

For Immediate Release

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Arkansas Teens Work the Stacks in FWBBC Library

NASHVILLE, TN—A group of energetic Arkansas teens and their sponsors spent a day “in the stacks” at Welch Library, according to Carol Reid, librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Three young men and a young lady, ages 14-18, showed up June 18 for a reorganization project involving books and current and older periodicals in the historic building.

“We were delighted to have Pastor Tim Harris and several youth from First Free Will Baptist Church in Conway help us organize, shelve, and relocate numerous periodicals that are such a vital part of the library’s resources during the academic year,” Mrs. Reid said. “Most of the time when volunteer workers come on campus, other essential projects route them to assist with painting or cleaning. This was a pleasant change of pace for us, and we thank the Lord for their labor of love.”

Pastor Harris and his team drove 350 miles from central Arkansas on Thursday, spent the night in campus housing, and stepped into the library early Friday morning ready to assist. They worked under the supervision of Lance Williams, library manager and a 2008 FWBBC graduate from Pocahontas, Arkansas.

“This is the first time our church youth have been involved in a mission/service project,” Harris said. “And we hope it is the first of many. The church is underwriting the cost for the trip, and we are so pleased to bring the teens to FWBBC.” Pastor Harris and his wife Sheila are both FWBBC graduates—1983 and 1984 respectively.

The work force split into two teams with 14-year-old Zechariah Spears and 18-year-old B.J. McCoy providing the muscle for rearranging books in the stacks, while 17-year-old Cory Harris and 16-year-old Karen Lee did archival work with the library’s periodical collection on the second and third floors.

The four teens shared their future dreams: B.J McCoy has his eye on a 20-year career in the U.S. Army; Karen Lee, excited about being “famous” following an interview in the library, wants to be an elementary school teacher; Cory Harris plans to pursue medical studies and become a pediatrician; Zechariah Spears is in his first days as a PK, since his father was ordained to preach.

Lance Williams coordinated service projects for the group. “They know how to follow instructions and they bring a great attitude to the work,” he said. “Pastor Harris had everybody ready to step into the work zone and get the job done. I hope they return next year and continue this mission of service at FWBBC.”