

O * H * I * O AMBASSADOR



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*"The Voice of Ohio Free Will Baptists Proclaiming
The Words of Christ to a Lost World"*



New Year Edition



Four Truths for the Church in the "New Normal"

Jeremiah 29:11; "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith The LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end". A very familiar passage of scripture one that most Bible readers have readily available in our arsenal of encouraging and comforting verses to pull out and use in certain situations and that's perfectly acceptable.

If we look at this verse in its context I believe we gain not only a greater understanding but also a greater appreciation for the potency of this verse. This passage written by Jeremiah is addressed to a group of people who were carried away captive into Babylon, (verse 1). These people had pretty much witnessed the destruction of a way of life. City walls torn down, much of the city destroyed, the Temple which was the most important structure in Jerusalem had been ransacked and destroyed and for any devout inhabitant of Israel it didn't get much worse. Talk about doom and gloom, talk about anxiety for their future and where their nation was headed. I would imagine concern was at an all time high for what would come next!

When you consider our current situation here in America I think Christians have much in common with people that Jeremiah was writing to, I mean think about it for a minute. At the time I am writing this the outcome of the November 3rd presidential election appears to be still up in the air. We have been in the throws of a pandemic since March and what many thought would be a 15 day effort to "flatten the curve" has now carried into months of day in and day out headlines that give us a running total of virus contractions, constant death toll updates from the virus, not to mention shutdowns that include what appears to be an effort to keep churches shut down in some states, quarantines and virtual learning for our children that transform parents into home school teachers.

We have witnessed rioting, unrest and division that has added to the anxiety and fear of millions in our country and it seems as if we are witnessing a dramatic shift in America that will affect our way of life in many ways. That's a lot to digest I know but, sometimes telling the truth is difficult, it was hard for Jeremiah but with God's leading he also lays out four truths to enable Israel to better deal with their circumstances. I believe we can apply those truths in our current circumstances as well.

1) BE REALISTIC; Vs. 8-9 of our passage we see that false prophets were sugar coating what was really going on and God reveals the fact that He had NOT sent them with this message and it was time for Israel to deal with the hard



reality of captivity. Christian perseverance is not about denial of truth, you can't sweep reality under the rug you have to deal with it and the truth is this world is in bad shape. But for the child of God there is a greater reality and it is this; "THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN" on the throne, sovereign and bigger than any virus and politician this world can offer. Whatever the enemy may throw our way the Christian must always measure the problem by the answer to the problem and ultimately God is the answer to any problem. I don't mean to minimize or sound cliché about any problem you're facing but God is bigger and mightier than any problem we may find ourselves in.

2) BE HOPEFUL; Vs. 11- The message of this great verse is that no matter what is going on around you that you are never far from the mind of God, He hasn't forgot about you, He is aware of what your going thru. We have a future and a hope. Someone said you can live 40 days without food, 3 days without water but you can't live at all without hope. I'm not talking about some pie in the sky hope I'm talking about assurance in Christ, in His death burial and resurrection. We can have an expected end, we won't be taken by surprise because we know where ultimately we are going. This world is not our home and our hope isn't in the Whitehouse, statehouse or courthouse it's in God's house. This comes from the simple ingredient called FAITH and our faith is in His UNDIMINISHED POWER, UNCHANGEABLE TRUTH and UNWAVERING LOVE. In times like these our faith can be tested and stretched but we know this much that the trials of our faith will make us stronger in our faith.

3) BE ADAPTABLE; VS. 5-7; Look at God's instruction here, build houses, plant gardens, eat the harvest, take wives, have children. God even tells them to seek peace for the city that they are currently held captive in and if you can believe this to "pray for the city and its inhabitants". It

sounds crazy doesn't it? I think God is saying you're going to be here for seventy years you have got to make the best of it. This isn't a hold-out philosophy as some Christians seem to settle into, this is a joy in the journey philosophy.

This is not a mentality that views our current conditions as insurmountable problems, but as a grand opportunity to see opportunity not problems, a bloom where you're planted mentality. If your approach to having church hasn't been altered in some way by this covid virus then you are certainly in the minority. This pandemic has moved many of us out of our comfort zones into more adaptable services for the "social distancing", facebook and youtube services where we have the potential to reach more hearts than ever.

Here at Unity we jokingly refer to our church as a mega church as we reached people by the hundreds online and I don't mind saying we got pretty good at the online service so good in fact, we have struggled to get folks back in the pews. Even our adult Sunday school class is still online and reaching a large audience. All joking aside there is no replacing the in-church services. Most of our folks realize how much we need each other. Our mission hasn't changed; Unity still has the goal of reaching people for Christ and making them disciples of Christ once we do reach them. In these current conditions we all find ourselves in, we must adapt to continue the important work of the church. We may be here for a while!

4) BE UNIFIED; This letter was written to a whole group of people who had been taken captive and they needed to hear and believe the same message they needed to be working for the same result, they needed to know they were in this together. We may not have been physically taken captive but at times we feel like captives in these days we are living in. We need to know we are in this together. We are stronger when we stand together in Unity; believe in the same message and working for the same results. We cannot lose our identity and turn into something we are not in rebellion against what could come our way, we are the church and we must continue to behave as the church should even when it may get difficult to do so.

Let's claim Jeremiah 29:11 as encouraging verse today and let us; Be *Realistic, Hopeful, Adaptable* and *Unified* in these days no matter what may come our way until, **Jesus** comes.

Eugene Crouch,
Senior Pastor, Unity FWB Church

Together We Can

A Look back and A Look Forward

As We Trust God's Sustaining Grace

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not, They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

Lamentations 3:22-24



The year 2020 is now history and 2021 is upon us. "Out with the old year and in with the new." the world says. This New Year's celebrations were muted some because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This no doubt, was one of the most challenging years for our families, our churches, our nation and our world. I think I am safe to say, that we have never had a year like 2020!

As we look back at 2020, we know that it started out as a pretty normal year. Our churches and conferences were meeting regularly and planning for the coming year. We had our yearly men's retreat in January. Our families were going about our usual routines. The schools, stores, restaurants and businesses were doing their normal operations. It was just another year. Oh, we heard about a virus that was plaguing China, but that seemed far from having any effect on us. Then in March everything changed and we soon realized that everything would now be different. The state governments began "lockdowns" with business and restaurants shutting down, schools closing, the streets becoming desolate, shortages in supplies and of course, our church buildings were empty. We were unable to assemble to worship as we had for our entire lives. We soon

We soon found out that 2020 would be a different year than any we had ever seen before!

found out that 2020 would be a different year than any we had ever seen before! How would we respond to one of the most severe challenges our churches would confront? What would we do? I was so proud of the way the churches responded to having our buildings shut down with other ways of worshipping and preaching the gospel with online services and outdoor services. I must say that I was surprised with the number of our churches who quickly moved to the online method. Even many of our smaller churches mobilized to get God's word out this way! Some of the churches began meeting in their parking lots. These new ways of meeting went on for several months. As time went by, our churches were able to open up and begin to meet again, but we had to take precautions to help slow the spread of the virus.

I wanted to mention a couple of lessons we have learned during this experience.

The first lesson we learned is the *faithfulness of the Lord* even in the most trying circumstances. Just like the situation Judah found herself in Lamentations. The Jews at that time had their worship turned upside down. Their Temple was destroyed and they were unable to assemble there to worship. So they had to do something else. Over time they began to use synagogues to meet together to worship the Lord. We had to do the same things. Our church buildings were closed, so we began meeting in a different way. God was still faithful to meet with us! His Church was not closed, because His Church are the people and not the building! God was truly with us as we met online or in our parking lots. He proved Himself to be faithful to us! I am grateful that this great truth was shown to us in 2020.

The second lesson emphasized was the *importance of worshipping God and hearing His word*. As the state governments locked down our society, there was much discussion of what was "essential" and "non essential". The officials said that grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores were "essential." They also came to the conclusion that Planned Parenthood clinics and liquor stores



Edwin Hayes
Executive Secretary

Continued on
next column

were "essential" also. While saying that, many state governors said that churches were not essential! (Thankfully, the Governor of Ohio didn't say this.) All over the country ministers and churches rose up to proclaim that meeting to worship and preaching His word was most essential!

As the Jews learned at the time Jeremiah penned Lamentations our hope is in the Lord, not their traditions or their building. Just as Jesus said, "*Man shall not live by bread alone.*" To obey God is more important than obeying men! We need to worship our God! As the world considers food and medicines essential, my heart was blessed as I saw all different pastors and churches rise up and say that the word of God and worship is most essential!

What will we do in 2021? I sure hope that our nation can get this pandemic under control and we can get our lives back to normal. But if not, let's take the lessons we have learned from our experience in 2020 and base our hopes and satisfaction on the faithfulness of the Lord and His essential Word!

May you all have a blessed 2021!

Secretary's Schedule

January 10 Gahanna FWB, AM & PM Service, Curtis Booth, Pastor
January 31 Sciotoale FWB AM & PM Service
March 14 Liberty FWB SS & AM Service, Cecil Farmer, Pastor

EDITOR	Edwin Hayes 7554 Slate Ridge Blvd Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 (614) 751-1190 ehayes@ambassadorbible.com	STATE CTS BOARD	Mark McCarty 2027 Jason Luthy-Chairman 2026 Aaron Justice 2025 Deanna Price 2024 Derreck Lute 2023 James Parker 2022 Mike Ellis 2021
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The **AMBASSADOR** is the official publication of the:

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The *Ambassador* is committed to promoting the cause of Jesus Christ and the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists by presenting articles, announcements and pertinent news to inform our member churches and constituents.

We reserve the right to edit or reject materials submitted for publication in the *Ambassador*. The views expressed are not necessarily the view of the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

The publication deadline is **NOON** as follows:
January 1st, March 1st, May 1st, July 1st,
September 1st and November 1st.

All gifts given to the *Ambassador* should be sent to the above address.

Why I believe in the

CO-OP Plan!

The Co-op plan was adopted for Ohio FWB Churches back in 1974. It is designed to support all Ohio State and National ministries. It places us all together. I believe that it has been a blessing to our state. Let me mention several ministries we in Ohio enjoy because of the *Co-op Plan--The Ohio Men's Retreat--The Ohio Bible Institute--Our Pastor to Pastors--Why I am a FWB Lesson--Revitalize Your Sunday School Workshops--Ohio Pastors Retirement Program--Ohio State Missions--Ohio Youth Conference--International Missions--North American Missions--Welch College* and many more.

One of the reasons that I like this plan **is that it allows us to be all blessed together** when the offerings at the local church are up and all bear the burden together when they are down.

A second reason is that Co-op **supports the whole cause and all FWB ministries are supported.** I believe it would be safe to say that without the churches supporting the Co-op Plan, we would not have an Ohio State Office, Staff or Ambassador Church Supply.

A third reason is that Co-op **is the same method we use to support our local churches.** We give our offering to the church and allow it to be distributed as the local church so desires. The Co-op Plan does the same on the state level.

Fourthly, **it allows us to make decisions together.** We meet every year at the Ohio State Meeting and vote on how to distribute the Co-op receipts. Every church has a voice.

Lastly, **it allows every dollar I give to my local church to be used to touch every State and National FWB Ministry.** The local church that I am a member (Westerville FWB) gives a percentage of all undesignated offerings to the Co-op Plan and has for years. All of my tithes given to the Westerville Church, I realize a percentage is used to support every Free Will Baptist ministry we have. I am grateful to have this opportunity to give.

