

# THE



# INFORMER

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The SC WAC Retreat will be held September 7th and 8th at White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro. Kristi Johnson will be our guest speaker and we have an exciting time planned for our ladies.

We will have a 'gift card shower' for the Johnson family at the retreat. Gift cards may be purchased at Walmart, Target, and Restaurants. These will be greatly appreciated by the Johnson's while they are home and will also benefit them with their needs as Alejandro will be a freshman at Welch College this coming fall.

Mark your calendars to attend the retreat and enjoy this great time of fellowship and missionary involvement.



## We Congratulate the SC Vertical III Winners at our National Meeting in Little Rock:

NAME	COMPETITION CODE	AGE	CODE	PLACED
Blaine Cannon	0.02 - Individual Bible Memory -	Grade 02	A SC	Third
Temple Troop	0.03g - Group Bible Memory -	Grade 03	A SC	Third
Emma Salyer	0.05 - Individual Bible Memory -	Grade 05	B SC	Second
Connor Morgan & Gloria Todd	0.09g - Group Bible Memory -	Grade 09	C SC	Third
Madison Salyer	0.11 - Individual Bible Memory -	Grade 11	D SC	First
Elizabeth Hicks	0.11 - Individual Bible Memory -	Grade 11	D SC	Third
Bayley & Elizabeth	0.11g - Group Bible Memory -	Grade 11	D SC	First
Maysey Floyd	0.12 - Individual Bible Memory -	Grade 12	D SC	Third
Denise Wiggins & Hunter Langston	0.12g - Group Bible Memory -	Grade 12	D SC	Third
Nicholas Robinson	0.44 - Bible Sword Drill -	Grade 04	B SC	Second
Temple Praise Team	6.40 - Human Video		C SC	Third
Maggie Coker & Gloria Todd	6.52 - Dramatic Duo		D SC	Second
Blaine Cannon	7.71 - Sculpted Clay		A SC	Third
Hunter Langston	8.12 - Long Article		D SC	Third

## Recap of the 82nd National Convention of FWB July 22-25, 2018 | Little Rock, Arkansas

The blistering temps and sweltering humidity of Little Rock summertime couldn't keep 5,000 Free Will Baptists from packing out ten convention hotels and flooding the streets July 22-25, at the Statehouse Convention Center, which sprawls along the banks of the Arkansas River in the Capitol City.



Gathering under the theme “Called” from 2Timothy 1:9, each convention service focused on a specific area of that calling. After Jeff Crabtree, pastor of Serenity FWB Church (NB, CAN) and member of the Welch College’s board of trustees, opened the convention with a Sunday School lesson on Psalm 118, North Carolina’s Josh Baer, pastor of Cramerton FWB Church (NC) and North American Ministries board member, followed with the first sermon of the convention. Expounding on the call to salvation, Baer asserted, “Although filled with theological implications, the call to salvation is simple enough a child can understand.”

On Sunday evening, Ben Gibson, pastor of Phillips Chapel (AR), reminded congregates we are called to holiness. Using 1 Thessalonians 4:7, he explored three gifts of this call: identity in Christ, direction, and morality. He ended the sermon with an exhortation to repent and to seek holiness.

Monday’s landmark bilingual service appropriately explored the call to unity (Ephesians 4:4). After the congregation sang “Oh the Blood” in both English and Spanish, International Missions’ Lázaro Riesgo, a native Cuban, preached in Spanish, with Florida pastor Jose Rodriguez translating. He urged, “The Church should strive for the same sense of unity that exists in the Trinity.”

Tuesday evening’s speaker, 1040i founder Mike Cousineau, reminded the congregation God calls us to suffer (1 Peter 2:21). He does not guarantee physical safety. “The priority of following Jesus is not safety,” Cousineau admonished. “The cross has never been safe...we need to stop insulting God by safe living.”

The Wednesday evening missions service placed an exclamation point on a week of dynamic worship. A children’s choir joined the convention choir and orchestra for a rousing anthem before a parade of missionaries brought the congregation to its feet. North American Ministries Director David Crowe challenged Free Will Baptists to answer the call to preach the gospel, acting locally and thinking globally. Altars filled, and the conference ended the best way possible—men, women, boys, and girls answering God’s call upon their lives.

### Registration:

NAFWB attendees – 3,871

Vertical Three – 3,416

Total Attendees – 4,714

Note: Many attendees register for both conventions.

Services were streamed live once again, thanks to the efforts of the Media Commission, with nearly 50,000 people watching at least some portion of a service during the week. For the second year, live streaming was bilingual, offering services translated into Spanish.

