

promoter

PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

NOV/DEC 2023

VOLUME 44

ISSUE 6

The Fields are White unto Harvest

TRAINING IS KEY

Steve and Lori Torrison discuss
the importance of CIT

MILESTONES

Two church celebrate a
centennial in ministry

BIG NEWS

New State Executive Director
has been announced



Missions Training is Key

Steve & Lori Torrison talk about CIT

“I have already been through a four-year program focused on missions, why do I need to go to a 4-week program? What on earth are they going to be able to teach me that I don’t already know?” This was my response 20 years ago when IM told us that we needed to attend a pre-field training program as part of our final preparations to depart for the mission field.

Since arriving to join the facilitator team at CIT (Center for Intercultural Training), I have heard this same sentiment over and over again. “I am a seminary grad,” or, “I just studied this, why should I even be here?” Most of those that come through our doors are required to be here by their agencies, just as IM requires our new field workers to attend CIT.

What is CIT, then? And what is the benefit of sending our IM missionaries through the program? To quote Inigo Montoya from The Princess Bride... “Let me explain. No, wait, there is too much; let me sum up.”

CIT itself has 3 overall reaches into the world of intercultural training: CIT Next, CIT Global, and CIT Residential. CIT Next is online training for those already on the field who discover a need for more training. These modules are a wonderful resource for global workers and missionaries as they encounter new circumstances or unexpected situations, helping them make the most of every opportunity to reach those who need the Gospel.

CIT Global is the international arm of our program. Most foreign-born missionaries do not have the



means or opportunity to travel to North Carolina or may not know enough English to get the most out of the training. CIT Global works in various regions of the world where we offer training in their own language, including Cuba where I was able to go and provide training in Spanish this past March.

CIT Residential is the main focus of our ministry and is what Lori and I are a part of everyday. There are 5 modules that are currently offered several times each year. We and other veteran missionaries cover topics that are not merely academic and provide practical insights to help participants succeed in missionary life. How do you balance your personal spiritual life, deal with cultural differences, interact with team members, make sure your family is cared for and safe, maintain report with supporters, deal with the loss or sickness of a loved one from 3,000 miles away? All while trying to function and survive in a new language and without the support system of the home church, family, and friends you have come to rely on your whole life. And we haven’t even gotten to how I build trust and relationship to gain an ear for sharing the Gospel!

Just like me after we attended

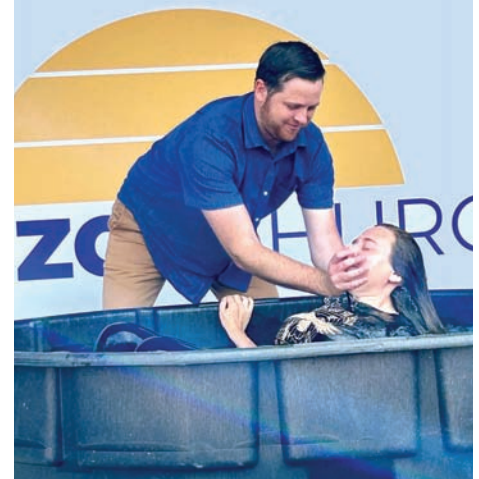
our training 20 years ago, everyone who comes through says, “Wow. There is so much I didn’t know. I am SO GLAD I came!” So, why CIT? Better yet, why NOT CIT?? When you partner with us either directly or through OKIM, pray for us, our family, and our ministry, you are a part of reaching into the lives of our IM missionaries and many others, to reach countless people with the Gospel of Christ. Thank you so much!

Baptisms

The Bridge Church in Fredericksburg, VA and Horizon Church in Siloam Springs, AR celebrate



over 20 baptisms. We thank God for moving in Virginia and Arkansas and are encouraged to see people continue to commit their lives to Jesus.





RANDALL
UNIVERSITY

Fall Enrollment Update

For the fall 2023 semester a total of 293 students are enrolled at Randall University. This number represents a 13% increase from the 275 students that were enrolled last fall semester.

These numbers include 263 undergraduate degree-seeking students, 35 online students at the Moore campus, 39 students at the El Camino, California teaching site, 16 dual enrollment students, 92 residents, and 16 graduate students. Full-time equivalency (FTE) is at 242 students. Randall continues to have a significant international student ministry as 31 International Students comprising 10 countries are represented.

"We are currently enjoying our largest incoming freshmen class, since COVID-19," said Dr. Brent Sykes, Academic Dean. He continued, "The energy on campus is palatable and our administrators, faculty, and staff have a renewed energy as a result of God's provision of students. We are now focusing on retention by presenting the Gospel through mentoring and



community-living so that we can impact and transform students' academic experiences at Randall."

Please continue to pray for the work that God is doing through Randall University. If you have a student that you would like to see come to Randall, please encourage them to visit ru.edu/prospective-students.

This Jesus
a Christmas worship event
Dec 3 - 6PM - Randall University

Christian Education Board



MEET OUR NEW PROMOTIONAL DIRECTOR

The Christian Education board is excited to announce our new Promotional Director, Tyler Dezort. Tyler is the Lead Pastor of The Gathering Church in Adair and has served on the CE board for the past 7 years the last 2 of those as Chairman. Tyler grew up in the Woodward Free Will Baptist Church and has served in various ministry rolls at Calvary Church of Norman, Cushing Free Will Baptist Church, and Sulphur First Free Will Baptist Church. He graduated from Randal University in 2016. The board wants to thank Daniel Sweet for his years of service and dedication to the CE Board.







I am very excited for this new roll on the board. I love the Free Will Baptist movement, specifically what we are doing here in Oklahoma, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the years to come. I believe our state has some of the best youth camps and events out there, and things are only looking up. I am most excited to build new relationships and serve the pastors and leaders of our Free Will Baptist churches in my new position.



