

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC President to Minister in Cuba

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Matt Pinson, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, leaves for Cuba November 27 where he will preach in several churches and teach a three-day course on “Free Will Baptist History and Doctrine” at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Pinar del Rio. This is the inaugural FWBBC extension course that will be taught at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in order to provide access to accredited biblical education on a collegiate level for Cuban Free Will Baptists.

President Pinson said, “For some time, we have wanted to establish a stronger relationship between these two sister institutions of learning. This is the perfect moment to solidify the relationship for today and for the future. I’m delighted to teach this first accredited extension course. I feel that we’re embracing a warm, living chapter in Free Will Baptist history reaching back to the mid-1940s.”

The Cedars of Lebanon Seminary was established in 1944 as a Free Will Baptist educational institution by pioneer missionary Thomas H. “Pop” Willey, Sr., as he preached and started churches in Cuba.

Dr. Pinson and FWBBC Missions Program Coordinator Ron Callaway will spend six days in Cuba before returning to the United States on December 5. Mr. Callaway, who organized the trip, will serve as translator.

The schedule calls for Pinson to preach four or five times in Free Will Baptist churches in Havana and Pinar del Rio, plus teach eight hours daily at the seminary, Tuesday-Thursday. Seventy-five people are expected to attend Pinson’s lecture series—28 day students, 35 external studies students, and 15 seminary administrators/faculty.

Pinson said, “When I was a boy about 10 years old, I read Pop Willey’s biography, *Never Say Can’t*.” The book had a profound impact on me, and I never forgot the power of its

message. I can hardly wait to touch some of those places he touched and meet some of the people who were there when Brother Willey rode a horse across the mountains of Cuba bringing the gospel to a people he loved.”

Mr. Callaway said that one of the purposes of the trip is to introduce President Pinson to the Cuban Free Will Baptists. In addition to meeting the president of FWBBC, the Cuban students will have an opportunity to take a course that’s accredited, as well as learn important historical and doctrinal distinctives that make Free Will Baptists unique.