I would like to encourage all of our churches to consider doing your part to support your state and national ministries through the Co-op Plan.

Ohio State Ministries 70%
5% Ohio Pastor's Retirement Plan (If churches chooses for their pastor-if not it will go to State Office)
47% State Office

State Evangelist
 Ohio Bible Institute
 Ohio Togetherway Plan (Distribute Ohio Churches outside giving)
 Ambassador Magazine
 Ohio Men's Retreat
 Pastor to Pastors
 Ohio Email Updates
 Ohio Website
 Church/Pastor Assistance—Pastoral searches, Church constitutions, etc.
 Revitalize Your Sunday School Workshops
 Coordinate Ohio State Meeting
 "Why I am a Free Will Baptist" Lessons
 Promotion of all State and National Ministries

15% State Missions
 Travis McKenzie, Ashland, Ohio
3% Ohio Youth Program

National Ministries 30%
 1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts.
 2. Disperse the balance of cooperative gifts to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Welch College	22%
Foreign Missions	22%
Home Missions	22%
Board of Retirement	12%
FWB Foundation	1%
Women Nationally Active for Christ	17%
Commission for Theological Integrity	1%
Historical Commission	1%
Music Commission	1%
Media Commission	1%

Total

100%

2020 Leadership Conference Focused on "Refreshing" Struggling Churches

The 2020 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference returned to Nashville Airport Marriott December 7-8 for an in person meeting, carefully socially distanced according to local COVID requirements. Pastors, church leaders, and denominational leaders from 22 states gathered to explore the important theme "Refresh," with a strong emphasis on church health and renewal.



Monday and Tuesday evening sessions were highlighted by encouraging messages from Dr. **Thom Rainer**, founder and CEO of ChurchAnswers.com, an online community and forum for church leaders. During the two sessions, the prolific author and former CEO of LifeWay shared strategies for reviving the church in a COVID and post COVID culture. Rainer challenged churches to create a new "score card" for church health centered around conversion, small group attendance, and congregational ministry involvement. "COVID is not just crisis but an opportunity to reset, to rethink, to reimagine to revision," Rainer told listeners. "Following COVID, we're all church planters, and we have an opportunity to make the necessary positive changes to move our churches forward."



Thom Rainer

On Tuesday, 16 speakers presented a full day of training seminars and workshops on a broad range of topics essential to building and maintaining a healthy church. Topics ranged from "Creating a Strong Social Media Strategy" and "Best Practices for Better Boards" to "Faith and Science" and "Recruiting Volunteers." Recordings of sessions will be released in the coming weeks on the **Better Together Podcast**.

The two-day conference provided more than training, however. Attendees also renewed friendships during banquet-styled meals. Tables limited to four people allowed for deeper-than-usual interaction, and often conversations continued long after the meal concluded.

Louisville (KY) church planter **Rodney Brazil** expressed his thankfulness for the meeting: "This was a most encouraging conference for these very discouraging days of COVID."



**Ohio Moderator
 Mark Price**

A number of national boards and committees also met in conjunction with the conference, including Board of Retirement; the Executive Committee; Free Will Baptist Foundation; IM, Inc; and North American Ministries. Other boards met online, including Welch College and the 2020-21 Nominating Committee.

Reflecting on the meeting, Executive Secretary **Eddie Moody** noted, "It was a great conference! We were so glad to welcome **Thom Rainer**. He is one of the leading voices regarding church health, and we encourage all Free Will Baptists, especially those unable to attend this year's meeting, to make plans to attend the conference December 5-6, 2021, when Dr. Rainer will return as keynote speaker. We look forward to an event where registration won't be limited by social distancing."

Coming information regarding the 2021 conference can be found at nafwb.org/leadershipconference

Church News



OPEN DOOR (CORNERSTONE)

Who's watching your daily walk with God? Family? Friends? Deep inside, we don't believe it matters to others. We go about our daily walk thinking it is simply between God and us, but it isn't. Children are notorious for watching every move made, but neighbors and strangers? They're watching, too.

The Lord brought this idea home to me today. In greeting visitors at church, I spoke with a man who related his experience that week having an MRI done. It was a fearful time for him inside the "tube," but he said he got through it, because he knew he had prayer warriors like so-and-so and me praying for him. Me? A prayer warrior? What made him come to that conclusion?

Then in the evening service, a repairman that had come to our house visited church. While working in our home, he had specifically asked where we attended church and we had told him. Certainly, we tried to be a testimony for the Lord, but what did he see in us that made him ask? I know the Holy Spirit is at work in believers, but I honestly hadn't considered others would observe that until today.

The point is that we are being watched by the world in what we say and do. Our words and actions count even with strangers. This doesn't mean that we are to live lives based on what others think of us. It simply means that we are to be aware that we are being observed when we least expect it. Do we reflect God?

Willie A Booth, Pastor
Liz Baker, Reporter

DAILYVILLE (FRANKLIN)

A youth class this year has been attended well with a dozen. Two new couples have joined our congregation.

We celebrated 136 years at our homecoming September 20th. The Gospel group, **Blood Bought** added a lot to our message.

Peter Dunn, Pastor
Jim Henry, Reporter

OAK HILL (JACKSON)

Greetings. When you read this the holidays will be over and a brand new year is here. But we can be comforted knowing God is still in control.

Due to Covid-19 we are back to having church services in the parking lot in our cars.

Our pastor has been preaching some wonderful spirit-filled sermons. We are thankful for our pastor, Bro. **Allen Simpson** and our assistant pastor, Bro. **Danny Boggs** for their faithful service.

We love and thank Bro. **Edwin Hayes** for teaching and preaching for us on December 6th. He taught in Sunday School, "Why I am a

FWB" and preached from Luke 2:7-9.

Until next time, may God bless you.
Psalm 33:20 "Our soul waiteth for the LORD: He is our help and our shield."

Allen Simpson, Pastor
Sandy Clark, Reporter

PURITAN (SOUTH CENTRAL)

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ.

We pray that everyone is staying safe during this time with the virus still spreading. We need to keep our trust and faith in our Lord and He will continue to take care of us in everything we do.

Over the past few months, our church has enjoyed some wonderful services and activities while staying safe. In November, Puritan FWB had a float in the Veteran's Day parade in Hamden honoring our veterans past and present. **Ann Downing** ministered to us in songs and we enjoyed our Thanksgiving service with Brother **Edwin Hayes** preaching for us.

In December, our church participated in the Shoe Box ministry, and with the help of the youth of the church, we had 85 boxes for children across the world. What a wonderful ministry! During our watch night service, we had special preaching by **William Runyon** from Scott Depot, WV. Was a wonderful time in the Lord and praying in the New Year.

We pray that the new year brings better health, and a stop to this virus. Continue to remember our sick and shut-ins during this time. Keep your faith and trust in the one true answer: Jesus!

Blessings to all.

Jamie Fortner, Pastor
Rhonda Fortner, Reporter

CANAAN (CAPITAL CITY)



In September we were privileged to pay off the building loan and burn the mortgage. What an honor and dream come true for us. All praise and glory to God for His blessing on what He has built.

We have been blessed to have church services on Sunday mornings. Some folks attend in person and others via livestream. We thank the Lord that he has blessed us with the resources to remain faithful to delivering the Word.

Pray for our church. Like many of you, we have families of members impacted by Covid-19. Also, Pastor **Mike Gladson** has accepted a pastorate in Greenville, NC. We covet your prayers during this time of transition.

Aaron Justice, Assoc. Pastor
Lisa Justice, Clerk

LOCKBOURNE (TRINITY)

Greetings from Lockbourne. Since our last article, we were holding church services regularly and our children's Sunday School restarted September 27th. It was good to have the children back. We felt the need to postpone services again for three weeks but were able to videotape two of those services. We were so happy to get back to live services again December 13th and it was wonderful to have New Vision with us that day. We always look forward to having

them with us at Lockbourne. They sang about Jesus, the bright and morning star and we all worshipped together as they provided the gospel in song.

December 20th, we had a wonderful service with brother Leon preaching and several people in our church sang beautiful Christmas songs, all the while causing us to focus on God's unspeakable gift to us, **Jesus** the Savior of the world. It is our prayer that God will use us each and every one to be a witness to those who do not know Him, the one who bled and died for our salvation.

We send our sympathy to Lisa Blanton and family and Janice Kinder on the loss of Lisa's husband Johnnie, Lee Nagle on the loss of her brother, Tony Miller on the loss of his aunt, Barbara Cummings and to Mickey Lively on the loss of her brother Denny Marcum. Please continue to pray for these families and pray for Lockbourne as we move into 2021 that God will guide our steps and let us be a light for Him. Christmas blessings to all.

Leon Stevens, Pastor
Janelle Sagraves, Reporter

Pastor Changes



Akron	Without Pastor
Bethlehem	Without Pastor
Blackfork	Without Pastor
Brookdale	Without Pastor
Canaan	Mike Gladson Resigns
Eifort	Without Pastor
Germany Hollow	Without Pastor
Good Hope	Paul Peterson Passed Away
Grace	Wayne Altman
New Hope-Lucasville	Without Pastor
Piqua	Without Pastor
Trinity	Without Pastor
Williams Road	Russell Street
Woodstock	Without Pastor

Travis McKenzie, Ohio Home Missionary to Ashland, Ohio



Wow! 2020 is finally in the books! In one way, it seems like the days dragged on forever! Yet, as I look back over last year, it seems like a swift dream. A dream filled with fear, chaos, confusion, and not to be forgotten--great joys and gladness.

As we say goodbye to 2020 and welcome in 2021, let's look to what God has IN STORE for each of us. No one knows with certainty what this year will hold, but as I consider God's word, I'm certain that nothing will take place without His knowledge, or even His permission! In Revelation 19: 6, the Apostle John records his Heavenly vision of God on His throne with these words: "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." In these words, I can find comfort and reassurance that regardless of what 2021 may hold for any of us, our "omnipotent" (all powerful) God reigns supreme and is always in control!

So, what does this mean for Compassion church? What does this mean for our family? And what does it mean for you, your family, and even your church? It means that when we find ourselves facing fears or chaotic uncertainties coupled with confusion, we must rely upon God's omnipotence that much more! It means that we must trust that God is, and always has been, in complete control of EVERY situation we face. For Compassion Church, it means that, as we move forward with our building campaign, we must trust God that the finances will be available to build our church in His timing. It means that as we experience growing pains in our current facility, we may have to get even more creative in our approach to ministry.

This will most likely involve multiple services or more livestream services, as well as Bible studies that accommodate remote participation. For our family, it means that we have to accept that God's will may not always be what we want. It's like a sermon I preached a while back on Romans 8: 28, which says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." I have to believe that God knows what is best for each of us. Everything that He permits in our lives has a purpose. That purpose is to draw us closer to Him, and for us to give Him the glory that He so much deserves! No matter how that may look. Whether it is through sickness, hardship, health, or even prosperity, God, who is omnipotent, is always working in every situation for our good!

As you look forward to 2021, how will you react to what God is allowing to take place in your life? It would be easy to succumb to fear and dread, but I believe that if we want to truly celebrate the message of this season-- restored hope in God's omnipotence through unimaginable circumstances-- we should let our prayer be that God will grow our faith in His love and grace. So, from all of us to each of you, Happy New year!