**Highlights:** Early Impact. Each year, convention-goers come together on the Saturday before the convention to impact the host city. This year, 60 Impact Little Rock participants volunteered at a VA healthcare facility, while another 55 worked at the Arkansas Food Bank. At the VA center, volunteers organized donated clothing and freshened up outdoor sitting areas, “making a lasting impact on this facility by serving those who have served us,” according to Director Ken Akers.

Still Rising. The 4,714 who registered for the convention in 2018 continued the upward trend in attendance, marking a six-year high. In addition, the number of seminars, panel discussions, workshops, and activities expanded from 83 in 2017 to 89 in 2018. After a number of lean years, the financial outlook also increased as departmental budgets surpassed pre-recession levels, with the annual budget nearing \$30 million.

**General Board:** On Monday, July 23, the General Board heard reports from nine national agencies and four commissions as Moderator Tim York guided board members through a three-hour, 48-minute meeting. The board approved a flurry of recommendations, including the 2019 denominational budget of \$29.9 million; an Executive Committee recommendation the 2024 convention be held July 21-24, in Tampa, Florida; **a recommendation to raise representation fees to \$175 in 2020 and \$200 in 2025 to address rising convention costs**; a recommendation that a five-member Committee on Denominational Research (funded by a grant from the FWB Foundation) be formed to guide and undertake denominational research; that Welch College be allowed to make financial reports based on the college calendar; and to **publish the Free Will Baptist Yearbook in digital format to save money and stay current.**



**Executive Office:** Executive Secretary Keith Burden expressed thankfulness for a stable financial picture, noting the Executive Office—including building services and ONE Magazine—ended in the black. Burden warned, however, that expenses, especially convention expenses, continue to rise, requiring ongoing budgetary vigilance. “We are profoundly grateful for those who continue to support this office and make this financial stability possible,” he concluded.

Burden introduced Dr. Danny Dwyer, administrator of Rekindle church revitalization. Dwyer explained the program will connect coaches with struggling churches for a 12- to 16-month period to bring churches into spiritual health through a series of steps to renewal. “This is a giant step in the right direction for our churches,” Burden observed regarding the program.

Burden additionally thanked the Foundation for a grant underwriting two upcoming “bonus issues” of ONE Magazine (PULP1T) designed especially for pastors and their

families and then announced his retirement effective December 31, 2019.

Moderator Tim York thanked Burden for his fine work as executive secretary and announced the following procedure for selecting a new executive secretary: The Executive Committee is charged with the responsibility of presenting a single candidate for the position of executive secretary to the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists by July 2019.

The Executive Committee will receive candidate recommendations for executive secretary until October 30, 2018. A candidate profile form must accompany each recommendation. This form will be made available at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org) by August 1.

All pertinent information regarding this process will be dispersed to pastors, state leaders, General Board members, state papers, and printed in ONE Magazine.

- The Executive Committee will recommend one candidate to the General Board.
- The General Board will recommend one candidate to the National Association.
- The executive secretary will be elected by majority vote of the National Association.

**Randall House:** Director Ron Hunter acknowledged the positive financial momentum experienced in 2016-17 continues into 2018. This continued turnaround is a result, he explained, of making financial health a top priority for the department. Hunter expressed thankfulness for good cash flow, the absence of short-term debt, increased assets in operational accounts and reserves, and manageable long-term debt as the



At the conclusion of his report, Burden announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2019.

department ended 2017 with a gain of \$238,747.

**North American Ministries:** Church revitalization also continues to expand, now hosting revitalization weekends designed to help churches make immediate changes to restore growth and health. In May, the fourth Acts 1:8 Power Conference celebrated a record attendance of nearly 500, and was well received by conference-goers. Master's Men continues disaster relief efforts, responding to natural disasters in Georgia, Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and St. Croix, USVI, in 2017.

Crowe honored two church planters whose congregations reached self-supporting status since last year's convention: the Kivettes at 180 Church (TN), and the Osborns at Oakland FWB Church (TN). Kerry Steedley honored Chaplain Roy Swisher and his wife Jan for their service and congratulated Chaplain Swisher on his retirement.

**Free Will Baptist Foundation:** Director David Brown challenged listeners to help the Foundation "make history" by investing in the financial future of the denomination. He noted the Foundation made some history itself last year, with a record \$8.4 million increase in assets.

Although the department experienced a \$104,000 loss in operating expenses in 2017, Brown explained this was due to lingering cancellations of estate plans expensed in 2017. The issue has been resolved by increasing the price for estate planning from \$2,300 to \$2,995 and additional organizational adjustments. While the department may continue to experience a loss in the area of estate planning, Brown insisted the program is a significant and worthwhile investment in the future of Free Will Baptists.

