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement.

I DREAM of Michigan churches sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in our Jerusalem, our Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the world.

I DREAM of Michigan churches developing people to spiritual maturity through sound Bible preaching and teaching, small groups, seminars and/or conferences.

I DREAM of Michigan churches equipping every believer for a meaningful ministry by helping them to discover the gifts and abilities God has given them.

I DREAM of Michigan churches seeing God call missionaries and preachers from our churches. It is also my dream to see more of our churches send members on short-term missions projects to other cities and countries.

Gene Norris, Promotional Secretary