In Christ's service,
Travis McKenzie

Condolences

Thinking of you



Danny Friend, Sr., age 82 of LaRue, passed away on Monday, October 12th at the OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital. Danny was born on April 30, 1938 to the late Elroy and Dorothy (Barnhart) Friend in Superior, Ohio. On December 5, 1955, Danny married Naomi Bowen in Louisa, KY.



Danny retired from Armco Steel after working more than 20 years. He was a deacon at the White Oaks Road Free Will Baptist Church. Danny enjoyed being a member of the Rod Knockers Car Club of Marion, Ohio. He will truly be missed by family and friends.

Danny was preceded in death by his parents; his wife: Naomi Friend; his son: Danny Friend, Jr.; his brothers: Elroy Friend, Everett Friend, John Friend, Kenny Friend and Clarence Friend; and his sister: Hester May Straight. Those who will cherish Danny's memory include his nephew: Rodney Friend of LaRue, OH; his sisters: Darlene Endicott of Marion, OH, Janice Severt of Marion, OH and Reba Layne of Marion, OH.

His service was held October 15th with Rev. Brent Layne officiating.

Rev. **Derl W. Curry**, 80, of Stokesdale, NC went home to be with the Lord on November 6th at his home. He was born June 9, 1940 at Omar, WV the son of the late Leonard and Bertha Stanley Curry. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a sister, Joyce Bumgardner.



Derl was a graduate of Lenore High School. He served his country well as he served in the US Army for 4 years. He married Mable Runyon Curry, his wife of 59 years in 1961 and they moved Cleveland, OH where he worked for Ford Motor Company and retired after 32 years. He pastored many churches from 1979 to 2011 and then moved to North Carolina to be near family. He pastored the Amherst FWB Church and was a longtime member of the Ordaining Counsel of the Cuyahoga Lorain Conference.

Those left behind to cherish his memories include his wife, Mable Runyon Curry, son, Derl W. Curry II and wife Carlene of Oak Ridge, NC, daughter, Monical Gail Curry of Cleveland, OH, brother, David Lee Curry and wife Glenna of LaGrange, OH, sisters, Pat Maynard and her husband the late, Harmon Maynard of Trace Creek, WV and Glenda Ross and her husband, Darrell of Point Pleasant, WV. He also leave behind 12 loving grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Parsley Bottom FWB Church in Lenore, WV November 9th with Rev. Wayne Runyon officiating.

Rev. **Paul Peterson, Sr.** of North Ridgeville, went Home to be with the Lord on Thursday, November 12, 2020. He was the Pastor of Good Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Elyria for 28 years.



Paul is survived by his beloved wife Ruby (Payne) Peterson; children, Doug of Elyria, Daughter-in-law Debbie (deceased), Paul, Jr. of North Ridgeville, and Daughter-in-law Cindy; grandchildren, Charlie, Sean, Doug, Derek, Ashley (Kyle), Joey, and Amber; great grandchildren, Layla, Dominic, Lillyanna, Kyleigh, Allison, and Emily; brothers, Gary, Denny, Brian, Greg, Rodney, and Barry; and sisters, Connie Pokrywka, Linda Reabert, Rhonda Szocska, Charlotte Howard, and Barbie Crest.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Peterson; mother, Ruby Fetzer; step-mother, Nellie Peterson; and sisters, Debbie Sneed and Brenda Slattery.

A family service was held on Wednesday, November 18th in Letart Falls, OH.

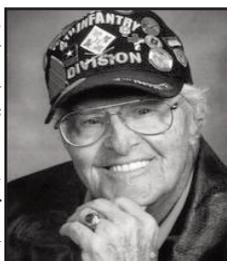
J. Lynn Skaggs-Ash, 61, went home to be with her Lord December 3rd. She is survived by her loving husband, Gordon Ash, father, Junior Skaggs, sister Margaret (Manuel) Lopes, brother Hunter (Melissa) Skaggs, One step daughter,



Tamaira Ash, Two step sons, Bryan Ash and Daniel (Brandi) Ash, five step granddaughters, four step grandsons, one step great granddaughter and three special nephews. She is preceded in death by her mother, Gay Skaggs. Lynn enjoyed her family, her cats, Diet Pepsi, and watching NCIS. She was a member of Inez Free Will Baptist Church and a former member of the Columbus First FWB Church. All who knew Lynn, loved her.

There was a private service held in December with Bubby Davis officiating.

Jack Bishop, age 91, of Marysville, formerly of Blaine, Ky, died December 4th at The OSU Medical Center. He retired from Local Laborers Union after many years of service in construction. A veteran



of the U.S. Army, he served during the Korean War and was stationed in Germany. A world traveler, he has stood in the River Jordan, prayed at the Wailing Wall, walked the Great Wall of China, saw kangaroos in the Outback of Australia and rode camels in Egypt. Of native American Cherokee descent, he was a well-known musician and loved playing his Martin guitar and singing bluegrass and gospel music. Known for never meeting a stranger, he will be remembered for enjoying socializing with his friends and family.

A member of Marysville FWB Church, he was born April 12, 1929 in Blaine, Ky to the late Henry and Rotha Bowling Bishop. He was also preceded in death in 2006 by his wife Mildred whom he married January 10, 1954; a son and daughter-in-law, Roger and Camille Bishop; a granddaughter, Amanda; a great-grandson,

Gabriel Dyer; and his siblings John Bishop, Elmer Bishop, Gertie Kazee, Bertha Kazee, Verna Cordle, Myrtle Bishop and Nola Mills.

He is survived by his children, Henry Clay Bishop, Hazel (Dan) Dyer and William "Billy" Bishop; his grandchildren, Vanessa (Randy) Miller, Jason (Marie) Dyer, Hannah Dyer and Nathen Bishop; many great-grandchildren, Cassie, Adrianna, Dylan, Lydia, Maya, Jarred, Aiden, Roran and Katie Marie; his brother, Junior (Rosemary) Bishop and his sister, Gladys (Calvin) Wright; and nieces, nephews and other relatives many, many, many friends.

Funeral services with military honors were held Dec. 10th at Marysville FWB Church. Pastor Paul Bogenrife officiated.

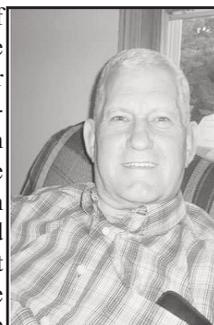
Terry R. Dixon, age 76 of Riverside, passed away December 8th. He was born July 24, 1944 in Cookeville, Tennessee, the son of the late Arnold and Bricie Dixon. Terry is survived by his wife of 52 years, Betty; daughter, Tina Copeland; grandson, Drew Copeland; brother, Rex (Nell) Dixon; as well as numerous special relatives and many friends.



Terry is a veteran of the United States Army and served during the Vietnam Era. He was a member of First Dayton Free Will Baptist Church for 35 years, where he faithfully served in many capacities. Terry was a loving and selfless man, who was always willing to help and step in where needed.

A private viewing took place at the convenience of the family.

Tony R. Kiser, 77, of Ashland went home to be with the Lord December 13th after a long courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He was born July 25, 1943 in Olive Hill, KY and had lived in Ohio for the past 56 years. In 2005 he retired from Teledyne



Monarch where he was employed as a machine operator. he was a member of the Penn Street Free Will Baptist Church and a Deacon with the Northern Ohio Church Conference for nearly 50 years. He enjoyed fishing when he could but more than anything loved serving the Lord and spending time with family. He never met a stranger and made a lasting impression on everyone he met. He had a unique way of making everyone feel they were special. He was a shining example of what a dad, husband, grandpa, brother, uncle, and friend should be. He was irreplaceable and will truly be missed by so many.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lula Belle (Dailey) Kiser, children Anthony (Chris) Kiser, and Melissa (Travis) McKenzie; grandchildren, Zach, Joel and Rachel. One brother, Phillip (Barb) Kiser and sister Sue (Ernie) Wells. Preceding him in death were his parents, Catherine and Culie Kiser, Granddaughter, Hope Elizabeth, and infant sister, Brenda. Also 7 brothers, Truman, Norman, Dennis, Terry, Jim, George, and Ray; 4 sisters, Nixola, Oney, Jean, and Sylvia. A private service was held by the family with son in law, Travis McKenzie officiating

Paul Preece, of Malta, Ohio, a member of the Hillview FWB Church passed away November 10th with his daughter and son-in law by his

side. Paul was born June 11, 1939 in Huntington, WV to the late Paul and Martha Preece. He is survived by his daughter Paula (Travis) Peyton of Malta; a grandson, Nathan (Misty Preece of Tipp City: two great grandchildren, Christopher and Abby Preece of Urbana. Paul is also preceded in death by his loving wife, Norma; brother, Donald and Larry; and a sister, Linda.

His service was held in Obetz Cemetery on November 12th.

James Edward Waller, age 79, of Gahanna, was blessed to have passed away peacefully with family by his side November 7th. Born November 17, 1940 he graduated from Crum High School in WV. He moved to Columbus, where he started working in the sign industry. He eventually built his own sign company in 1985 with his partner and dear friend Howard Berridge. A faithful follower of Jesus Christ, Jim was an active member of Gahanna FWB Church over the last 20 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Siebert and Eda Waller; many brothers and sisters and a beautiful daughter Margaret June Williams.

He is survived by his loving and caring wife of over 50 years, Eva Waller; son, Rick Waller; daughter, Sandra (Rod) Shannon; grandchildren, Ashley (Josh) Circelli, Chad (Kaylee) Waller, Jessica (Michael) Waller-Sollberger, Austin (Ambyr) Shannon, Nick (Sam) Waller, Chris (Samantha) Waller; great-grandchildren, Klynne, McKenna and Dallas; dear life-long friends, George and Jenny Prince.

His service was held November 12th with Pastor Curtis Booth officiating.

Ola Blanton, 90 of Westerville OH, devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away on December 11, 2020. She is reunited in our Lord's Kingdom with the loved ones who passed before her including her parents: Pleasie and Gracie Skaggs; twin sister Lola Hamilton; sister Goldie Cox; brother, Den Skaggs, and beloved husband, Ollie Blanton.

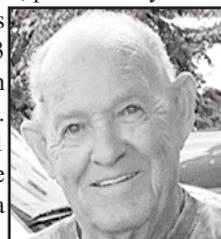


She is survived by daughter Bernice (Bill) Kayler of Westerville; granddaughter Nikki Kahler of Cincinnati; grandson Billy (Lauren) Kahler of Centerburg; great-grandchildren Brindley and Knox Kahler, and many nieces and nephews.

Many will remember her as a long-time member of the Westerville Free Will Baptist Church.

Her service was held December 18th in Westerville.

Herman "Ray" Clay, 87, passed away Friday November 27th. He was born September 23, 1933 in Cuzzie, Lincoln County, West Virginia. He was the last of 11 children born to the late Nathan and Laura (Adkins) Clay.



Ray retired from Republic Steel after 43years, and attended United Free Will Baptist Church. He loved bluegrass music and spending time with his family.

He left behind his wife of 61 years, Maxine (Chandler) Clay, three daughters; Ronda (David) Fulks, Radonna and Amy Clay, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His service was held December 10th.

Obituaries Continued on Page 7



Available

Free Will Baptist Singing Groups

The following singers and singing groups are available to come and sing in your church for revivals or special services.