**IM:** General Director Clint Morgan thanked Free Will Baptists for faithfulness during recent difficult years but urged listeners not to rest on these previous accomplishments, noting, "Let's be careful not to miss God's greatest blessings by being content only with His blessings."



Returning to a 2017 proposal, **delegates approved the department's name change from Free Will Baptist International Missions to IM, Inc. The change was made for accessibility and security reasons when obtaining visas to limited access countries.**

Morgan celebrated advances in the 20 by 2020 initiative, with 34 new churches contributing to IM since 2015; liquid reserves at 25.9%, well above the 2020 goal of 20%; one new missionary; 5,436 new non-western believers, surpassing the 2020 goal; and 365 new FWB churches outside of North America, again exceeding 2020 expectations. "God has worked in amazing ways," he concluded.

Morgan advanced four strategic objectives for the Mission: Broaden the Free Will Baptist footprint in India; Form teams to reach immigrants and refugees as their numbers continue to increase worldwide; Adopt the "NONS" (16% of the world's population who claim no religious affiliation) as an unreached people group; and Develop more international teams.

Morgan mourned the passing of Radostin Tsvetkov, an integral member of the Bulgaria team. The 30-year-old collapsed and died April 4 while playing basketball with a group of boys. He also remembered former missionaries Jimmy Aldridge, Tom McCullough, and Sarah Mayhew, who also died this year. He honored 12-year IM Board member Nelson Henderson (AR) for his service, along with **retiring missionaries Dale and Sandra Bishop (Japan, 44 years) and Robert and Judy Bryan (France and Côte d'Ivoire, 50 years).**

General Officers for 2019:  
 Moderator - Tim York (TN)  
 Assist Moderator - William Smith (GA)  
 Clerk - Randy Bryant (FL)  
 Assistant Clerk - Ernie Lewis (IL)



**WNAC:** WNAC Director Elizabeth Hodges celebrated God's graciousness to (and through) Free Will Baptist women. The department received several large gifts enabling WNAC to eradicate all debt and focus on expanding its ministry. Women across the nation gave a half-million dollars to missions and ministry causes this year. Gifts to the Steward Provision Closet totaled \$42,000, and met the specific needs of 145 home and international missionaries.

Internationally, WNAC hosted a retreat for 35 Bulgarian women (including seven non-believers); helped with a Panamanian retreat attended by 110 women, where seven were saved; and assisted a Panamanian youth camp where 50 non-believers attended and 22 accepted Christ. WNAC also partnered with Oklahoma WAC to provide a Uruguayan women's retreat.

**Welch College:** "This has been an amazing year of growth!" exclaimed Matt Pinson, president of Welch College. He noted the college set a 33-year enrollment record, with full-time students up by 11% over the previous year. This growth is reflected in annual financial increases as well: tuition up 7%, unrestricted gifts up 13%, and more cash gifts than any other year in the college's history (outside of the recent capital campaign). However, Pinson also acknowledged the financial challenges facing the college due to unexpected construction expenses, increased operational expenses for the new facilities, and lower than expected community grants. Still, he noted overall finances are as expected and encouraged listeners to pray hard and trust the Lord. "We will be out of relocation debt in five years," Pinson predicted. "We are thankful for the Free Will Baptists who have given so faithfully to this relocation effort."

Pinson honored Trustees Ken Simpson (MO) and Mark Stripling (AR) for 12 years of service to the board and celebrated the release of Light and Truth: a 75-Year Pictorial History of Welch College.

**Music Commission:** Doug Little, chairman of the Music Commission, thanked those who plan and implement music for the national convention. He indicated the Music Commission is developing a website funded by a recent Foundation grant. The interactive site will offer worship tools, training materials and videos, and the ability to network. "A vibrant music ministry is essential for every church," Little concluded. "And the Music Commission exists to come alongside and help those churches."

**Media Commission:** The Media Commission continues to focus on live streaming at the national convention, with a growing number of viewers watching services in both English and Spanish. The commission additionally continues to expand the text-to-give and online giving program that allows attendees and online viewers alike to participate in convention offerings.

**Commission for Theological Integrity:** Commission chairman Matt Pinson encouraged listeners to participate in the 22nd annual theological symposium, October 22-23, 2018, on the campus of Randall University. He indicated the commission is currently compiling the next issue of Integrity Theological Journal.

**Historical Commission:** Eric K. Thomsen, commission secretary, honored Chairman Dr. Robert E. Picirilli for his multi-decade efforts as curator of the FWB History Collection. This year, the collection made the transition to its new home on the Gallatin campus of Welch College, where it continues to complete the FWB Minutes Project, seeking to digitize all denominational minutes in searchable digital files and archive those documents on [fwbhistory.com](http://fwbhistory.com).

