



STATE ASSOCIATION IN REVIEW

Free Will Baptists from around the state of Alabama made their way to First FWB Church in Dothan for the 98th session of the Alabama State Association of Free Will Baptists on November 9-11, 2016. Although many were tired, having stayed up late watching the U.S. Presidential election returns, over 200 gathered for the opening service on Wednesday night. The entire meeting was marked by the warmth and ministry of the Holy Spirit. The following key events are worth noting:

- Missionary pastor **Tim Riggs** announced his plans for Bay City FWB in Semmes to go self-supporting April 1, 2017;
- **Mandy Mitchell** was introduced as the new Executive Director of the Children's Home in Eldridge by Board Chairman, Rodney Yerby;
- **Cuba FWB** representatives Yurien Bermudez, Leonel Sotero, Ariel Alforo, and Samuel Ramos brought greetings and invited Alabama representatives to attend the 75th Cuban FWB National Convention in February;
- **Mark Riggs** announced Enviame, the on-line Spanish seminary (SBE), started its first semester with 27 students from 10 different countries;
- **Randall and Collette Wright**, church planters in McKinney, Texas, spoke at the AWAC missions dinner and shared of an exciting opportunity to purchase land;
- Thursday afternoon the **Christian Education Board** organized a breakout session with three options for attendees;
- An **Acts 1:8 budget** of \$570,000 was approved for 2017.

Pastors **Rob Morgan** of Nashville, TN, and **Tim Campbell** of Walnut Ridge, AR, each faithfully and clearly declared the Word in two services. They also, along with David Womack of Randall House, taught one of the breakout sessions providing practical help. Several commented on the directness of Bro. Morgan's message on the joy of the Lord being our strength. Bro. Campbell used the letter to the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3 to challenge us to examine the spiritual temperature of our churches.

The music was organized by **Stephen Messer** of First FWB, Dothan. He did an outstanding job engaging the congregation and emphasizing the message of the hymns. On Wednesday night the **Celebration Choir** of First FWB blessed our hearts. In the other worship services, **Merle Jordan, Hannah Siemens, and Karen Williams** sang solos. As part of the Friday morning service, U.S. military veterans were recognized and honored with a video and songs.

Moderator and host pastor **Steve Trail** guided the body through reports and business sessions. The wonderful people of First Dothan FWB Church did extremely well hosting the meeting and making our time in Dothan enjoyable. Next year's state meeting will be November 8-10 at Madison FWB Church in Madison, AL. Go ahead, mark your calendar, and make plans to join us next year.



STATE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Moderator: Steve Trail
 Asst. Moderator: Jason Miller
 Clerk: Jeff Lunsford
 Asst. Clerk: Rodney Yerby

Election of Board Members

Alabama FWB Missions

Joey McCreight • Danny Thompson

Christian Education

Heath Webb • Tim Summerlin

Mid-South Bible Conference

Paul Harrison

Children's Home Board of Directors

Donnie Blackmon

Children's Home Advisory Board

Rick Taylor • Kenneth Terry
 Phil Kimbrough • Joey Pettis
 Bill Pettit • James Elmore
 Randy Bryant • William Smith
 Mark Walden • Anthony Aaron

2017 Nominating Committee

Joey Pettis • Danny Thompson
 Mike Crews • Jerry Smith
 Tim Riggs



2016 ALABAMA ACTS 1:8

"Funding our missions program every day of the year"

NUMBER OF DAYS TO BE FUNDED	304
NUMBER OF DAYS ACTUALLY FUNDED	294
NUMBER OF DAYS REMAINING	71

January 1, 2016 – October 31, 2016

AMOUNT NEEDED	\$471,500
AMOUNT RECEIVED	\$456,000

Will you give an end-of-the-year gift to help us reach our budget!

ALABAMA ACTS 1:8 BUDGET FOR 2017

Alabama Home Missions

Bay City	7.37%	\$ 42,000
Eastside	17.89%	102,000
New Project	7.28%	41,500
	32.54%	

Acts Administration

3.% 17,000

International Missions

Lancaster	12.28%	70,000
Turnbough	11.23%	64,000
Operating Fund	16.06%	91,500
Uruguay Pastor	2.63%	15,000
	42.20%	

Partnerships

Cuba	1.75%	10,000
Mexico	1.75%	10,000
Russia	1.75%	10,000
SBE	1.75%	10,000
	7.00%	

State Executive Office

Digest & Office	3.07%	17,500
Travel & Insurance	2.19%	12,500
Compensation	10.0%	57,000
	15.26%	

2017 Budget 570,000

News from FWB CHILDREN'S HOME



On October 12, 2016, the Board of Directors announced the selection of **Mandy Mitchell**

as the Home's Executive Director. She had been serving as Interim Director for a year. Board Chairman Rodney Yerby said, "The Board has been very impressed with Mandy's leadership and stewardship. We have full confidence in her as our permanent director." Please pray for her as she takes on this responsibility.