Baldwin Family Bluegrass Singers, Rosedale, Call Chuck Baldwin (937) 926-3177
Baldwin777@roadrunner.com

Born Again Gospel Singers, Harry or Irene Litton (740) 927-5319

Covered By Love, South Webster, Call Rhonda Smith 740/961-3412 or 740/961-3413
www.coveredbyloveonline.com

Cross Pointe Trio, Lancaster, Call Bill Pitts (740) 438-7750 wpitts@columbus.rr.com
www.crosspointetrio.com

David Giddens, Marysville, (937) 642-2121 jgiddens@urec.net

Day 3, Scott & Sheri Noel (740) 574-6635 sdnoel07@yahoo.com

Enabling Grace, Woodstock, (Country and Bluegrass Gospel) (937) 717-8783

Faith Gospel & Contemporary Christian Music, Sidney, Call Pam Moorman (937) 492-1059 ladybam@bright.net

Faith in Action, Marion, Call Marjorie Abrams at (740) 383-5405 or Pleasant Hill FWB, (740) 363-5295 Attention: Marjorie Abrams or Bob Chaffin or email songlady_99@yahoo.com

God's Ambassadors, Gahanna, Call Judy Spires (614) 475-4689

Gospel Ambassadors, Rittman, Call Greg Marcum (330) 927-9057

Ethan Hutchinson, Somerset, (740) 892-4001
www.ethanhutchinsonofficial.com/fr_home.cfm

Jerry Branscomb, Chillicothe, (740) 637-1228

Justified, Lancaster, 43130 (614) 271-4599 robertk14@mail.com
 Facebook under group name: Justified

Just Forgiven Singing Ministries, Dayton, (Southern Gospel) (937) 280-3840 or (614) 309-2512

Headed Home-Singing For The Lord, Oak Hill, Call Jim Evans (740) 682-6109 or Robert Gamble (740) 682-0042

Lord Willing, Wellston, (740) 395-7728 lovdaisynewf@gmail.com

Mike Blanton & Evidence, Grove City, (614) 871-2795

Mike Kisling, Hillsboro, (937) 393-2084

Nina Nash, Leesburg, (Southern Gospel Sound Tracks) (937) 780-6865
gnash2@cinci.rr.com

New Covenant Trio, Columbus, Call Gary Preston (614) 774-3109 or (614) 774-3039
gppreston@columbus.rr.com

Ounce of Hope, Delaware, (Southern Gospel) (740) 363-4576

Paul James Sound, Columbus, (614) 668-8916 paul@pauljamessound.com
www.pauljamessound.com

Ruth Hammond, Grove City, (614) 440-0694 ruthandkevin77@gmail.com

Rowena and George Walker, Dayton, (937) 258-8317

Steve Russell, Marengo, (740) 972-6729 steverussell@muscian.net

Steve Fyffe, Xenia, (937) 374-9032 stv4314@aol.com

Sword Family, Middleburg Heights, (440) 747-7436.

Terry Collins & Victory, Hillsboro, (937) 840-9808

The Castle/Maxwell Project, Grove City, Call Dan Castle 614/746-4982 or email castle.maxwell.project@gmail.com

The Blankenship Family, Mount Sterling, (740) 869-2423

The Family of God, Logan, Call Steve E. Goss (740) 603-1583

The Hambys, Dublin, (Southern Gospel) (614) 873-1215

The Spiritual Echoes, Circleville, Call Rick Moore (614) 595-9776 or Delores Moore (614) 491-9502

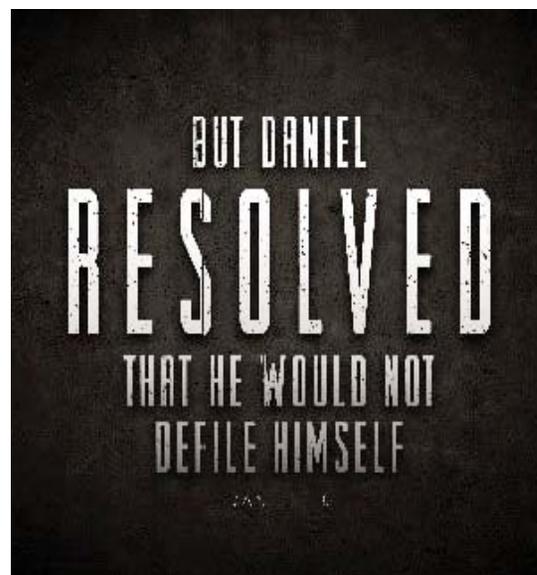
Violet Maynard Family, (614) 496-1618, violetmaynard@yahoo.com
www.violetmaynard.com.

Undivided, Grove City, Call Mike or Sheri France (614) 352-3368
Undivided96@aol.com

If you would like your group to be included, please send me your group name, what local FWB Church you are a member of, your address, and phone number and I will add you the list in the next issue of the *Ambassador*.



OHIO YOUTH CONFERENCE



Please do not hesitate to contact any board member with questions or concerns. We are here to serve you

Greetings from the members of the OYC Board and Happy New Year!

We are prayerful that things will start returning to normal as we learn to live with COVID-19 in the new year.

We are planning on holding our annual **Ohio Ministry Expo on Saturday, April 10, 2021**. We encourage individuals and teams to begin preparing now. The 2021 theme is RESOLVED (Daniel 1:8), carried over from 2020. Even if you are not competing this year, come out and join us for this great annual event!

We are also making plans to return to our **live youth service during the state meeting**. We are planning on having **Tim and Amanda York**, missionaries to Buffalo, New York, with us in our worship service, followed by our pizza and activity time that evening. So, make plans now to join us Friday, June 26, 2021.



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**Ordained Free Will Baptist Pastor with
 Free Will Baptist Pastors on my Board**

dramaking48@yahoo.com

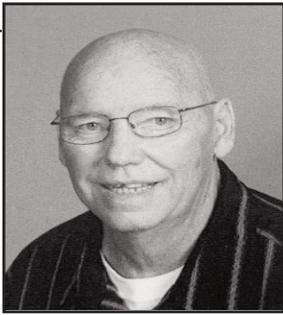
740/701-2124

Print brochures available on request--Material on this Ministry can also be e-mailed

**During covid send for do it yourself
 outreach planning kit**

Condolences from Page 5

Glenn, Larry W., 68, of Northridge, passed away Friday, December 4th. He was born to Warren P. & Nettie Pearl Glenn on March 24, 1952 in Dayton, Ohio.

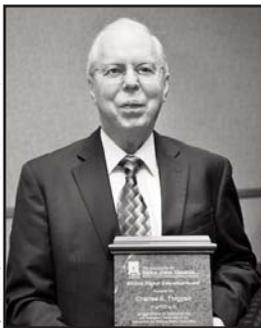


Larry was a dry wall finisher and later retired from Mad River Schools. He was a member and deacon at the Northridge Free Will Baptist Church, where he enjoyed being Executive Director of Holy Ground FWB Youth for Christ Camp. Larry was an avid Ohio State Buckeyes fan. Preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Ruth "Granny" Dixon; sisters & brothers-in-law, Carolyn and Jack Coyle, Phyllis & Paul Brewer and Patty Glenn; brother, Ronnie Glenn; nephews, Tommy, Tim and Jimmy Coyle and Brian Glenn. Survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Donna Glenn; sons, Daryl Glenn, (Amanda) and Andy Glenn (Heather); daughter, Nancy Glenn; brother, Roger Glenn (Mireya); grandchildren, Hannah, Jacob, Levi & Noah; numerous nieces, nephews and many friends.

Funeral service was held December 9th at the Northridge Free Will Baptist Church, with Pastor Tim Hamilton, officiating.

Dr. Charles Thigpen,

Welch College President Emeritus Charles A. Thigpen died December 31, 2020 in Macon, Georgia. He was 94 years old. His wife, Mrs. Laura Coker Thigpen, died Monday, December 28. They both had been hospitalized for



COVID-19 at the time of their deaths. The Thigpens leave behind a long legacy with Free Will Baptists, and in particular Welch College. They joined the faculty in 1948. Except for a four-year stint as pastor of a Free Will Baptist church in Michigan, Dr. Thigpen served on the faculty of the college until 1991. He held the position of academic dean for over twenty years (1957-79). From 1979 to 1990, he served as Welch's president, followed by a year as the college's first chancellor. Dr. and Mrs. Thigpen were preceded in death by their son Jonathan, a Welch alumnus who had served as a faculty member at Welch and also president of the Evangelical Training Association. Please pray for their daughters, Laura Cannon, Ann Maines, Ruth Slaten, and daughter-in-law Yvonne Thigpen, and their extended families. There will be a private service with a public memorial at a later date."

FOREST VALLEY (LITTLE MIAMI)

Greetings from Forest Valley FWB Church We have had a beautiful fall. The weather has been more mild than usual and I thank God for that.

We had about 10 people in our church that tested positive for COVID in November. That included our pastor and some of his family. We had to close down our church for two weeks. Everyone recovered completely and things are running well again. I enjoy being able to attend church services. We are still posting on Facebook.

We have a wonderful and Godly pastor. He does so much for our church and the people. He is truly loved.

Continue to pray for Joyce LeMaster. She is still struggling since her stroke.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. Happy 2021.

Del Wallace, Pastor
Jeanne Hauf, Reporter

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Watch a Brief Video explaining how you can have peace of mind about the future.

On Facebook: Free Will Baptist Foundation
On the web: fwbgifts.org (estate planning tab)

Free Will Baptist Foundation
877-336-7575 | foundation@nafwb.org
fwbgifts.org

Visit
us on the web
www.OhioFWB.org
or our Facebook Page

ZALESKI

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."
Isaiah 40:31

We need to all rest so the Lord can help us to be stronger so we can handle the things that are happening. Teach us Lord, teach us Lord, to wait! We thank and praise the Lord for taking care of us and for answered prayers. Thank you for praying for our church family. We also thank the Lord for taking care of our loved ones who have had Covid-19. We ask all of you to join with us in prayer about this crisis. So many people don't know **Jesus** when they die from this.

We know the Lord has this under control. Remember the families that have lost loved ones that He would comfort them.

We are low in attendance, but we are still enjoying the special messages from our pastor, **Mark Rood**. His wife **Teresa** and other ladies of the church have blessed us with their singing.

We passed out fruit baskets to the widows and elderly for Christmas. On Dec. 23rd we had a candlelight service reflecting on the most precious gift of the Christmas season.

If the Lord wills, we will, we will be having **Jonathan** and **Francexion Exhon** as our missionary speakers from the Philippines.

Briston Rood, age 9 has been reading Scriptures at our services. He does a very good job and is a blessing to us.

We miss going to the rest home and fellowshiping with our friends. Remember them, our seniors, the military, our nation, our leaders our pastors and their families in prayer.

We are praying for a spring revival and the end of the Covid-19 crisis. Take the Lord with you in the new year. He will take care of you. Tell someone you love them and really mean it.

Mark Rood, Pastor
Linda McKibben, Reporter

GRACE

Hello from Grace Free Will Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. We pray that everyone had a blessed Christmas and New Years. I know there's a lot going on in the world today. We just need to keep our faith and trust in the Lord, He's got all of this under control.