#### 2019 Budgets

Executive Office -	\$ 829,241
FWB Foundation -	\$2,214,000
North American Ministries (Home Missions) -	\$5,032,620
International Missions -	\$7,200,000
Retirement -	\$ 659,120
Randall House -	\$4,948,000
Welch College -	\$8,774,753
WNAC -	\$ 242,500
Theological Commission -	\$ 5,700
Historical Commission -	\$ 5,295
Media Commission -	\$ 5,460
Music Commission -	\$ 6,125
<b>Total -</b>	<b>\$29,922,814</b>





# SUMMER CAMP



Bethany FWBC, Timmons ville welcomes David (Wanda) Carlson as their new Pastor. Brother David comes from a previous 12 year tenure at Liberty FWBC Manning.

Youth Camp Summary by Director, Teddy Rabon: Awesome week of SCFWB Camps!!! ...Week End Teen Camp with 60 Campers! It went Great!...and then on Monday morning junior campers started flocking in...ended up with 150 Jr campers!... most we've had at Camp ...busy week..and the LORD showed up in the midst and 16 were SAVED!!! and 10 re-dedications!!!...Great Preaching and Singing all week and the finale on Thursday night with songs and skit...was Awesome! We had around 350 for service (with Parents). Great fun, food, and fellowship. ..VALUABLE time for these youth as they were drawn closer to the Lord, made new friends, and gained Memories for a lifetime!!!



Rains Freewill Baptist Church welcomes Rev Jamie Montgomery (and family) as their new Pastor.



Poplar Hill FWB Church of Hemingway welcomes Rev. Michael (Cynthia) Walker as Pastor. Brother Michael is out of the Cornerstone-Fellowship FWBC, Manning (Rev. John Matthews). In addition to his pastoral duties, he is employed at Food Lion in Hemingway.



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**UPCOMING CONFERENCE MEETINGS:**

\*Eastern Conference Meeting – Saturday, September 8 at 9:30 AM @ TBA

\*South Carolina Conference Meeting – Friday, Oct. 5th @ First FWB Church (Darlington) at 7PM

\*True life Conference Meeting – Oct 20th @ TBA, Registration 9:45AM

\*Beaver Creek Conference Meeting – October 6 @ Enoree FWB Church Registration 9:30AM Services 10AM

\*Central Conference Meeting –October 13 @ Damascus FWB Church at 9AM

## FRIENDS OF INDIA BOARD

		
	<b>Dr. Don Hanna</b> Chairman	<b>Rev. Mike Jones</b> Sec /Treasurer
		
<b>Rev. Sherwood Lee</b>	<b>Rev. Jacob Creech</b>	<b>Rev. Buddy Seay, Jr</b>
		
<b>Rev. Chris Todd</b>	<b>Rev. Scott Ard</b>	<b>Rev. Sean Fortner</b>

Available or retired ministers to help supply the pulpit:

Rev. Leroy Lowery, Darlington - (843) 229-2078  
 Rev. Jacob Creech, Turbeville - (843) 687-2301  
 Rev. Galen Dunbar, Florence – (843) 676-9865  
 Rev. Bobby Bowers, Greenville - (864) 230-0518  
 Rev. Bennie Turner, Manning - (803) 473-0286  
 Rev. Kenny Haselden – (843) 731-4842  
 Rev. Odel Mouzon- (843) 382-3567  
 Rev. Donald Davis- (864) 980-1068  
 Rev. Westley Murray- (864) 595-7489  
 Rev. David Henderson- (704) 616-2079  
 Rev. Larry Hughes- (843) 687-8909

Friends of India welcomes Rev. Scott Ard (2024), and Rev. Sean Fortner (2025))as our newest Board Members.

Rev Scott Ard is Pastor of Mill Branch FWBC (June, 2010), SCFWB State Executive Board treasurer, and SCFWB State Youth Board treasurer. He also serves on on the Eastern Conference Youth Board and as chairman of the SCFWB Financial Committee and Credentials Committee. He has visited our work in India and Mill Branch Church is the host for the annual Travis Poston Land Fund Offering to purchase land for Churches in India.

Rev. Sean Fortner is from Inman, SC & has been attending the First Free Will Baptist Church since 1981. He graduated from Inman Christian Academy & went on to receive a B.S. in Financial Management form Bob Jones University in 1998. He is married to Dawn Fortner & has two children, Dylan & Kylie. Brother Sean was Ordained into the ministry on August 16, 2009 & became Senior Pastor at Inman in October 2012.