Upcoming Dates

Youth Ministry Training - TBD
CTS Competitions - May 3rd & 4th
Encounter Camp 1 - June 9th - 14th
Encounter Camp 2 - June 23rd - 28th
Encounter Kids Camp - July 14th - 19th

 (580) 618 - 8667
 tylerdezort.tgc@gmail.com

 1859 W 430 Adair, OK 74330
 www.okstatece.org

Church Milestones

Sulphur First FWB Church celebrates 100 years

On September 24, 2023 the church celebrated being in ministry for over 100 years. A centennial celebration had to be postponed in 2021 because of Covid so the church has actually been in existence now for 102 years. The church has a vibrant and growing congregation. We commend them for these many years of ministry. Rev. Dick Terry is pastor.



Fanshawe FWB Church celebrates 115 year

On September 17, 2023 the Fanshawe church celebrated 115 years of ministry. This achievement most certainly represents the faithfulness of multiple generations of Free Will Baptists. Congratulations. Rev. Gary Willet serves as pastor.

Fanshawe's Homecoming Celebration

Reclaiming Glory
hope for our churches
2023 Leadership Conference
Register today: nafwb.org/leader

HONOR *to whom* HONOR

Rev. Albert Eugene Thomas

June 9, 1934 – August 21, 2023



Brother Gene was married to Mary Katherine Thomas for 55 years before her passing. Brother Gene pastored Free Will Baptist churches for 50 years. During those years he pastored the Maple FWB Church, Sallisaw FWB Church, Christian Grove FWB Church, Red Oak FWB Church and the Southside FWB Church.

Rev. Dr. Cecil Sanders

April 26, 1934 – September 27, 2023



Bro. Cecil, (known by many as Dr. C) was an accomplished athlete in his hometown of New Edinburg, Arkansas where he excelled in baseball and basketball. He was also gifted in academics and earned various college degrees. He married his high school sweetheart, Geraldine McClellan on December 20, 1952. He spent his life as a clergyman and educator. He pastored, taught school and became the instructor in religion at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College (now

Randall University). He was also an author of two books.

Rev. Charles James Flynn

August 5, 1932 – September 29, 2023



Bro. Charles was born in Panama, Oklahoma where he was raised and attended school. He was married on September 11, 1954 to Velma Rowena King which he considered his greatest achievement. He was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1950. He pastored 12 churches in Oklahoma, California and Arkansas. As well as pastoring, he worked in building materials management and sales. He was a faithful member of the Collinsville FWB Church. He loved spending time with his extended family.

Note: We are thankful for the service of these men to Christ and to Free Will Baptists. They will be greatly missed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Please pray for these families and give God thanks for the impact of the ministries noted above.*



The banner features a dark blue background with green accents. At the top, it reads "D6 NORTHWEST MARCH 8-9, 2024" on the left and "D6 SOUTHEAST APRIL 2-4, 2024" on the right, with a church icon between them. Below this, the words "SEATTLE" and "ORLANDO" are written in large, white, block letters over images of the Seattle skyline (including the Space Needle) and a resort building with a pool. At the bottom, an orange bar contains the text "A FAMILY MINISTRY CONFERENCE FOR YOUR ENTIRE TEAM" and "WWW.D6CONFERENCE.COM". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

It's An Exciting New Day



Mike Wade,
Executive Director
for Oklahoma
Free Will Baptists

As this will be my last time as editor of the Promoter, I thought I would write a final brief article. It has been a joy to share a variety of thoughts over the past 16 years. So many of you have written, called or spoke to me in person when something I had written had special meaning to you. Thank you for the kind words. Since announcing my retirement, many have asked if I am apprehensive about the future of our Free Will Baptist movement. I can say emphatically that I am not apprehensive, on the contrary I am excited. Free Will Baptists still believe and proclaim the truths of God's Word. I am excited about the future leadership in our state. I am excited about the young men and women I meet across the denomination who are preparing for ministry. I do not leave the office disheartened but rather with anticipation about what God is doing and will do through our folks and churches in the days ahead. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him. Tell somebody about His Goodness this week and every week.

**Love to all,
Mike Wade**



New Executive Director – Rev. James Coffelt

Thirty-one years ago James came to Oklahoma from Arkansas to attend Hillsdale (now Randall University). He married Jamie Briggs in 1993 and they began a life of ministry. First, as youth director at the Sunnyslane FWB Church in Del City then as pastor when in 1995 James and Jamie moved to Duncan to serve the First FWB Church. He completed his Bachelor degree in Theology in 1997. He is presently working on his Master's Degree from Randall University. James and Jamie have two sons, Riley and Rance.

James has been serving as a state officer since 1999. He has been our state clerk for the past 23 years. He has also pastored in the Pryor area and in Cushing where he has served as pastor until accepting the position as Executive Director for the Oklahoma State Association of Free Will Baptists.

James and Jamie love the Lord as well as our beloved denomination and are excited about this new opportunity to serve both. Pray for God's blessing and leadership as James officially begins his new role on January 1, 2024.

Promoter

Oklahoma State Assoc.
of Free Will Baptist
P.O. Box 7527
Moore, Oklahoma 73153

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 305

Mike Wade, Director • 405.912.9400 • Email: mwade@okfwb.org

NEW

D6[®] EveryDay Foundations

Discipleship curriculum for all ages!

ALL AGES BIRTH-GRANDPARENTS

D6 Everyday Foundations provides the very best small group and Sunday School Bible studies designed for all ages, with a particular emphasis on fostering family discipleship and learning through shared biblical themes.

D6FAMILY.COM



See why thousands of people trust D6!