Join us on **Saturday, December 3** for the 14th annual Eldridge Toy Run and Benefit Ride. It is by far our largest fund raiser. Come enjoy the day with us as a volunteer, a participant, or a spectator. You will have a great time and be amazed at what you experience.

Merry Christmas from all of us to you!

STATE CALENDAR

In order to share information with each other, avoid calendar conflicts, and improve communication in our state association, an Alabama FWB State Calendar is being created by the state office. It will contain events for district associations, area activities, church revivals, and state meetings. State and national emphasis months will be included. The calendar will be accessible on our website and facebook page. It will also be included in emails and issues of the Digest. To make this effort successful, we need you to send the information from your church or district association to the state office. Call, email, text, message on Facebook, or mail us with the details for scheduled events. Thanks for your help!



IN MEMORY

Rev. John E. Warren, of Carbon Hill, AL, passed away Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at the age of 75. Born in Mississippi, he answered the call to preach the gospel and was licensed at Damascus FWB Church in 1973. After his ordination he pastored White Hill and Antioch FWB Churches in Mississippi before moving to Alabama where he joined the staff of the FWB Children's Home in Eldridge. The last thirty years of his ministry was as pastor of the Cedrom Grove FWB Church. He is survived by his wife Martha and two sons.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GOD'S MAN A Conference Just for Men

MARCH 10-11, 2017

Supper Friday Night through Lunch Saturday

FIRST FWB CHURCH, NORTHPORT, AL
Featuring Scott Coghill, Curtis Linton, and David Crowe

Contact Northport Church for More Information
(205) 339-7302

[www.facebook.com/Alabama Free Will Baptists](http://www.facebook.com/Alabama-Free-Will-Baptists)
Like, Share and Follow

Use messenger to send us announcements and to share updates.
We will then post information on the Alabama Free Will Baptists page for others to read.

MISSIONS news

TERRY & TAMMY MILLER

This has been an exciting week in Ft. Collins! We had our first snow recently. Most of that has melted now but we can still see the snow on the mountains to our west. It is a beautiful sight. We had a good day on a recent Saturday working with the homeless ministry. About a hundred people came. It is amazing how many people are just living outside on the streets. We had an opportunity to minister to their needs both physically and spiritually. One particular lady has attended our services for about a month.

We are excited about the potential for 2017 and the opportunities to reach out to our community in the coming months. We have 1,000 door hangers on the way, some new tracts also, and we are looking forward to sharing the Good News of the Gospel here in Fort Collins! Thank you so much for your prayers for our family, as we have seen both of my parents go home to be with the Lord in the short time since we have arrived here in Colorado.

Thank so much for your continued prayers and financial support!



THE WILLHITES—Chris, Beth, and Thomas



I suppose that the we are officially Texans now since we have finished all the legal hoops you must jump through to be "official." Although we do not have cowboy boots, hats, or a horse, we do feel like we are settling in and making this our home. More importantly, we continue to build relationships within the church that help us to feel and know that this is where we are supposed to be.

October was filled with many types of outreaches within the community. Over the last two months we have seen visitors both in our Sunday service and each teen meeting. We continue to reach out into the community and shine the love of Christ in this ever-growing area. Your prayers are needed as we have seen spiritual attacks on the staff families and others within the church as we continue to push back the darkness with the True Light of Jesus Christ.

BECKS COMMENDED

On November 6, 2016, the congregation of Madison FWB



Church took the morning service to commend the Stephen Beck family for their service in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. After almost ten years of ministry in St. Croix, Stephen and Rejyna have moved to Nashville, TN where he has joined the faculty at Welch College. The intent for the "decommissioning" (Stephen's word) service was to celebrate the accomplishments and victories they experienced, and to thank them for their faithfulness in St. Croix. The events included video testimonies from the island, Stephen bringing the morning message, and the congregation having a fellowship meal. (A better name for the day might be the "Recommissioning of the Beck Family.")

BILLY & GLORIA BEVAN



Greetings from Eastside in Dothan. Like most everyone else we are excited about the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons! Our choir is practicing hard on their Cantata, which they will present on Sunday morning, December 18. The Lord has been good to us! We have seen six people invite Christ into their heart over the past few weeks. We have two new families coming to our services now, with yet more prospects!

There continues to be a good spirit in our services! Things are going well and we are closing out the year with reaching out to others and will begin the New Year of 2017 going after folks who are not in church. We are hoping to see our attendance double in 2017! That would put us over the "100" mark! We are also praying that we can get our new people rooted and grounded in the Word.