We ask you to continue to pray for our church and our members. We've had several of our people that have the Covid-19, they all need prayers. So many people think the Covid isn't real. I've seen the effects on family and friends, this is very real. Please continue to wear your masks and social distance.

We give thanks to the Lord for allowing Sis. Kim to come home from the nursing home. She was very grateful to be able to come to church. We also thank the Lord for our new pastor Bro. **Wayne Altman**. God gives us what we need in His time, thank you Lord.

Let's also continue to keep our country and our leaders in prayer. We pray things get better with the new year. Hopefully 2021 will bring better things to us all.

I never want to fail to thank our Lord for his blessings and the answered prayers. Even though the world seems to be in a mess God is always there hearing and answering our prayers.

God is so good!

Our church is temporarily closed because of so many having Covid-19. We hope things will get better soon and we can worship and fellowship again. Blessings to all.

Wayne Altman, Pastor
Elaine Booth, Reporter

UNITED (CAPITAL CITY)

Blessings from United FWB Church and praise GOD.

We had our Old-Fashioned Day November 22nd with our men wearing bib overalls and plenty of food and fellowship.

December 20th the youth put on a Christmas concert for us. After service we gathered for "dessert." Though someone claimed that sausage gravy and biscuits was a dessert. We had a good time of fellowship and a gift for all the youth.

Deacon Ed Fisk had made a beautiful grandfather clock to bid on with the proceeds going to our Pizza, Prayer and a Movie Ministry and the building fund. The two highest bidders; Dennis and Kelly Clay and James and Jenni Johnson, agreed to split the cost and donate the clock back to the church. We'd like to thank all three families for this great addition to our church.

The ladies ministry gathered items to donate to the Country Lawn Nursing Home for Christmas. With help from the church outreach program, we also took a huge package of snacks for all the staff to enjoy.

December 31st, Pastor **Randy Keffer** and his son James brought us a double message: "How the Father sees the Son" and "How the Son sees the Father." We prayed in the New Year with a service, fellowship and of course food.

Please pray for our ill, our families, and our country.

May God bless us all in this New Year!

Randy Keffer, Pastor
Linda Webb, Reporter

SOUTH COLUMBUS (TRINITY)

Greetings from South Columbus Free Will Baptist Church.

This trying year is finally over. We are thankful that the Lord has blessed us through 2020, and look forward to what He has in store for 2021. We passed out Christmas cards and delivered fruit baskets to many of our shut-ins. Those that delivered the baskets received a blessing to see the smiles on the faces of those who received the baskets.

Our annual election will take place in January. Most positions are expected to remain the same. We are having in person services wearing masks and on Facebook for the safety of our elderly members and those who have underlying health conditions. Our Facebook page is South Columbus Freewill Baptist Church. Church services begin at 11:00 am Sunday and 7:00 pm Wednesday.

Congratulations to our pastor and his wife, who just moved into their new home. It's been a long road building a new house, but they are finally settled in.

Please pray for our congregation, there are many sick and afflicted.

Tim Stevens, Pastor
Kathy Messer, Reporter

Available

FWB Ministers



The following ministers are available to fill the pulpit for pastors who have to be away from their church. Many are interested in conducting revivals as well.

Bill Alford, Strongsville, Oh	(440) 572-1614
Lee Aldridge, Londonderry, Oh	(740) 887-4065
Anthony "Tony" W. Blackburn, Mechanicsburg, Oh	(614) 623-0031
Mike Blanton, Grove City, Oh	(614) 871-2795
Chad Booth, Ashland, Oh	(330) 715-8403
Larry Brown, Mount Sterling, Oh	(740) 852-0586
Ron Brown, Hillsboro, Oh	(937) 402-4452
Roger Childers, W Liberty, Oh	(937) 869-4890
Roger Crusie, Greenfield, Oh	(937) 981-3529
Mike Daniel, Englewood, Oh	(937) 836-0540
Martin Denes, Chillicothe, Oh	(740) 701-2124
Luther Dingess, Fort Gay, WV	(304) 648-5901
Freddy Dutton, Columbus, Oh	(614) 276-0200
Michael Ellis, Columbus, Oh	(614) 917-7309
James England, Columbus Oh	(614) 846-6654
Packy Gibson, Hillsboro, Oh	(937) 393-2730
Edwin Hayes, Reynoldsburg, Oh	(614) 751-1190
Carl Jenkins, Cleveland, Oh	(216) 351-2475
James Johnson, Rittman, Oh	(330) 331-6088
Jason Jones, Marysville, Oh	(614) 307-2528
William Jones, Marysville, Oh	(937) 594-1331
Paul Keener, Westerville, Oh	(614) 891-4382
Robert Legg, Dayton, Oh (<i>FWB Family Ministries-Rep</i>)	(937) 648-9600
George Lore, Bucyrus, Oh	(606) 615-2290
Alton Loveless, Columbus, Oh	(573) 330-7728
Rodger Marsh, Leesburg, Oh	(937) 661-1169
Tom Murphy, Commercial Pt, Oh	(614) 218-5435
Robert Prichard, Cleveland, Oh	(216) 347-1559
Freddie Ray, Omstead Falls, Oh	(216) 355-2137
Tom Spradlin, Portsmouth, Oh	(740) 776-6677
Lowell Spencer, Ontario, Oh	(419) 545-2449
Russell Street, London, Oh	(614) 440-0045
Alex Stevens, Greenup, KY	(606) 473-5417
Talo Teo, Zanesville, Oh	(740) 487-5735
Bill Turner, Carlisle, Oh	(513) 746-5866
Tim Updike, Wellston, Oh	(740) 384-3277
Alan Wright, Orient, Oh	(614) 208-4253
Josh Young, South Solon, Oh	(937) 829-1723

Attention: Ambassador Reporters

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE!

**The deadline for the
March-April Issue will be
Noon, March 1st**



PROJECT FLAGSHIP

**Daryl Grimes
Family
Missionaries to Erie,
PA**

**Our Nursery is
Almost Ready!**



The Parking Lot is Stripped

My wife and I spent some time putting together the crib and decorating the nursery at the new building on Thanksgiving morning! It's so exciting seeing things come together. We know we could not accomplish everything we have without our faithful supporters and most importantly the Lord who has provided every step of the way!



Mission Teams

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Financial Partner**

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Withdrawal" and follow the on
screen prompts**

***E-mail me at
alightinerie@gmail.com**

***Please contact Home Missions
if you need a new envelope.**

Below you will see a variety of pictures of volunteers and mission teams who have helped us in recent days with the progress on the remodel. We still have much work to do and if you are available to lend a helping hand it would be greatly appreciated!



FIRST SPRINGFIELD (FRANKLIN)

Greetings from First Springfield!
Happy New Year! As we begin this New Year, we pray for a healthier year for everyone.
We finished up 2020 with a busy November and December. On November 8th we had a very touching service honoring the veterans in our church, past and present. We also filled 153 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse this year! Our pastor's wife, Rachelle, also initiated a blanket drive and a sock drive in November and December for the needy in our community. This is something that we will continue to do all year long.

On November 29th we had **Wade Spencer** join us and worship with us in song. Wade has been coming to our church for many years now and we always look forward to his visits and are so blessed with his sharing his love for Christ through his songs.

In January, we had our candlelight service on the 3rd. We are looking forward to celebrating Sanctity of Life Sunday on the 17th.

Although Christmas looked very different this year, it's still about celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, **Jesus Christ!** Due to the pandemic, our annual Christmas dinner was cancelled, but we didn't let that dampen our Christmas spirit as we worshiped together to celebrate, both in person and online, including an online Christmas Eve service, the real meaning of Christmas! *"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."*

Adam McCarty, Pastor
Sue Bayes, Reporter

PINE CREEK (PINE CREEK)

Happy New year from Pine Creek Free Will Baptist Church.

We have witnessed God's hand at work in a mighty way. No sad news here! God is good all the time.

We have a praise report from our last update, Sister Marsella is back in church and doing well!

Christmas festivities at the church this year was a little different. Our program and caroling was enjoyed social distancing and face mask "style." But the meaning and the message is still the same. **Jesus** came to seek and to save that which is lost.

Messages from our pastor have given us great encouragement from God's word that "the best is yet to come." God's word is where we find our strength in time of need.

Happy New Year brothers and sisters!
Ronnie Massie, Pastor
Paula Friend, Reporter

UNITY (CUYAHOGA-LORAIN)

Brother **Adam McMahan** was voted to be licensed to preach and be our worship leader. Thank the Lord for his testimony.
Sister Jeannie O'Grodnick was baptized. Thank you Jesus! What a blessing she is to our church. I Thessalonians 5:18 *"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

November 22nd our pastor preached a very stirring message in EVERYTHING to give thanks to God! What a blessing! Tuesday, November 24th we had a wonderful Thanksgiving service, giving testimonials and favorite Scripture. What a blessing! Brag on JESUS zone.

December 19th we had our youth Christmas play "Charlie Brown Christmas". Sis. Susie and Bro. George Kopp, our youth directors and the children worked very hard to share the true meaning of Christmas-**JESUS** is the reason for the season!

Eugene Crouch, Pastor
Dorothy Layner, Reporter

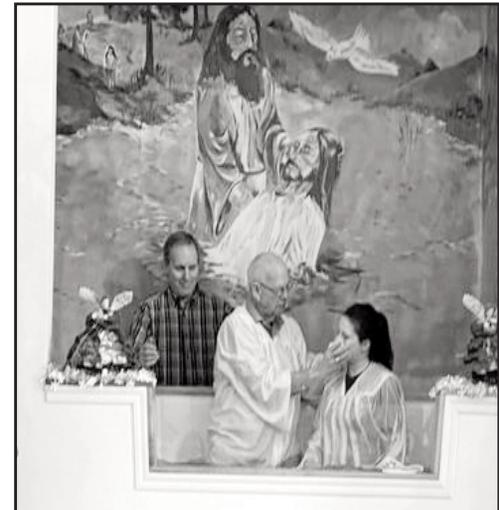
LIGHTHOUSE (TRI-STATE)

Greetings to all my fellow Free Will Baptists. It is a pleasure to write this report and we are praising God as always.

We are praying you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We were able to celebrate Pastor Appreciation with a dinner in November. We also celebrated our veterans and gave them a small gift showing our appreciation of their service.

We had to close our church for two Sundays, but we were still able to have our ladies Christmas Party and our youth and adults did a great job with our Christmas program.



We also, had a baptism in December. What a great way to end the year. God is so good.
Bobby Courtney, Pastor
Nancy Reiber, Reporter

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Ohio Board of Director's Plan

*Search for New
Executive Secretary*



We ask that you pray for us as we endeavor to fulfill the wishes of the State Association as to finding a replacement for Edwin Hayes who is retiring.. Brother Edwin's **effective retirement date will be July 31, 2021.** With this in mind, we have formulated the beginning process of securing the new Promotional Secretary and would like your help:

1. We began taking recommendations and **accepting resumes December 1, 2020.**
2. All interested men are to submit resumes and will be considered with equal scrutiny and fairness.
3. All recommendations must have the permission of the person being recommended.
4. Those selected for interview will be sent a job description and an informational questionnaire to complete and return.
5. The process of **interviewing prospective candidates will begin in February, 2021.**
6. Resumes and recommendations may be emailed to board@OhioFWB.org or mailed to:

Ohio State Association of FWB
 7554 Slate Ridge Blvd.
 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
 ATTN: Board

7. All pertinent information regarding this process will be dispersed via our State Paper "The Ambassador" and other FWB venues and publications.
8. Applicants must be a member in good standing of his FWB church, local association, state association and the denomination as a whole.
9. The office of the State Association is to remain at its current location in Reynoldsburg, OH.
10. Any questions regarding the process may be directed to **Bill Hayes at 614/561-9697.**

We, the board, would appreciate your patience and prayers as we seek to do the Lord's will in selecting our next Executive Secretary. Our hope is that there will be a definite leading of God's Holy Spirit in who the next man is and a smooth transition.

