

For Immediate Release

March 11, 2010

### **Bible Conference/FORUM10 Stirs FWBBC Campus**

NASHVILLE, TN—The March 7-10 Bible Conference/FORUM10 at Free Will Baptist Bible College delivered on its promise to confront cultural issues of the day in a biblical context and provide practical solutions for pastors and youth ministers to take back to their local communities, according to President Matt Pinson. More than 500 people, including 234 non-students who registered as well as a sizeable contingency who did not register, participated in the fast-paced, four-day event that featured specialized morning and afternoon workshops focusing on why young people are—and are not—leaving the church and how to engage postmodern culture with the gospel.

Dr. Pinson said, “We were delighted with the positive response to the 2010 conference. We tried something different this year—grappling with the nation’s postmodern culture that’s pounding on our church doors, and bringing specialists to campus who understand the theological issues at stake and have discovered how to deliver a clear Christian message in a compelling way to the crowded marketplace of ideas, lifestyles, and worldviews. It worked! The energy and excitement during worship sessions and the new FORUM10 afternoon plenary sessions designed for youth, family, and pastoral ministry professionals confirmed that this unique group of speakers connected with our students and guests on issues that matter.”

Washington, D.C., pastor and author Mark Dever headlined the conference, speaking four times on reaching people with the gospel in a postmodern culture and twice on experiencing church growth through church health. Youth ministry specialist Joey Stewart addressed conferees three times, challenging pastors and youth workers to view the family as the best small group and to embrace new family-based paradigms in youth ministry. Thom Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay resources, rolled

out three hard-hitting presentations on why young people are and are not leaving the church and what leaders can do to provide solutions.

Russellville, Arkansas, youth pastor Allen Pointer grabbed the attention of church leaders and students as he led one FORUM10 plenary session and two culture-confrontational workshops on sexual purity and moral formation in adolescents. Free Will Baptist home missionary Brian Williams (Buffalo, New York) delivered five stirring messages—three expository sermons from the epistle of Jude on “Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures” and workshops on the abiding relevance of expository preaching and parental engagement in student ministry.

Eight FWBBC faculty members delivered 10 additional workshops ranging from “A Christian View of Entertainment” by English professor Darrell Holley to “Developing Counseling Skills for Church Workers” by Psychology program coordinator Jacqueline Rasar to “Reading and Engaging Youth Culture” by Christian Education and Youth Ministry program coordinator Barry Raper to “Are We Preaching the Gospel?” by professor emeritus Leroy Forlines, and others.

The FWBBC Music Department provided conference music featuring performances by the College Choir as well as small groups Rejoice and New Mercy. A special Wednesday morning Alumni Service with speakers Jimmy Aldridge, Michael Locklear, and Shiloh Hackett honored the classes of 1960 (50 years), 1985 (25 years), and 2000 (10 years). Later that day, the Alumni Luncheon filled the college’s Cumberland Cafeteria with smiling, laughing alumni who enjoyed the warm fellowship and the complimentary luncheon.

Check the college’s website ([www.fwbbc.edu](http://www.fwbbc.edu)) from time to time for upcoming information on next year’s conference scheduled March 6-9, 2011.