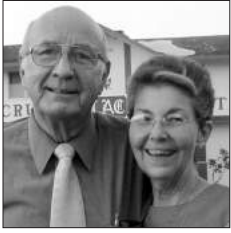
If you get down this way, stop in and be in service with us! Merry Christmas!

2017 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

The 2017 Alabama Missions Conference will begin January 7 and conclude on February 4. This marks the 42nd year Alabama Free Will Baptists have held the conference. Approximately 20 missionaries and representatives from North American Ministries and FWB International Missions will share their ministries and the Word in our churches from Red Bay to Dothan.

A missions emphasis early in the year is a great way to set the focus for a congregation. If your church is not already in the schedule, contact Bro. Danny to see how to be included. At the heart of Alabama Free Will Baptists is the cross of Christ and the commission for the church.

MISSIONS news



BUD & RUTH BIVENS

We send you greetings from Morelos, Coahuila, Mexico. We are busy here, working at the children's home that our younger son John and

his wife Paulina established. We are the official grandparents, and Abuelo (Grandfather) fixes the supper every evening. My whole job is hugging kiddos, and that is something they badly need, and something I can handle.

John and Paulina opened their own school here at the Getsemani Children's Home on August 8. It is really doing well. I expected the children who went to public school were probably missing their old friends. But they have told Bud that they really like this school much better. They are certainly getting much more personal attention than they received in the public school, and they are being protected from some things they did not need to learn, such as bad language and vile stories that seem to go around.

America Guzman, Pastor Rodrigo's daughter from Celaya, is helping out as one of three teachers. She is also taking university classes in Piedras Negras on Saturdays to get her teaching degree. She has been such a blessing to everyone. We know her well because she attended the IBLAC Bible Institute when we were teaching there in Altamira. Her parents are such precious servants of the Lord. The church in Celaya is the second church they have started, and Brother Rodrigo began the first work while he was serving as a deacon.

We want to thank Alabama for the financial investment that you continue to make in Mexico. With your support we are able to sustain the IBLAC Bible Institute in Altamira as well as seven pastors who depend on that income to care for their families. And we also receive generous offerings from several churches for the children's home every month. What a blessing! May God bless you richly for your investment!

As usual, prayer is always needed and greatly appreciated. And don't forget – when you eat Mexican food you are required to pray for Mexico.



MATT & BROOKE TURNBOUGH

Some of you might know that our pastor, JhonFredy (and his family) moved to England to be with his ailing father-in-law. As a result, we are more involved with the ministry at the Villalba Church than we had initially thought. Nevertheless, we are

hoping that Jhon and Lannah will be able to return next summer. We know the Lord is in control.

In August, Brooke started helping at a Christian school in the area and is very thankful that the kids are able to attend while she serves in this way. This opportunity opened up as the school needed somebody bilingual to help with administration. The school has some classes in Spanish but most are in English. Many families want their children to learn English. As a result, there has been an increasing number of families (some unsaved) applying to the school in the last few years. All children attend Bible classes and memorize Scripture!

The director of the social outreach, Luz, has recently had some physical struggles. Please pray for her spiritual, physical and emotional protection. She cannot work right now because of those health reasons.

Thank you so much for giving to the Acts 1:8 Plan. We feel so blessed to have your support and prayers.

Merry Christmas!

SEMINARIO BIBLICO ENVIAME (SBE)

Mark Riggs

On October 17 we officially launched Seminario Biblico Enviame (SBE). We were thrilled to begin with 27 students from 10 different Spanish-speaking countries, including several where we have no missionary works! Just think, the internet reaches every corner of the world. We have the opportunity to reach into places where believers have no possibility to receive the training they need to effectively minister to their own people.

Gamaliel Bello is one such example. He pastors in Monterrey, Mexico. He felt the need for further training to effectively minister, but could not move his family across the country to study. He was thrilled with the opportunity to enroll in Enviame. Our goal at SBE is to help prepare believers just like Gamaliel who are working to reach the over 329 million Spanish-speaking people in the world.



**CHURCHES NEEDING
A PASTOR
and Contact Person**

Cordova FWB, Cordova
William Gilbert, 205-483-7012

First FWB, Jasper
Bob Sargent, 205-221-2631

Jones Chapel, Florence
Allen Jones, 256-412-7650

Canaan FWB, Brewton
Kevin Fillmore, 251-236-0684

Springfield FWB, Vernon
Jimmy McDaniel, 205-712-2558

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- December 3**
Eldridge Toy Run & Benefit Ride
- December 5-6**
Leadership Conference – Nashville, TN
- January 8 - February 4**
Statewide Missions Conference
- February 26**
Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive –
Welch College
- March 10-11**
God's Man – First FWB Church, Northport, AL
- March 23-24**
Senior Days, Welch College
- April 26-28**
Mid-South Bible Conference –
Hamilton FWB Church
- April 29**
State Youth Competition –
Sulphur Springs FWB Church

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