Thanks to all our churches, conferences and individuals who support the Ambassador Magazine

**OHIO
AMBASSADOR**
 Volume 60 Number 5 November-December 2020
 "The Voice of Ohio Free Will Baptists Proclaiming
 The Words of Christ to a Lost World"
Holiday Edition
Silent Night?
 By: Jessica Masanti
 Ohio Women Active for Christ
 President

We couldn't do it without you!

2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR

*From your staff at the Ohio State Association Office and
Ambassador Bookstore!*

DD

Every Day

NOT JUST SUNDAY. EVERY DAY.

Hospital Update



Sherman Dixon from the Dailyville Church was hospitalized with heart problems. He was released in November.

Samantha Pastor **Wiley Perkins** had back surgery in November in Wilmington, Ohio. He is now home.

Linda Wheeler, wife of former Columbus First FWB Deacon, Bernard Wheeler had surgery on December 9th. She is now home doing well.

New Road FWB Pastor **Tom Dooley** was admitted to the hospital with Covid-19. He was released on November 22nd. His wife Angela had a bout with Covid-19 as well.

Puritan Deacon **Charlie Bowden** is now under hospice care. He has had a long battle with cancer. Do remember Brother Charlie and his family in prayer.

FWB Family Representative Robert Legg and son, **Mike Legg** and his daughter in law **Cheryl** have contracted COVID-19.

North FWB Pastor **Bill Chadwick** and his wife **Sarah** are now recovering after a bout with Covid. Their son, **Don Chadwick** who is a deacon at North and his wife, **Lisa** and daughter **Krysten** also are recovering. Also, Associate Pastor **Kyle Chadwick** and daughter **Keegan** have recovered from Covid.

Westerville Pastor **Paul Etterling** has contracted Covid. His is doing well.

Christian Assembly Pastor **Keith Perkins** and his wife have recovered from Covid.

Porter Pastor **Mark Price** had surgery November 18th on his shoulder.

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For leasing and information on the above camps call **Donna Glenn (937) 475-2710**,
Rev. Steve Nickels (937) 478-1182, **Pastor Tim Hamilton (937) 559-1966**
or E-mail us at timham@reagan.com.

Please let us know if you would like to view a camp presentation.

A ministry of Northridge Free Will Baptist Church, 4800 Payne Ave, Dayton, OH 45414

First Dayton FWB Deacon **Dean (Noonie) Lewis** underwent medical testing in November.

Cleveland Pastor **Joseph Egnor** and his wife **Vivian** have been diagnosed with Covid-19.

Wanda Castle, wife of Rittman Community FWB Pastor Johnny Castle had surgery in December. She is now home recovering.

Sciotoale FWB Pastor **Aaron Reed** is scheduled for knee replacement surgery January 25th.

Galion Unity Pastor **David Bates** was admitted to the OSU Hospital with Covid-19 on December 26th.

Tomi Baldwin, wife of Redeemer Pastor Mike Baldwin suffered a heart attack in December. She has two stents placed and is scheduled to have another one inserted in January.

Rev. **Forest Dyer**, former pastor of the South Charleston Church is in the Kettering Hospital with Covid-19 in December.

Charity Grimes, daughter of of Missionary Daryl Grimes has been in the hospital



Daryl & Michelle Grimes are Free Will Baptist Church Planters in Erie, Pa. Pastor Grimes started **Ray of Hope Travel** to supplement his income as a church planter. He has a passion to serve Free Will Baptists and the body of Christ at large by helping individuals, local churches and associations plan trips to the **Holy Land**. He is affiliated with KHM Travel Group and has partnered with ETS Tours, which offers several options each year to visit the Holy Land.

As a home based travel agent he can serve ministries in all 50 states! He can also book and help you plan and organize your next mission trip, staff or marriage retreat. He would even be glad to help you plan a trip for your pastoral staff for Pastor Appreciation Month. The options are endless!

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Thought for the Month

“And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many, Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” Mark 14:24-25

ers who have come and preached for us, **Dale Hinson, Mike Blevins, George Cade and Allen Simpson.**

We are looking forward to a new year with many more blessing from God.

Until next time, may God bless and keep you all safe.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

Proverbs 3:5

Joyce Ann Kiser, Reporter

NORTHRIDGE

Hello from Northridge,

We hope you have had a blessed Christmas season. We are determined to be about our Father's business, even though many things are taking place right now. We have mourned many losses of loved ones, including **Larry, Glenn.** He went to be with the Lord on December 4th and was a member of the church for 52 years, a deacon for many years, and served on our camp board.

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” Revelation 3:15-17

The church at Laodicea was the worst of the seven Asian churches mentioned in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3. Why? Because they became lukewarm. They had learning and took it for religion, they had gifts and took it for grace, they had wit and took it for true wisdom, and they had ordinances, and took up with them instead of the God of ordinances. If you find a lukewarm church, you will find a church in the last state of apostasy. They thought of themselves as self-sufficient, in need of nothing,

including God. **Jesus** said he would spew them out. This is a great truth in Christianity; we are either for God or against him.

Lord willing we have scheduled for **The Lore Family** to worship with us on January 17th at our 11am service.

You can view our live streaming (or recordings) on our Facebook page Northridge Free Will Baptist Church. We stream Sunday's services at 11am, & 6pm. We also stream Wednesdays at 7pm.

Tim Hamilton, Pastor
Teresa Poynter, Reporter

ANTIOCH (CENTRAL OHIO)

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD!” (Book of Psalms)

I'm sure everyone is glad to say good bye to 2020. But I believe we still have much to be thankful for in 2020.

God kept us through another year. He blessed us with His love and strength. Many of us were able to open up our church services after the shutdown. Some have seen souls saved and baptized. Some have taken in new members. God blessed us with three new members, a beautiful family. He has blessed us by adding more new families that were looking for the spirit and fellowship they have been searching for. God

blessed our household with a new great grandson in May. What a blessing little Joey is.

Yes we do have still much to be thankful for. In 2021 we need to pray daily for those that are still sick. For the lost that are in need of salvation. For our churches to grow again.

We do not know what 2021 will hold, but if we trust in God he will guide us every step of the way.

Antioch still has church the way they used too! Services are; Sunday at 10:30am and Bible study Wednesday at 7:00pm.

Love and prayers to all we hope to fellowship with everyone again soon.

God bless.

Jim Blankenship, Pastor
Linda Blankenship, Reporter

BLACKFORK (LAWRENCE)

Greetings from Blackfork.

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas by celebrating the birth of our **Savior Jesus Christ.**

We are looking forward to whatever God has planned for us in the new year.

We are still praying for a pastor.

We have had a lot of sickness, so we ask you to keep us all in your prayers.

We are so thankful and appreciate the preach-

MECHANICSBURG (TRINITY)

Hello brothers and sisters.

Praying everything is well at your churches. We here in Mechanicsburg are doing fairly well for our age and the circumstance the world is in.

Our services have been spirit-filled and uplifting in these uncertain times. Brother Clay and Brother Ray are doing a good job keeping the church doors open as much as possible.

We have had several cases of the covid virus, but everyone has been brought through it by God's amazing grace, love and healing powers.

I will tell of a miracle we had on November 6th. Our 13 year old grandson was playing football (the last game of the season.) and was tackled. He was instantly paralyzed from the neck down. He was air-lifted to Dayton Children's Hospital. Tests were done and he had no feeling at all. When I was notified, I called several people and we began to pray. Our Father came on the scene and touched his body and he began to move his legs. He spent Saturday and Sunday in the hospital and returned home Monday walking. All is well. No therapy, no medication, Just God! Thank you LORD!

Clay Baldwin, Pastor
Connie Sizemore, Reporter

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International Mission News

Mission Board Meets in December

The IM board met on December 8-9, 2020 to consider and discuss several business items. Members present were Chairman **Jeff Nichols**, Vice-Chairman **Rodney Yerby**, Secretary **Mark Price**, Casey Cariker, Rick Cason, Will Harmon, and Darren Walker.

Janice Banks and Cameron Lane joined via Zoom.

General Director **Clint Morgan** and Directors **Rob Conley**, **Don Matchett**, **Curt Holland**, and **Danny Gasperson** were present. Director **Kenneth Eagleton** joined via Zoom.

Cameron Lane and Mark Price each opened sessions with personal reflections and devotions.

The IM board took action on administrative items

- Adopted a new family leaves policy for adoptive and natural mothers and fathers.
- Accepted improvements and changes to the Candidate Handbook

Approval for establishing two support endowments were given. Fundraising to begin soon. These endowments will assist new missionary appointees and supplement the General Fund. Director of Development **Don Matchett** reiterates, "This is an exciting day. These two endowments, when reaching maturity, will support new missionaries and support ministries for generations to come."

The IM board was excited to hear testimonies from two intern candidates. Unanimous approval was given to **Emily Petty** and **Abby Walker** to serve as two-year interns to the Japanese field. Chairman **Jeff Nichols** expressed, "It is always a joy to serve on the IM board, but when the board has the opportunity to approve these two new missionary interns, that is special. Free Will Baptists are blessed to have the stream of young people saying yes to God."



Emily Petty



Abby Walker

CFO **Rob Conley** gave a confirming financial report of God's faithfulness during this trying COVID season. Rob stated, "God is good. Even in a pandemic and all that is 2020, God is good."

As a final business point, the IM board adopted the 2021 IM, Inc. budget. The 2021 budget includes active ministries, new candidates, trips, projects, and IMPact projects.

