

For Immediate Release

July 28, 2010

Arkansas Youth Work at FWBBC

NASHVILLE, TN—A group of nine Arkansas youth and three sponsors from Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas spent five hot days (July 26-30) at Free Will Baptist Bible College in campus-wide work projects, according to Ernie Thompson, FWBBC's cleaning operations supervisor.

"They sure showed up at the right time," Mr. Thompson said. "The work was waiting, and these young people seemed to be everywhere on campus. They painted walls, power washed, moved equipment as needed, removed carpet, and more in five campus buildings. One of their first projects involved some heavy lifting and climbing as they relocated the *Lumen* office from a ground-floor office to the third floor of the Johnson Classroom Building. That was hard to do, and they did it with smiles."

The group arrived by van late Monday and stayed in college dorms Monday-Friday, loading for the return trip Saturday morning. But it was not all hard work and no play. They toured the Free Will Baptist National Offices and Randall House, prowled a large mall, attended a Nashville Sounds night baseball game, did some ice skating, and worshipped at a Free Will Baptist church Wednesday night.

Joey Potlewaite, assistant pastor and youth minister at the Sutton Church, and a 2000 FWBBC graduate, said, "This is our first mission trip with the church youth. We wanted to serve the Lord beyond our local church, do something to help FWBBC, and acquaint the kids with the college and what it has to offer. I'm proud of the group—they organized two fundraisers to underwrite expenses for the trip, and as you can see, they mean business when it's work time."

The group ate at different ethnic restaurants each night and discussed missions—Monday night was India, Tuesday was Hispanic, and Wednesday was Cajun style. Adult sponsors Shawn and Dana Kelly "believe in missions" and brought four of their five children so they could experience mission work first-

hand. Shawn teaches biology at Pocahontas High School; Dana taught math at the same school and just opened a photography shop. Dana has been to Kenya on a mission trip and plans to return in 2011.

Several of the student volunteers commented:

Sammy Cowgill, 17 and a rising senior: "When I finish high school, I would love to attend FWBBC and pursue pastoral ministry studies. I'm a distance runner and am interested in the college's cross country athletic program as well."

Amy Pickett, 16 and a rising junior: "I'm considering FWBBC, just haven't nailed things down yet. The medical field interests me and so does teaching. I hope to go on a 2011 E-Team mission trip; I missed out on the 2010 E-Team when I had to have my knee-cap realigned."

Katie Jarrett, 14-year-old freshman: "I like staying in the dorm this week. It gives me a taste of how it will feel to enroll. I will consider attending FWBBC."

Austin Brown, 13-year-old eighth grader: "I play football in school and really like it. I think I've been attending the Sutton Church all my life."

Reverend Randy Scott, a 1973 FWBBC graduate, pastors Sutton Free Will Baptist Church.

PHOTO: (L) Jacob Kelly, Jonathan Kelly, Sammy Cowgill, FWBBC student worker, and Austin Brown move boxes across campus.

Photo by Dana Kelly of Kelly's Photography in Pocahontas, Arkansas.