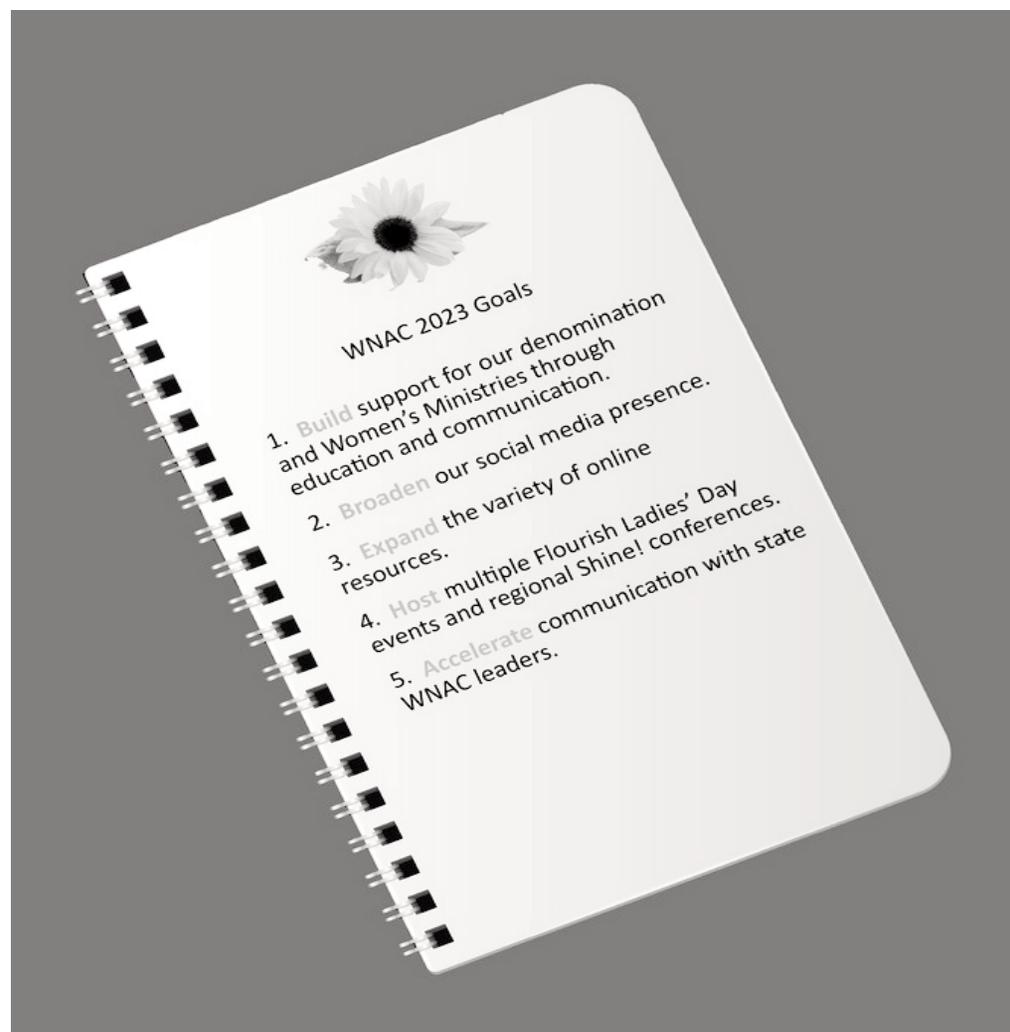
General Director **Clint Morgan** reflected on the December board meeting: "Each board meeting is unique in that the topics for discussion change regularly. However, the IM board and leadership team is laser-focused on getting the Gospel to the unreached."

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Greetings from the
Ohio Women Active for Christ
State Board.



Ohio Women Active for Christ

News and Upcoming Events

Purse and Dessert Auction

Our purse and dessert auction took place on Saturday November 7 from 2-4 pm at Hillview FWBC. We observed social distancing and ladies were required to wear masks. This year we auctioned purses with gift cards, desserts and art work. We raised \$1,554.50; \$613 in desserts, \$675 in purses and \$135 in artwork. We also had donations from the Porter Free Will Baptist ladies who were unable to attend and some ladies in attendance donated extra. Thank you, ladies we have met our state project for 2020 and are excited about how the Lord will use those funds!

We hope you will band together with us in prayer that next year COVID-19 will lessen and we will be able to join together in all of our planned activities.

Women's Days

We have two women's days planned, one on **April 24, 2021 at Columbus First Free Will Baptist Church** and one on **May 15, 2021 at Canaan Free Will Baptist Church** in Creston, Ohio. Our topics are *Forgiveness*, *Cast Your Cares on Him*, *Smart Phones can do WHAT???*, *Holiday Memories*, *Creating an Effective Bible Study* and *Tips for Caring for our Home Missionaries*. We hope you can join us at one or both of these events.

We will have more information regarding next years events in the March issue of the *Ambassador* as we continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation. Our hearts go out to those who have been affected by this awful virus. Please be in prayer for your brothers and sisters in Christ as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters.

Your sister in Christ,
Donna Springer, OWAC Secretary
Donna_a_springer@uhc.com

SHELBY (NORTHERN OHIO)

Not much has gone on at Shelby the past two months, due to many families dealing with sickness. We weren't able to have a Christmas program this year, but we still celebrated the birth of the Savior!

As we head into the new year, let us praise Him in 2021 more than ever. As Psalm 117 reads, "O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord."

Matt Pond, Pastor
Heather Brown, Reporter

FRIENDLY (CAPITAL CITY)

The new year has just begun, and it is a blank book, with the pen being in God's hand. Isaiah 43:18-19 says "Forget the former things do not dwell in the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

At Friendly FWB Church we are waiting in expectancy for what this new year brings as the Holy Spirit has been moving so sweetly amongst the people. There is a renewal that has been happening in the congregation and upon our building. The Lord is raining down on the dry land through the restoration of the dry bones, the backslidden, and the lost.

While 2020 may not have been what we wanted, it may have been what many children of God needed. Now as we look forward to the new year our prayers continue to go out for God's chosen kingdom to take their place in the work of the Lord and we ask that you please take a moment to pray for a move of the Holy Spirit on the people.

All are welcome and our doors are open to anyone who is in need or wants a touch from our Lord.

Ron White, Pastor
Kimberly Shemske, Reporter

FIRST DAYTON (LITTLE MIAMI)

Greetings from First Dayton Free Will Baptist. Happy New Year.

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness." Psalm 65:11

Our church family extends our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Terry Dixon. He was a great warrior for Christ and will certainly be missed.

May the Lord reward your work, and your wages be full from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.

Forget the former things: Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up: Do you not perceive it?

We have prayers for all suffering or have suffered with illness and death this year. You're in our prayers.

You can hear Pastor Long's sermons and special singing on Facebook at [WWW:Facebook.com/First Dayton Free Will Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/FirstDaytonFreeWillBaptist). Don't forget. Pastor Long hosts a weekly radio program called "Sunday Mornings with Jesus" on WGNZ 104.3 FM.1110 AM. 8:00 to 8:30 a/m/

Mark Long, Pastor
Marcella Keeton, Reporter

The Right Attitude for the Coming Year



I have noticed over my life the importance of attitude. Having a good attitude is more important than great skill or talent. There have be many talented people not be able to enjoy success because of a bad attitude. On the other hand I have seen many people who may not be as talented have great success because they possessed a good attitude!

What kind of attitude should we as Christians possess? There are many good qualities that Christ wants us to display like love, forgiveness, generosity, compassion and patience. There is one however that I would like to examine today. It is the attitude of servanthood.

Now I know that servanthood would not be the most popular choice of attitudes that we would select, but it is most important in the Christian life. Jesus was a servant and it is His desire that all of His followers become useful servants for His kingdom.

Standard of Servanthood

The Apostle Paul showed us Jesus' Standard of Servanthood in Philippians 2:5-11 where he told us of what Jesus did when He came to earth. As God, He left His throne in heaven and gave up His rights to take upon him the form of a servant. He went even further than this when as a servant "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Jesus loved us so much that He came to "serve" salvation to a lost and dying world that did not deserve it, but Jesus was willing to endure rejection, humiliation and severe suffering in order to serve us. Paul tells us to "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." We should give up our rights and carry Christ's attitude of service into the world. If we are going to be like Jesus, we must follow Christ's Standard of Servanthood.

School of Servanthood

Luke tells us of Jesus' School on Servanthood. In Luke 22:24-27, the disciples were engaged in an argument. The disagreement was about which of them would be considered the greatest disciple. Jesus took this opportunity to teach a great lesson on servanthood. First, He told them that His idea of greatness was not like the world's idea. The world considers men who exercise authority and can command

people to do what they want as great. Jesus said that to be great in His Kingdom would not be someone with vast authority, but a person who serves others would be the greatest! Dwight Moody once said, "The measure of a man is not how many servants he has, but by how many people he serves." How different this is from what we think of greatness.

Silent Sermon on Servanthood

I really like Jesus' Silent Sermon on Servanthood in John 13:1-16. Jesus and the disciples were in the upper room for the Passover meal. It was the custom of the day when a person entered a home to have a servant wash their feet. After all, they wore sandals and the roads were dusty. But on this day there was a problem. Jesus had sent everyone out of the room except Himself and the disciples. All the servants were gone! So there you had a room full of people who had come to be served and there was no one to serve them. I wonder if they were asking if someone was going to perform this servant's task? Right in their midst the greatest One there that day rose, girded Himself and began to do the job no one else wanted to do. Here was Jesus, the Son of God washing the disciples feet! I wonder how they felt as Jesus approached each one of them to do this menial task. We know that Simon Peter was most uncomfortable at first, telling the Lord that He would never wash his feet. He finally relented. When Jesus finished, He applied this great sermon when He told them that as they call Him Lord and that He lowered Himself to wash their feet, that they should do the same for each other. They should follow His example.

I think that many times we are like the disciples. We come to church with the attitude of expecting to be served. We think, "I wonder if the preacher will be a blessing to me today?" I wonder if the music will lift my heart today?" and I have had a rough week, I wonder if someone would give me a word of encouragement today?" How much different would our church be if we would have the attitude, "Lord, I didn't come to be served today, I have come to serve!" We could decide to be a blessing to the preacher, to the singers and to those who have come who have had a rough week and are in need of an encouraging word!

I do have a word of advice. If news gets out that you have a group of people who have come, not to be served but to serve others, you don't have a church big enough to hold the people who will come! You had better plan on building on!

Let's take Christ's attitude on servanthood into this New Year and be the best servants we can be.

Edwin Hayes

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Rev. Leroy Forlines with the Lord



Brother **LeRoy Forlines**, long time professor at Welch College died December 15th and his funeral was held at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Nashville, Tennessee on the afternoon of December 21st.

He retired from a full-time position at Welch in 1992, but remained involved in its work, being granted the honorary title, Professor Emeritus. In this capacity, he continued to teach at the college until a few years ago.

He has also taught overseas throughout his retirement. Beginning in 1996, with the assistance of IM, Inc. he made numerous trips to lecture in Ukraine and Russia to Baptist pastors.

Brother Forlines was converted while working as a mechanic and he gave his life to serve the Lord. During his lifetime he influenced hundreds of students to seek the Truth. Pray for his wife, "Fay" and sons, Jon and James and their families. Below is his obituary.

Franklin Leroy Forlines – Age 94, passed away in the afternoon on December 15, 2020 in his Nashville home in the Whitland Area Neighborhood.

Angels carried Leroy's soul home to Heaven while his body was resting quietly in his hospital bed in the presence of his wife Fay, his sons Jon and James, and the nurse after Fay had whispered in his ear, "Sweetheart, it is all right if you let the angels lead your soul to Heaven. I'll join you after-while." And afterwards, I kissed him on the forehead and on his mouth before saying aloud, "I love you. I am so glad I married you."

Then James leaned over to him to whisper in his ear, "Dad, don't be afraid, Jon and I will take good care of Mom." After about three minutes, as Jon was hugging him, his heart stopped and the nurse pronounced him dead.

Mr. Forlines was born November 14, 1926, on a tobacco farm near Winterville, Pitt County, North Carolina to the late, John Leroy Forlines and Leta Nanny Manning Forlines.

Survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Carolyn LeFay Gilbert Forlines; children, Jonathan "Jon" Gilbert Forlines (Susan) and James Franklin Forlines (Anita); grandchildren, Joel, Jared (Kelsey), Anna Grace; Daniel (Michelle), Rachel (Christopher), Rebekah (Brad). Great Grandchildren: Elise, Justus, and Naomi; Lillian and Andon, Siblings: Elsie, Christine, Mattie Frances, Jack, and beloved nieces and nephews; precious former students, cousins, and friends.

Graveside Service was held December 21th at Woodlawn Memorial Park in the Dogwood Garden section, with Dr. Matthew Pinson officiating. Pallbearers include: **Daniel Forlines, Joel Forlines, Jared Forlines, John Forlines, Christopher Dobbs, Brad Sample, Matthew Pinson, Jr. and John David Carter.**

Honorary pallbearers include: **Dalton Cole**, Deacons of Cross Timbers FWB Church, retired Men of Welch College's administration, faculty, and staff who are present and All Free Will Baptists ordained ministers.



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Welch Nursing Incentive Scholarship Increases

In an attempt to attract more students into the nursing profession, Welch College has announced a new incentive scholarship of \$2,000 per year to any nursing applicant who applies for admission by March 15, 2021, according to Dr. **Charles Lea**, Special Assistant to the President at Welch.

"There is growing critical shortage of bachelor's degree-prepared nurses in the mid-state," Lea said. "To meet the demand and to provide students an opportunity to fast-track to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree and remain in Sumner County, Welch President **Matt Pinson** has approved an incentive scholarship for any new student."

"Our goal is to attract some of the best prepared students to enroll at Welch, take advantage of the incentive scholarship, as well as the Tennessee Promise, federal Pell grants, and other Welch scholarships," Pinson said. "After completing their associate's degree at Welch and meeting standard academic requirements for admission, students are guaranteed admission to the bachelor's degree track at Union University Hendersonville." The Welch Nursing Education Collaborative is the only and fastest traditional path to a B.S.N. degree in Sumner County.

Welch Nursing Education Collaborative graduates are already providing valuable healthcare services throughout the mid-state. Dr. Ian Hawkins, head of the nursing program at Welch, said, "Creative partnerships are providing financially affordable opportunities for obtaining an outstanding nursing education and be in a position to obtain an advanced practice degree in the near future."

To obtain more information, contact Dr. Hawkins at ihawkins@welch.edu or call Welch at **615.675.5303**. Prospective students and parents are encouraged to visit the Welch Nursing website at welch.edu/nursing. The incentive scholarship will be limited to the first 50 applicants who apply and are admitted to Welch for the fall 2021 semester. Similar incentives may apply to transfer applicants as well and those who desire to enroll prior to the fall 2021 term.

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IS YOUR CHURCH MISSING?

In 2019, the Free Will Baptist Church Directory moved online. However, many churches have not submitted a picture or video for their church page to help potential visitors find & learn more about them. If your church is "missing," contact the Executive Office immediately:

877-767-7659 or
anna@nafwb.org

directory.nafwb.org

NAFWB



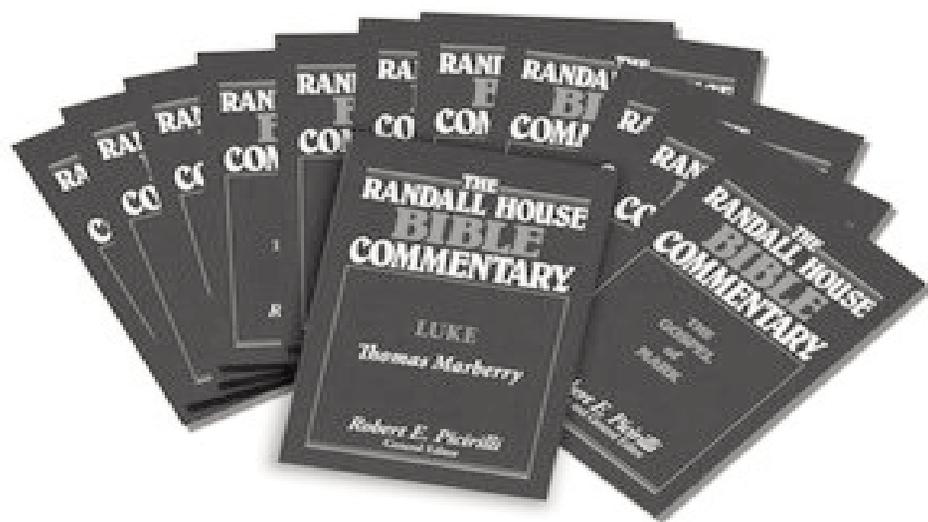
EXTRA! EXTRA!

Did you know the Free Will Baptist Executive Office provides a weekly email newsletter called the NAFWB NEWS?

This quick weekly snapshot will keep you and your church up on all the latest news and minstry initiatives of the denomination.

The best part? It's free, and you can start this week.

Email questions@nafwb.org to subscribe.



THE RANDALL HOUSE BIBLE COMMENTARY SERIES

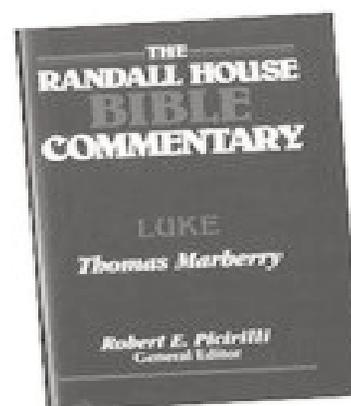
Now Complete New Testament Commentary
By Free Will Baptist Authors

Full Set -- \$329.99
(Includes new Dust Jackets)
12 Volumes

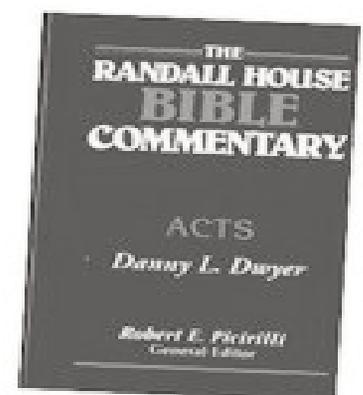
The Latest Commentaries Released



12 matching dust jackets



Luke
\$39.99

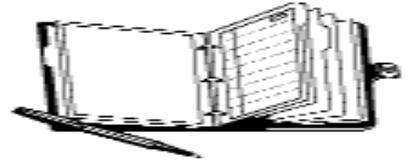


Acts
\$39.99



Coming Events

For Ohio Free Will Baptists



Central Ohio

February 6
March 13

Trinity Conference
Franklin Conference Alternative Meeting

Northern Ohio

January 9
February 20

Cuyahoga-Lorain Conference-CANCELLED
Northern Ohio Conference meeting at Dean Road FWB, Earl Tackett, Pastor

Southern Ohio

January 23
February 13
February 13

Jackson Conference-CANCELLED
Pine Creek Conference meeting at Swauger Valley FWB (**Meeting in Cars in Parking Lot**), Mike Simpson, Pastor
South-Central Conference meeting-ONLINE

The 2021 Ohio Men's Retreat will be CANCELLED!

The dates for the 2022 Ohio Men's Retreat are
January 20-22nd
Heartland Retreat Center
Marengo, Ohio

Are you on track for a secure financial future?



A Retirement Plan for Free Will Baptists

- 403 (b)(9) Retirement Plan
- Available to any Free Will Baptist Employee
- Four Investment Strategies
- First-class Money Managers
- Housing Allowance for Ordained Ministers



**Free Will Baptist
Board of Retirement**
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
877.767.7738
boardofretirement@nafwb.org
www.boardofretirement.org

OHIO TOGETHER WAY RECEIPTS

November-December 2020

	CO-OP	AMBASS	ST MISSN	ST ASSOC	OYC	SPEC MIN	NATL MINIST	TOTAL
AMBASSADOR	\$ 379.00	\$ -	\$ 379.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 758.00	\$ 1,516.00
ANTIOCH	\$ -	\$ 12.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 262.00
BETHESDA CHAPEL	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180.00	\$ 430.00
CALVARY-RAYENNA	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00
CANAAN	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 366.66	\$ 2,399.98	\$ 3,466.64
CANAAN LAND	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,050.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 210.00
COLUMBUS FIRST	\$ 402.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 452.44
COMMUNITY W JEFF	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00
COMPASSION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.00
EASTSIDE	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00
FIRST CHILLICOTHE	\$ 1,238.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,238.82
FIRST SPRINGFIELD	\$ 2,134.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,134.00
FOREST VALLEY	\$ 3,640.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,640.00
GARDEN CITY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
HARRISON	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220.00
HILLSBORO	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
HILLVIEW	\$ 1,286.60	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,296.60
JACKSON CONFERENCE	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
LAWRENCE CONFERENC	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
LEBANON	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 375.00
LIGHTHOUSE	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
MARYSVILLE	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
MCARTHUR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00
NEVILLE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
NEW BEGINNINGS-MANS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75.00
NEW HOPE-CHILLICOTHE	\$ 784.80	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 205.80	\$ 1,020.60
NEW ROAD	\$ 713.00	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,520.20	\$ 2,273.20
NORTH & WESTERN CON	\$ 99.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 499.00
OLD KYGER	\$ 300.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 645.00
PINE CREEK	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00
PINE CREEK CONFERENI	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 275.00
PINE GROVE	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140.00
PIQUA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
PORTER	\$ 900.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 410.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,400.00
PORTER CONFERENCE	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 350.00
PURITAN	\$ 238.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 238.59
REYNOLDSBURG	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180.00	\$ 430.00
RITTMAN COMMUNITY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 750.00
ROSDALE	\$ 375.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375.00
SAMANTHA	\$ 2,253.10	\$ -	\$ 732.93	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262.50	\$ 3,248.53
SCIOTODALE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 610.00
SOUTH COLUMBUS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
SOUTHWEST	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
SPRINGFIELD	\$ 365.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 520.00
SVAUGER VALLEY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
SYMMES VALLEY	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40.00
TICK RIDGE	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70.00
TRINITY CONFERENCE	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00
TURKEY CREEK	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
UNION	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
UNITY	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,900.00
URBANA	\$ 1,372.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,572.00
VICTORY	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
WAKEFIELD	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.00	\$ 44.00
WESTERVILLE	\$ 1,296.50	\$ -	\$ 144.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 288.12	\$ 1,397.17	\$ 3,125.85
WOODLAWN	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
STATE MINISTRY OFFER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00
OTHER GIFTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 580.00
TOTAL FROM GIFTS	\$ 21,127.85	\$ 822.00	\$ 2,780.99	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,794.78	\$ 11,872.65	\$ 41,068.27
TRANSFERS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RETREAT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
INTEREST	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,805.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,805.04
BROTHERHOOD PARTNE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RANDALL HOUSE COMM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,838.12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,838.12
BOOKSTORE SALES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415.86	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415.86
SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 977.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 977.00
STATE FEES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OHIO BIBLE INSTITUTE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ADVERTISERS	\$ -	\$ 32.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32.00
MISC INCOME	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 368.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 368.41
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$ -	\$ 32.00	\$ -	\$ 5,404.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,436.43
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 21,127.85	\$ 854.00	\$ 2,780.99	\$ 7,044.43	\$ 30.00	\$ 2,794.78	\$ 11,872.65	\$ 46,504.70

Are you receiving the



If you like to begin receiving all the Ohio FWB News, just send your email address to ehayes@ambassadorbible.com

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www.ambassadorbible.com

D6 Conference

www.d6family.com/d6conference

April 7-9

Orlando, Florida



<https://nafwb.org/site/jeremiah29/>

JEREMIAH **29**
INITIATIVE

NAFWB